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for Asante Employees

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Olsrud Family Gift to Have Lasting Effect at Asante

A Southern Oregon family well-known for its generosity is again making a difference in the community. Sherm and Wanda Olsrud have donated \$500,000 to the Asante Foundation to help support important patient-centered projects and programs.



"I've been very fortunate to work with some amazing philanthropists during my career and I can say with confidence that Sherm and Wanda are truly the best," said Floyd Harmon, Asante Foundation executive director. "I am humbled to have the opportunity to work with them."

Medford residents since 1967, the Olsruds and their grocery business - Sherm's Thunderbird and Food 4 Less - have supported local youth activities, food pantries, higher education and the performing arts for many years.

"Asante has provided health care to our family for 40 years," the Olsruds said. "We are grateful to the community for supporting our stores, and in turn, we want to support the health-care needs of people in our community."

The Olsruds asked that their gift be used for Asante's greatest needs. Floyd said the donation may be used to benefit several initiatives – for instances, cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation, the Francis Cheney Family Place in Medford and the Family Place in Grants Pass.

"Philanthropy is an important and integral part of our ability to provide quality health care," Floyd said. "Asante strives to recruit the best physicians and nurses, to offer the most advanced technology, and to be a valued community partner. We would not be able to do that without the thoughtfulness and generosity of individuals like Sherm and Wanda."

This is the second year the Olsruds have donated to the Asante Foundation. They also have provided funding for several student scholarships at Southern Oregon University and were awarded the President's Medal at SOU in 2007. They were inducted into the Oregon 4-H Hall of Fame in 2008, for their support of youth livestock auctions and activities throughout southern Oregon.

Asante is a not-for-profit organization, which means all funds stay in the region to support patient and health-care services in Jackson and Josephine counties. The Asante Foundation was established in 1973 and is governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees. The primary goal of the Foundation is to promote and support Asante's mission and values by generating private support and encouraging community involvement. For information about opportunities for giving, please call (541) 789-4371, or go online to www.asante.org/giving.