

Seashore Family Literacy

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OVERVIEW

For over 15 years, Seashore has worked with low-income, challenged populations in the coastal communities of central-south Lincoln County. Critical to our mission is the belief that we need to come alongside youth and families as they work to create and improve their own lives. We seek to **equip, unite** and **empower** individuals to reach out and enhance their lives and their community.

MISSION

Seashore Family Literacy feeds minds and bodies. Founded in 1992, Seashore is a community-based, non-profit organization dedicated to helping children, adults and families improve reading, writing, math, computer and communication skills. We promote literacy, education and health through numerous programs, including youth and adult tutoring, parenting classes, preschool and afterschool activities, summer camps, free bicycles, a clothing bank, and free meals.

Seashore is volunteer-driven and programs are provided to participants at no cost. Programs take place at the Waldport Community Learning Center (a former middle school) with a commercial kitchen that produces a bounty of nutritious meals and snacks.

HISTORY

Seashore began in 1992 as a valiant but vagabond effort by Senitila McKinley, of Waldport, Oregon, who saw a need to reach, engage and serve the community. With no funding and no meeting place, Senitila packed her car full of books and scrambled to find places to hold programs. Steadily she created a valuable, practical organization serving thousands of disadvantaged youth and families.

Over 50 percent of area youth are economically disadvantaged, and within the school district there are over 400 homeless students (defined as living with relatives or friends, awaiting foster care, or living in an emergency shelter, motel, campground, car or park). While our primary focus is on education, we have found it critical to first meet the most basic needs of food and clothing. To that end, Seashore provides countless free meals, in the form of weekly free Saturday Breakfasts, monthly Family Dinners, a Summer Food Program, and snacks for the afterschool program. To clothe the community we operate the Clothes Closet. These programs serve hundreds of individuals each week.

Once basic needs are met, we host and support a variety of education-based programs (see *Programs*).



COLLABORATION

Seashore Family Literacy thrives with volunteers, partnership and collaboration with businesses and organizations. We operate with very limited paid staff and engage volunteers in every aspect of programs and activities. Some of our partners include:

Alsea Bay Interpretive Center
Community Presbyterian Church of Waldport
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Lincoln County School District - 21st Century Community Learning Centers
Our Savior Lutheran Church
Oregon State Parks
Newport Bike
Pacific Office Solutions
Pacific Sourdough Inc.
Seafoam Rebekah Lodge No. 250
Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Shamrock Lodgettes
St. Luke's by the Sea Church
Siskiyou Insurance - Kay McElroy
Siuslaw National Forest
St Anthony's Catholic Church
St. Luke's by the Sea Episcopal Church
Trust Management Services
USDA Summer Food Service Program
Waldport Food Bank
Waldport Lions
Waldport Moose Lodge
Waldport Public Library
Wal*Mart - Newport
Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program

