

SACAGAWEA HEALTH CENTER BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

During the Summer of 2012, Sacagawea School-Based Health Center (SHC) underwent an interior remodel and renovation, resulting in an additional exam room to allow for more patients, a larger mental health services room to accommodate meetings with mental health patients and their families, an additional physician office, a designated kitchenette for employees, and an overall aesthetically pleasing renovation to the entire facility interior. Funding for the remodel was awarded through a federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Following the renovation, SHC received grant funding from the Columbia County Cultural Coalition (CCCC) to enhance the overall beauty and appeal of the health center while also promoting the heritage the health center was founded upon.

Sacagawea Health Center partnered with Pacific Stainless Products, Inc. to design, construct, and install new signage using the newly adopted Sacagawea Health Center logo. Following a heart theme established by Sacagawea's two major fundraisers, the Heart Campaign and the "Touch the Heart of a Child Auction and Benefit", the logo encompasses what Sacagawea Health Center stands for, touching the hearts of the children in the community and improving their health and academic success. The logo was designed by Carrie Peters, a graphic artist out of Southern Oregon.

Not only does the new signage improve the appearance of the center, it distinguishes the building as the local health resource - it is and not just another school building. It is also a great promotional tool for both our clients and individuals passing by.

Using the grant funds allotted for the interior portion of the Beautification Project, SHC partnered with local artist Stan Canterbury of Monkeyman LLC to create a unique piece for Sacagawea Health Center. Stan and his wife, Nadiya, have a touching passion for the health center and are working on a piece of wall art that embraces the nature within Columbia County and images familiar to the time that the Native American heroine,

Sacagawea, assisted Lewis and Clark on their voyage to the Pacific Ocean. Stan is a talented metal artist and the piece will be featured on the center wall of the clinic, making it a focal point for all who enter the health center. Stan and Nadiya are donating many in-kind hours to create this unique piece.

In addition to the artwork by Monkeyman LLC, several local artists have donated their artwork to display within the clinic until the “Touch the Heart of a Child Auction and Benefit”, held annually in May. SHC may then sell the artwork in the auction under the condition that the artist will donate artwork again the following year. Due to these contributions, SHC is able to decorate the interior of the health center and earn money for free health care services for students.

Overall, the Beautification Project has been a wonderful outreach tool, converting a plain school annex to a recognizable health center from the road. This project has also transformed the environments of the waiting and exam rooms into places students and parents feel comfortable and relaxed, making their overall visit more pleasant and increasing the likelihood that they will feel comfortable making future appointments. This funding opportunity has given Sacagawea Health Center a warm, inviting atmosphere while also promoting the heritage the health center was founded upon.