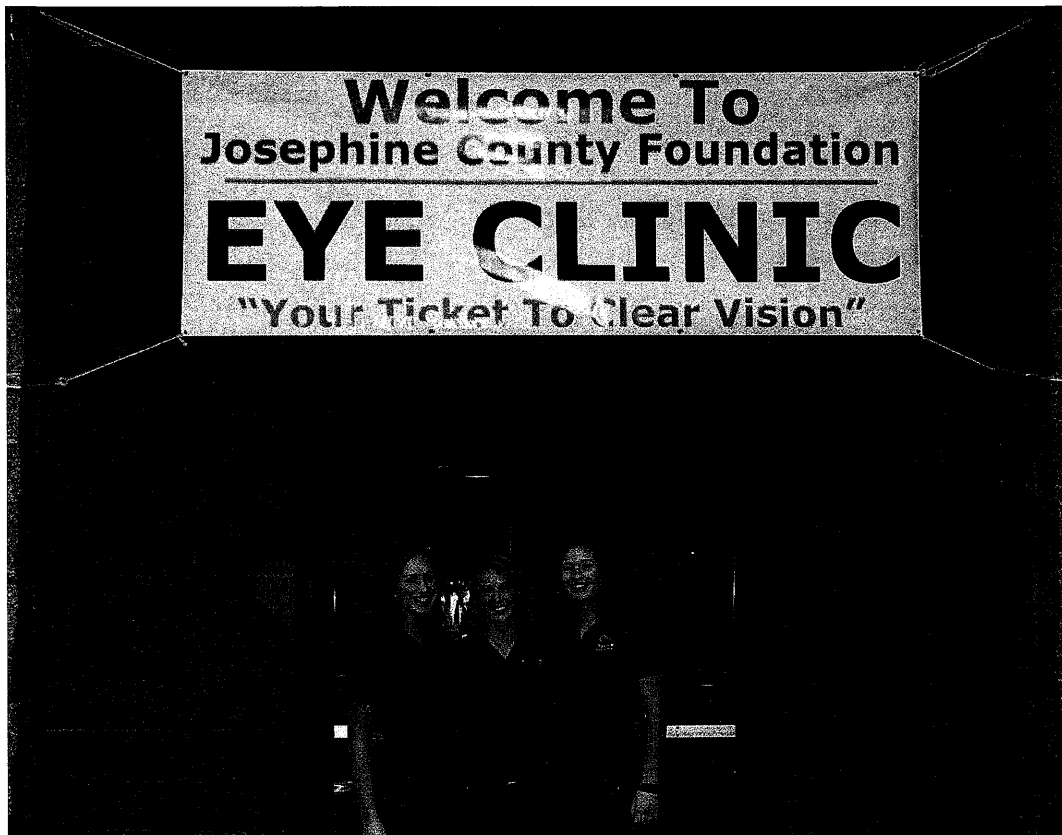


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Community Service project leaders, Rilynn Hansen, Cedar Wilkening, and Morgan Hansen standing in front of the vision clinic prior to its commencement.

# Purpose of Project

## Introduction

What if in your teens, you could change your community? What if you could take a county that is below state and national standards and radically improve it? These were the questions that Hidden Valley High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members Morgan Hansen, Rilynn Hansen, and Cedar Wilkening were asking themselves. They united as the Community Service Project (CSP) Team, to fight the degradation of their community and make it a thriving place to live. The CSP Team was determined to change what so many have ignored. They have created a two-part project that will immediately address problems as well as create an avenue that provides long term resolutions to those problems.

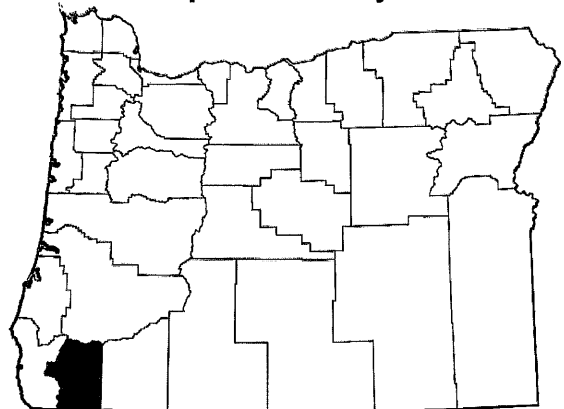
## Defining the Problem

Josephine County, which is located in Southern Oregon, has a population of 83,000. The community has many economic and social woes which are highlighted by the following facts:

- Unemployment rate 30% higher than Oregon's and 44% higher than the National average.
- Children living in poverty 59% higher than the Oregon state average.
- Homeless Student population is 89% higher than the Oregon state average.
- High school graduation rate 9% lower than the Oregon average and 14% lower than the National average.
- Population with a Bachelor's Degree 43% lower than Oregon and the Nation.

### The State of Oregon

Josephine County is in red



The solution to this problem is the Josephine County Foundation (JCF). Josephine County Foundation is a student-founded and led organization whose mission is to radically improve the standard of living within Josephine County. Last year, students Cedar Wilkening and Jacob Pendleton founded this organization with four advisers: Dale Fisher, Chris Pendleton, Frank Ault, and Joan Jones. This year's Community Service Project Team wanted to take JCF beyond an idea and turn it into a force in the community.

In each section of this project there are two phases: Phase 1-Development of the Josephine County Foundation and Phase 2-The Vision Clinic. The CSP Team then came up with a vision, mission, and motto for the Josephine County Foundation.

**Vision:** Transform the standard of living in Josephine County so that it is one of the top counties in Oregon: reduce need in Josephine County, thereby transforming it into a flourishing, economically stable county.

**Mission:** Using strong leadership skills, engage the community to resolve problems using our proposed solutions. Increase philanthropy and strengthen non-profits by giving them tools to meet current need due to economic conditions. Build enduring assets that will permanently support the wellbeing of our community.

**Motto:** Serving Today . . . Building for Tomorrow

### Purpose of Project

Serving in their roles as the Hidden Valley High School's Community Service Project Team, Cedar Wilkening, Rilynn Hansen, and Morgan Hansen sought to develop a project that would allow wise use of their existing resources, partnerships, and connections within the community. As they tried to establish a direction for their project, they looked for natural partnerships and found one in Cedar Wilkening. Her father, Kurt Wilkening, is a local optometrist who started a non-profit organization called AmigoVision.

AmigoVision travels to developing third world countries and implements full service vision clinics. At these clinics, the patients received a full service eye exam and gently used glasses, free of charge. Until last January, the dispensing of used glasses was illegal in the state of Oregon. House Bill 2312 now allows for charitable organizations to give out used prescription glasses in goodwill. JCF found that now was the time to bring Dr. Wilkening's



Cedar, Rilynn, and Morgan sporting some donated glasses for their FBLA class.

clinics to the United States. Knowing that vision affects peoples' quality of work along with their basic standard of living, the newly created board of JCF developed their first community service project: a free full service vision clinic.

*"A Clear Vision for Josephine County"* was the name of the community service project, because it represents both parts. First, that the CSP Team had a clear vision on how to change the community through the establishment of the foundation. Second, clear vision would be given to all of those who attend the clinic.

The purpose of the vision clinic was to not only correct the attendees' vision and check for pre-existing conditions and diseases, but also to introduce something much bigger: the Josephine County Foundation. This project established JCF in the community. In the future this foundation will progress and eventually have an immeasurable impact.

In operating this vision clinic, JCF created lasting relationships and partnerships with community members. These relationships will help future projects and build credibility. Also, this will create a basis on which JCF can seek members and donors. Josephine County Foundation also established this clinic as a biannual or annual event that will ensure a regular opportunity for people to have their vision needs met. Again, the purpose of this project was to first create the foundation and secondly to introduce that foundation through the vision clinic.

### Project Goals

- Provide a permanent solution to the problems within Josephine County
- Establish Josephine County Foundation within the community as an active, charitable foundation that is passionate and driven
- Partner with community members
- Involve the HVHS FBLA chapter

### Service Provided to Community and its Citizens


Josephine County Foundation has provided a service that will continue to affect a wide variety of people. The service initially provided was eye care. The patients received a full eye exam and correction if needed, a service that would normally cost them \$350. They were also tested for other possible pre-existing conditions and diseases. Some serious pre-existing conditions checked for were: cataracts, macular degeneration, hypertensive retinopathy, diabetic retinopathy, and amblyopia. Blood pressure was also checked which allowed screening for diabetes and hypertension. Potentially severe eye and general health issues were avoided because of the opportunity to be seen by an optometrist.

The gift of clear vision was provided, enabling people to live more productive, higher quality lives. However, much more than vision was affected: hope was given to all the patients in attendance. Most clients were down on their luck. The chapter member's countless hours

preparing and working the clinic which gave the patients a reason to hope and believe their situation would get better.

The JCF eye clinic bolstered the local economy. A New York Times article shows that “eliminating the worldwide shortage of eyeglasses . . . would add more than \$200 billion to our global economy.” While this is a large-scale picture, this is the goal for Josephine County. Fulfilling the need for eyeglasses will improve students’ and workers’ vision, therefore improving the overall economy. “If millions of school students who needed glasses got them, the return on the investment could be even greater.” Reaching adults has helped our economy by equipping workers, but the investment the team placed in students will potentially yield greater benefits. This service will continue to be provided on an annual or biannual basis to the people of Josephine County.

GLOBAL UPDATE  
Vision: Investing in Eyeglasses in Poor Nations Would Boost International Economy



By DONALD O. McNEIL Jr.  
Published: November 28, 2012

Eliminating the worldwide shortage of eyeglasses could cost up to \$28 billion, but would add more than \$200 billion to the global economy, according to a study published last month in the Bulletin of the World Health Organization.

The \$28 billion would cover the cost of training 65,000 optometrists and equipping clinics where they could prescribe eyeglasses, which can now be mass-produced for as little as \$2 a pair. The study was done by scientists from Australia and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

The authors assumed that 703 million people worldwide have uncorrected nearsightedness or farsightedness severe enough to impair their work, and that 80 percent of them could be helped with off-the-rack glasses, which would need to be replaced every five years.

The biggest productivity savings from better vision would not be in very poor regions like Africa but in moderately poor countries where more people have factory jobs or trades like driving or running a sewing machine.

Without the equivalent of reading glasses, “lots of skilled crafts become very difficult after age 40 or 45,” said Kevin Frick, a Johns Hopkins health policy economist and study co-author. “You don’t want to be swinging a hammer if you can’t see the nail.”

If millions of schoolchildren who need glasses got them, the return on investment could be even greater, he said, but that would be in the future and was not calculated in this study.

A version of this article appeared in part on November 28, 2012, on the front page of the New York edition with the headline:

STOKER

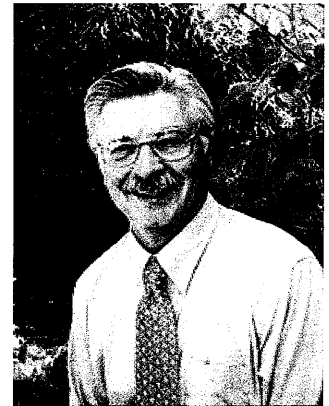
FACEBOOK  
TWITTER  
GOOGLE+  
SAVE  
E-MAIL  
SHARE  
PRINT  
REPRINTS

**New York Times Article showing relevance of vision clinic to the economy.**

## Phase 1: Josephine County Foundation

In the summer of 2012 Morgan, Rilynn, and Cedar discussed their hopes for the upcoming year of Future Business Leaders of America. Cedar was bubbling over with passion for the business plan she had written the prior year. Cedar and her previous partner had written a business plan for a non-profit organization that had the potential to become real. As she explained the foundation and how students could impact their community through it, Morgan and Rilynn began to share her vision and passion. The trio had the desire to do something more than write a plan; they wanted to affect their community in a way that would last for generations to come. The idea to create Josephine County Foundation through the form of the Community Service Project was conceived. The girls took this idea to their advisers who immediately shared their excitement.

Morgan, Rilynn, and Cedar prompted the two advisers, Dale Fisher and Chris Pendleton, to see if a foundation of this sort would be well-received and supported by the community. On August 9, 2012, the advisers met with Mike Murphy (Mayor of Grants Pass and



**Mike Murphy Mayor of Grants Pass and chairman of Four Way Foundation**

President of the Four Way Foundation), Sheryl Walker (County Commissioner), Frank Ault (retired CFO), and Christine Sanchez (Oregon Community Foundation Representative) to present the idea of a student-founded and led foundation that would address the crippling issues the county faced. These adults were exuberant about the idea and said this was exactly what the community needed. These influential community members fell in love with the fact that the organization was to be run by students, that the youth of the community were taking initiative to change the world around them.

A non-profit can operate under either a fundraising or membership model. In the fundraising model, all funds for operations and the annual grant program are raised from individuals, businesses, and other foundations principally not a part of the non-profit. In the membership model, individuals and businesses become voting members by committing to donate funds. The voting members act like the shareholders of a public company. The voting members then select the Board of Directors from their membership pool. JCF is unique in that the board is made up of students with advisers. The full voting members perform key functions each year, such as selecting the focus area for that year's grant program. Most other activities are carried out under the direction of the Board. Limited fund raising and grant writing can also be done.

JCF will operate under the membership model because it insures maximum community involvement; the members know and understand the needs of the community. JCF will also do limited fundraising, principally to support its administrative costs. For someone to become a