

BEHIND THE SCENES: PEOPLE PROTECTING LAND

John Casey always keeps his childhood in mind when he thinks of the future of Central Oregon. In his fifty years of living in southern California, John saw lots of change including growing communities and disappearing natural areas. Upon moving to Bend in 1995, John and his wife Joan got involved with the Land Trust so they could play an active role in what Central Oregon would look like in 50 more years.

“The appeal of the Land Trust is that we can work to save some of the special places—and in a non-political way with willing landowners,” stated John. That interest has translated into 12 years of dedication to the Land Trust demonstrating the Casey family credo of concentrating their time and support with the organizations they care about most.

John has served on the Land Trust’s board of directors and, with Joan, hosted Land Trust gatherings. They remain avid trustees and supporters of the organization. “We know that general operating funds are important to an organization and since we believe in the Land Trust’s overall work and are confident in their effective, dedicated staff, we know our investment will be used wisely,” commented John.

Brad Chalfant, the Land Trust’s executive director, noted, “not only do the Caseys donate their time but they’re also dedicated Land Trust supporters and have helped make sure that we have the resources we need to do this work. Their family’s generous commitment to this work has been critical to the Land Trust growth.”

Cal and Marsha Allen, like the Caseys have been involved with the Land Trust since our inception. As Sisters resi-

dents who live adjacent to the Land Trust’s Indian Ford Meadow Preserve, the Allens were intimately involved with the quest to conserve Indian Ford in 1996 and remain involved today as members, volunteers and in Cal’s case as a board member.

“We really believe that the Land Trust’s work is making our community a better place. That is why the last two years Marsha and I chose to make significant donations from our retirement account,” remarked Cal.

The Allens took advantage of brief legislation (the Pension Protection Act of 2006) which allowed qualified individuals to donate to a charity directly from their IRAs—tax-free and without withdrawal penalties.

“I can’t tell you how much we appreciate the generosity of folks like Cal and Marsha who’ve taken the opportunity to use one of the many creative tools out there for charitable giving. The Allens, along with John and Joan Casey, are wonderful examples of the people who work behind the scenes to make the Land Trust’s work possible,” observed Brad.

A thousand thanks to the Caseys, Allens and the more than 1,100 families that annually support the work of the Land Trust. **For more information on how to make an investment in the Land Trust, contact Brad Chalfant (541)330-0017 or bsc@deschuteslandtrust.org.** —

LEFT: JOAN AND JOHN CASEY (LISA BAGWELL). RIGHT: CAL AND MARSHA ALLEN (BYRON DUDLEY).

