

When Oregon Mennonite Residential Services stepped up its care, so did Central Willamette Credit Union.

Before COVID-19, Oregon Mennonite Residential Services was on the brink of something big — a significant funding increase that would have helped the organization on a number of levels. Then the world changed, and the potential for increased funding disappeared. It kept Lorelei LaVoie, the organization’s Executive Director, up at night.

“We care for 51 residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We specialize in 24-hour residential care. Our funding is Medicaid based, which helps provide staffing support,” LaVoie said.

The disappointment was palpable. The organization employs 130 people who provide a variety of essential services. Always living its core mission, Oregon Mennonite Residential Services continues to serve on the basis it was founded on — providing the best quality of life for those most vulnerable.

The organization owns more than a dozen homes, where residents live full time in McMinnville and Albany, Oregon. Each home has a house manager, an assistant manager, and trained, devoted caregivers. The residents come to depend on their caregivers, and in many circumstances, the caregivers have assisted the same residents for dozens of years. The familiar face and trust is essential in providing the best care.

COVID-19 not only put funding on hold, it required so much more of the caregivers. Their hours were increased so they could be with residents as they quarantined at home, and increased contact meant caregivers needed more personal protective equipment. So when the new funding opportunity vanished, Oregon Mennonite Residential Services reached out to Central Willamette Credit Union for help. The organization applied for and received an SBA Paycheck Protection Program loan, which LaVoie said will help immensely.

“This loan will definitely help us continue with wages and benefits that are really important in keeping our workforce strong and healthy,” she said.

For Central Willamette, providing those services is part of its core mission of “People Helping People.” Since the start of the program, the credit union has provided 116 SBA loans for \$4.4 million. Maintaining long-term jobs for community members is a priority, Wyss-Schoenborn said.

“Small business along with non-profits are the backbone to a community, bringing growth, jobs and innovation,” said President and CEO, Stacie Wyss-Schoenborn. “Owners of small businesses are your friends and neighbors, they contribute to the unique identity and success of a community. We’re very proud to have an opportunity to be a resource for our local small business and non-profits during the economic downturn caused by COVID-19.”



Ellen Poage has been in Oregon Mennonite Residential Service’s care for four years. She’s also the Portland Trail Blazers’ biggest fan and is famous for her contagious smile.

“It’s the people that make us special. Our caregivers provide highly skilled support. It’s critical and life-sustaining,”

- Lorelei LaVoie

CENTRAL WILLAMETTE CREDIT UNION

116
PPP LOANS

\$4.4 MILLION
PPP LOANS FUNDED