



2015 Annual Report

Uniting private donors and educators in a common effort to provide the best possible education for all students

The Corvallis Public Schools Foundation is approaching its twentieth year as a trusted partner of the Corvallis community and schools. We are proud of the work we do to:

- Reduce barriers to education for low-income and homeless students,
- Provide pathways to graduation for students who need extra help, and
- Expand excellence through enrichment opportunities.



STUDENTS IN NEED

We believe that academic success hinges on the health and well-being of the whole child. Poverty, hunger, and lack of basic supplies can present enormous challenges to doing well in school. Our priority is ensuring that all children can claim an education, regardless of their circumstances. Thank you to our generous donors for providing more than \$40,000 to Students in Need this year. Your gifts sustain efforts to:

- ◆ **Eliminate barriers to full participation in school for low-income students.** Funds assist with items like graphing calculators and art supplies for middle and high school students, and field trip fees and snacks for elementary school students.
- ◆ **Meet critical needs for our district's 220 homeless students.** Our homeless population includes students in temporary housing (such as sleeping on a couch), students living in tents and cars, and those in homeless shelters. Gifts assist with after-school care, eye exams and glasses, emergency provisions, gift cards for food and clothing, and transportation to and from school.

"Last year, a family of four moved here from the coast after both parents lost their jobs. One of the children had special health needs, and the family's medical bills were significant. They moved to a campground and took shelter in a tent. Every morning the mother would drive the children to elementary school in Corvallis. At first they did not share their story with anyone, and no one knew they were experiencing hardship. Once we knew, donations through the Foundation paid to put the kids in after-school programs and to purchase tarps and propane to keep the family warm in the campground. Foundation funds paid to shelter the family temporarily in a cabin during a storm. We worked with community partners as quickly and efficiently as possible and were successful in getting the family into permanent housing by winter."

—Chris Hawkins, Homeless Education Coordinator

Foundation Leadership Change

This year we said a fond farewell to Brenda Downum-VanDevelder, who now works as Communications Coordinator for the Corvallis School District. During her four years leading the Foundation, Brenda restructured fundraising and administrative processes and grew the Foundation to more than \$1 million in assets. We are grateful to Brenda for her contributions and commitment.

We are pleased to welcome Liv N. Gifford as our new Executive Director. Liv's experience includes community organizing, program evaluation, facilitation, strategic planning, and fundraising through grant-writing and developing donor relationships. Her work over the past decade has focused on community food security and positive youth development, and she holds a master's degree in Public Health. Liv is the mother of two children who attend Garfield Elementary School.



Liv N. Gifford,
Foundation Executive
Director

Foundation Inaugurates its Newest Endowment

Madgette "Midge" Mueller was passionate about teaching. She loved middle school students, saying they were at that great in-between age where they had become really interesting and yet still thought she was interesting. Midge taught in various California locations before settling down as a math teacher at Cheldelin Middle School until her retirement in 1992.

After Midge died on May 20, 2015, her husband Rich Mueller created an endowed fund in her memory. The Midge Mueller Fund was created with an initial gift of \$50,443. The Fund will be used to provide tutoring and support for students who need assistance in math education at the middle school level.

On behalf of middle school students for years to come, the Foundation Board of Trustees wishes to thank the Mueller family for their generous and inspirational gift.



Midge Mueller,
former Cheldelin
math teacher

A special thank-you to Isabella Chaney, Corvallis High School class of 2015, for her donation of 13 non-fiction Spanish books to the Garfield Library. This gift was part of a community service project Isabella undertook to receive her Oregon State Seal of Biliteracy.

Trustees

Karen MacEwan, MD, Chair
Julie Gardner, Secretary
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Anissa Arthenayake • Tom Brookes
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Dee Mooney • Scott Spiegelberg

Ex-officio

Dr. Erin Prince, Superintendent
Bill Kemper, School Board Liaison

Executive Director

Liv N. Gifford, MPH

UPCOMING EVENT

Hands Across Corvallis

Celebrating 20 years of
supporting education

March 10, 2016

7:30 – 8:30 am

Corvallis Country Club

Financial Summary 2014-2015

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$22,868
Investments	\$1,082,036
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,104,904
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$143,293
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$600,025
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	\$361,586
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$1,104,904

GRADUATION RATE INTERVENTIONS

"Summer programs have supported the mission of Every Student a Graduate, whether that is in earning the 24 credits or meeting the Essential Skills in reading, writing, and math as graduation requirements. We appreciate the support of the Foundation as part of the "village" in helping us meet the varied learning needs of Corvallis students."

— Cherie Stroud,
CVHS Principal

"We very much appreciate the Foundation's support. The summer programs rescued or prepared students who otherwise would have floundered."

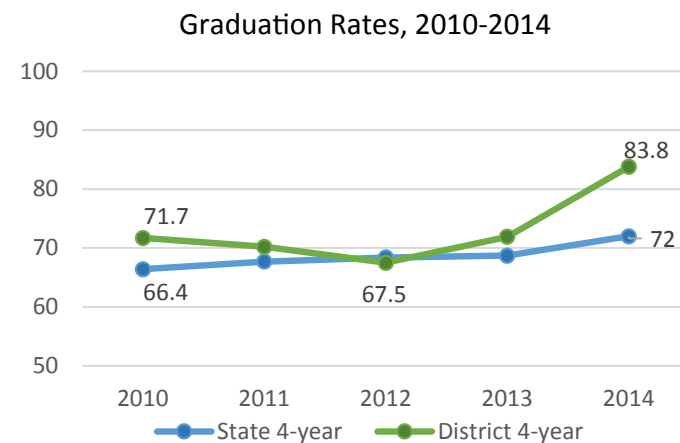
— Chris Rochester,
Chair, Corvallis School District
Board of Directors

"The AVID Boot Camp is a great benefit in terms of getting kids acclimated to high school and giving them confidence. It propels them toward feeling like leaders in the school."

— Matt Boring, CHS Principal



With focused efforts of school district staff and additional resources from the Foundation, graduation rates have risen from 68 percent to 84 percent over the last two years.



These transformational results are due in part to programs funded by the Foundation. The largest of these programs was the Summer Credit Recovery Program, which served 97 high school students. Because of this program, seven students who would not have graduated on time crossed the commencement platform with their classmates.

Our donors' gifts also created opportunities for students who needed to retake a class or gain confidence and proficiency in one or more subjects. We supported an Algebra Readiness Camp, an English/Language Arts Passing Camp, and two Essential Skills Workshops. These opportunities enabled many students to get back on track to graduate.

Donations also supported the expansion of AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination), a national program that fosters college readiness. This summer we funded an AVID Boot Camp, a several-day intensive program that began the process of building relationships with teachers and preparing students for success.

At Garfield Elementary, the Foundation supported a pilot program called Kinder Launch. The goal of this three-week program was to reach incoming Kindergartners who had not attended preschool and to give them a sense of confidence as they begin their educational journey.

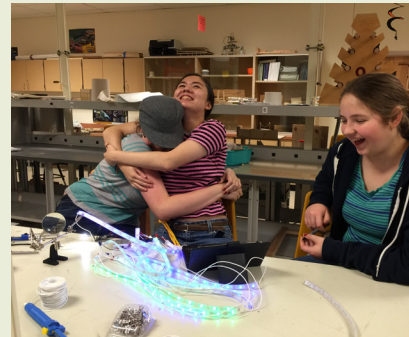
Helping provide critical classes is only part of what the Foundation does to help every student succeed. Although we've made marked progress, there is still more work to do. As we look to the future, we will continue to work diligently to build equity across our district.

Kinder Launch offered an opportunity for young students to gain familiarity with the classroom environment before the school year began.

LEARNING ENRICHMENT GRANTS



Crescent Valley students work on an open-source electronics platform as part of the Girls Only Arduino Project.



Students with developmental disabilities make ornaments and jewelry as part of the WINGS Program. Below, students display their work at the Fall Festival.



Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than \$400,000 in grant funding to encourage and support innovative ideas. This year we funded 14 projects spanning art, music, literacy, science, and technology. Below is a sampling of the 2014-2015 grants.

Crescent Valley High Girls Only Arduino Project (Jan Boley) – \$1,000 To create opportunities for girls to work on projects using an open-source electronics platform. Students gained science, technology, engineering and math skills including development of creativity, problem solving and critical thinking.

Corvallis High Spartan Tutoring (Jane Kiekel) – \$1,000 To offer after-school support. Through the use of attendance incentives and additional tutoring, this program helps students learn study skills and recognizes their work with an end-of-semester celebration.

College Hill High Project Lead the Way (Jefferson Peak) – \$1,000 To engage students in project based engineering coursework. This program includes robotics, computer programming and data management skills and also provides field trips to local engineering firms and OSU.

Garfield Elementary Discussions 4 Learning (Pamela Morrison) – \$790 For a pilot program using fine art, speaking, listening, and writing designed to improve vocabulary, comprehension, and writing in a bilingual 1st grade classroom.

Wilson Elementary 2015 Calendar Project (Barb Meyers) - \$360 To support 5th graders in making a calendar with thirteen original art pieces, most utilizing a watercolor medium. Curriculum includes learning about elements of art, reading, and understanding calendars.

WINGS Program Fused Glass Art Project (Julie Hardenburger) – \$362 To supply materials for students with developmental disabilities. Projects include design and creation of ornaments and jewelry. Students learn to follow simple directions, practice eye hand coordination, and create functional art.

Mountain View Elementary Classroom Enhancement (Tiffany Sheppick) – \$1,000 To provide students with Autism, ADHD, ADD, and sensory issues with an outlet for kinesthetic stimulation through modified seating options in the classroom using Hokki stools.



Barb Meyers' fifth graders at Wilson Elementary each created a calendar with 13 original pieces of art.



Elementary school students do their schoolwork while balancing on Hokki stools; the stools help keep students engaged by providing opportunities for movement.

Corvallis School District:

13 schools

6,600 students

52 languages

33.3%
economically disadvantaged

Foundation in 2015:

\$1,104,904
net assets

\$368,155
donations to school designated
accounts

\$14,216 awarded
in grants and scholarships

\$361,586
permanently restricted net
assets

- Golden Apple Awards Endowment
- Harold & Alma Moldenke Outdoor School Endowment
- Doris L. Meyers Endowment
- Zel S. Brook Art Endowment
- Ole Hedstrom Scholarship
- Susan Small-Hall Scholarship
- Bicycle Safety Endowment
- Barbara E. Fry Endowment
- Lynn Lahey Somos El Futuro Scholarship
- David Zajeczek Golf Endowment
- Eric Gorski Multimedia Scholarship Endowed Fund
- Midge Mueller Fund