

Annual Report 2023



White Salmon Valley
education foundation

WSVEF

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OUR MISSION

To enrich the education of PK–12 students in the White Salmon Valley public schools.

OUR VISION

We envision schools where staff and community work together to provide engaging and innovative educational opportunities that prepare students for a bright future as productive 21st century citizens.

Learning is for life...



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

ROOTED IN PURPOSE

A Year of Renewal and Educational Enrichment

As we bid farewell to 2023, we are thrilled to be sharing news of exciting educational prospects on the horizon. Both the Foundation and the White Salmon Valley School District experienced leadership and staffing changes last year. These changes bring fresh perspectives and renewed energy to our commitment to provide exceptional educational opportunities for our students.



As I reflect on my inaugural year in the Executive Director position, one central milestone comes to mind. Following a significant pause, our community gathered at the beloved Gorge Grape Escape fundraiser, where we successfully raised over \$140,000 for our schools. The event showcased an encouraging level of enthusiasm and support, reaffirming our collective commitment to our schools.

With this new energy, we will continue to build on valuable WSVEF activities and programs. Particularly noteworthy is the collaboration between our new grant writer, Johanna Roe, and the teachers/administrators within the district, resulting in awards received and numerous grant proposals in progress.

We are excited to have reintroduced our College and Career Day at Columbia High School this year. I believe that facilitating connections for our students with career opportunities while strengthening ties with our community members is a mutually beneficial achievement. We look forward to hosting this event again in March of 2024.

The overwhelming support from the community, the school district, and the WSVEF leadership during this transitional year has been humbling. Together we are working as a team to ensure that our children have quality education. I am grateful for the collaborative effort and remain deeply committed to our shared vision.

KYLIE UFFELMAN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HOW WSVEF SUPPORTS OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS



FUNDRAISING AND GIVING BACK

Roughly 50% of \$1.9 million in community-raised funds has been directly awarded to our schools for teacher and administrator requests.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Your donations also support programs in the schools facilitated by WSVEF including The Health & Wellness Center, College & Career Day, SAT Prep, College Essay Writing Workshops, and Portland Literary Arts lectures.



SAVING FOR THE FUTURE

We know that fundraising isn't a reliable source of income so 25% of donations go toward building a professionally managed endowment for sustained giving.

LEVERAGING COMMUNITY RAISED FUNDS

About 5% of donations have paid for a professional grant writer to apply for funds from other sources. WSVEF grant writing has secured \$6.45 million for our schools to date. A HUGE return on investment.



2023 BY THE NUMBERS

Grants & Awards



\$108,125
Given to Schools

Endowment



\$1,640,000

Total Revenue



\$182,651

Students Impacted



1,120
estimated

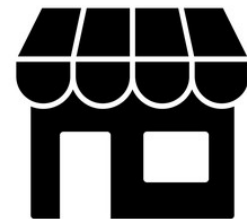
Community Support



103 donations
from community members



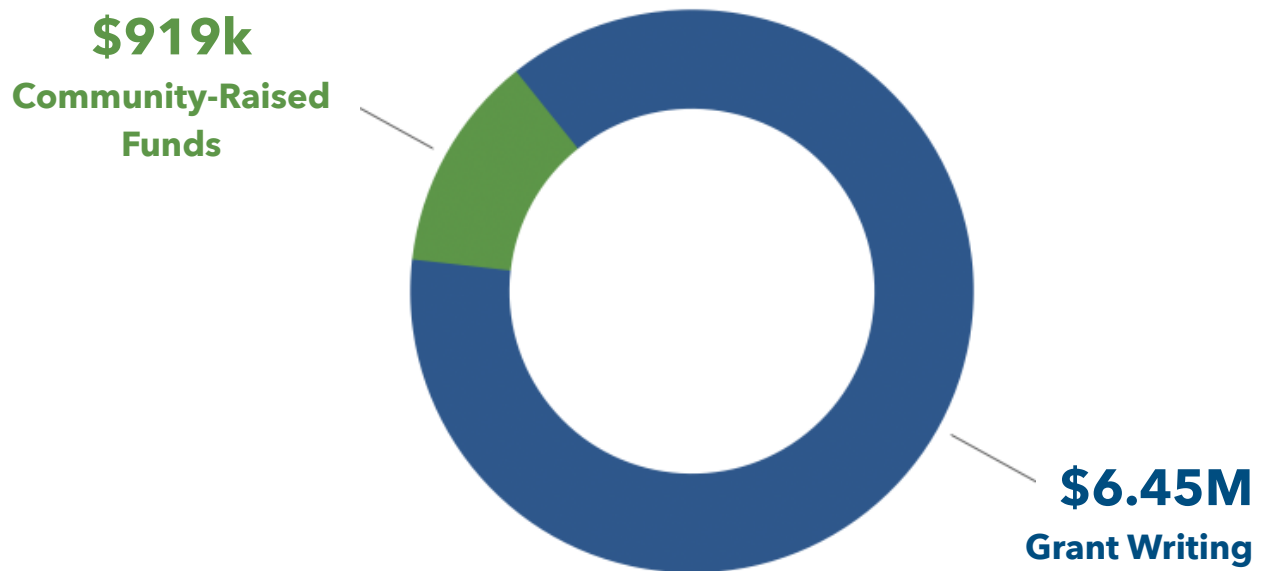
111 volunteers
donated their valuable time



77 businesses
donated goods/services

ALL TIME GIVING

To date, because of your support, **\$7.3 million*** has been awarded to our district, including external funds (secured by WSVEF grant writers) and community-raised funds (awarded directly to our schools).



* Includes future installments of approximately \$1.5m from the \$2.5M 21st Century Grant, a 5-year grant awarded to the schools in 2022.

DIRECT GIVING TO SCHOOLS: 2023 BUDGET CRISIS GRANT



During the spring of 2023, the White Salmon Valley School District faced an unprecedented period of challenges characterized by severe budget shortfalls and staffing reductions, impacting students, staff, and community members alike. In response, the White Salmon Valley Education Foundation (WSVEF) quickly stepped forward with an **\$87,325 grant for the district**, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to supporting White Salmon schools.

We have been a dedicated and reliable partner to the White Salmon schools and will continue this legacy of support in times of both challenge and triumph. We are excited to be working in partnership with our new superintendent, Rich Polkinghorn, who will be allocating these funds to areas that require immediate attention and support.

Click below to view the interview with Executive Director, Kylie Uffelman, and WSVSD Superintendent, Rich Polkinghorn.



2023 PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

COLLEGE, CAREER, AND POSTSECONDARY-SUCCESS PROGRAMS

The 2023 Career Day at Columbia High School was a huge success! 445 students from from various local schools gathered at CHS to connect with 75+ dedicated career professionals and gain valuable insights into the connection between education, career paths, and goal achievement. *Organized in collaboration with ESD 112, Gorge Technology Alliance, Columbia Gorge Stem Hub, First Interstate Bank, and NorthShore Medical Group.*



WSVEF covered the cost to take the PSAT for all sophomores at Columbia High School, as part of WSVEF's ongoing support for college readiness.

PORTLAND LITERARY ARTS: "STUDENTS TO THE SCHNITZ"



WSVEF is incredibly grateful to be continuing our partnership with Portland Literary Arts' "Students to the Schnitz" program. PLA provides students with free books, tickets, and transportation to in-person lectures by world renown writers. Our teachers take this opportunity to integrate the featured works into a small group curriculum, exploring the writings before attending the in-person lectures with students.

SWACH AND KLINK PARTNERSHIPS

In collaboration with the Windermere Foundation and the United Way, WSVEF received grant funding to **support basic need items, such as hygiene kits and educational supplies** for our most vulnerable students and families. These basic need boxes were assembled and distributed by the family outreach coordinator at the school's Wellness Center.

This spring WSVEF partnered with K-Link to provide community training about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The focus was on addressing the unique needs of residents and professionals in Klickitat County.



GRANT WRITING

The WSVEF welcomed our new grant writer, Johanna Roe, on board in March of 2023, during a time of uncertainty for our schools. We faced a school district budget crisis and a change in school leadership, which necessitated a pause in the grant writing relationship with school staff. Johanna began the work of reconnecting the foundation to our schools, and reinvigorating our grant writing activities. We are beyond grateful to have her on our team.

AWARDED TO WSVEF

- \$8,000 **ArtsWA** Pathways to Nature (garden and art project)
- \$6,800 for College & Career Day (ESD 112, **One Community Health, Riverview Bank, First Interstate Bank, Walmart**)
- \$5,000 **Kelly Foundation of Washington** support for College Now at Columbia High School

GRANT PROPOSALS IN THE PIPELINE

- \$18,300 Tiny Homes project for high school CTE program
- \$11,800 CHS College Now (dual credit program) support
- \$6,580 Artist-in-residence project for White Salmon Academy
- \$6,000 College and Career Day support
- \$4,750 Student pottery art project
- \$960 Culinary Science class that supports STEM learning
- TBD After school programming

MEET JOHANNA ROE

For several years Johanna was the external grant evaluator for the White Salmon Valley School District's 21st Century after school program, which gave her in-depth knowledge of the best practice models in place for extended learning programs. She's taught grant-writing workshops when she served on the board of Community Enrichment of Klickitat and Skamania County, and continues to take classes and training from local professionals in order to keep up with the changing world of grant-writing.



Johanna has successfully written and received grants for the Columbia Gorge Center, Mill A School District, the Skamania-Klickitat Community Network, Washington Gorge Action Programs, Klickitat County Childcare Committee, Columbia Gorge Orchestra Association, Gorge Early Learning Coalition and Hood River Saturday market.

2023 EVENTS

THE GORGE GRAPE ESCAPE



On October 14th we gathered once more at the Best Western Plus Hood River Inn for a Derby Inspired fundraiser. Students from the Columbia High School Jazz Band created a lively atmosphere as guests played racing-themed games and sipped on libations. Excitement and a friendly competitive spirit enveloped the crowd during the live auction and special appeal, while our superintendent, executive director, and video highlighted our collective goal, securing essential funds for our White Salmon Schools.

\$140,000 Raised for our Schools!

NIGHT OUT FOR SCHOOLS

Our community business partners participated in our first Night Out for Schools since 2019. Harvest Market, Henni's, Everybody's Brewing, Feast Market, Beneventi's, and Arrowleaf generously donated 5% of their net sales for the evening to the WSVEF. While supporters were dining and shopping, Columbia High School band students, Che Tillinghast and Camden Uffelman jammed with local talent Richard and Tova Tillinghast, filling the streets with music. Connecting with our community in this way raised **\$1,400 for our schools**.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR
NIGHT OUT *for* SCHOOLS

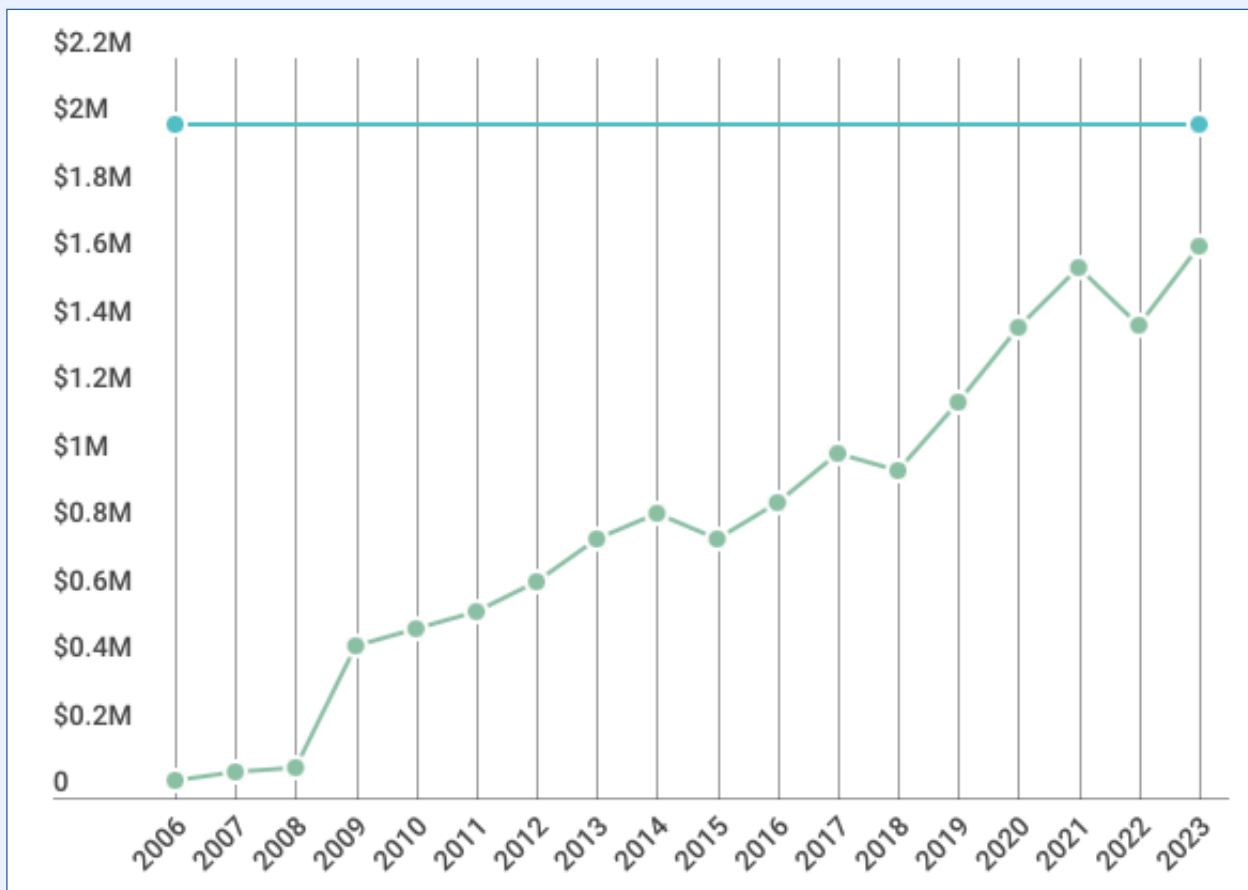
ENDOWMENT

Every year, 25% of donations are directed to the endowment. The endowment has grown steadily with the professional guidance of Mengis Capital Management, bringing us very close to our endowment goal of \$2M.

When the endowment hits that mark, it can serve as a secure and stable source of funding long into the future, alleviating the fundraising burden our community, while enabling the Foundation to continue to focus on enriching opportunities for our students and teachers.

2023 ENDOWMENT BALANCE

\$1,640,000



LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The White Salmon Valley Education Foundation has a dynamic volunteer board who believe passionately that all children in White Salmon deserve a quality, well-rounded education.

Anne Stringer, President
Erin Black, Vice-President
Matt Hanson, Treasurer
Sandy Slayton, Secretary
Dawn Hulbert, Past-President
Jennifer Beloy
Jeremy Denny
Carolyn Rhett

STAFF

Kylie Uffelman, Executive Director
Johanna Roe, Grant Writer

ADVISORS TO THE BOARD

Barbara Bailey, Finance Committee
Nate Reagan, Finance Committee
Rich Polkinghorn, *WSVSD Superintendent*

DONORS

PATRON \$10,000+

Bruce & Mary Stevenson Foundation
Doug & Leslie Campbell

SUSTAINER \$5,000+

Teddi Blades & Patrick Banasky
Rob & Nikki Gilchrist
Andy & Jenn Meresse
Rees and Eloise Stevenson Family
Charitable Fund / Martha Stevenson

BOOSTER \$1,000+

Will Ayer & Anne Stringer
Leanne Baldwin
Tracy Barkhimer
Everybody's Brewing
David & Stephanie Gioia
Gorge Roller Girls Inc.
Ricky & Amy Knowles
Aaron & Katie Kreps
Howard Kreps
Cynthia Lindsay
Peggy Ohlson
Nate & Leslie Reagan
Jay Clark & Colleen Regalbuto
Michael & Anne Marie Slater

PARTNER \$250+

Kevin & Jenny Beloy
Ian & Pamela Chambers
Libby Childers
Gerald & Sherry Clark
Chena Fund of the Gorge Community
Foundation
Wyatt & Stefanie Cohen
Columbia Sportswear
Peter & Lia Davidson
Sue & Sam Davis
Jeremy & Tiffany Denny

Matt & Staci Hanson
Haley & Peter Harkema
Trevor Hiscocks
Carolyn Rhett & Greg Hoskins
Kelly & Bob Hume
Amanda Lawrence
Ken Lawson
Lee Lloyd
Carl & Kathleen McNew
John & Rebecca Melesko
Paul & Bonnie Mosbrucker
Kathy Palmieri
Rich & Heidi Polkinghorn
Alan Reitz & Helen Cahn
Bob & Johanna Roe
Karin Saltz
Chris & Sarah Samuels
Jay Sherrerd
Roy & Sandy Slayton
John & Patricia Uffelman
Mike & Kylie Uffelman
Kevin and Stacey Walters
Shelley Wilson
Troy & Liette Witherrite
Judy Yakymi

SUPPORTER \$100+

Gordon Arrendale
Barbara Bailey
Kylene Barnes
Sam Bauer
Jennifer Beck
Jim & Vicki Black
Ashlynn Campbell
Bryan and Krista Charters
John and Laura Cheney
Lindsay Cornelius & Jeremy Grose
Susan Coulon
Christin & Sean Couvreaux
Roxanne Cunningham & Bill Herbert
Janis DeHalas

Sally Gilchrist
Jay Holtmann
Ed Ing
Jerry & Debbie Lewis
Brian & Crescence Morris
Curt Nelson
Kristen Nicolescu
Don and Cheryl O'Grady
Theresa Perry
Steve Riley
Haley Roberts
Rashawn & Robin Tama
Elizabeth Turner
Henry Wakeling
Marjin Wall
Maliea Yakymi-Gray
Erin Black & Joe Zendt

FRIEND - UP TO \$100

Ryan Adair
Paul Allen
Heather Bremer
Sarah Chambers
Lindsey Huddleston
Anne McCallister
Alisha Mooney
Shelly & Michael Peterson
Nick Reeves
Jackie Riley
Sandra Sanchez
Justin Schilling
Megan Sheffels
Katrina Spalding
Jesse Spalding
Lacey Spray
Autumn Stevens
Richard & Tova Tillinghast
Juan Vazquez
Josh & Rose Wilcox

CORPORATE SPONSORS

PLATINUM

A & E Plumbing, Heating & Air
Artistic Excavation
Best Western Plus Hood River Inn
Cardinal Glass
Harvest Market
Innovative Composite Engineering
Mount Adams Fruit
Noble Forest Company
Pacific Rim Brokers

GOLD

Aerovel
Boeing Insitu
Copper West
Kula Chiropractic
NorthShore Medical

UNDERWRITERS

Boeing Insitu
Mengis Capital Management
Skyline Health
Providence Hood River Memorial
Hospital

LOCAL BUSINESS DONORS

Alpine Sea Co.
Analemma Wines
Aniche Cellars
Arome
Backwoods Brewing Company
Beneventi's Pizza and
Sandwiches
Blowfish Designs
Boards and More
Brimstone Boulders
Cascade Cliffs
Celilo Restaurant
Cell Regen
Chemistry Jewelry
CLYZM
Columbia Gorge Hotel & Spa
Cor Cellars
Dirt Hugger
Domaine Pouillon
Doppio Coffee
Everybody's Brewing
Feast Market
Ferment Brewing Company
Fred's Foil Academy
Full Sail
Goodfellows Barbershop

Hawkins Cellars
Henni's Kitchen and Bar
Hood Aero
Hood River Brewing Company
Hood River Coffee Roasters
Hood River Hobbies
Idiot's Grace Wines
Immersion Research
Jacob Williams
Kickstand Coffee & Kitchen
Le Double Trouble
Little Seven Seven Ranch
Local Rhoots
Loop de Loop
Love and Hominy
M.E. Jewelry Company
McMenamins Pubs & Breweries
Mountain View Cycles
Mt. Hood Winery
New York City Sub Shop
NK Studios
OSO&CO Creative
Paco's Tire Service
Pelinti Pizza
Peter Cushman Wines
Pfriem Family Brewers

Phelps Creek
Pine Street Bakery
Pistil Designs
Porron Cellars
Portland Leather Goods
Ridge of Wonders Wine
Riverview Bank
Sixth Street Bistro & Pub
Skamania Lodge
Slingshot
Standard Insurance
Stumptown Coffee
Sunshine Mill
Syncline Wine Cellars
SYS Landscape
The Book Peddler
The Clay Commons
The Color Collector
Thunder Island Brewing
Timberline Lodge & Ski Area
Tokki Art Supply
Treebird Market
Twiggs
Walmart Hood River
Wet Planet
Willow Wine Cellars

VOLUNTEERS

Cheri Anderson
Arienne Balluosa
Austin Bell
Alicia Beyers
Krissy Biernaki
Vicki Black
Kaitlyn Blair
Carly Borton
Summer Burdick
Jay Clark
Christani Coe
Rosa Cortez
Crestline Construction
Thomas Crumpacker
Kierstyn Dean
Joanna Donica
Jamie Ebbert
Kirby Erdely
Vergie Fowell
Tina Gallion

Paulina Geltman
Sgt Gilmore
Suzie Glaser
Maliea Gray
Jeremy Grose
Jack Hansen
Marshal Harpe
Leslie Haskell
Kristen Hohensee
Nathan Hovinghoff
Tyrell Howard
Joy Kloman
Carmen Knows
Darrin Konrad
Katie Kula
Rebekah Larsen
Lee Lloyd
Wes Long
Yexsy Maleni
Chelsea Marr

Anne Medenbach
Kip Miller
Jenna Mobley
Erin Mueller
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Linda Murray
Don O'Grady
Carey Ohnemus
Liz Peak
Scott Perala
Russell Perry
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Emily Powers
Joe Price
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Cory Reese
Nick Reeves
Colleen Regalbuto
Johanna Roe
Bob Roe

Johanna Roe
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David Roth
Dana Scheffler
Jennifer Sharp
Carol Shaw
Michele Sibley
Anne-Marie Slater
Roy Slayton
Laurie Stanton
Laura Thawley
Richard Tillinghast
Tova Tillinghast
Tammara Toppel
Nate Ulrich
Gabe VanWinkle
Trisha Walker
Sgt Waller
Natasha Whitefield
Dave Windsor

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

Maddie	Luke	Camden
Luciana	Charlie	Lani
Dan	Bryson	Holden
Nathan	Travis	Lila
Jack	Noah	Anna
Charlie	Che	

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

There are lots of ways to plug in, including:

- Review grant requests from the school.
- Share career insights with students at Career Day.
- Join the Board or a Committee
- Volunteer at the Grape Escape or other Fundraiser

[CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE](#)

JOIN US IN SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOLS



DONATE TODAY

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH!

We'd love to keep in touch! Sign up for our newsletter to get periodic updates about events, our impact in the schools, and opportunities to get involved.

SIGN UP HERE