

## **The Duck Store to Support COVID-19 PPE Relief Efforts - Face Shields for Oregon and the Seamsters Handmade Masks**

The Duck Store is generously seeding a fundraising campaign for two local COVID-19 relief efforts. The Duck Store is launching the campaign with \$2500 in funds for Face Shields for Oregon, a UO effort led by the Technical Science Administration department, and another \$2500 in materials for the Seamsters, a local grassroots group making masks for healthcare providers. Donations made that exceed this initial seed funding will be shared equally between the two projects. The UO Office of Sustainability is providing logistical support for both efforts, including scheduling volunteer drivers and matching mask makers with healthcare providers and facilities in need of masks. Members of the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) are helping to direct masks to healthcare providers and facilities in need of them; retired ONA nurses and other local sewers of the Emerald Valley Quilters are also partnering on the efforts.

### *UO's Technical Science Administration Machine Shop Produces Face Shields for Oregon*

Since the start of April, a team in the Technical Science Administration department's machine shop has been producing face shields for Oregon healthcare workers. Face shields are an essential component of the personal protective equipment (PPE) required to keep frontline COVID-19 healthcare workers safe. As of April 28th, the shop has produced 900 face shields, which have been distributed in Lane County and throughout Oregon. Students and staff in the shop are currently working on 300 more for a local clinic. The face shields can be sterilized and reused. The new donations will make it possible to continue production.

*"Our team of seven University of Oregon students and faculty realized early on in this crisis that we could make a real impact locally by focusing our efforts on PPE needs. After speaking with nurses and looking at our strengths as a research machine shop, we decided on a polycarbonate face shield design that can be sanitized chemically or by autoclave. We can process the material quickly with our waterjet cutter, then we clean, assemble, and bag them while wearing full PPE ourselves. Thank you for all the community support!" John Boosinger, Director of Technical Sciences*

### *The Seamsters Sew Handmade Masks*

The Seamsters is a sewing collective making homemade masks for health care providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Located in Lane County, the Seamsters are 2300+ members strong. Seamsters' masks are provided free of charge to health care agencies and organizations in our area. Since mid-March, the Seamsters have provided more than 18,500 masks to more than 40 health care facilities, including:

- McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center • PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at Riverbend • Oregon Medical Group • Slocum Center for Orthopedics and Sports Medicine
- White Bird Clinic • Occupy Medical • Green Valley Rehabilitation Center • Cascade Home Health • ElderHealth • Avamere Rehabilitation of Eugene • Willamette Valley Cancer Institute
- Many more

The Seamsters work with multiple important partners in the Eugene/Springfield area to gather resources, distribute masks, and more. Donated materials will be distributed to participating local sewers, including ONA members and Emerald Valley Quilters. The Seamsters have exhausted their supplies of materials and the new donations will make it possible for the volunteer sewers to continue their efforts.

*"The Seamsters represent the heart of our community—thousands of local volunteers making masks needed by nurses, hospital staff, and those treating our most vulnerable. They're using hope, the fabric they have available, and their own two hands to make a*

*huge difference in the Eugene area. I am wowed by their determination! The infusion of your help to provide more fabric will give us the momentum we need to meet our community's needs." Holly Simons, Seamsters Founder*

#### *The Office of Sustainability Provides Logistical Support*

The UO Office of Sustainability provides leadership, collection of medically-approved personal protective equipment (PPE), administrative support, software access, and volunteer recruitment for phone banking, deliveries, and more.

*"For years, the Office of Sustainability has worked closely with community partners throughout Lane County. When the COVID-19 crisis started to rapidly grow, we recognized we should step up to support community responses. Since mid-March, the Office of Sustainability has committed staff resources to support COVID-19 relief efforts both within the UO community and for broader grassroots relief efforts in Lane County. We did a brief survey of our community partners' and soon realized the urgent and critical need for personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline healthcare workers. Since then, the office has supported efforts of the Seamsters, Face Shields for Oregon, ONA members, and the Emerald Valley Quilters." Steve Mital, Sustainability Director*

#### *Other project partners contribute to the effort*

The Office of Sustainability first connected with the Emerald Valley Quilters, who have been sewing masks for frontline healthcare workers since March, thanks to Stephanie LeMenager, UO Professor of English and Environmental Studies. Members of Oregon Nurses Association provide strong advocacy for the provision of medically-approved PPEs, as well as the protection of nurses and other health care workers. The partnership has given the Seamsters valuable feedback about the best ways to keep nurses and communities healthy and safe. The UO Student Sustainability Center is helping with phone banking for the PPE collection drive.

#### *You can help, too!*

Donations can be made via The Duck Store at [UODuckStore.com/covid19donation](https://uoduckstore.com/covid19donation)

To contact the Seamsters, donate supplies, or request supplies for making masks, visit <http://seamsters.org>

Learn more about the Office of Sustainability efforts and sign up to get involved here: <https://sustainability.uoregon.edu>

#### *Contact*

Seamsters - Holly Simons at [holly@consultclara.com](mailto:holly@consultclara.com)

Face Shields for Oregon - John Boosinger at [boos@uoregon.edu](mailto:boos@uoregon.edu)

UO Office of Sustainability - Steve Mital at [smital@uoregon.edu](mailto:smital@uoregon.edu)

#### *Additional Resources*

UO Technical Science Administration: <https://tsa.uoregon.edu/>

Around the O article about the face shields project: <https://around.uoregon.edu/content/uo-shop-begin-fabricating-much-needed-face-shields>

UO College of Design article about the face shields project: <https://design.uoregon.edu/art-tech-student-helps-produce-face-shields-uo-fabrication-shop>

Emerald Valley Quilters: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/92008165259/>