

Supporting Schools. Investing in our Future.

2022 Annual
Report



**Corvallis
Public Schools**
FOUNDATION

Our vision is that all students—
regardless of race, culture,
socioeconomic status,
language, ability, gender,
sexual orientation, or other
identifiers—graduate as
engaged community members,
ready to contribute to their
fullest potential and navigate
the world's complexities.



As we reflect on the past year, we are proud of how much we accomplished to fulfill the promise of education for Corvallis students—all thanks to your ongoing generosity. We are grateful for another year devoted to securing and stewarding investments that advance excellence in our schools and make a difference to kids.

More than anything, the pandemic has compelled us to be forward thinkers. This year, as we emerged from a period of isolation, we sought ways to prioritize the social and emotional growth of students. We supported youth mental health programming and introduced our YEA! (Youth Empowerment and Action) Grants, which promote leadership and elevate student voice.

We focused relentlessly on the wellbeing and retention of staff, as students excel best in the presence of committed and inspired educators. We reinvigorated our IMAGINE Grants, funding an array of creative, staff-designed projects with district-wide impact.

We partnered with donors to create a record number of new endowed funds, and committed ourselves to growing a Cornerstone Endowment to ensure the stability of our organization for generations to come.

These years have highlighted the ingenuity and compassion of the Corvallis community. Now more than ever, the role and importance of philanthropy in education cannot be overstated, nor can our gratitude for you and all that you provide to students in the Corvallis School District.

While these remain challenging times, with your support, the future looks bright for Corvallis students.

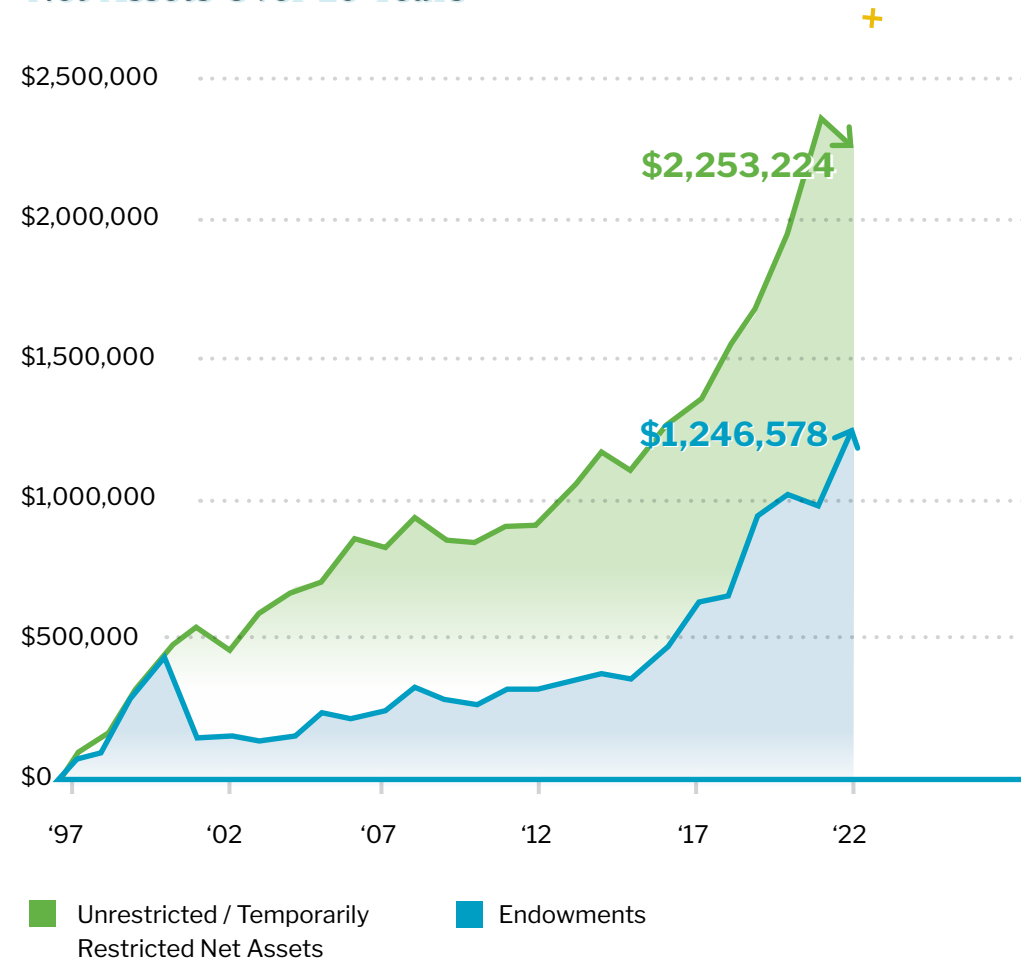
Sincerely,



Becca Gose

Chair of the CPSF Board of Trustees

Net Assets Over 26 Years



Funds Invested in Schools since 1996:
\$11,757,305

Lessons from Letitia

The Foundation has partnered with the Corvallis School District to provide summer programs for nearly a decade. Here is a story about one of the 2022 programs.

On a sunny August morning, educators from Letitia Carson Elementary School gathered to start creating lesson plans based on the remarkable life of the school's namesake.

The meeting was part of "Lessons from Letitia," a project which has generated excitement among the school's staff. But just as excited is Bob Zybach, an Oregon historian the educators met in August — and someone who's studied Carson's life.

The more he learned about Carson, Zybach said, the more he was shocked that "somebody who had accomplished so much" was unknown. "I was just, you know, 'Why isn't this woman being taught in our grade schools?'"

"... Letitia Carson was an amazing individual — a hero — and she represents so many of the unknown stories that are out there."

The "Lessons from Letitia" project — funded by a grant from the Corvallis Public Schools Foundation — seeks to fix that.

Carson's story offers plenty of possibilities for lessons, said Letitia Carson Elementary School Principal Eric Beasley.

Carson, a formerly enslaved Black woman, traveled with companion David Carson, a white man, on the Oregon Trail in 1845. David Carson filed for a land claim on Soap Creek, north of Corvallis. After he died,

Greenberry Smith, a prominent Corvallis landowner, became the executor of his estate, but refused to recognize Letitia Carson as the heir, most likely because she was Black. Letitia Carson won two court cases against Smith, but never recovered the land. She moved to Douglas County, where she became the only Black woman to successfully make a land claim in Oregon under the Homestead Act of 1862.

Zybach's research helped keep her story alive. When the Corvallis School District renamed three schools that had been named after presidents with links to racism or slavery, she became the namesake for a school that had been named for Woodrow Wilson.

For Beasley, the renaming opened possibilities. Lesson plans based on Carson's life could be created for each grade at the school, he said — one year's lesson could focus on farming, for example. Older students could take field trips to Soap Creek.

Beasley also is excited about a possible project to create Carson picture books, with assistance from Crescent Valley High School art students.

He's been amazed by the renewed interest in Carson's life. "It has been so wonderful to see people so willing to partner and so excited about it," he said. "I think it's because Letitia Carson was an amazing individual — a hero — and she represents so many of the unknown stories that are out there." 🌱

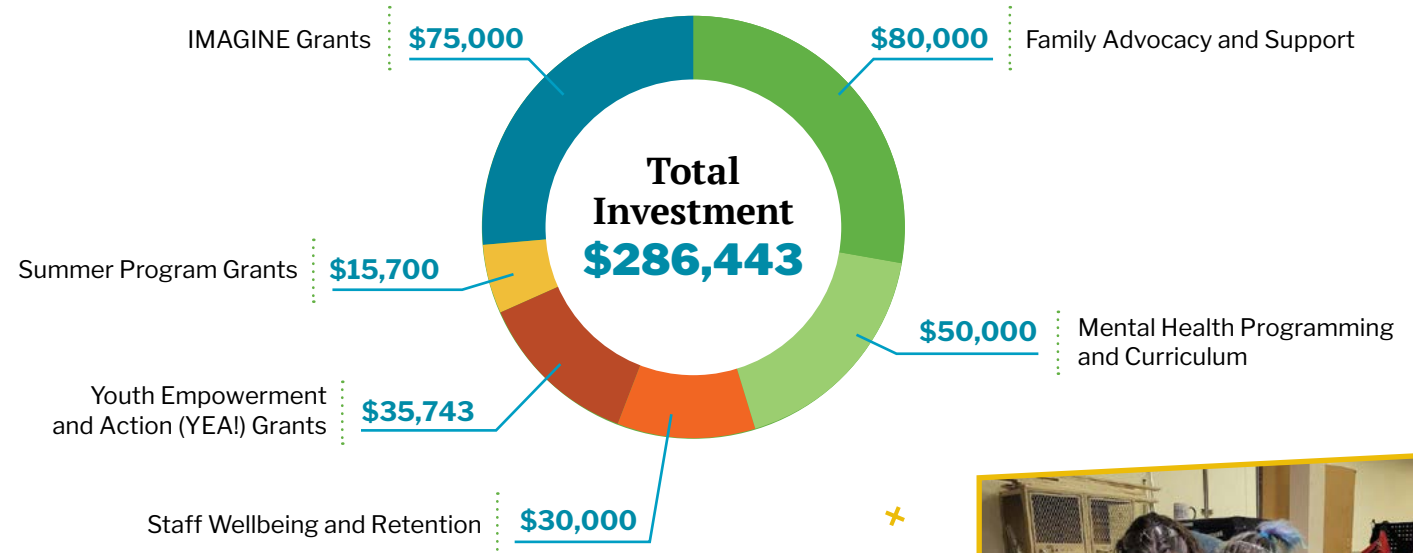


Educators from Letitia Carson Elementary School meet with historian Bob Zybach (second from left) to discuss how to translate Carson's extraordinary life into lesson plans for the school. The work is funded by the Corvallis Public Schools Foundation.

Grants & Projects in 2022

In the past year we prioritized mental health, staff wellbeing, and students navigating poverty and homelessness in addition to IMAGINE and YEA! Grants.

For greater detail on these projects, visit:
cpsfoundation.org/grants-awards



Empowered by the contributions of our generous donors, the Family Support Program provided support to **372 families** which included more than **600 students** from all **13 schools**.



782
bags of shelf-
stable food



308
fresh produce boxes
from Riverland Family
Farms



489
laundry cards



Over 1,000
grocery gift cards
valued at \$28,155



534
deliveries of
hygiene supplies



\$13,416
on emergency rent/
utility assistance when
no other resources
were available



80
scholarships given to
students to attend the
Boys & Girls Club after-
school program

Elevating Student Voice:

YEA! Grants

A celebration for Corvallis students of color. A land-acknowledgement mural at Crescent Valley High School. Street art at Corvallis High School. T-shirts and sweatshirts for dual-immersion students at Linus Pauling Middle School. The first-ever yearbook for College Hill High School. Upgrades for Corvallis High School's metal shop.

And a club to teach students at Cheldelin Middle School how to fish — and in doing so, to pass along a lesson or two about the environment.

Seven projects, with connective tissue between them: Each project was led by students.

And each project used funding from a new Corvallis Public Schools Foundation program:

The Youth Empowerment and Action (YEA!) Grants, which distributed \$15,700 in amounts ranging from \$250 to \$2,500.

The idea was to help students figure out how to pay for projects that in some cases had been cooking for months. “One of the main struggles with this was, we were not sure how we were going to get funding for it,” said Theo Abadilla, one of the Crescent Valley students who worked on the land-acknowledgement mural. “It’s hard to ask for \$2,000 cash from people who usually only have \$2 cash in their pocket.”

But the \$2,500 award from the YEA! program

covered not only supplies, but also design work by Chanti Manon-Ferguson, an artist and student at Oregon State University. The mural was painted on two concrete pillars this summer at the school, where it will serve as a reminder that the land where the school now sits is located “within the traditional homelands of the Mary’s River or Ampinefu Band of Kalapuya.”

The Crescent Valley students give credit to another student, Charlie Hathaway, for initially pitching the idea of a land acknowledgment, and to Julia Blue Arm, an art teacher at the school, for suggesting the mural idea.

“It was just one of those things that snowballed into something great,” said Natalia Morales, one of the students.

And the students hope the mural prompts reflection and discussion about diversity, equity and inclusion among students — and adults — for years to come.

“I think a lot of the time in this line of work, you get something done, but you can’t actually see what you’re doing,” said Simone Moulton, one of the Crescent Valley students. “You can’t see the effects. This will be a physical mark that will always be there. And it’s just a different type of feeling.”

“The grants are a wonderful gift to the community. They are an opportunity for students to lead—and for adults to listen.”

The mural — and the other six projects funded by the grants — already has grabbed the attention of some adults.

“History in action is how I look at it,” said Kevin Dougherty of Oregon State University, a member of the Foundation Board of Trustees, as he surveyed all seven projects.

Added Shauna Tominey, a member of the Corvallis School Board (and a graduate of Crescent Valley): “The grants are a wonderful gift to the community. They are an opportunity for students to lead — and for adults to listen.” 🌱



Here are seven projects and applicants funded by the **2022 Youth Empowerment and Action (YEA!) Grants**, a new program at the Corvallis Public Schools Foundation:

1 Celebrating Corvallis School District's BIPOC students (Charlotte Patel, \$1,500). An event for students of color to gather to encourage a sense of community and build an increased sense of belonging. Includes graduation cords for seniors finishing high school.

2 Fishing Club (Cheldelin Middle School, Jordan Moss, \$2,500). A club teaching fishing skills to encourage outdoor activity, teach about conservation and to help students enjoy and care for the environment.

3 Taking Pride in Dual Immersion (Linus Pauling Middle School, Asher Beatty, Belen Hernandez and Joanna Alvarado, \$2,500). T-shirts and sweatshirts for dual immersion students to celebrate their program and to promote the goal of positive cross-cultural attitudes and behavior.

4 Land-Acknowledgement Mural (Crescent Valley High School, Natalia Morales, Theo Abadilla, Simone Moulton, \$2,500.) A mural to recognize the Native American peoples who lived on land now occupied by CVHS.

5 Metal Shop Tool Upgrade and Management (Corvallis High School, Z Woody, \$1,700). Specialized tools for the metal shop to improve efficiency and to increase capacity for hands-on, real-world learning.

6 Painted Intersection Project (Corvallis High School, Taylor Young and Mahya Shakibnia-Shirazi, \$2,500). Street art at the entrance to a CHS parking lot to highlight diversity and to promote racial equity.

7 Yearbooks (College Hill High School, Marylu Perez, Dustin Pointer and Jesse Martin, \$2,500). Publication of the first-ever yearbook for College Hill students to celebrate their school community.



From the left: Crescent Valley High School students Natalia Morales, Theo Abadilla and Simone Moulton won a \$2,500 grant from the Corvallis Public Schools Foundation to paint a land-acknowledgment mural on two pillars at the school.

Right: CHS Metal Shop Tool Upgrade and Management

Below: Painted Intersection Project



Endowments & Scholarships in 2022

Total \$1,246,578 as of June 30, 2022

Endowments

- » Barbara E. Fry Endowment, \$90,710
- » Better World Endowment for Equity and Inclusion, \$95,281
- » CHS Class of 1958 Legacy Endowed Fund, \$61,959
- » CHS Class of 1966 Student Participation Fund, \$27,614
- » Doris L. Meyers Endowment, \$103,564
- » Corvallis High Schools Golf Committee Fund, \$78,733
- » Harold and Alma Moldenke Outdoor School Endowment, \$23,650
- » The Joe Malango Endowment for Theatrical Arts, \$26,204
- » Mario and Alma Pastega Professional Development Endowment, \$64,166
- » Mario D. Pastega Golden Apple Awards Endowment, \$29,091
- » Midge Mueller Fund, \$46,239
- » Mid-Valley Bicycle Club Bike Safety Endowment, \$38,593
- » **NEW!** Yvonne Thomas Fund, \$28,127
- » Zel S. Brook Art Endowment, \$20,272

Endowed Scholarships

- » Anna J. H. Fang Scholarship for Journalism, Communication, and Cinematic Arts, \$45,759
- » Anna J. H. Fang Scholarship for STEM, \$44,072
- » David Zajicek Golf Scholarship Endowment, \$20,178
- » Dennis Staats Scholarship for the Arts, \$27,040
- » Eric Gorski Multimedia Scholarship Endowed Fund, \$16,926
- » **NEW!** Kenneth J. Stevenson Memorial Scholarship, \$25,439

- » Lynn Lahey Somos el Futuro Scholarship, \$13,064
- » Olaf "Ole" Hedstrom Memorial Fund, \$10,758
- » Susan Small Hall Scholarship Endowment, \$28,756
- » **NEW!** Victoria Eastwood Memorial Scholarship, \$21,845

Non-Endowed Scholarships

- » Corvallis School Board Scholarship
- » John Houston Memorial Scholarship
- » NAACP Corvallis Scholars Scholarship
- » The Grit, Growth, and Goals Scholarship
- » Zach Peters Performing Arts and Education Scholarship

“Engineering will be very hard, but I’m up for the challenge. I have the heart that assists people, the ears that listen, the voice that leads, and the mind that solves problems.”

Theo Abadilla, 2022 Scholarship Recipient



“It became my mission to help out families like mine which made it easier to decide on what I wanted my future career to be.”

Erica Lopez Sanchez
2022 Scholarship Recipient

Scholarship Recipients

- » Theo Abadilla (CVHS)
NAACP Corvallis Scholars Scholarship
- » Sofia Alzuray-Orellana (CHS)
John Houston Memorial Scholarship
- » Alessandra Cervantez Ramirez (CHS)
Anna J. H. Fang Journalism, Communication, and Cinematic Arts Scholarship
- » Kathryn Crawford (CVHS)
Eric Gorski Multimedia Scholarship
- » Payton Herb (CHS)
The Grit, Growth, and Goals Scholarship
- » Cindy Hernandez Gomez (CHS)
Corvallis School Board Scholarship
- » Sydney Hoffman (CHS)
Dennis Staats Scholarship for the Arts
- » Marla Linvog (CVHS)
Anna J. H. Fang Scholarship for STEM
- » Erica Lopez Sanchez (CHS)
*Corvallis School Board Scholarship
Lynn Lahey Somos el Futuro Scholarship
NAACP Corvallis Scholars Scholarship*
- » Savannah Miller (CHS)
Victoria Eastwood Memorial Scholarship
- » Sophia Perakis (CVHS)
Zach Peters Performing Arts and Education Scholarship
- » Evelyn Peralta (CHS)
Corvallis School Board Scholarship
- » Yael Raich (CVHS)
Olaf 'Ole' Hedstrom Memorial Scholarship
- » Frankie Rain (CHS)
CHS Class of '58 Vocational or Technical Training Scholarship
- » Julia Ann Weldon (CHS)
*Susan Small Hall Scholarship
David Zajicek Endowed Scholarship*

Advocating for Students:

The Family Support Program

Here's a blunt truth about education: Students who come to school hungry or from unstable living conditions have a tough time focusing on learning. Add another set of challenges — say, an international pandemic that forces the temporary closure of schools — and those pressure points can become particularly acute.

The Corvallis School District's Family Support Program works to ease the pressures facing vulnerable families, regardless of whether the need involves food or hygiene supplies, help with rent or car repairs — or even a call to ensure a family's electricity or water doesn't get shut off.

"We have done that many times, where we can get power or water back on, right away," said Sarah Devine, the district's family outreach coordinator and its McKinney-Vento liaison, working with unsheltered students and their families.

Devine estimated that she and her colleagues at the district have assisted more than 2,000 people — students and family members — since the start of the pandemic. And, she said, the financial support the program receives from the Corvallis Public Schools Foundation is essential.

"Our program would not exist the way it exists without their support," Devine said. "I just can't say enough about how much that matters."

During the four years she's been working with the district, the family support program has expanded, placing staffers into an increasing number of

schools. "We're so fortunate to be in a district where leadership is very, very aligned around these values; it makes sense to them," she said.

Devine and others who have worked with families over the years — such as Chris Hawkins, who retired at the end of the 2021-22 school year as the district's student support specialist — also have placed a priority going outside school walls to work with other service providers.

In fact, Hawkins, who won a Golden Apple award this year from the Foundation, said she made it a priority to "break down those silos" between the school district and everyone else who needed a seat at the table — law enforcement agencies, state agencies, community service providers.

"Our program would not exist the way it exists without their support," Devine said. "I just can't say enough about how much that matters."

"Everyone could see the need for that," Hawkins said. "But no one had said, 'We need to get together and start talking.' Because everyone's so damn busy."

Busy or not, Hawkins made sure everyone got together and started talking. Now, as she eases into retirement, she thinks the momentum she started will continue to build.

"I think everyone sees the benefits" of talking to each other, she said. 🌱



Stellar Service Award:

Chris Hawkins

Age: 61

Resume: Hawkins recently retired as the Corvallis School District's student support specialist. Before that, she worked in a variety of roles in the district office and taught at Adams School in Corvallis and at Lacombe School in Linn County.

Family: Three adult children: A daughter, 36, and two sons, 33 and 30.

Hobbies: Golf, pickleball and gardening. Also, she has a dog, a Labradoodle that she takes everywhere.

From the Golden Apple nomination:

"Throughout her 30-plus years of service, Chris has also worked tirelessly to build meaningful relationships with outside agencies such as (the) Department of Human Services, Corvallis Police Department, Benton County Juvenile Department, Boys and Girls Club of Corvallis as well as state mental health, community supports for families experiencing homelessness, suicide task groups, and many others."

Celebrating Excellence:

Congratulations to our 2022 Golden Apple Award Winners!



Elton Kikuta
Kathryn Jones Harrison
Elementary School Teacher



Kelsey Hibbert
Linus Pauling Middle School
Dean of Students



Keith Moses
Crescent Valley High School
Ceramics Teacher



Nancy Hausen
Linus Pauling Middle School
Campus Steward

Our Finances in 2022

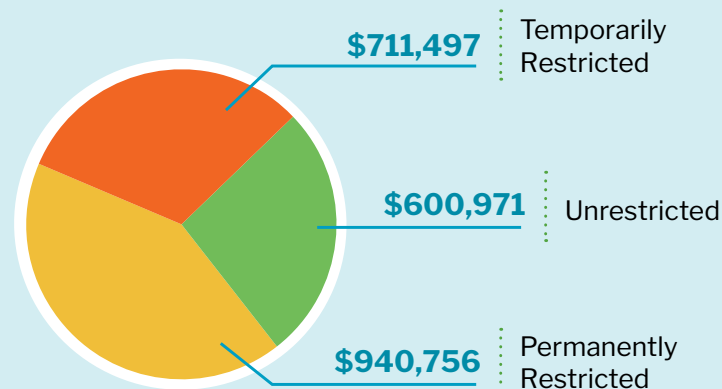
\$2,253,224 Net Assets

\$1,246,578 in Endowments

Net Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents:	\$492,788
Investments:	\$1,760,436
Total Net Assets:	\$2,253,224

Distribution of Net Assets: \$2,253,224

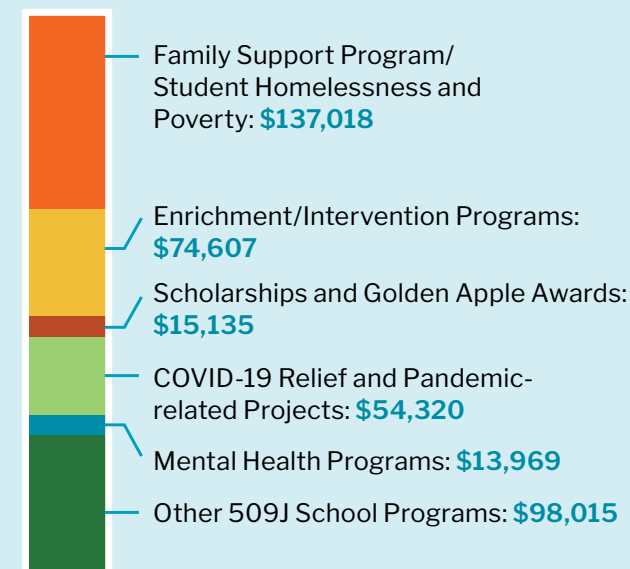


For a full financial statement, please contact us at (541) 757-5857. Thank you!



Foundations and Other Nonprofits:	\$67,538
Households and Individuals:	\$353,233
Business and Government:	\$146,969
Fundraising Event:	\$174,908

Program Expenditures: \$393,064



Donor Spotlight: Ben and Heather Herman

Occupations: Ben is a design manager at Jacobs. Heather is a neurology nurse practitioner at The Corvallis Clinic.

Ages: Ben is 50. Heather is 48.

Family: Two daughters, 21 and 18, both students at Oregon State University. Both daughters attended public schools in Corvallis. In fact, Heather said, a big reason why the family moved from Arizona was so the children could attend Corvallis public schools and they weren't disappointed: "We've been really thrilled with the education our girls received."

Why they donate to education: Education has been a passion for the Herman family for generations, dating at least back to Ben's grandfather, Jim Herman, an Arizona businessman who served on the Board of Trustees for a community college. "His big thing was education," Ben said — and he understood how education serves as a bridge to better lives, a message that has resonated for generations. Both of Ben's parents were the first people in their families to graduate from college.

Why they donate to the Corvallis Public Schools

Foundation: "It's our way to give back a little bit," Ben said — and a way to pay tribute to his parents and grandparents. "They sacrificed a lot to give us the opportunities we got," he said.

How they donate: They have a monthly amount automatically taken from their bank account, an approach Ben recommends. "It just takes the guesswork out of it," Ben said.

One bit of advice to potential donors to the Foundation: "When you think about donating, some people think you have to make this big gesture," Ben said. But that's not required: "No amount is too small."



The Hermans

There are 58 languages spoken in our schools.
In every one of them, we say

Thank
You!



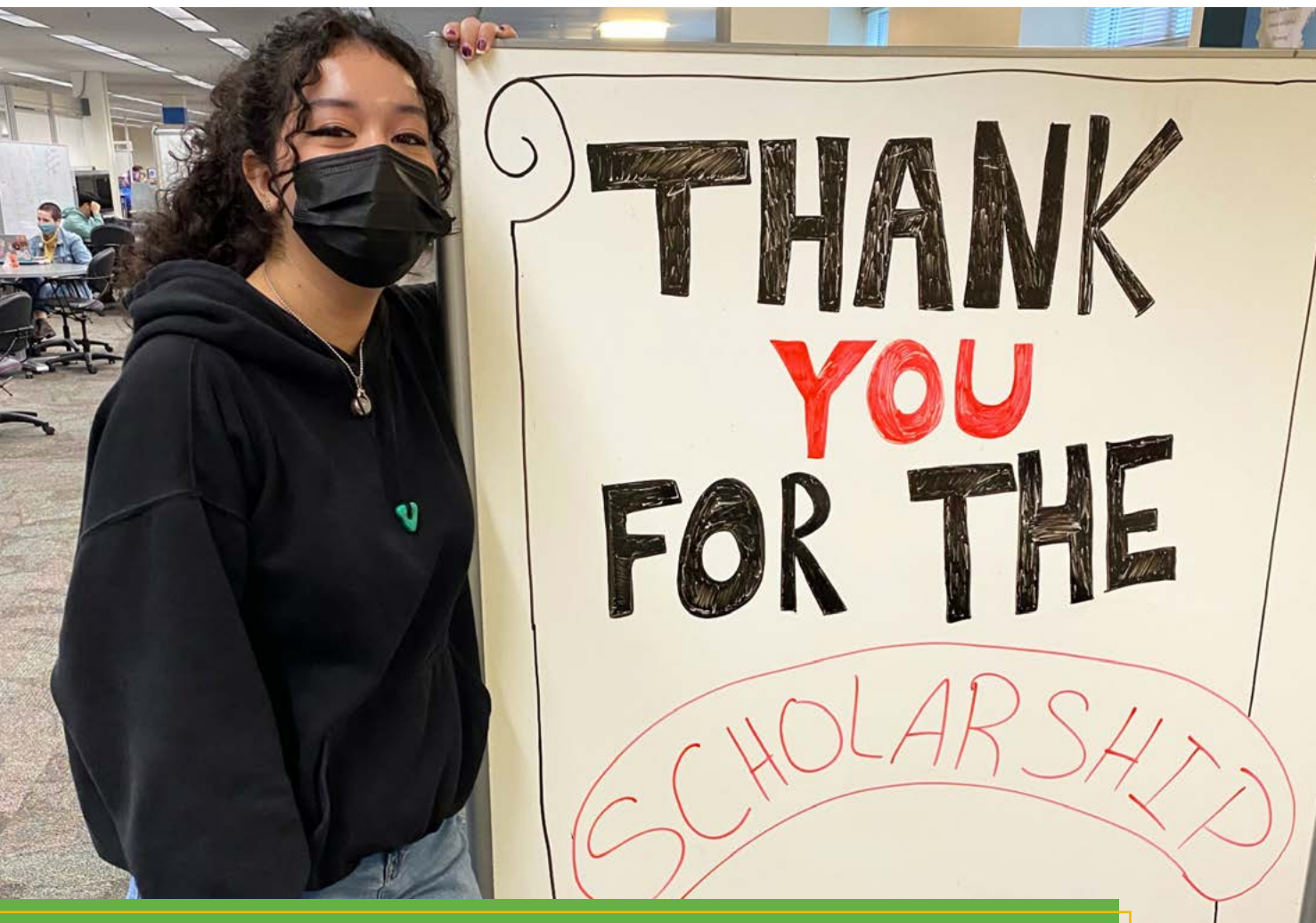
+ Danke Mochchakkeram Mamana +
Juspaxar Merci Arigato Hvala BB
TAK Kia Ora Gracías! Vinaka +
Grazie Chokrane Terma Kasih Welalin x
Asante Maake Kiitos Obrigado
Multumesc Spasibo Shukraan +
Mafur Nuwun

Join us!

Hands Across Corvallis Benefit Event

Thursday, February 2, 2023

Call (541) 757-5857 or cpsfoundation.org to register



Acknowledgements: Thank you to writer Mike McNally; designer Amy Williams; photographers Cameron Johnson, Rick Wallace and Lyle Gifford; Horsepower Productions; The Ball Studio, and Liv Gifford for their creative contributions to this publication.

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1555 SW 35th Street
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