

## Organization Update from the Board President



*“Revitalizing Glide and Douglas County by promoting economic growth, beautification, recreation, and education, while building strength and resiliency in our residents through community outreach, program development, and enrichment activities.”*

My name is Jody Brown, and I am the President of Glide Revitalization. We have been very busy over the last few months, and I would like to take this opportunity to give you an update on our progress and the direction we are headed.

### **Where We Started**

When I became involved in Glide Revitalization five years ago, I would never have believed it could grow to be the organization it is today. We started as a very small non-profit looking to enhance our community with beautification and recreation projects. We envisioned a community coming together to make things happen to make our town a better place by providing walking paths, parks, landscaping, and tourist stops. These improvements would also give our families safe places to play or come together for festivals or community events. We wanted our neighbors to know each other and be involved.

When we started planning our very first Sasquatch Festival, we were very excited for 2020. It was going to be the year we got everything started. Everyone reading that statement will laugh and shake their heads. We *all* had big plans that year.

### **Archie Creek Fire Hits our Community**

Along with the challenges of Covid, Glide ran into the bigger challenge of the Archie Creek Fire. A community as small as Glide can never be prepared to handle a catastrophic event like that. But Glide didn't back down. In tandem with our neighbors, Glide Revitalization embraced the challenge and began the recovery process locally, working with state and federal agencies along with disaster recovery partners to bring the help directly to Glide Residents. Because Glide Revitalization restructured to form a Long Term Recovery Group within our existing non-profit, our Archie Creek Fire Survivors could talk to a local caseworker that knows the area, rather than calling the next closest recovery group 80-100 miles away.

Glide Revitalization grew exponentially within a very short period of time, hiring and training employees to work within the strict regulations of FEMA, St. Vincent De Paul, and Oregon Department of Human Services, and other agencies to bring help to all survivors including those

who were uninsured or underinsured for their losses. We provided immediate needs for those who needed food, clothing, toiletries, and shelter. We found temporary housing as needed in the form of hotels, apartments, mobile homes, or travel trailers. We helped replace vital records lost in the fire and walked survivors through registration for help from FEMA or The Red Cross.

### **How We Helped**

As insurance and FEMA paid out to survivors, many survivors found their funding fell short. This is where Glide Revitalization stepped in. Between private donations, state and federal contracted money, and local grants from partners like UCAN and DTO, Glide Revitalization has helped over 216 cases, with 136 still open and active. We have provided over \$240k in direct support to survivors and over \$96k to partners and businesses for their outreach. This does not include in-kind donations acquired or services provided to help survivors obtain their own funding. We have built 11 sheds with Habitat for Humanity for survivors with 6 more scheduled shortly. In the first quarter of 2022 alone, Glide Revitalization provided over \$80k in support to survivors. We provided funding and assistance with debris clean up, hazard tree removal, house pad prep, supplying rock for driveways, building supplies, wells and septic systems, appliances, and furniture. We have partnered with Helping Hands to help fill pantries and cupboards with food and kitchen supplies. We are partnering with other local businesses to extend hundreds of thousands of dollars toward rebuild projects over the next year. And our plans don't stop there.

### **Lease of the Old Middle School Building**

During the initial stages of creating our Long-Term Recovery Group for Glide Revitalization, we were fortunate to secure a lease with the Glide School District of the Old Middle School Building on Glide Loop Road. This building had been abandoned due to the building being in poor repair, derelict plumbing and electrical systems, and lack of heat or air conditioning. Glide Revitalization was in a position to procure funding for the repairs due to our situation, and we agreed to a lease that would allow us to fix the building in lieu of rent. We immediately turned one classroom into an office space for our caseworkers and made plans to renovate and restore a few other classrooms to service our community in line with our mission, the needs of Glide Residents, the Glide School District, and our Community Partners.

During the early construction and planning stages, we were presented with an opportunity for very large grants available to us due to the groundwork already in place by our organization with FEMA. These large grants focused on community building and would have allowed us, with a long-term lease in place, to renovate and restore Glide's 1922 Building, the Middle School Building where we currently hold a 5-year lease, the Middle School Gym and kitchen along with the fields behind these buildings. It was an ambitious plan, but it wasn't embraced by the community. This was partially our fault as we weren't as prepared as we needed to be to present a clear, concise, and transparent plan to the community. We were just excited for the opportunity and hoped we would be trusted enough to move forward and let Glide

residents help us with details as needed. Glide Revitalization was hit with the hard realization that we hadn't gained the trust of the community, and we needed to pull back and start smaller. By completing smaller, more focused projects, we could prove what we were capable of.

### **Glide Revitalization Re-Focuses**

It was then that Glide Revitalization hit the reset button. In January of 2022, Glide Rev underwent a make-over. Our Executive Director resigned for health and personal reasons, and we hired an interim ED. Our systems, bookkeeping, and communications were revamped and streamlined to make sure any person in our organization could answer any question at any time about the direction our non-profit was taking. We rewrote our mission statement to clearly define who we are and give us a clear path to success. We worked on strengthening our board and our membership and our relationships with community partners. Our casework became more efficient, and the process of helping survivors more streamlined. We are working as a team, and we are ready to tackle a project for the community.

It made sense to us to complete a project already started within our building: a preschool and daycare; a need identified by UCAN, the South-Central Early Learning HUB, and The Glide School District.

After the last few challenging years, many of our survivors along with other Glide Residents, are having a difficult time returning to work due to a lack of affordable childcare. Glide Revitalization has partnered with UCAN to set up a Preschool Promise Program within the Old Middle School building that we are currently restoring. The plan is to provide preschool and daycare for fire survivors and low-income residents at little to no cost. This will give our residents a leg up on employment and education for their children. The first step would be to complete the Preschool room. We are hoping to get approval from the district for egress from the preschool room to an outdoor play area and a small bathroom for the children within the classroom. The egress and bathroom are not a requirement to complete the project, but we hope the School District will understand that a direct path from classroom to playground is the safest solution for small children, and a convenient in-classroom bathroom for young children will allow teachers better access and supervision for small children that are just learning to control their small bladders. It is something we will work around if needed because the need is great for this program.

There are ten rooms in the Old Middle School Building that Glide Revitalization would like to utilize for our community. After the preschool is established, we would like to add a daycare, an activity room to support club sports and fitness, enrichment rooms for classes, and possible office space for community partners. As of today in the Old Middle School Building, we have installed heating in 4 rooms, tested for lead and asbestos, restored original wood in one classroom and hallway, restored 11 doors, upgraded a restroom to make it ADA accessible, restored the entry doors, used ground penetrating radar to locate pipes, sewage tank and underground utilities, added a water heater, upgraded wiring, removed and replaced faulty

toilets, and painted. We have invested over \$65k in upgrades for the district; more than the required amount for the full term of the lease.

### **Where We Go from Here**

Glide Revitalization is also committed to the recovery of our community, as a whole, focusing on bringing the economy back that has been devastated by the wildfires and the pandemic. Glide Revitalization will plan community events such as movie nights and The Sasquatch Festival to raise money to enhance and create beautiful spaces in our town. By creating recreation spaces such as community parks, safe walking paths, picnic spaces for travelers, and festival and farmer's market spaces, tourists on their way to experience the North Umpqua will stop and contribute to our local economy. Glide Revitalization is also working with the National Parks Service to improve those very trails and parks that tourists will be in search of, bringing more people to enjoy our unique landscape.

### **Please Join Us**

Glide Revitalization is working for Glide. We invite anyone who has questions, concerns, or curiosities to come visit with us. We'd be happy to give you a tour, talk about how we go about our business, and hopefully get you involved. We are excited for the opportunities we have before us and look forward to sharing it with you.

Sincerely,

Jody Brown / Board President of Glide Revitalization

Glide Revitalization  
301 Glide Loop Rd  
Glide, OR 97443  
[gliderevboard@gliderev.com](mailto:gliderevboard@gliderev.com)

Email our School Board:  
[board@glide.k12.or.us](mailto:board@glide.k12.or.us)