



Drexel H. Foundation

"Of your own personal strength you can accomplish anything"

301 A Street Vale, OR 97918 (541)473-3470 www.thedrexelfoundation.org

Winter 2023-24



T-Shirt Design Contest

Our first event of the year was kicked off by our T-shirt Design Contest. The goal for this project was to encourage the community to create a design for a T-shirt that spreads positivity to all ages! This T-shirt design contest was FREE to enter, open to all ages, and open to anyone from anywhere. All designs needed to somehow incorporate the mantra of the foundation "You are Important! Tu Importas!". Our high school winners Jasmine, Lauren, and Maddy! Maddy Churchill won first place in the High School division and Jasmine and Lauren tied for second place. Everyone who entered got a sack full of prizes. First place winner in the adult division Kaethlyn Elliott. Our \$100 winner for the t-shirt contest was Lisa Ng winning BEST OF SHOW!

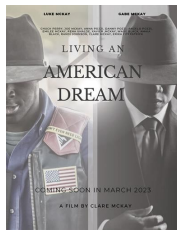
The Yard Art Competition

Our second event of the year was The Yard Art Competition. The theme was "kindness" and there were fantastic interpretations of what this means. All the entries were great! We had a tie for 1st place youth went to Ruby Shaffer & Ruby Johnson. Winning 1st in the adult division was Kim Burgess. Best of Show was selected from all the entries, receiving \$100 cash was Linda Fuller.



Living An American Dream

The Drexel H. Foundation was very excited to help Clare McKay premiere her documentary film *Living an American Dream* at the Rex Theater. Clare was a Drexel Foundation's 2019 "Engaging Young Voices in Shaping our Community" participant and has become an important role model for artists, cowboy poets, and young women in Malheur County. She brings voice to the story of ranch kids adopted from Haiti and raised in rural Oregon. We held two nights of a sold out show. So many people gathered together to congratulate Clare on this great accomplishment. Both nights following the film there was Q&A with Clare with some great questions. We all found out just how much hard work and dedication goes into the creating a film. It was fun to see everyone dress up and walk the red carpet here in Vale, Oregon. More showings to come in 2024.



Oregon Bottle Drop



Earth Week was a busy week, we participated in another blue bag fundraiser with @oregonbottledrop. Recently we had two tabling event for our sport shoe reuse project that is a part of our DEQ sustainability project. Our amazing staff cleaned and sanitized the shoes which you can get for FREE in exchange for recycled bottles & cans.

Also Free prom dresses & tux rentals are available for donating 5 blue bags. We want to thank Oregon Bottle Drop & local recyclers once again for helping Drexel Foundation raise funds during the year. Our 2023 fundraiser raised \$1,489 that is 14,890 bottles, plastic, & cans saved from the land fill. So, save your empties. We can pick up your cans & bottles anytime or you can drop them off at the Opera House, just call 541-473-3470. You can also help by donating online with funds from your green bag account.

Colossal Cinematic Showcase

Our Crash Course Film "Trapped in the Trail" was shown at the Colossal Cinematic Showcase May 7, 2023! The featured filmmaker for the 2022 crash course was Phillip Stucker who is famous for his beloved animated Thunderchicken character he created as the guest film artist for the Drexel Foundation in 2013-2015. Sandijean, Mike, Phillip and Kelsey all enjoyed a night at Colossal Cinematic Showcase. It was so much fun being able to share our movie with all of the professional filmmakers of the Boise area. We loved hearing all the laughter and appreciated everyone who came up to us and shared that they enjoyed the film. This was a red carpet event which featured two hours of short films made primarily by local filmmakers shown on the big screen at Overland Park Cinemas!



Art in The Park on Flag Day

The Vale Park was not its usual quiet on June 14th, youth and adults took part in Drexel H. Foundation's 23rd annual "Art in the Park, on Flag Day". Not only did the park playground equipment get a brand-new coat of paint, but the participants also got the chance to win a trophy for 1st place in 3 age divisions in a mini-mural painting competition. We also had snacks & discussions about community service, gratitude to veterans who served our country, and why there is a national holiday called "Flag Day". We also painted sheep to honor the Basques who shaped our community and gave away two refurbished bikes in a drawing. Thank you to Vale American Legion for providing flags for families to take home. Another big thank you to Idaho Power for being our judges & showing off a new electric vehicle.



August Annual Art Camp & Talent Show



Drexel H. Foundation's 27th Annual Talent Show and Free Art Camp was very successful this year. Art Camp was 3 days of fun learning all about the different styles of art. We did children's theater, puppetry, danced, made jewelry, learned about animation and so much more. The week was very fun with children returning everyday excited to see what we were going to create.

There was about 30-40 youth per day. The Annual Talent Show was on August 10th on the stage at Vale's beautiful 1914 Rex Theater. The show made many laugh and smile, with the first place winner in each age category going home with \$100.00 cash, a huge trophy and lots of cool prizes. Everyone who performed received a big sack of prizes. Our Gold Sponsor for ages 4 to 11 was Rogue Credit Union we had a tie for first place of Russell Combs & Alexander Rosiles. In the 12 to 14 age group, first place went to a dance trio Clair Gross, Emaleigh Hoodie & Tayllor Anderson. Our Gold Sponsors for this age group was McDonald's of Ontario & Butler, Looney & Martinsen PC. For ages 15 to 19 Cady Tolman won first. Gold Sponsor TVCC Foundation & Carlson Law Office. The adult category winner was SanTana Bayes. With Gold Sponsors Goodrich Hotel & Luzetta's Flowers.



Children's 18th Annual Film Festival



Drexel H. Foundation's Children's Film Festival wrapped up on Sept. 23rd. There were animation, stop action, green screen, trailers and narrative films "For Kids, By Kids and with Kids in Mind" presented at Vale's Rex Theater this year. First place winners in each age category received \$50 in gift certificates, and all who entered a film received a bag full of prizes. Youth 12-14 category: first, "Worth it" by G. W.; second "I'll be There" by Clair Gross; and third, Tayyler Anderson "Chosen Family". For ages 15-19 Tiego & Tyllin Newton earned first with "Metal Kingdom". The Adults 20+ division winner was "Kickball a Mystery" by Jordan Gore. Second place went to "The History of the Green Screen" by Sam McLaughlin. Winning third was "Comic Strip Madness" by Phill Stucker. "Best of Show" is selected from all ages groups and reflects the most emotionally moving & memorable of all entries. This year Best of Show honors, went to "Metal Kingdom" taking home the \$100 cash prize & trophy.

Crash Course in Film-making



On Sept 6th youth & adult participants created the Crash Course movie "Charging Through Time: Robot Recharge" in front of a green screen and on location in Vale. The story created that night by the entire

cast and crew in just two hours was about a quest of a robot traveling through time ultimately being recharged at the Grand Opera House EV charging station. Thank you Tayyler Anderson, Abbi Christiansen, Elisa Gaston, Khlow Gross, Claire Gross, Alice Hale, Jaxen Hansen, Bannock Lamb, Leeland Laurance, Ethan Steffes, Cady Tolman, Sandi Jean Fuson, Mike McLaughlin, Jonathan Hale, Griff Hansen, Kelsey Tolman, Willow



One Year Rest Repair & Recharge EV Station Update

Drexel H. Foundation's Electric Vehicle Charging Station and local amenities have proven a success and are bringing people to town. Locals and tourists are enjoying a free bike repair station with tools and pump, and Level 2 electric vehicle charging station, with dual ports serving all types of electric vehicles. At the crossroads of Hwy 20 & 26 the EV charger has been busy since Nov 2022



when it launched, with over 346 charging sessions, for 52 unique drivers, saving 1,418 kg of greenhouse gases & pollution from the air we breathe. All this for FREE to all kinds of Electric Vehicle visitors. Through bottleneck funds and donations, we provided over 6,631 miles, saving 159 gallons of gas. Also 200 maps have been distributed showing everyone is also enjoying the exterior display boards celebrating untold stories of Basque families contributions to the community, taking the bike-walking tour, looking at the online historical photos for 10 of Vale's historic downtown buildings QR codes, and visiting Vales Public art and the 28 Vale Murals, which are interpretations of historic events from our area.

Open House

The Drexel Foundation is holding their Annual Holiday Open House for the Vale Hotel & Opera House on December 31st from 9:00am-noon at 123 Main Street.

Drexel Foundation's FREE Formal Closet

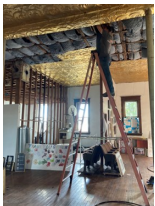
You can earn a FREE formal dress or tux rental by getting involved with the community. Donate your time and skills to any of the Drexel Foundation's events or programs for that perfect dress or tux for prom or homecoming.

Oregon DEQ helps with FREE bike giveaways thru staff grant

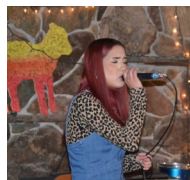


Because of the DEQ Workforce Development Repair and Reuse grant we have been able to hire staff to refurbish bikes to give away FREE. Approximately 50 bikes through drawings held at various Drexel events for the last 2 years were given away FREE. Thank you to DEQ, Laurie Gordon, and their staff. We will continue to have sustainability embedded in our programming and a staff member dedicated to sustainability efforts at the Drexel H Foundation to continue to refurbish bikes headed to the dump.

Grand Opera House Restoration & Celebrating our Heritage Event



Thanks to an Oregon Cultural Trust grant we achieved a 25+ goal to get exterior access stairs for fire/safety from the 2nd floor to ground level so preservation work can continue towards the Grand Opera House occupancy. These stairs are in the same location, built of the same materials, and in the same configuration as the original stairs. We also accomplished installation of the large 2 phase electrical power box for our electrical upgrade and installed sewer piping for a "clean out" vent. Since there is much more to be done, a capital campaign will be our focus in 2024-25 to finish the plumbing for ADA bathrooms on site. We were fortunate to have Arycksons Construction LLC & Stepleton Electric who did great work and donated some in kind services. In November we celebrated this progress and had a free Celebrate our Heritage Event. We had food, music, painted sheep as part of our art builds community project, had live music from Gina Rojas, and cut the ribbon for our new stairs. We honored our participants, volunteers, sponsors, contributors and staff and had a drawing for 5 more FREE bikes.



Thank You!!!

We would like to give a big shoutout to our great staff & board for helping make each event and project successful. Drexel has received funding for the last couple years to be able to hire a few staff members. On the Drexel Foundation staff we have Sam McLaughlin, Andrew McLaughlin, Brenda Ramirez, Taylor King, Cady Tolman, Kelsey Tolman & Patrick Trowell. Our board members are Sandra Tolman, Kathy Singer- King & the President of the Foundation Sandi- Jean Fuson. We would also like to give a big shout out to all of our other wonderful volunteers, sponsors and grant givers.



THANK YOU 2023



How to Donate

If you would like to donate to the Drexel Foundation you can do so by making a check payable to the Drexel Foundation. Or visit our website at www.thedrexelfoundation.org.



Follow us
@drexelfoundation

YOU ARE IMPORTANT!
Tu Importus!