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Grow: The Advantis Community Fund Awards \$50,000 to Six Local Nonprofits

Portland, ORE., July 25, 2019 — Advantis Credit Union has named the six nonprofit organizations that will receive grants through Grow: The Advantis Community Fund. Since its launch in 2011, Advantis' grant fund has contributed over \$450,000 to local organizations and funded 57 projects. This year, Advantis invited members and the community to vote on 12 finalist projects through the Advantis website, Facebook and Instagram pages. More than 22,000 public votes helped to determine the following six grants:

- Friends of Trees will receive a grant to engage high school aged youth, training them as planting leaders where they will gain valuable job and life skills in the environmental field. Through the program, they will learn and practice skills in planting, caring for, and teaching about trees and healthy urban green spaces.
- Guide Dogs for the Blind will receive a grant to fund reflective jackets for clients and LED safety lights for their guide dogs' harnesses. This equipment will help ensure the safety of those served as they travel at night and in low-lighted areas.
- The Oregon Coast Aquarium will receive a grant to support outreach education programs that take the Aquarium on the road to 125 rural, remote, low-income elementary schools and home-school communities in 28 Oregon counties where distance and limited budgets prohibit field trips.
- Our House of Portland will receive a grant to purchase a merchandising refrigerator and two laptops to increase staff efficiencies and accommodate an increasing number of annual visitors to Esther's Pantry. Esther's Pantry alleviates food insecurity for over 650 under resourced Portland residents and their families, the majority of whom are living with or impacted directly by HIV.
- Portland Rescue Mission will receive a grant to provide program participants with identification assistance needed to take meaningful steps forward. Having valid ID assists in gaining consistent employment, obtaining housing, opening a bank account, and more.
- Portland Winter Light Festival will receive a grant to support free performances by professional dancers, musicians and fire artists during the festival.

“As a not-for-profit cooperative, we exist to serve our members and they’re the center of everything we do—including community giving,” said John Nichols, Advantis Credit Union’s vice president of marketing. “Our members are passionate about Portland nonprofits and appreciate having a simple way to engage in Advantis’ corporate giving decisions.”

About Advantis Credit Union

With \$1.4 billion in assets, Advantis Credit Union is Oregon’s fifth largest not-for profit financial cooperative. We return earnings to members in the form of better rates, low fees, and more free services. Advantis is locally owned by over 75,000 members, and has eight branches in the Portland metro area. For more information, visit www.advantiscu.org.