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Chuck Butler Memorial Aquatics Endowment invests nearly \$15,000 in youth aquatic sports

ASHLAND — Ashland Community Health Foundation (ACHF) is thrilled to announce nearly **\$15,000** in grants from the **Chuck Butler Memorial Aquatics Endowment** to support local youth aquatic sports, from growing water polo in the community to outfitting high school swimmers with the gear they need to compete and connect as a team.

The largest investment, totaling **\$9,500**, goes to **Ashland Water Polo** to build a stronger future for water polo in the area. Funding supports new equipment, coaching education, and community "come try water polo" sessions at Rogue X that have already introduced the sport to new players and families this season. Looking ahead, a week-long summer camp for elementary and middle school students will bring even more young athletes into the water later this summer.

On the high school swim side, investments are making sure no athlete has to show up underprepared. The **Ashland High School Swim Team** received over **\$1,400** for matching team swimsuits, giving every swimmer on the roster the same sharp look and a shared sense of team pride. **Phoenix High School Swim Team** received over **\$3,900** to cover new practice fins and travel expenses for team meets, helping their athletes train harder and compete farther from home.

Chuck Butler loved the water. A UCLA water polo player, lifelong swimmer, and well-known community philanthropist, he understood the power of aquatic sports to shape young lives. In his memory, Jeff and Alexi McCullough established the Chuck Butler Memorial Aquatics Endowment at ACHF to ensure that spirit lives on, with a vision of accessible programming for everyone from first-time swimmers to competitive athletes.

"Witnessing the community's excitement over water polo camp and swim lessons has been profound and invigorating", shares Alexi. "Kids who would otherwise not have had access are trying the sport for the first time and building lifelong skills and a new passion. We are humbled to be part of it."

If you share their vision, we invite you to make a gift to the endowment and help ensure that local youth always have access to the programs, coaching, and equipment they need to succeed in the water. To learn more, or make a donation, please contact info@achfoundation.org or visit achfoundation.org.

The Ashland Water Polo summer camp is scheduled for June 8 – 12 at the Daniel Meyer Pool and the Ashland Family YMCA. The cost is \$75 per swimmer. For more information on how to sign up visit, ashlandwaterpolo.org.

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Photos enclosed by permission of Andy Gramley, Ashland Water Polo, and Joe Zavala, Phoenix-Talent School District.

Ashland Community Health Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) leading philanthropic efforts to advance innovative and equitable approaches to community health and wellness. Contributions to the endowment are tax-deductible and can be made securely through our website or mailed to our office at 123 Clear Creek Drive, Suite 101, Ashland, OR 97520.