



11/4/2009 10:34:00 AM

[Email this article](#) • [Print this article](#)

## US Bank awards \$24,000 to local non-profit groups

Cindy Johnson, US Bank vice president and district manager, was all smiles when she announced a dozen financial grants to Tillamook County non-profit organizations.

The local groups will each receive unrestricted grant funds from the US Bancorp Foundation totaling \$24,000.

"This is one of the best aspects of my job and a way to give back to the communities that we serve," said Johnson, whose district includes Tillamook, Clatsop and Lincoln counties.

The following local organizations' awards included:

- **NeahCasa**, a Manzanita-based affordable-housing advocacy and education group: \$7,500.
- Community Action Resources Enterprises, Inc. (CARE): \$4,500.
- Bay City Arts Center: \$1,500.
- Tillamook County Family YMCA: \$1,000.
- The Hoffman Center, a Manzanita-based arts and culture group: \$500.
- Tillamook School District Foundation: \$1,000.
- G.A.P.S. (Generating Assistance for Public Schools in Tillamook, Clatsop, Columbia and Washington Counties) Foundation: \$500.
- CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Tillamook County: \$2,000.
- Tillamook Serenity Club: \$500.
- Tillamook County Women's Resource Center: \$1,500.
- Monday Musical Club of Tillamook: \$1,000.
- Tillamook County United Way: \$2,000.

"Although global financial markets have been reshaped with the recent severe economic downturn, US Bank has actually increased giving to non-profits in Tillamook County in 2009," said Johnson.

In addition to being district manager for Tillamook County, Johnson serves on the grant committee for the US Bank Foundation. "I was born and raised on the north Oregon coast and am aware of the special challenges in our area," said Johnson.

Mike Cook, a member of the **NeahCasa** Board of Directors, said the \$7,500 his organization is receiving "is a big, big help."

Cook said part of the money goes toward funding the group's Student Family Support Project, which aids families of Neah-Kah-Nie School District students who have lost, or are in danger of losing, their homes.

Another portion of the grant will cover tenant training through the group's Rental Support Program.

"This is one of a handful of grants we've given to **NeahCasa** over the last few years," said Kelly Benson, the US Bank Manzanita branch manager. "It feels good to know the money is helping on the ground-level in our community."

To learn more, Benson said, call or visit a local US Bank local branch, or go to [usbank.com/cgi\\_w/cfm/about/community\\_relations/charit\\_giving.cfm](http://usbank.com/cgi_w/cfm/about/community_relations/charit_giving.cfm).



*NeahCasa Board members Mike Cook (left) and Lane deMoll (middle) accept a really "big check" from Kelly Benson, manager of the US Bank Manzanita branch. (LeeAnn Neal/Headlight Herald photo)*