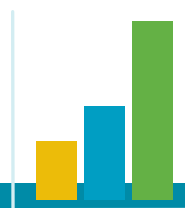


# Supporting Schools. Investing in our Future.



2023 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.



We are filled with gratitude for you, our community of supporters. And we are proud of what we have achieved, thanks to your generosity.

Together, we have worked to ensure that all students, especially the most vulnerable, have the resources they need to access the education they deserve. We have supported enriching educational opportunities that engage students’ excitement for learning, and prepare them to graduate ready to navigate the world’s complexities.

This year, we all witnessed escalating costs for essentials like groceries and gas. While this was an adjustment for many of us, it created a critical hardship for students and families navigating poverty—especially as funding for many government programs and community resources decreased. With your help we continued, and even increased, our support for families in need.

Your gifts allowed us to fund more IMAGINE Grants than ever before, providing innovative educational opportunities in all of our 13 schools. We expanded our student-driven Youth Empowerment and Action (YEA!) Grants to elevate student voices and inspire leadership, and we continued to support staff wellness and retention programs.

When the State said “No” to summer school funding, you said, “Yes!” Together, we supported critical programs that had an immediate impact on students’ lives, helping them connect with vital resources, access enrichment opportunities, and earn credit to stay on track to graduate.

Our work is not possible without you. We thank you for partnering with us to invest in our schools and realize the promise of education for all Corvallis students.



*Mindy Hamlin*  
**Mindy Hamlin**  
Chair of the CPSF  
Board of Trustees



*Angela Hibbard*  
**Angela Hibbard**  
Executive Director

# Grants & Awards in 2023

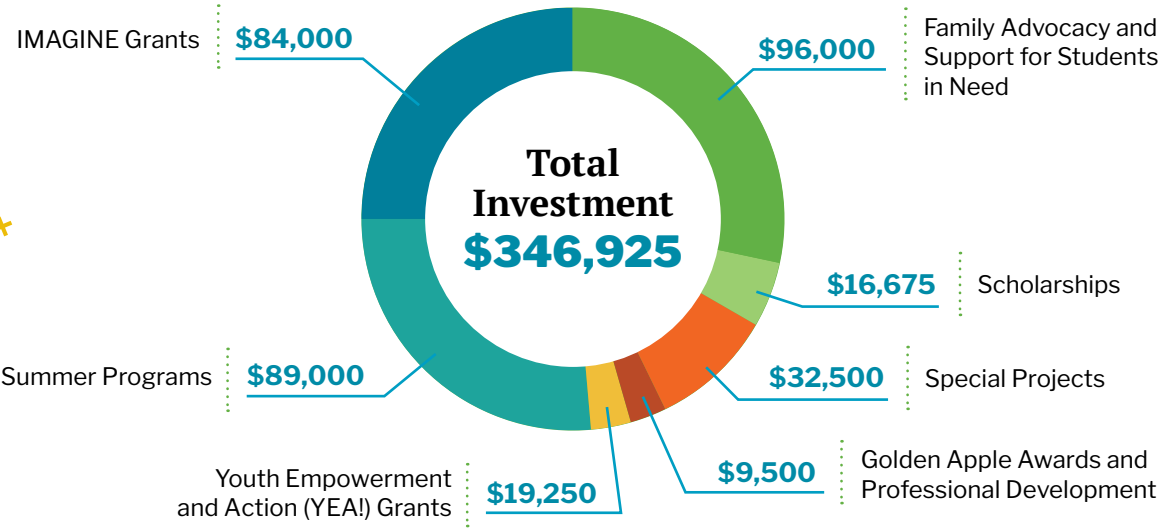
In the past year, we awarded close to \$350K in support of programs that align with our key priorities: improving **educational access** for students in need, supporting **learning enrichment** activities that advance equity and enhance education, and funding **graduation-rate** interventions that help students stay engaged and on track to graduate.



More than 380 Corvallis School District students are identified as homeless and many more experience food insecurity and financial hardship.

**“Students learn best when their family’s basic needs are met.”**  
 Sarah Devine, Family Outreach Supervisor

Thanks to generous contributions from donors, the Family Support Program connects families with critical resources so that students can arrive at school ready to learn.



For greater details on these grants and awards visit: [cpsfoundation.org](https://cpsfoundation.org)



**2,000** grocery and gas gift cards valued at \$26,280 to assist families with food insecurity and transportation needs



**\$9,041** in emergency rental assistance, helping 30 families avoid eviction, when no other community resources were available



**400** laundry cards to families in need



**Over 200** emergency bills paid to increase family stability (utility shutoffs, phone bills, car repair, moving costs, glasses, car seats, and more)



**\$13,617** in scholarships given to attend the Boys & Girls Club after-school program



**20** families received assistance ordering vital records needed in order to access housing and other community resources

To learn more, visit: [csd509j.net/students-parents/family-advocacy-support](https://csd509j.net/students-parents/family-advocacy-support)



Top: Teacher, Kevin Skillings, with completed microshelter  
 Middle: CHHS students learning construction skills  
 Bottom: CSD School Board Member Sami Al-Abdrabbuh admiring students' work

# Tools for the Real World

Foundation grants support College Hill High School construction program

Students in Kevin Skillings' construction program at College Hill High School probably never wonder if what they're learning has a real-world application.

That's because Skillings' two-year program is focused on the real world: Students pick up the skills they need to immediately step into construction jobs.

**“The students have done great work... building not only their skills, but their understanding of how these shelters fit into the continuum of solutions for those experiencing homelessness.”**

This year, the students' work had an additional real-world link: They built two microshelters—livable quarters about the size of a garden shed—for Unity Shelter's Safe Place program, which shelters people who are homeless. Unity Shelter paid for the microshelter materials.

But it was two earlier \$5,000 IMAGINE Grants from the Corvallis Public Schools Foundation that allowed the construction program to buy tools and other essentials.

“They essentially gave me the tools and the seed money to get it rolling,” Skillings said.

The program includes 14 juniors and 14 seniors. Students learn about working with wood, metal, automobiles and drafting, and then tackle hands-on projects.

Skillings also emphasizes the so-called “soft skills”—teamwork, communication, dependability.

And he keeps the focus on the real world—and the opportunities awaiting those who finish the program.

For most students, the message sticks. Skillings said at least two of his seniors had jobs lined up before graduation.

Shawn Collins, the executive director of Unity Shelter, was impressed: “The students have done great work,” he said, “building not only their skills, but their understanding of how these shelters fit into the continuum of solutions for those experiencing homelessness.”

It's all part of a real-world education. 🌱



# Imagine Grants

**I**MAGINE Grant recipients are open to all Corvallis School District staff and support innovative ideas that advance equity and enrich students' educational experiences. Last year, more than **\$84K in funding** was awarded to **29 IMAGINE Grant recipients**.

**\$5,000** / Districtwide Art Exhibit (Christa Schmeder)

**\$5,000** / Aves Compartidas Environmental Migratory-Bird Education Program (Angela Mendoza)

**\$5,000** / Saxophones to Promote Music Equity (Lia Poole)

**\$5,000** / Sensory Play Area (Alyssa Puppig)

**\$5,000** / Wearables Hackathon (Randy Macdonald)

**\$4,930** / Equitable Access to Instruments (David Blake)

**\$4,830** / Rain Gear for Kinder Fun (Yahaira Meza)

**\$4,830** / Orchestra String and Bow Repair (Sarah Perkins)

**\$4,424** / Lego Education and STEAM (Kelli Abbott) *Photo 1*

**\$4,248** / El Secreto de La Bamba: A Dance of Racial Education Equity (Maria Ortiz) *Photo 5*

**\$4,000** / Revitalizing School Garden (Cynthia Wofford)

**\$4,000** / Alligators Play the Keyboards (Curtis Petersen)

**\$4,000** / Letitia's Garden Club (Kara Olsen) *Photos 2 3*

**\$2,990** / Ozobots for STEAM-based learning (Emma Poff)

**\$2,816** / Lincoln Multicultural Festival (Claudia Enciso Kuraica)

**\$2,600** / Conexiones: Community Events for Central American Students and Families (Karrie Woodruff)

**\$2,600** / UkEs and Guitars for High School Choir (Jens Lovtang) *Photo 6*

**\$2,577** / Jackson Frazier Wetland Ecosystem Project (Alexis McQuillan)

**\$2,500** / AVID College and Career Field Trip (Alexandria Luftig)

**\$1,746** / Aquaculture Elective Materials (Jeremy Adams)

**\$1,575** / Daily Mile Club-Fitness Trackers (Kim Perdue)

**\$1,500** / PRIDE Speakers and Events (Nathan Morales)

**“My students have benefited so much throughout the years from Corvallis Public Schools Foundation funds. I am so grateful and, of course, full of more creative ideas for the future, thanks to CPSF.”**

*Kara Olsen, Letitia Carson teacher and IMAGINE Grant recipient*

**\$1,300** / Outdoor Sensory Path (Keli Abbott)

**\$1,020** / The More Marine Hatfield Science the Merrier! (Eva Riedlecker-Wolfe) *Photo 4*

**\$1,000** / Land Acknowledgement Mural Celebration (Julia Blue Arm)

**\$650** / Wide Mouth Frog Theater Play (Renee Pipitone)

**\$590** / Just Dance! Collaborative Dance with Life Skills students (Dow Yeh)

**\$400** / Second Graders Love Science (Christy Schloss)

**\$279** / Portable Camp Stools (Danielle Black)

To learn more about our IMAGINE Grants visit: [cpsfoundation.org/grants-awards/imagine-grants](https://cpsfoundation.org/grants-awards/imagine-grants)





Completed mural featured on cover **1**



# YEA! Grants

**Y**EA! (Youth Empowerment and Action) Grants directly fund students' ideas for improving their school or broader community. This year we funded 13 YEA! Grants for a total of \$19,250.

**\$2,500** / Community Mural, Garfield Elementary School (Wren Well) *Photo* **1**

**\$2,500** / Save-the-Planet Project, Linus Pauling Middle School (Ada Burkhardt)

**\$2,500** / Stop Hate Campaign and Culture Week, Corvallis High School (Mahya Shakibnia-Shirazi)

**\$2,340** / Student-Center Remodel, Linus Pauling Middle School (Kevin Gonzales Ochoa)

**\$2,000** / District-wide Cultural Discovery Project, Crescent Valley High School (Jeramie Kim)

**\$2,000** / MMIW (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women) 5K and Mural Celebration, Crescent Valley High School (Cecilia Seldera-Bahnsen)

**\$1,500** / CTE in the Real World: Tours to Portland's Industries, Corvallis High School (Jonah Davis)

**\$1,000** / ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) Community Group, Linus Pauling Middle School and Corvallis High School (Chinua Tafen) *Photo* **2**

**\$750** / The *Crescent Crier* Revitalization Project, Crescent Valley High School and Cheldelin Middle School (Jeramie Kim)

**\$660** / Calm Room, Linus Pauling Middle School (Nicole Lopez Lobato) *Photo* **4**

**\$500** / Wheelchair Access Project, Kathryn Jones Harrison Elementary School (Cedar Marvin)

**\$500** / Green-Team Sustainability Project, Cheldelin Middle School (Piper Thompson) *Photo* **3**

**\$500** / Advanced Theater Create-A-Scene Project, Cheldelin Middle School (Lily Vaughn) *Photo* **5**

To learn more about our YEA! Grants visit [cpsfoundation.org/grants-awards/yea-grants/](https://cpsfoundation.org/grants-awards/yea-grants/)



## Celebrating Excellence:

Congratulations to our 2023 Golden Apple Award Winners!



**Jennifer Smith**  
College Hill High School,  
Educational Assistant



**Leigh-Ann Russell**  
Corvallis High School,  
Special Educator  
and Case Manager



**Liz Wieland**  
Cheldelin Middle School,  
Science Theater Teacher



**David Abrams**  
Adams Elementary School,  
5th Grade Teacher

▲ Portraits by The Ball Studio



# Exhibiting Talent

Celebrating the first-ever districtwide art show

Fueled by a \$5,000 IMAGINE Grant from the Corvallis Public Schools Foundation, art teacher Christa Schmeder and administrative assistant Claudia Enciso Kuraica organized a districtwide art show, a first for the Corvallis School District.

On April 20, the two celebrated with other district employees, parents and students during an event billed as the “CSD pARTy” at Benton County’s newly remodeled Kalapuya Building.

“This was hiding in the schools...”

Enciso Kuraica had organized small art shows in the boardroom of the District’s administrative offices. She

enjoyed that work but wanted to mount a districtwide show in a bigger venue. She enlisted Schmeder to help. Finding a suitable location was a challenge, but Enciso Kuraica finally got a tip that led to the Kalapuya Building.

It looks like the start of a beautiful friendship: It seems likely that the districtwide art show has found a home for years to come.



Schmeder and Enciso Kuraica were delighted that the show featured a number of collaborative works in which every student in an elementary school was able to participate. “Our elementary program is really one of the things we wanted to highlight,” Schmeder said.

Individual schools in the district may host their own art shows, and those are important, she said, “because that’s the school community coming together.”

But a districtwide show also is important, Schmeder and Enciso Kuraica said, because it allows students to see their own work featured outside their schools—and it gives parents and community members a wider view of the quality and scope of the artwork students are creating.

“Now it’s not hiding.”

To illustrate the point, Enciso Kuraica gestured at the artwork filling the lobby of the Kalapuya Building and stretching into the hallways and the building’s second floor. “This was hiding in the schools,” she said.

Schmeder finished the thought: “Now it’s not hiding.” 🎨



# Saving the Summer

## Community steps up to help preserve vital summer programs

In 2022, the state of Oregon allocated \$150 million for summer learning programs offered by school districts and community-based organizations.

In 2023, the Legislature allocated a somewhat smaller amount: zero.

School districts scrambled to salvage summer programs, which help students who have fallen behind or need additional enrichment. Many districts eliminated their programs.

The Corvallis School District had an ace in the hole, Superintendent Ryan Noss said. For years, the Corvallis Public Schools Foundation has supported the district's summertime programs. Noss and other district leaders asked if the Foundation could step up to help fill the unexpected funding shortfall—and to preserve what Noss called the “vital work of summer programs.”

The Foundation—and its donors—said “yes.”

Foundation money, combined with special education funds and resources from the district's high school success program, allowed 500 Corvallis students to participate in summer 2023 programs.

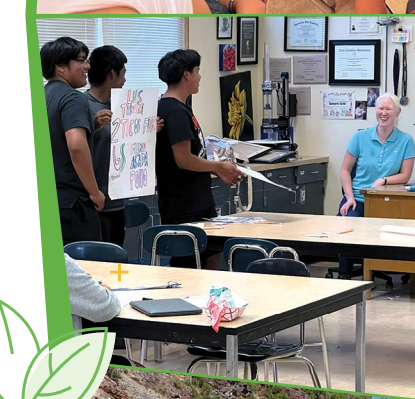
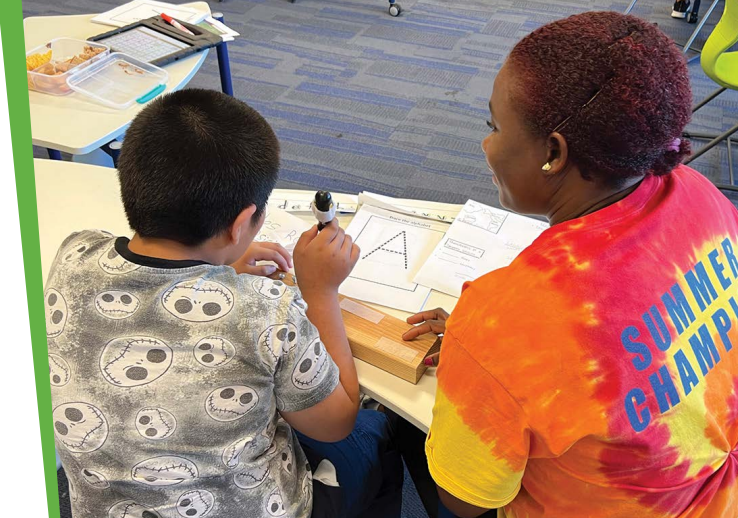
The programs included COVID recovery services for students on special education plans, allowing them to keep pace with peers, in addition to high school credit-recovery programs that allowed 100 students to stay on track for graduation, even as other districts had to abandon or downsize their programs.

Gerding Builders, a longtime donor to the Foundation, understands the importance of the summertime programs. “It's just a tremendous investment in our youth,” said Monte Smith, Gerding's CEO.

Smith toured some of those programs a few years ago and was impressed. Seeing the programs firsthand—“and to see the good they're doing”—makes it an easy call to donate to the Foundation, he said.

In particular, Smith said, Gerding Builders appreciates the Foundation's ability to pivot quickly to help the school district cope with unexpected developments—such as a sudden funding shortfall.

“Their ability to fill that need, whatever that may be, is a huge thing for us.”



Summer student, Sam, with teacher, Matt McDonough



**“Coming to summer school really made me feel like I got something for the work I put in, that I can succeed in school and in life.”**  
Sam B.



# Our Finances in 2023

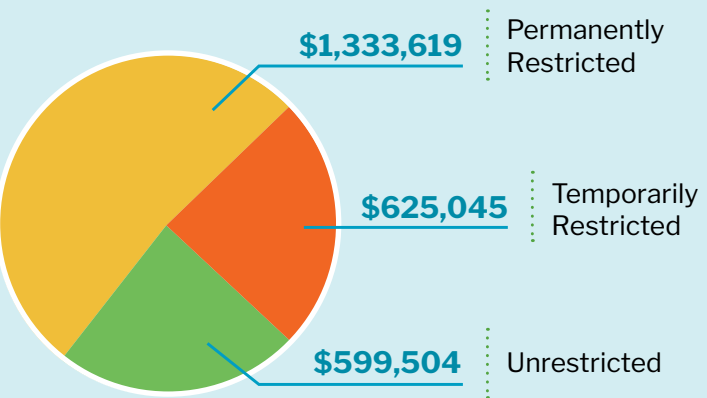
**\$2,558,168** Net Assets

**\$1,654,087** in Endowments

## Net Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents*:	<b>\$373,911</b>
Investments:	<b>\$2,184,257</b>
<b>Total Net Assets:</b>	<b>\$2,558,168</b>

## Distribution of Net Assets: \$2,558,168



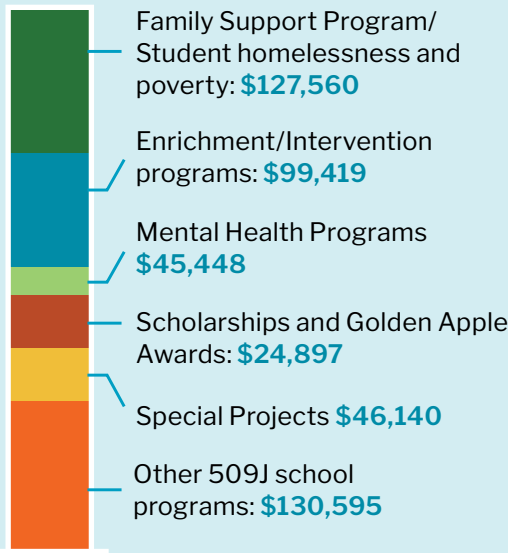
For a full financial statement, please contact us at 541-757-5857.

\* Excludes \$375 liability: pension contribution payable



- Foundations and Other Nonprofits: **\$84,695**
- Households and Individuals: **\$526,039**
- Business and Government: **\$160,035**
- Fundraising Event: **\$110,857**

## Program Expenditures: \$474,059



## Thank you to our Sponsors

Thank you to our Hands Across Corvallis, and Summer Program sponsors for their support of Corvallis schools.

# Endowments in 2023

Total \$1,654,087 as of June 30, 2023

- » Anna J. H. Fang Scholarship for Journalism, Communication, and Cinematic Arts, **\$48,996**
- » Anna J. H. Fang Scholarship for STEM, **\$47,151**
- » Barbara E. Fry Endowment, **\$245,724**
- » Better World Endowment for Equity and Inclusion, **\$99,722**
- » CHS Class of 1958 Legacy Fund, **\$72,150**
- » CHS Class of 1966 Student Participation Fund, **\$30,183**
- » Corvallis High Schools Golf Committee Fund, **\$86,122**
- » David Zajicek Golf Scholarship Endowment, **\$21,148**
- » Dennis Staats Scholarship for the Arts, **\$28,520**
- » Doris L. Meyers Endowment, **\$108,258**
- » Eric Gorski Multimedia Scholarship Endowed Fund, **\$17,987**
- » Harold and Alma Moldenke Outdoor School Endowment, **\$24,747**
- » **NEW!** Jared Pastega Endowment, **\$42,817**
- » Joe Malango Endowment for Theatrical Arts, **\$27,933**
- » Kenneth J. Stevenson Memorial Endowment, **\$26,713**
- » Lynn Lahey Somos el Futuro Scholarship, **\$13,684**
- » Mario D. Pastega Golden Apple Awards Endowment, **\$30,414**
- » Mario and Alma Pastega Professional Development Endowment, **\$80,425**
- » Midge Mueller Fund, **\$50,578**
- » Mid-Valley Bicycle Club Bike Safety Endowment, **\$40,371**
- » Olaf "Ole" Hedstrom Memorial Fund, **\$11,615**
- » Susan Small Hall Scholarship Endowment, **\$35,518**
- » Victoria Eastwood Memorial Scholarship, **\$21,888**
- » Yvonne Thomas Fund, **\$30,768**
- » Zach Peters Memorial Fund, **\$44,182**
- » Zel S. Brook Art Endowment, **\$24,902**
- » **NEW!** Zoe A. Silbernagel Endowment Fund, **\$21,103**

**The Zoe. A. Silbernagel Endowed Fund** is named in memory of longtime Corvallis High School employee, Zoe A. Silbernagel, to support student participation in athletics and the performing arts.



**The Jared Pastega Endowment** was created to provide sustainable support for students in need at Crescent Valley High School. Named in memory of Jared Pastega, a CV alum, to honor Jared's spirit of generosity and community.



To learn how to leave a lasting legacy by creating an endowed fund or including CPSF in your planned giving call 541-757-5857.

## Honoring Our Donors

We are grateful for the generosity of all of our donors, including anonymous, in-kind, and other gifts not included here. Every gift makes a difference!

*Gifts received July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023*

**\$10,000+** — Benton Community Foundation, Fred and Mary Brauti Donor Advised Fund • Mario and Alma Pastega Family Foundation • Brian and Jennifer Frohring • Pacific Power Foundation • Ken Pastega • Glen Silbernagel • Susan Small Hall

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◀ Jessica Harbison, CHS Class of '58 scholarship recipient

## Students of the past support students of today and tomorrow

The Corvallis High School Class of '58 celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> reunion by presenting the Corvallis Public Schools Foundation with a check for \$82,000—the culmination of a five-year fundraising campaign and a vision to leave a legacy for future students.

The CHS Class of '58 Legacy Fund will provide support for Corvallis students for decades to come, including two scholarships and annual funds for the CHS Life Skills program.

*To learn more about making a class gift or establishing a Legacy Fund contact 541-757-5857.*

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Join us!

# Hands Across Corvallis Benefit Event

Thursday, February 1, 2024

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Corvallis High School

Call 541-757-5857 or [cpsfoundation.org](http://cpsfoundation.org) to register



**Acknowledgements:** Thank you to writer, Mike McNally; designer, Amy Williams; photographers Rick Wallace, Kelly Locey, Maddy Dixon, and The Ball Studio for their creative contributions to this report.

Sincere efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of this report, including names and donations. If corrections are needed, please contact us at 541-757-5857.

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