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## **UCAN Receives An Unexpected \$45,000 for Food from Nine Local Foundations**

*Roseburg, Oregon.....Umpqua*  
Community Action Network's (UCAN) Food Shares Program received much-needed grant support of \$45,000 from nine different charities to assist in the increase of the organization's food supplies for Douglas and Josephine Counties.

Michael Fieldman, executive director of UCAN, said rising unemployment in both counties has brought great pressure on UCAN's Food Shares Program. The reduced supply of food coupled with more need has impacted available food supply. The food pantries serviced by UCAN used to be able to provide a food box with a five to seven day food supply but are now lucky to provide three days of food.

In 2008, UCAN supported an average of 9,793 adults and children each month. Most receiving food boxes were not repeats, accessing food pantries only three times per year.

According to Keavy Cook, a program officer at The Ford Family Foundation, "Despite the very generous efforts of our communities during the Holidays, UCAN's Food Shares Program still felt pressure to meet the demands of folks needing food boxes."

That drove Rogue and Umpqua Valley foundations to action. Nine local funders including The Ford Family Foundation, Gordon Elwood Foundation, Mercy Foundation, and Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation, along with five advised funds from The Oregon Community Foundation including Whipple Foundation Fund, Crane Creek Family Fund, Toll and Wagner Charitable Fund, Walton-Weston Family Fund, and Collyer Hitchcock Family Fund all donated generously to the effort.

"These grants are greatly appreciated and very much needed in these current economic times," said Fieldman. "We are grateful these nine members of the philanthropic community came together so quickly to support this most basic of human needs. Thank you to all."

UCAN, established in 1969, is committed to promoting resources and opportunities that increase self sufficiency of all low income families and individuals to create solutions to poverty and improve lives in our communities.

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