"I’m on a veteran’s pension and Social Security benefits... it doesn’t quite cover it. With power and rent going up, I kept finding myself getting behind more and more. I had to move in with my son to be able to afford a place to live.

If I hadn’t received assistance, I wouldn’t have had electricity, and if you don’t have electricity, you can’t live in your home. You don’t have your refrigerator, you don’t have your toilets, you don’t have your air conditioning, your heaters. It’s dark, it’s cold.

So I am very grateful, because without Oregon Energy Fund, I wouldn’t have been able to live there.”

Rickie
U.S. Navy Veteran | Medford

Read more stories on page 3!
THE YEAR IN REVIEW

FOR MANY OREGONIANS, IT’S NOT GETTING EASIER

It’s tough out there.

2018 was a year of extremes in Oregon. A sweltering summer set a record number of 90-degree days in Portland. Wildfires rampaged across the state. The senior population reached an all-time high of 708,000 – an increase that experts say could exceed available healthcare and housing. And the cost of living continued to soar, with Oregon ranked the sixth-most expensive state in the US by CNBC.

While much of our state’s economy is booming, things aren’t getting easier for the many hardworking Oregonians whose wages have stagnated, or for seniors on fixed incomes. In fact, it turns out that the struggle among ordinary people to make ends meet has only spread. According to a recent study by the U.S. Energy Information Administration,

- One in three Oregon households “have difficulty paying utility bills or sustaining adequate heating or cooling in their homes.”
- One in five skip or reduce necessities like food and medicine to pay their energy bills.
- One in ten keep their homes at an “unhealthy or unsafe temperature” to reduce costs.

These numbers are not only much higher than our previous estimates of one in eight. They also reveal a silent crisis unfolding all around us, in living rooms and kitchens across the state. They reveal that the need for help is greater than ever – and growing every day.

HOW WE HELPED

This year, we broadened our scope as never before. We raised over $1.1 million to support our mission, focusing in particular on local community funding. We formed partnerships with several new organizations to ensure our funds reach as many people as possible, including Meals on Wheels People (MoWP), EDP Renewables, and Portland’s Latino Network. Across the board, we helped around 9% more Oregonians than in 2017, and laid the groundwork to raise that number higher in 2019.

We declared 2018 “The Year of the Senior” and developed innovative programs to support Oregon’s growing population of senior citizens. A groundbreaking collaboration with MoWP, set to launch in 2019, will provide seniors with a monthly discount to prevent them from falling behind on utility costs, and even allow them to sign up in the comfort of their homes. We also announced plans to double our Jackson County Senior Fund, ensuring that residents in rural regions can access the resources they need to get back on their feet.

As we look ahead to our 30th anniversary next year, we will continue to think outside the box to help those in need. We intend to increase funding by 20% in the coming year, as well as cultivate relationships with local businesses, foundations, and sponsors. We face huge challenges, no doubt. But these programs are changing lives. And if we pull together, we can use all of our resources to keep our neighbors warm, dry, and safe.

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

We all show support for the nonprofits we love in different ways. For me, the work that Oregon Energy Fund does is so meaningful that I wanted to be a part of it. In 2009, I decided to offer my professional skills as a CPA, and joined OEF’s Board of Directors as a member of the Finance Committee. From there, I became Treasurer of the Board and, now, President. The entire time, my commitment to OEF has only continued to grow.

We each have something different to offer. As a new year begins, I want to invite you to join OEF as a volunteer, in whatever capacity fits you best. We’re always seeking upbeat and friendly community members to help us with our work.

Please visit OregonEnergyFund.org/Be-Involved to sign up and stay in the loop, or reach out to info@oregonenergyfund.org to learn more. Together, we can make our state a better place for all.

Tori Bryson
Board of Directors, President

Brian Allbritton
Executive Director
IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

“Our mobile home is all electric, so it’s very important that we don’t lose electricity. With the fires going on this summer, with my asthma, it was very difficult to even go outside.

My husband and I are both on CPAP machines at night to help us breathe, so if we lost our electric, we would’ve been in a real world of hurt. I am so thankful that Oregon Energy Fund is in the area to help so many people.”

- Joyce & Howard

“I’m currently in treatment court and getting reacquainted with being a productive member of society. I just moved into an apartment, which is a stepping stone for me, and without the assistance from Oregon Energy Fund, I wouldn’t have been able to pay rent.

I’m doing everything I can to succeed in my program, and I’m grateful that Oregon Energy Fund has programs for people who have a little higher income but still need assistance.”

- Breana

“I’m a single parent of four. I work hard and I work long, but with raising four kids and the food costs, it gets expensive. Earlier this year, I had an electric bill that I didn’t have enough to pay plus rent, plus everything else.

Oregon Energy Fund helped out a lot. Our lights would’ve been shut off, and I would’ve had to either not pay my rent, or not pay my car note, or another bill would’ve not been paid. If it hadn’t been for Oregon Energy Fund, we would’ve been in the dark.”

- Lela

“I had to retire two years ago when my husband Mike was diagnosed with dementia. I’m his caretaker, and he can’t be left alone for two seconds. But losing half my income, going on Social Security, just killed us. We have a lot of medical, and we got a notice that our rent would be going up.

Then this summer, it was very hot. We had fans going in the bedrooms, and the A/C out here, and we received a utility bill that was $400. I was like, “Oh my gosh, what do we do?” Oregon Energy Fund saved us. I owe you my life.”

- Sarah

2018 POWER GALA RAISES $80,000

Our annual 1920s-themed Power Gala was held at the Sentinel Hotel on October 6, with more than 100 guests in attendance. With a delicious dinner by Jake’s Grill, music by the Smut City Jellyroll Society, and a live auction, a fabulous time was had by all.

Best of all, we raised over $80,000 – our most successful gala ever! Many thanks to all our donors, guests, and sponsors for their support of our mission and fellow Oregonians.
PORTLAND METRO

Households: 720
Individuals: 1,825
Children: 642
Seniors: 257
Disabled: 205

COAST

Households: 86
Individuals: 253
Children: 112
Seniors: 22
Disabled: 44

MID-VALLEY

Households: 266
Individuals: 685
Children: 265
Seniors: 109
Disabled: 72

SOUTHERN

Households: 212
Individuals: 549
Children: 188
Seniors: 80
Disabled: 69

COLUMBIA GORGE

Households: 8
Individuals: 23
Children: 8
Seniors: 2
Disabled: 3

CENTRAL

Households: 62
Individuals: 177
Children: 71
Seniors: 12
Disabled: 4

EASTERN

Households: 19
Individuals: 53
Children: 19
Seniors: 7
Disabled: 4

SPENDING

80%
Program Services
15%
Fundraising
5%
Management & General

80%
Program Services
18%
Mid-Valley
17%
Southern
7%
Coast
5%
Central
1%
Columbia Gorge
1%
Eastern

POWERING HOMES...

$1.2 MILLION IN REVENUE
1,373 HOUSEHOLDS
3,565 INDIVIDUALS
1,305 CHILDREN
489 SENIORS
401 DISABLED

...POWERING LIVES.

PARTNER AGENCIES

ACCESS
Care, Inc.
Care to Share
Catholic Community Services of Lane County
Clackamas County Social Services Division
Clatsop Community Action
Community Action Organization
Community Action Program of East Central Oregon
Community Connection of NE Oregon
Community Services Consortium
Harney County Senior & Community Services Center
Human Solutions, Inc.
Impact NW
Klamath & Lake Community Action Services
Mid-Columbia Community Action Council, Inc.
NeighborImpact
Oregon Coast Community Action
The Salvation Army – Coos Bay
The Salvation Army – Hillsboro
The Salvation Army – Klamath Falls
The Salvation Army – McMinnville
The Salvation Army – Medford
The Salvation Army – Salem
Sandy Community Action Center
Self Enhancement, Inc.
SnowCAP
St. Mary’s Society of SVDP
UCAN

BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

SCOTT BOLTON
Pacific Power
BOB HARDING
Columbia Bank
LORI RUSSELL
NW Natural Gas
KRISTIN STATHIS
Portland General Electric

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TORI BRYSON, President
Hoffman, Stewart & Schmidt, P.C.
SARAH SIMMONS, Vice President
R/West

ANN WAHR, Secretary
Portland General Electric
KRISTEN BROWN, Treasurer
NW Natural Gas
ADAM LOWNEY, Immediate Past President
McDowell Rackner Gibson PC
MARISA DECRISTOFORO, Director
Consultant
DAVID DIMATTEO
Latino Network
BECKY EBERLE
Pacific Power
JASON HEUSER
Eugene Water & Electric Board
MARGH HOFFMANN
Hoffmann Consulting, LLC
DANIEL HUGGETT
West Oregon Electric
JESS MARPE
Community Action
MELISSA NOTTINGHAM
Pacific Power
TYLER RICHARDSON
Portland General Electric
MIGUEL SANTOS
US Bank
BOB WALSH
Walsh Trucking Company
VICTOR ATIYEH, Director Emeritus
Late Governor

2018-2019 BOARD MEMBERS

BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

2018-2019 BOARD MEMBERS

PORTLAND METRO

COAST

MID-V ALLEY

SOUTHERN

COLUMBIA GORGE

CENTRAL

EASTERN

SPENDING

PORTLAND METRO

COAST

MID-V ALLEY

SOUTHERN

COLUMBIA GORGE

CENTRAL

EASTERN

STUDENT LIVES.

HOMES...
THANK YOU, DONORS!

INDIVIDUALS  The following individuals donated $1,000 or more.

Mr. Brian Allbritton and Mrs. Langley Allbritton
Mr. Joe Allbritton and Mrs. Karla Allbritton
Dr. Anita L. Archer
Ms. Loretta M. Aza
Mr. Richard M. Bader and Mrs. Jerre A. Bader
Ms. Mary L. Baetkey
Mr. Jerome C. Barr
Mrs. Michele J. Batcheller and Mr. Marilyn W. Batcheller
Mr. Roger W. Beed and Mrs. Elizabeth R. Beed
Mr. Joseph F. Bennett
Mr. Robert S. Blacketer
Mr. Fred Blank and Ms. Bettina L. Blank
Ms. Ulissa J. Brooks
Mr. John H. Burgess and Mrs. Dela Burgess
Mr. Gary Burgoine
Mr. Robert M. Christ and Mrs. Jeanne T. Christ
Ms. Melanie Chu and Lewis Chu
Ms. Marilyn J. Clark
Mr. Lynn E. Cochran
Mr. Steve K. Dever and Mrs. Susan E. Dever
Mr. Raymond G. Diedrich and Mrs. Mary-Elise Diedrich
Mr. John R. Dillon and Ms. Jacqueline Dillon
Ms. Amy Doerfler
Mrs. Marietta Doney
Ms. Louanne G. Douris
Mr. Alexander Dowsects and Ms. Anna Dowsects
Mr. Ken Edwards and Mrs. Ann C. Edwards
Mr. James Elting and Mrs. Catherine Elting
Mr. Don Feathers and Mrs. Jean Feathers
Mr. Bernard T. Fisher and Mrs. Marsha J. Fisher
Mr. Brian J. Froehling and Mrs. Jennifer L. Froehling
Mr. Alan R. Gaddis and Mrs. Karen D. Gaddis
Mr. Michael J. Garland and Mrs. Anita J. Garland
Ms. Bernadette M. Geraldi
Mr. Paul Gerlach and Mrs. Rebecca L. Gerlach
Mr. Kirk Gibson and Ms. Beverly Aldinger
Mr. Mark A. Gordon and Mrs. Jody Gordon
Mr. Jeffrey W. Grey and Mrs. Marilyn H. Grey
Mrs. Cheryl L. Hammond
Dr. Jonathan G. Hill and Mrs. Penny D. Hill
Mr. Joseph A. Hopper and Mrs. Elaine Hopper
Mr. Joshua Hornick and Mrs. Jennifer S. Hornick
Mr. David A. Horsburgh and Mrs. Denyse J. Horsburgh
Ms. Kristine M. Huggins
Mr. Thomas S. Hughes and Ms. Frances D. Andersen
Mr. Robert D. Hunter and Mrs. Pat Hunter
Ms. Teresa Jaynes-Lockwood
Ms. Charlotte B. Johnson
Ms. Patricia D. Kinser
Ms. Annette E. Kirby and Mr. Gerald J. Richardson
Mr. Frank J. Kosderka and Mrs. Patricia A. Kosderka
Mr. Mark J. Kralj and Mrs. Katherine R. Kralj
Mr. A. J. Kral
Mr. Harold L. Krabarger
Mr. Michael Shinn and Ms. Ellen Larison
Ms. Rebecca A. Langdon
Ms. Louise E. Larsen
Mr. Choyng-Huey Lin
Mr. Adam Lowney and Ms. Chamber Dorheim
Ms. Suzie R. Lucking
Ms. Jenn Lynch
Mr. Ronald W. Lyons and Mrs. Dela V. Lyons
Mr. Joseph Mackie and Ms. Patricia Mackie
Mr. Herman Marensten and Mrs. Andrea Marensten
Ms. Katherine A. McDowell, Esq. and Mr. Kenneth Lerner
Ms. Kathleen C. McGavock and Mr. Steve McGavock
Ms. Janet M. Moss
Ms. Yvonne M. Nesbitt
Mr. Paul W. Ober and Mrs. Patricia A. Ober
Mr. Ronald G. Pitney and Mrs. Barbara A. Pitney
Dr. Charles D. Potter and Mrs. Vera D. Potter
Mr. Ralph G. Quinsey and Mrs. Jean A. Quinsey
Ms. Patricia J. Reser
Mr. Tyler J. Richardson and Mrs. Rimma Richardson
Mr. Stephen R. Rodger and Mrs. Patricia A. Rodger
Mr. Don Rose and Mrs. Margaret Rose
Ms. Marywyn Ryan and Mr. Kenton J. McSweeney
Mr. Kenneth J. Rycklick and Mrs. Bobbi L. Rycklick
Mr. Bernard Klatte and Ms. Sarah Simmons
Ms. Sheila K. Smith
Mr. James M. Spain and Ms. Joyce L. Spain
Mr. Henry D. Specht, Jr. and Ms. Lidia A. Specht
Mr. Sam Stewart and Ms. Courtney Stewart
Ms. Karen L. Strand
Mr. Robert S. Sweeney, Jr.
Mr. Darragh Thomas and Mrs. Barbara R. Thomas
Ms. Marijane Thompson
Ms. Teresa Torres
Ms. Heather Villanueva and Mr. Caesar Villanueva
Mr. James B. Waddell
Mr. John W. Warner and Mrs. Helen M. Warner
Mr. Thomas W. Weitzel and Mrs. Gloria A. Weitzel
Ms. Milicent K. Wewerka
Mr. Clifford M. Whitlow and Mrs. Frieda A. Whitlow
Mr. David Worth and Mrs. Jen Worth
Mr. Michael A. Worthington and Mrs. Helen G. Worthington
Ms. Linda S. Wylie

The following individuals donated $500 - $999.

Mr. George K. Ahuna and Mrs. Eva W. Ahuna
Mr. Gary J. Albert and Mrs. Lisa J. Albert
Ms. Marilyn L. Allen
Mr. Michael E. Anderson
Mr. Ray B. Auel and Mrs. Jean M. Auel
Ms. Joan A. Baker
Ms. Karen E. Barrueto
Mr. Brian L. Bengston
Mr. Douglas B. Bingham and Mrs. Pauline R. Bingham
Mrs. Elizabeth G. Blachly-Dyson and Mr. Robert Dyson
Mr. William Blake
Ms. Beatrice M. Boyd
Mr. Dale Blue and Mrs. Melissa Blue
Mr. Mark E. Bradley and Mrs. Arlene D. Bradley
Mr. Arthur A. Bright and Ms. Brenda G. Bright
Mr. Matthew Brown
Mr. Ronald R. Brown
Ms. Tori L. Bryson and Mr. Gary Bryson
Ms. Emily R. Bucholtz
Mr. Paul E. Buffam and Mrs. Elizabeth A. Buffam
Mr. Michael R. Bunce and Mrs. Deborah J. Bunce
Mr. James H. Burkey, Jr. and Ms. Anne M. Burkey
Ms. Jean M. Caldwell
Mr. Wes Y. Chin and Mrs. Janit K. Chin
Ms. Solveig D. Clark
Mr. Brian J. Cochrane
Mr. Charles E. Comstock and Mrs. Betty Comstock
Mr. Jesse R. Cordova
Ms. Marisa A. DeCristofaro
Ms. Kathie DeWitt
Ms. Carol A. Dillin
Mr. R. Steven Dimeo
Mr. Richard I. Dracott and Mrs. Marita J. Dracott
Mr. Timothy R. Drain and Mrs. Susan E. Drain
Mrs. Kathleen D. Dunbar
Ms. Holly E. Eby and Mr. Arden Eby
Mr. Cecil Elbert and Ms. Alanna Elbert
Mr. Michael Fasulo and Ms. Leanne Steit
Mr. Richard J. Fisher
Mr. Larry N. Frager and Mrs. Frederica M. Frager
Mr. Edward B. Freeman and Mrs. Eve M. Freeman
Mr. Wyatt B. Getz
Mr. Thomas B. Gewecke and Mrs. Elizabeth S. Gewecke
Mr. Chad Ginther
Mr. Gregory R. Gleason
Mr. Tom Goodpaster
Mr. Lori Grady and Mr. Matthew Grady
Mr. James A. Griffin, Jr. and Mrs. Joann F. Griffin
Mr. Carl Hallshammer
Ms. Tanya M. Halvorson and Mr. Eric Halvorson
Ms. Karen M. Hamilton and Mr. Patrick J. Hamilton
Mrs. Pamela J. Hanouk
Mr. David M. Hansen and Mrs. Penny Hansen
Ms. Kay M. Hartley
Ms. Wendy Hansske
Ms. Jill D. Heavey
Mr. Joan S. Heller
Ms. Janice L. Hennesey
Mr. Scott R. Hicks and Mrs. Marcia A. Hicks
Ms. Joanne C. Higgins and Mr. Peter B. Higgins
Sister Marcia E. Hobart
Mrs. Judith A. Holmboe
Ms. Marilyn M. Hopkins
Mr. James L. Hortcs
Ms. Kristin L. Howell
Ms. Susan M. Hubbuch
Mr. Sufian Y. Hussein and Mrs. Barbara Hussein
Ms. Yvonne M. Iverson
Mr. James D. Jackson
Mr. Mark L. Jacobson and Mrs. Jean Jacobson
Mr. Anthony B. James
Mr. Patrick D. James and Mrs. Sharon E. James
Mr. Jon Jennison and Mrs. Laura E. Jennison
Ms. Ellin M. Johnson
Mr. Jean E. Johnson
Mr. David R. Sherrod and Ms. Jenda A. Johnson
Mr. Jeff B. Sprenkle
Mr. Don R. McNaft and Mrs. Michelle D. McNaft
Mr. Randolph L. Miller and Mrs. Janet K. Miller
Mrs. Lois A. Mock
Ms. Susan R. Moltan
Ms. Judith Morgan
Ms. Marie Morgan
Ms. Elizabeth Morrow-McKenzie and Mr. Brad McKenzie
Mr. Robert W. Morse, D.O. and Mrs. Nancy A. Morse
Ms. Irene Mullerleile and Mr. Wilhelm Mullerleile
Dr. Kevin K. Oyama
Mr. Roger L. Pfeifer and Mrs. Kathleen M. Pfeifer
Ms. Karlyn Pilkington
Mrs. Lois A. Pitman
Mr. Kenneth E. Puckett and Mrs. Miriam W. Puckett
Mr. Lenox P. Rector
Mr. David R. Reich
Mrs. Marilyn Richen
Mr. James R. Riesterer
Mr. Mike Rowe
Mr. James H. Sarne
Mr. Jason E. Schwabel and Ms. Kirsten L. Schwabel
Mr. David E. Scott
Ms. Ruth B. Selid
Ms. Kelli J. Shea
Ms. Roslyn Sheppard
Mr. Stanley J. Short
Ms. Kay A. Shorten
Mr. John Shoul and Ms. Shannon Shoul
Mr. Christian Smith and Mrs. Julie Smith
Ms. Toni L. Smith
Mr. E. Ned Snow and Mrs. Carolyn J. Snow
Mrs. Janet Snyder
Oregon Energy Fund leadership traveled to the City of Arlington last month for the launch of our new PowerUp Program. The program is sponsored by EDP Renewables (EDPR) and creates a fund of $5,000 for Arlington residents who have suffered a layoff, accident, illness, or other financial emergency and need help paying their utility bills.

The PowerUp Program is a culmination of OEF’s pledge to focus on local funding this year, especially in Oregon’s rural areas. Our Jackson County Senior Fund, highlighted in the fall newsletter, is another example.

Arlington is tucked into the golden hills that line the eastern Columbia River, about 50 miles east of The Dalles. The community is home to Rattlesnake Road Wind Farm, which spans 8,500 acres of private ranchland and is owned and operated by EDPR. By joining with OEF to sponsor the PowerUp Program, EDPR is diverting locally-generated revenue back into the community to support local residents in financial crisis.

A press conference was held in the city’s new Gronquist Building, during which EDPR External Communications Associate Bevan Augustine presented OEF Executive Director Brian Allbritton with a $5,000 check. Numerous local officials and community members were in attendance, including Port Manager Peter Mitchell and City Recorder Pam Rosenbalm.

“This new collaboration with EDPR adds to our historic funding in Gilliam County and opens the door to new ways to fund communities in need,” Allbritton said. “The PowerUp program is an innovative concept of partnering with local businesses to provide greater service and support to their community. In turn, this allows our partners to ensure that the towns where they operate and the people who live there will continue to thrive.”

Arlington-area residents who are interested in applying for help should consult OEF’s website to find their local agency.

We encourage businesses or donors who are interested in supporting energy assistance programs in their community to contact us at info@oregonenergyfund.org or 971-386-2124.