



Friends of Public Health

DECEMBER 2025



Editor: Stephanie Polizzi

Promoting the health of Coos County through enhancement of local public health services

Message from the CCFoPH President

It's the end of 2025, and time to reflect back on our CCFoPH accomplishments, which you can read about in more detail in this newsletter.



Notably, we contributed over \$50,000 to help Coos Health and Wellness with programs and projects. The funds came from donations, grants, and 2 successful fundraisers—*Purses for Nurses*, and *Coos Odyssey 2025*. Both of these fundraising events were possible only with the help of our membership, volunteers and community support.

Tom Orsi, our Vice President, has once again, created an interesting route for *Coos Odyssey 2026*, with historical vignettes at the 25 milestones along the way. I hope you will join us as we collectively exercise in the new year! (See pg 4 for more info)

And it is time again for renewing your CCFoPH membership by paying dues, which help to fund our administrative costs. We keep the organizational expenses to a minimum by relying on volunteer efforts, and much of the work is done by our talented and dedicated board members.

If you have already renewed, thank you! Some of you have been loyal supporters since our beginning days in 2008. Our organization would not be possible without our members. Thank you and I wish you all a happy new year!

Frances Smith
CCFoPH President

Purses for Nurses Fundraising Event Raises \$15,000 for WIC

Purses for Nurses, our popular fundraiser, returned on October 5, with an early sellout. The 80 participants enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by Black Market Gourmet.



Some of the guests were "regulars" who had attended *Purses for Nurses* many times since the first event in 2010. Many enjoyed visiting with long-time friends as well as new acquaintances.



Pam de Jong, emcee, kept the party rolling, and urged the guests to "buy now" or else be outbid!

A special recognition goes to our *Purses for Nurses Committee* for their time and creativity: Kelly Barnett, Holly Boardman, Pam de Jong, Lisa Hermann, Stephanie Polizzi, Lindi Quinn, Cathy Salyers, Frances Smith, and Brinkley Webb.

This event would not have been possible without the broad support of our community, including the sponsors and many businesses and individuals who donated to our silent auction. Fourteen sponsors donated a total of \$4,750. Forty eight auction donors provided products and services to create the 34 purse packages and 26 additional donors helped to make the 2025 fundraiser a great success. (See pg 3 for a full list of sponsors and donors)



2025 Annual Meeting of CCFoPH

Eighteen members of CCFoPH gathered in the Coos Bay Fire Hall at noon on December 15 to review the highlights of our organization's activities during 2025. Sixty-eight members paid dues in 2025, and of those members, half voluntarily paid more than the basic membership dues of \$25.

Two community events were held.

At the **Recognition Lunch** on April 29, five Superstars were honored: Marissa Nuez, Food and Flourish; Kara Long, Coos Health and Wellness; Erin and David Kauffman, the Salvation Army; and Erlette Upshaw, Coos Elderly Services. Frances Smith was surprised with the *CCFoPH Legacy Award*, and Advanced Health awarded the *CCO Advocate of the Year Award* to Katrinka McReynolds.

On June 10, members and guests attended the **Afternoon with Friends**, a social event with food and conversation about health.

Fundraising was an important focus of our work in 2025. **\$51,160** (from grants and donations) was distributed to Coos Health & Wellness in 2025 to help Coos County families in need. (See article about projects funded in 2025)

Since our organization was formed in 2008, CCFoPH has distributed **\$590,128** to Coos Health & Wellness for public health services and projects.

During the business portion of the meeting, the Annual Budget of \$45,840 was approved for 2026 and Board members were elected. Serving terms for 2026-2027 will be: **Frances Smith**, President; **Reneé Menkens**, Treasurer; and **Kelly Barnett**, Advocacy. Board members continuing in 2026 are: **Tom Orsi**, Vice President; **Sam Baugh**, Secretary; **Brinkley Webb**, Communications; and **Lisa Hermann**, Development. Ex-officio members are **Cynthia Rodriguez**, and **Dr. Timothy Lynch**.

Departing Board Members who were acknowledged for their service in 2025 were **Cathy Salyers**, who served as Advocacy Chair for six years; **Molly Ford**, who left the board midterm in 2025 because of family obligations and had served for three years as Development Chair; and **Katrinka McReynolds** who ended her term after six years on the board as an ex-officio member. Although not a board member, **Stephanie Polizzi** was acknowledged for her many years serving as newsletter editor and graphic designer for CCFoPH.

Katrinka McReynolds, the Prevention Manager, and Cynthia Rodriguez, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Manager, concluded the meeting with a report on public health achievements in 2025. Dr. Timothy Lynch, Public Health Director was unable to attend. Mike Rowley, the Director of Coos Health & Wellness, expressed his appreciation to Frances Smith and the Friends for their contributions to public health.

CCFoPH Contributes to Public Health Projects in 2025

In 2025, The Coos County Friends of Public Health (CCFoPH) raised **\$51,160** through grants, donations and fundraising for public health projects provided through Coos Health & Wellness (CHW). The funds contributed by our members and community partners helped support the following programs which benefit our friends and neighbors here in Coos County.

Hygiene Kits for Dignity: \$6,000.

This \$6,000 grant to CCFoPH from the **Three Rivers Foundation** was to address the need for unhoused persons who have no way to bathe. Grant funds provided supplies to fill hygiene kits with basic items that would be of comfort and support, such as a water bottle, first aid kit, socks, large shower wipes, space blanket, non-perishable food and a waterproof cell phone bag. CHW is partnering with the faith-based communities to reach the unhoused and provide immediate assistance with these supplies, and also information about how to transition from homelessness to a more stable living situation.

Nurses' Purse Fund: \$11,645

This fund can be accessed by nurses at CHW to help families in need with otherwise unobtainable resources that make a big difference in a family's health and well-being. Examples are winter clothing, infant care, transportation, and payment for uninsured medical and dental bills. Funds came from three sources: a grant from the **Eugene and Marlaina Johnston Foundation** (\$3,000); CCFoPH's fundraiser, **Odyssey 2025** (\$7,245), and **BottleDrop Give** (\$1,400) from recycled cans and bottles donated to CCFoPH.

Immunizations: \$10,000

The **Roundhouse Foundation** contributed two grants, \$5,000 each, to fund immunization access and education for children and older adults during the winter months and school exclusion in February for unvaccinated kids.



Public health projects continued on pg 3

2025 Public Health Projects (*cont'd*)

Lock Box Project: \$500

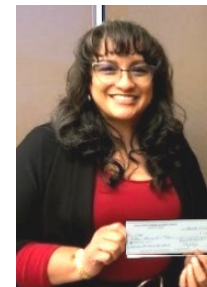
Walmart Sparks Good donated these funds to provide lock boxes to families who need to keep medications out of the hands of exploring children.

Babies First! Home Visiting: \$7,515

A generous donation from a member of CCFoPH helped support this home visiting program for families with children from birth to age five. During the home visits by the public health nurse, the family receives parenting information, and the children receive nursing assessments and health screening for conditions which can benefit from early intervention.

Women, Infants & Children Nutrition Program: \$15,000

At our Annual Meeting, Rosa Atencio-Le, WIC Program Manager, received a \$15,000 check from **Purses for Nurses**. The WIC program helps prenatal and postpartum women, infants and children from birth to age five receive nutrition education, and free nutritious foods.



Living and Aging Well Conference: \$500

CCFoPH was a sponsor of this interactive workshop held in Bandon in May. The workshop provided information to older adults on how to improve knowledge and skills to maintain and manage their overall well-being.

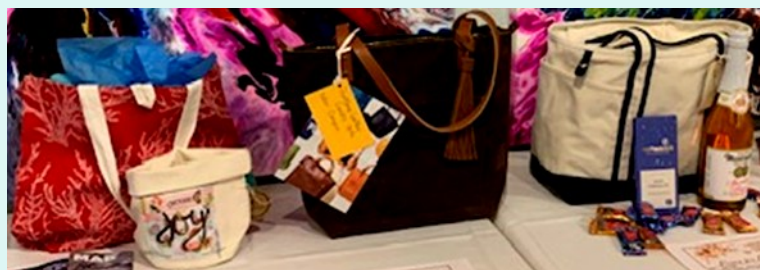
2025 Purses for Nurses (*cont'd*)

2025 Sponsors

Advanced Health
Banner Bank
Bassett Hyland Energy Co.
Bay Clinic
Coquille Indian Tribe
Costello Law Offices
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
Pamela C. de Jong, Edward Jones Investments
First Community Credit Union
Jonathon Park, MD, NBMC Bandon
7 Devils Brewing Co.
Southern Coos Hospital and Health Center
Tom Holt Family Dentistry
Ziply Fiber

Additional Donors

Anonymous	Margie Marshall
Linda Bell	Suzie McDaniel
Judith Boardman	Reneé Menkens
Mike Claassen	Christine Moffitt
Ann Collins	Karen Newmiller
Carol Davis	Delaine Nored
Debbie Dennis	Cathy Pennington
Molly Ford	Donna Rabin
Anita Hale	Cathy Salyers
Genelle Hanken	Jen Shafer
Sherryl Horn	Steven Shimotakahara,
Anne Hudson	MD
Virginia Kindrick	Frances Smith
	John Sweet



Auction Donors

Abby's Pizza	Moe's Seafood & Chowderhouse
Alternative Healing Chiropractic Center	Delaine Nored
Kelly Barnett	Ocean Breeze Flowers
Blue Dahlia Floral Designs	Oregon Classic Photography
Holly Boardman	Oregon Coast Aquarium
Coming Attractions Theatres	Oregon Coast Music Assn
Compass Margarita Hotel, Medford	Tom Orsi
Coos Bay Chapel	Lindi Quinn
Coos Bay Fire Department	Rogue Creamery
Coos County Parks & Recreation	Safeway, Coquille
Coquille Garden Center	Salt and Light
Dolphin Players	Cathy Salyers
El Guadalajara Mexican Restaurant	Sawdust Theatre
Eugene Opera	Second Street Gallery
EZ Thai Restaurant	Frances Smith
Farr's Hardware	So It Goes Coffee House
Frazier's Bakery	Spruce Street Grill
Hair Company, Etc., Hannah Shott	Staples
Lisa Hermann	The Studio, LeAnn McDonald & Robin Pelc
Jennie's Shoes	Three Rivers Casino & Hotel
Ko Kwel Casino Resort	Tin Thistle
Little Theatre on the Bay	Barbara Van Slyke
Ann McCaleb, CPA	Wharf Fresh Seafood & Eatery
McKay's Market, Coquille	Wildlife Safari

Coos Odyssey 2026 – Enroll Now!

The **Coos Odyssey 2026** challenge will start January 1st and CCFoPH is again hosting this popular fundraiser. Have you put on a few pounds during the holidays? Do you feel the need to get up and move? Many types of exercise activities can be counted for the 253 “virtual miles” along the route, such as walking, biking, running, swimming, pickleball, bowling, and dance. As you move around the map of Coos County, you will reach 25 milestones and learn about historical sites.

The \$20 fee to participate will go to the **Nurses’ Purse** Fund, which is administered at Coos Health and Wellness, helping local people in need. (There is also a \$2.00 signup fee that goes to the RunSignUp event platform.)

Enrollment begins now, and you will start tracking your miles in January and finish by April 15th.

We hope you will join us again this year, or try it for the first time. Invite your friends. Join a team, or start one with a walking group, co-workers, or family members.

To register, go to our website, ccfoph.org.

Thank you to our sponsors who have already pledged their support: Banner Bank, Big Foot Beverages, Coos History Museum, Pacific Power, 7 Devils Brewing Co., South Coast Striders, and Wild Coast Running Company.

Join us!

CCFoPH Board meets monthly on the 3rd Monday of the month,
12:00 to 1:30 pm via the Zoom platform

Contact Us!

Coos County Friends of Public Health
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CCFoPH@gmail.com ccfoph.org

**Please join
or renew your membership to CCFoPH today**

We invite you to join CCFoPH! We want to keep our numbers strong to support Public Health services in our community. If you have questions or want more information about membership, contact CCFoPH email at ccfoph@gmail.com or visit ccfoph.org. Fill out the form and send payment to PO Box 203, Coos Bay, OR 97420.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Phone: (h) _____ (w) _____ (cell) _____ (Circle preferred phone)

I support the mission and purpose of CCFoPH. Signature _____

Membership Levels: \$25/yr Individual \$50/yr Business \$50/yr Supporting Friend \$100/yr Sustaining Friend

Enclosed is \$_____ for membership. I also wish to donate an additional \$_____ to CCFoPH.

CCFoPH is a Non-Profit 501c3 and your membership dues and donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

We appreciate your support!

