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On Behalf Of:
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We have had a few times that the air quality of Eugene and Springfield has been so bad that we needed masks and air filters. I have asthma, so I must have access to a safe place with good air quality.

I think one of the first times we had terrible air quality was in 2017, and my son, his father, and I had to stay in our living room as it was the only place we could keep air circulating and cool. We had to try and find masks and air filters to put on our box fan, but everywhere we went was sold out. We both had to miss days of work as my son, who was only two at the time, was coughing, and we could not take him outside in that.

Fast forward to the 2020 wildfires that had us surrounded. The air was thick, and you could see the smoke funneling through the streets. The haze was everywhere, and we did not know what to do. We covered our doors and windows with blankets and towels. We could not use the air conditioners, so we had to rely on box fans to circulate the air. My lungs were burning, and it was so hard to breathe. My son was also coughing and struggling to stay calm in what looked apocalyptic outside. We were in between paydays, so I did not have money to evacuate or go somewhere outside of town. Some of my family in Springfield were told to evacuate, but they had nowhere to go as one of them was too sick to move quickly. They all hunkered down, watered their houses, and prayed it would end soon.

We also had ice storms left my family in Springfield without power for over a week, and others had broken windows and trees to clear before they could even leave their driveway.

Resilience hubs could help families like mine. We could have gotten supplies that were sold out all over town; we could have had a safe, clean, welcoming place to go with clean air. It took years to calm my asthma down. Any minor irritant would cause huge flair-ups for me. My son now suffers from asthma every time he gets sick or has allergies. Resilience Hubs are needed for all extreme weather and times of crisis for communities across Oregon. It is the best way for us to recover quickly after disaster strikes. I am so grateful that our area has not had as bad of disasters as Central and Southern Oregon has. These natural disasters are not going away; they are only increasing in frequency, so please fund Resilience Hubs across Oregon now.