OSNTQuarterly



Oregon Special Needs Trust

Fall 2018

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Manager's Message

Happy Fall, Everyone!

Looking out my office window as I write this, it is almost difficult to remember that just a few short weeks ago we were experiencing a long stretch of high temperatures and blue skies. Fall is certainly in the air!

We have had a busy Summer here at The Arc Oregon and it appears that



Cici GaynorOSNT Program Manager

will continue into the coming months. I, myself, have had the opportunity to meet with individuals new to the OSNT, provide presentations to groups regarding our program, educate families on effective financial management strategies, and attend conferences as an exhibitor, helping to make The Arc Oregon and the OSNT more visible to the public. I even got a chance to vacation a bit! This fall, I am excited to once again attend the Stetson National Conference on Special Needs Planning and Special Needs Trusts from October 17-19. You can be certain that I'll have lots of information to share about that when I return.

Many of our trust participants were able to travel and take part in some fun summertime activities. If you had an experience you'd like to share, please contact us and tell us all about it. I'd love to include some of your adventures in the next newsletter!

Do continue to read through the entire newsletter as there is a lot of new and exciting information to share with you. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or need any assistance.

Stay Informed

Stay informed about all of the great things happening at the OSNT by signing up for our email newsletters.

Go to <u>OregonSNT.org</u>, hover over Resources and select Newsletters.

For The Arc Oregon, visit our website at TheArcOregon.org and click the **Stay In Touch** box to join our list.

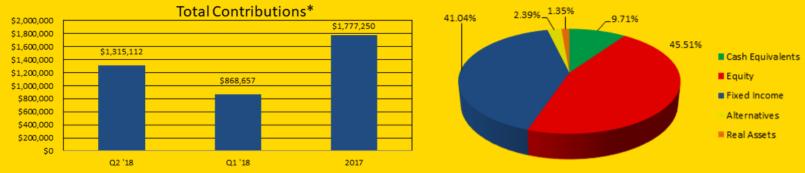




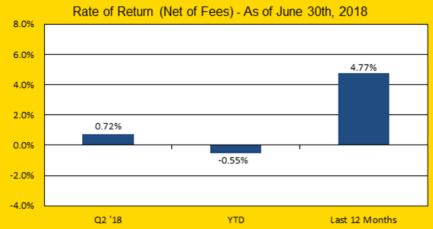
Remainder Fund Agreement reached between OSNT and DHS

In January 2018, negotiations resumed to discuss terms of a contractual agreement between The Arc Oregon and the State of Oregon regarding the use of remainder funds. Remainder funds are those funds that are left in the account upon the death of a trust beneficiary. Per the terms of the agreement, dated August 13, 2018, "upon the death of a sub-account holder ("Beneficiary"), the OSNT will retain 50% of the funds remaining in the decedent's sub-account..." and "if the deceased Beneficiary received Medicaid benefits during his or her lifetime, DHS may make a claim in the amount of Medicaid services provided to the deceased sub-account-holder for reimbursement from the remaining 50% of the funds in the decedent Beneficiary's sub-account." Any funds remaining after the DHS claim has been satisfied will be distributed to other named remainder beneficiaries, if any.

The funds retained by the OSNT may be used for the benefit of trust beneficiaries or other individuals with disabilities. We are excited to work with our Committee and Board to determine policies for the use of these funds.



^{*} Includes income to principal transfers



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ABLE Accounts

The question of ability to transfer funds from a Pooled Special Needs Trust (PSNT) into an ABLE account is still a hot topic we know you are interested in. We are, too! However, until there is policy direction written into the Pooled Trusts section of the Social Security Program Operations Manual System (POMS), our Board is still determined that transfers will not be available. Key Bank, as a trustee not only for us but for other Pooled Trusts, has affirmed our decision and confirmed they have not made any transfers from pooled trust funds to ABLE accounts to date. We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you updated. We are hopeful that there will be some direction given at the Stetson Conference in October.

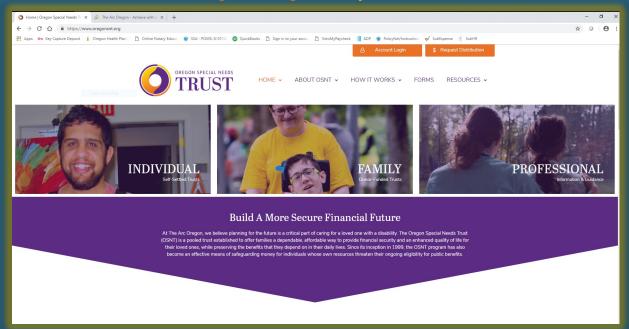
Online Account Access

We have been steadily working to make certain that the online portal is secure and accurately reflects the financial information in your individual sub-accounts. We have successfully updated our firewall and are now working to ensure that the information can be accessed on a secure https: connection. Your financial privacy is very important to us and although we know it has been an inconvenience for some, we do not want to not offer a service that is not working to full capacity. As always, if you need an account statement prior to gaining online account access, please do not hesitate to contact our office and we would be happy to provide you with one.

Welcome to the New OSNT Website!

We are pleased to announce that the OSNT now has it's own dedicated website.

Go to www.OregonSNT.org for all of your trust-related needs.





Check Out Our Resources Page Submit Receipts Online—NEW! Learn More About The OSNT

ONLINE FORMS

- Disbursement Request
- Submit Receipts
- Update Contact Information
- Update Benefits Information
- Account Access Request



New Logo for the OSNT

Not only do we have a new website, but we have an OSNT logo! You will begin to see this on the mail received from our office.

We will also be updating our informational materials and brochures over the next few months.



Contact us

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Questions & Answers



If I have an old bill from last year, can I request payment from the trust?



Typically, receipts and/or bills must be dated within 90 days of the disbursement request date. Purchases made more than 90 days prior to submitting a disbursement request form may not be approved for reimbursement. Likewise, a bill for services that is more than a year old will not likely be approved.



The holidays are coming! May I buy gifts for my family and friends with trust account funds?



Unfortunately, the answer is NO. Special Needs Trust accounts may only be used for the SOLE benefit of the beneficiary. Even though you may benefit in many ways from giving to others, the people you give to will also benefit and this disqualifies the purchase according to Social Security rules. The definition of Sole Benefit trust as described in the Social Security Administration's Program Operations Manual System (POMS) is, "if the trust benefits no one but that individual, whether at the time the trust is established or at any time for the remainder of the beneficiary's life."

If you would like to schedule a presentation, ISP participation, or a training session on how to fill out disbursement paperwork, call our office today!

The Arc Oregon | Achieve with us.