

For Immediate Release

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Okanogon County Fire District 6 Awarded \$1.8M Grant

The Bruno and Evelyne Betti Foundation of Lacey, Washington has announced the approval of a \$1.8 million grant to be awarded to Okanogon County Fire District 6 (OCFD6) to implement a "Firefighter Vocational Training Program."

The Grant consists of two components:

- 1) A capital and facilities grant in the amount of \$1.3 Million, to provide the District with the most up to date training materials, equipment, and facilities for today's structure, wildland firefighting, and wildland urban interface environment.
- 2) A \$500,000 endowment, the proceeds of which are to be used to cover the costs of scholarships, educational programs, and the repair and replacement of training equipment, manuals, and other training facilities.

The Grant will be administered through the Community Foundation of North Central Washington.

The Foundation award letter states, "The Program is centered in the Methow Valley, and Okanogon County Fire District 6, with the Valley's recent history of major and tragic fires. The grant provides vocational and safety training opportunities to the District's employees, volunteers, and those living in the Valley seeking potential career opportunities in firefighting. The program is also open, through local Fire District support, to residents of the North Central Washington Fire Training Council area covering Okanogon, Chelan, Grant, and Douglas Counties."

The funds are conditioned on the approval of a contract between the District, the Foundation, and the Community Foundation of North Central Washington concerning fund management and dispositions. The contract is expected to be approved by the end of the year.

Payment of any grant funds is conditioned upon the passage of the appropriate bond or levy to provide funding for construction of the new District fire station in and on which the program would be based.

“This Grant is a major step forward in providing local vocational training for people interested in pursuing firefighting as a career as well as for our local volunteers. The certifications and state-of-the-art training equipment, and modern station facilities made available through this program enables personnel to gain firefighting proficiency across a broad spectrum of emergency incidents,” said OCFD6 Fire Chief Cody Acord. He added that, “the District will need the support of the voters to make this opportunity happen.”

The Bruno and Evelyne Betti Foundation was created in 2007 through their estates to continue the philanthropic mission Bruno and Evelyne followed in their lifetimes. The Foundation documents specifically support Vocational Training in the Pacific Northwest and seeks to support other programs which:

- provide opportunities typically not otherwise available particularly in smaller communities
- promote a technical or professional skill not otherwise generally available in the community to young men and women leading to a lifetime career
- enable the handicapped or underprivileged to achieve life goals
- promote the ability of working men and women to become more productive members of society

Founded in 1957, Okanogan County Fire District 6 covers an area of approximately 300 square miles. The District provides fire, rescue, and emergency response services from Gold Creek to Lost River, including all unincorporated areas and the communities of Carlton, Winthrop, and Mazama. The Town of Twisp contracts with the fire district for emergency services.

A team of career and volunteer firefighters serves over 5,300 residents and protects over 8,400 structures. For more information about Fire District 6, visit their website at www.okanogancountyfd6.com and follow them on FaceBook.

For further information about this topic contact:

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