# Supporting Schools. Investing in Our Future.

2024 Annual Report











# Reflecting on the past year, we are incredibly proud of what we have accomplished, thanks to you, our community of supporters.

In this report, we hope you will see the tangible impact your generosity has on our students, educators, and community. Your gifts allowed us to award close to half a million dollars in Foundation-driven initiatives, creating opportunities for all students to find success.

Together, we empowered educators and students by investing in their ideas. We funded innovative projects that create a sense of excitement for learning, increase achievement and leadership, and foster connection and community. We continued to prioritize support for our students who are navigating homelessness, poverty, mental health challenges, and other barriers to education. And we doubled down on our investment in summer programming, serving twice as many students, and garnering statewide attention for the program's life-changing impact—keeping students engaged in school and on track to graduate.

None of this would have been possible without you. Your gifts are more than just a donation; they are the catalyst for these transformative initiatives. They are an investment in the success of our students, and the future of our community.

As we look to the future, we know that our schools are being asked to do even more with less as funding pressures increase. Yet, we are reminded that education is our most powerful tool for change, deserving of our investment. We are not only supporting students; we are cultivating the leaders, innovators, and changemakers of tomorrow.

We are profoundly grateful for your partnership in this work.

With gratitude,



**Leslie Hammond** Chair of the CPSF Board of Trustees



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Angela Hibbard Executive Director





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

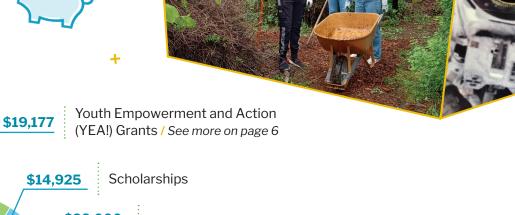
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# Grants & Awards in 2024



Thanks to the generosity of our community, we awarded close to half a million dollars in Foundation-driven grants and awards that prioritize *educational access, learning enrichment,* and *academic support.* 







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600 students from kindergarten to high school participated in Summer Programs.

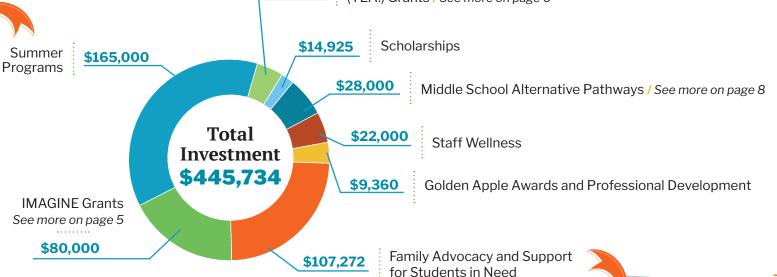


**96** high school credits earned



**95%** attendance rate

For greater details on these grants and awards visit: cpsfoundation.org



With your help, the Family Support Program served 380 Corvallis School District students identified as homeless, as well as many more who are navigating financial hardship and food insecurity. Your support provided vital resources so these students arrived at school ready to learn.



**\$30,000** in gift cards provided for food, gas, and laundry services, helping families meet essential needs and reduce transportation barriers.

**Over 300** emergency bill payments

covered critical expenses like utilities,

ensuring stability for families in crisis.

phone bills, car repairs, and more,



**\$19,000** in emergency rental assistance helped prevent evictions for families when no other community resources were available, keeping families in their homes.

**80** scholarships for after-school care enabled families to access safe, enriching, and reliable after-school programs.



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## **Growing a Math Mindset**



# Building confidence and community through family math nights

Success in math opens up a world of possibilities for our students' futures. Yet, for many, math can be intimidating—not just for students, but for parents and families as well.

Recognizing that not every family has the resources or support at home to grow their math confidence, this year the Corvallis School District piloted K-8 districtwide Family Math Nights. With funding from the Foundation, these evenings bring students, their families, and educators together to view math in a new light: one that's fun, engaging, and accessible.

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I appreciated seeing what kind of math work my student is doing in school, and getting ideas for supporting him at home. The emphasis on games and keeping it fun was valuable, as it makes for much more positive home experiences than worksheets! Kim Johnson, the District's Middle School Coordinator, shares her passion: "The idea is simple, but powerful. By turning math into a game and involving families, we can boost students' confidence in their math abilities, reduce math anxiety, and promote a love for learning mathematics, ultimately improving student outcomes."

Students and their families are discovering that math is not just about numbers and equations it's about problem-solving, creativity, and teamwork.

"Family Math Nights brought over 150 families out to play math games together," said Johnson. "Every family left with a packet of 10 activities (one for each week of the summer) specific to their child's grade level as well as receiving a game of UNO."

Through academic support, enrichment opportunities, and ensuring educational access, CSD schools are growing a math mindset that will serve students far beyond the classroom.



I found everything about the math nights helpful: one-on-one support, inclusiveness, my child getting to play [math games] with his peers and learn, and instruction on how to support his learning moving forward.

**CSD** Parent

### **IMAGINE Grants**

MAGINE Grants are open to all Corvallis School District staff to support innovative projects that ignite real-world learning, advance equity, foster student achievement, and enhance overall well-being.

\$5,000 / 2nd Annual Districtwide Art Exhibit: CSD pARTy! (Christa Schmeder)

**\$5,000 / Mountain View School Garden Rejuvenation** Project (Michael Fischer)

\$5,000 / Family Math Nights (Kimberly Johnson)

\$5,000 / Vihuelas for Mariachi (Kathryn Kinney)

\$5,000 / Reading Lounges (Keli Abbott)

\$5,000 / Equity in Band (Matt Boring)

**\$4,920 /** Women of the Woods Woodshop Camp (Aaron McKee)

\$4,907 / Student Music Production Stations (Jens Lovtang)

\$4,550 / Latin Voices of our Community (Carlos Valdes-Casillas)

\$3,924 / Everyone Is An Author (Shayna Hicks) Photo (2)

\$3,500 / Sensory Path (Claudia Cano)

\$3,000 / Lingo Lunch (Karrie Woodruff) Quote 7

To learn more about our IMAGINE Grants visit: cpsfoundation.org/grants-awards/imagine-grants

**\$2,534 / WINGS Business/Job Site Supplies** (Allison Patrick)

\$2,500 / College Hill Yearbook Club (Anne Foltz)

**\$2,166** /Sixth Grade Science Field Trip (Alexis McQuillan)

**\$2,000 / STEM to Enrich Little Minds** (Arianna Gonzalez-Cas)

**\$2,000 /** Arabic Culture and Language Club (Rabab Zghal Ep Khammar)

**\$2,000 /** Kathryn Jones Harrison School Garden Revival (Amanda Tucksen) *Photo* **(4)** 

**\$1,901** / College Hill Weight Room Equipment (Jefferson Peak) *Photo* **6** 

\$1,623 / Farm Fence After the Remodel (Cherie Taylor)

\$1,500/ MMIWG2S (Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People) 5K Fundraiser (Julia Blue Arm)

**\$1,054 / Marine Science Matters!** (Eva Riedlecker-Wolfe) Photo (3)

\$1,053 / SAFE Family Dinners (Jennifer Davis) Photo 5



**\$1,000 /** Children's Books About Letitia Carson (Christy Koegler)

\$1,000 / Math Tutors (Heathrina Stanfield)

\$930 / T-shirt Printing Business (Cherie Taylor)

\$985 / Aquaculture 2.0 (Jeremy Adams)

\$850 / C.A.T.S. Club (Sarah Johnson)

**\$750 /** Second Grade Field Trip to the Eugene Science Center (Irene French)

\$650 / College Hill Art Class (Drew Kelly) Photo 1

\$588 / Animal Adaptations Field Experience (Emma Poff)

This grant helped to create a comfortable7space—one that connects English learnersto others, and one that fosters curiosityabout other parts of the world. It has beena pleasure to watch students commune overlunch, develop friendships, and flourish intheir new community.

Karrie Woodruff, Corvallis High School ELL teacher & IMAGINE Grant recipient



#### **Celebrating Excellence:**

#### Congratulations to our 2024 Golden Apple Award Winners

Established by Mario Pastega in 1996, the Mario and Alma Pastega Golden Apple Awards celebrate and recognize exceptional Corvallis School District staff. Each year, CPSF honors three outstanding teachers and one classified staff member with these prestigious awards.



Golden Apple Award winners pictured alongside the Pastega family.

From left: Mieka & Viviana Bartee, Ken Pastega; **Ty Smith**, Cheldelin Middle School behavior specialist; **Kathleen Smith**, Linus Pauling Middle School orchestra and band teacher; **Dan Reynolds**, Mt. View Elementary School first grade teacher; and **Malia Hee**, Crescent Valley High School science teacher.

# **YEA! Grants**

**Y**EA! (Youth Empowerment and Action) Grants are designed to provide a unique platform for students to voice their ideas and drive positive change within their schools or the broader community. This year we funded 14 student-led projects for a total of \$19,177.

\$2,500 / Kicking for More Goals – Garfield Elementary School (Isaac Boyer) *Photo*

**\$2,350 /** Spartan Robotics Software Training Improvement Plan – Corvallis High School (Logan Quaka)

**\$2,200 /** Sports Equipment For Life Skills - Linus Pauling Middle School (Aaron Salmoran) *Photo* **3** 

\$2,109 / Cheldelin Mural – Cheldelin Middle School (Jayda Castillo)

\$1,875 / STEM Equity - Crescent Valley High School (Richard Chen)
Photo 3

**\$1,800 /** T-shirts for Dual Immersion – Linus Pauling Middle School (Yoab Gonzales)

\$1,721 / Volleyball Fun – Garfield Elementary School (Lucy Washburn)

\$1,000 / CHS Cultural Week – Corvallis High School (Isme Quao) Photo 2

**\$750** / Crescent Valley Model United Nations – Crescent Valley High School (Alex Gough)

**\$710 /** Native Restoration – Crescent Valley High School (Georgie Merback) *Photo* **1** 

**\$670** / LGBTQIA+ Art Installation – Linus Pauling Middle School (Harriet Ward)

**\$600** / "Engineering Together" | Bridge Building & Design Competition – Crescent Valley High School (Jesus Moreno Rangel) *Photo* 

\$596 / FYRE – Franklin K-8 (Elvisa Faltesek)

\$295 / All-Artists Aquarium – Garfield Elementary School (Evie Wiman)

To learn more about our YEA! Grants visit cpsfoundation.org/grants-awards/yea-grants











High school students are in the process of creating identities, developing skills, and exploring their shifting sense of self. Songwriting can improve social engagement, and is also an art form which can be a vehicle for supporting students in mental distress.

Jens Lovtang, CVHS/CHS choir teacher & IMAGINE Grant recipient



The results have been remarkable. Students with historically limited access to art earned elective credits and created personal sketchbooks filled with their own artwork, and for the first time ever, participated in the districtwide art show held at Corvallis High School.

Drew Kelly, College Hill High School special education teacher & IMAGINE Grant recipient

I've always loved art. But I sometimes have trouble not letting myself enjoy it, and I get stuck doing one specific thing. This class has let me explore different mediums, and because of it, I've fallen back in love with the process of creating art.

C. Shutta, College Hill High School student



**Creating a Brighter Future** 

Participation in the arts fosters student creativity, cultural expression, and a strong sense of community—all vital components of student success.

Over the years, thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Foundation has supported countless programs that ignite students' creativity and engage their excitement for learning. Some recent highlights include funding instruments to support equitable access to music programs, supplying materials for our alternative high school's first-ever art class, investing in student murals that inspire inclusivity and cultural awareness, and providing music production stations for students to craft and record their own music.

With the community's continued support we can create a bright future for Corvallis students.

We have evidence that students who participate in programs such as music have far greater academic outcomes than those who don't... students who have been traditionally underserved are often relying on old and broken-down instruments that limit their ability to play and to improve their skills. The CPSF grant allowed CHS to purchase instruments that will be used by multiple students over decades.

Matt Boring, Corvallis High School principal









# A Pathway to Success

Foundation grant fuels transformation in middle school alternative education

Middle school can be tough. It can be a difficult transition for many students, even at the best of times. And the stress and trauma of the pandemic have only made it harder—especially for students already facing significant challenges.

Many students really struggled—academically and behaviorally—when they returned to in-person learning. In response, the Corvallis School District launched its middle school Alternative Education Pathway programs. These programs are designed to support students facing mental health challenges, food and housing insecurity, and other barriers to learning. For these students, the impact is nothing short of magic.

"Students often carry trauma that has impacted their school experience," says Elizabeth Wieland, an educator in Cheldelin Middle School's alternative education programs. "Our student-centered programs allow kids

With every dollar we spent, we brought into our program the necessary items to re-engage the hearts of our students. Without the grant money, NONE of the successes would have been possible. We needed a boat to keep us all safe during this first year at sea, and you provided the vessel.

Jillian Snell, Middle school educator

My mom asked why I had been going to school more lately, and I told her about Academy Bucks and the [student store] business. Some days I don't want to go to school, but then I remember my goal and it gets me there.

Middle school student

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to learn and grow in a trauma-informed setting that celebrates the whole child." Educators like Elizabeth are the magic makers—they meet students exactly where they are by offering targeted support to help unlock their potential, building lifelong skills, and eventually reintegrating into the larger school community.

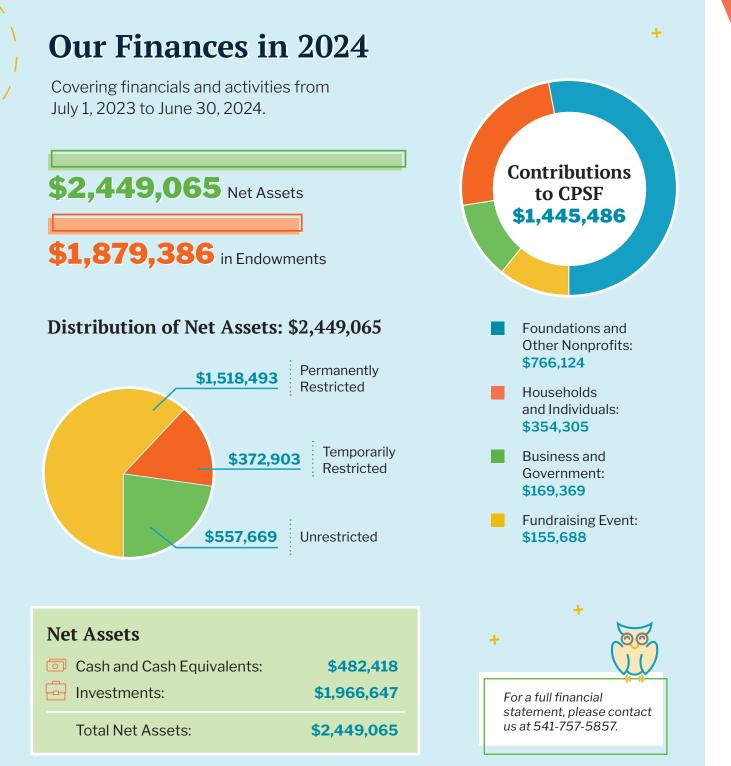
### "Our goal is to ensure that students feel seen and valued, and to know they belong," says Wieland.

A \$28,000 grant from the Corvallis Public Schools Foundation provided the essential resources needed to help make the magic happen: funding for communitybuilding exercises, service projects, wellness experiences, and entrepreneurial opportunities like operating a student-run store where students learn business skills such as budgeting and customer service.

"I've seen students who started the year with very few positive associations with school complete the year as leaders, mentors, and artists proud of their skills," shares Wieland.

Thanks to the Alternative Education Pathway programs, for many students, middle school is not so tough anymore.

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#### Thank you to our Sponsors

We recognize the invaluable contributions of our Hands Across Corvallis and Summer Programs sponsors for their generous support of Corvallis schools.







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#### **Endowments in 2024**

**Our endowed funds are established by community members who want to provide sustainable support for our mission.** Each fund is designated based on what a donor cares most deeply about: support for enrichment activities, art and STEM programs, students in need, scholarships, and more.

#### Total \$1,879,386 as of June 30, 2024

- » Anna J. H. Fang Scholarship for Journalism and Communication, \$53,734
- » Anna J. H. Fang Scholarship for STEM, **\$51,669**
- » Barbara E. Fry Endowment, \$270,002
- » Better World Endowment for Equity and Inclusion, **\$107,474**
- » CHS Class of 1958 Legacy Endowed Fund, **\$81,656**
- » CHS Class of 1966 Student Participation Fund, **\$37,616**
- » Corvallis High Schools Golf Committee Fund, **\$96,412**
- » David Zajicek Golf Scholarship Endowment, **\$22,777**
- » Dennis Staats Scholarship for the Arts, **\$31,787**
- » Doris L. Meyers Endowment, \$116,341
- » Eric Gorski Multimedia Scholarship Endowed Fund, **\$20,701**
- » Harold and Alma Moldenke Outdoor School Endowment, \$26,606
- » Hetherington Family Fund, **\$18,702**
- » Jared Pastega Endowment, **\$61,857**
- » The Joe Malango Endowment for Theatrical Arts, \$35,629



- » New! K.C. Bacon Fund, **\$25,578**
- » Kenneth J. Stevenson Memorial Endowment, **\$29,334**
- » Lynn Lahey Somos el Futuro Scholarship, **\$14,977**
- » Mario D. Pastega Golden Apple Awards Endowment, **\$33,116**
- Mario and Alma Pastega Professional Development Endowment, **\$87,688**
- » Midge Mueller Fund, **\$56,621**
- » Mid-Valley Bicycle Club Bike Safety Endowment, \$43,448
- » Olaf "Ole" Hedstrom Memorial Fund, **\$12,689**
- » Susan Small Hall Scholarship Endowment, \$38,671
- » Victoria Eastwood Memorial Scholarship, **\$23,571**
- » Yvonne Thomas Fund, \$34,267
- » Zach Peters Memorial Fund, \$51,213
- » Zel S. Brook Art Endowment, \$29,564
- » Zoe A. Silbernagel Endowment for Art, \$23,495

To learn how you can create a lasting legacy by establishing an endowed fund, or including CPSF in your planned giving, contact us at 541-757-5857.

From left to right: Founder of the K.C. Bacon Fund, K.C. Bacon; Corvallis High School Principal, Matt Boring; and CPSF Executive Director, Angela Hibbard

#### **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, 2023 to June 30, 2024

\$10,000+ — Jan Babbitt and Don Mason · Kevin Bacon · Benton Community Foundation, Fred and Mary Brauti Donor Advised Fund · Benton Community Foundation, Marilyn J. Starker Community Giving Fund · Bessemer Giving Fund · Curtis and Deborah Rose Family Charitable Fund · Franklin Conklin Foundation · Brian and Jennifer Frohring · HP · Mario and Alma Pastega Family Foundation · Samaritan Health Services · Sissel Family Impact Fund · Steven and Linda Sogge · Starker Forests · Toni Tinch

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The Corvallis Public Schools Foundation allowed us to support the Jared Pastega Endowment so we could recognize an outstanding person and support important initiatives that promote education.

**Bill & Kathy Ten Pas** 



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Two of CPSF's founding Trustees, Gretchen Morris and Tony Van Vliet, were honored at the 2024 Hands Across Corvallis fundraiser

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Middle school students engaged in math lessons during donor tour of Summer Programs

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#### Join us!

## Hands Across Corvallis Benefit Event

#### **Thursday, January 30, 2025 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Corvallis High School** Call 541-757-5857 or *cpsfoundation.org* to register





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The content of this report reflects activity from July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024.

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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