Heart of Oregon, businesses create hygiene packs for Warm Springs

Community service effort coincided with First Interstate Bank's Third Annual Volunteer Day

Last Wednesday, Heart of Oregon staff, AmeriCorps members and HOC young people in the AmeriCorps program gathered at the Thrift Store with First Interstate Bank volunteers to prepare 150 emergency hygiene packets.

These packets will support the Warm Springs community, which has been challenged by ongoing water supply issues that are further exacerbated by COVID-19 restrictions.

The community service effort was scheduled to coincide with First Interstate Bank's Third Annual Volunteer Day, with bank volunteers helping at Heart of Oregon and other organizations throughout the region.

In the past, First Interstate Bank volunteers have assisted Heart of Oregon with its own programs, but since community service is woven into many HOC programs, this day was a natural way to come together in the service of a greater need.

With Heart of Oregon's Madras Thrift Store currently closed due to COVID-19, volunteers were able to use the retail space to sort and stuff the packets containing 12 essentials such as hand sanitizer, shampoo and toothbrushes.

The packets are to be distributed via the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs' GROW program to its residents.

Heart of Oregon extends gratitude to the businesses who contributed funds, in-kind items and time to this effort: Dollar General, First Interstate Bank, Grocery Outlet, Inn at Cross Keys, Mid Oregon Credit Union, Safeway and Quality Inn, as well as individual donors.