

# Hood River County Education Foundation **2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

## SUCCESSES

**56** scholarship funds managed, the most in HRCEF history

**119** scholarships awarded to 2024 HRVHS grads, a record high

**28** teachers received grants for innovative classroom teaching tools and methods

**Over 400** Kindergarten through eighth grade students participated in educational field trips

**750** students in Kindergarten, 2nd, and 4th grades received free swimming lessons

## Message from the HRCEF board president

Since 1992, the Hood River County Education Foundation has carried out a simple but critical mission: support the students and staff of the Hood River County School District and enhance local education.

I am pleased to report that in the 23/24 academic year, we were able to grow our resources, increase our capabilities, and expand our impacts. All of this was due to the **STRONG SUPPORT** of the Gorge community and the **CONTINUED GENEROSITY** of our key donors. This FY24 annual report provides a summary of last year's activities, which included significant growth in scholarship contributions and a new focus on after-school programs for students from families with limited financial means. The board also approved new financial, investment, and personnel policies to increase efficiency.

Our board of directors is proud of the grass roots work we do to boost local education. Please reach out to any board member or our dedicated staff for information about ways you can support our mission. If you're already a supporter – thank you! Together we can continue to make a huge impact!

Sincerely



Aspen McKenna, President of the Board of Directors



Aspen McKenna



## MISSION

To enhance education for students of the Hood River County School District by providing financial support for programs, services, and scholarships.

## VISION

A community that values education, where students are prepared to succeed, and teachers are supported and valued in their work.

# OUR PROGRAMS

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Local scholarships help HRVHS graduates attend vocational school or college, and pursue their career goals. Donors provided funding for **7** new scholarships, bringing the total number managed to **56**. HRCEF awarded a total of **119** scholarships, a total of **\$388,000**, to **100** Hood River Valley High School graduating seniors or those continuing in college. This represented a record, both in total number of students and the total amount awarded.

HRCEF manages **KALEIDOSCOPE**, an online software platform, for students to easily access scholarship information and review committees to score applications. The Foundation provides Kaleidoscope for all local scholarships, including 25 offered by other organizations. The \$12,000 annual license fee is reimbursed by the District, but HRCEF must raise funds to administer the program.



## IMPACT TEACHING GRANTS

HRCEF provides grants to district teachers who identify specific tools or materials to enhance classroom learning. In 2023/24, teachers submitted 39 grant applications totaling approximately \$95,000. Based on funding available and merit, a total of **\$64,051** was awarded to **28** teachers. All schools received funds, either through direct or multi-school grants. Projects included a three-axis accelerometer, a digital microscope, mental health tool kits, bilingual books, and bicycles so all elementary students can learn to ride safely.



## FIELD TRIP GRANTS

Hands-on experiences allow young students to learn new skills, grow confidence and enhance learning. HRCEF distributed **\$30,000** to elementary schools based on enrollment and financial need. Trips included the Oregon Zoo, Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, Maryhill Museum, OMSI, and Packer Orchards.



## SWIM LESSONS

Learning to swim brings lifetime benefits, especially for kids in the Gorge. In 2023/24 HRCEF provided **\$10,000** so all kindergarten, 2nd, and 4th graders could take swim lessons and learn the basics of water safety.

## COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

The Foundation contributes to local efforts that support education and engage the community. HRCEF provided **\$2,000** toward **HOOD RIVER COUNTY READS** through the Hood River County Library Foundation. The selected book was *Beloved Beasts: Fighting for Life in the Age of Extinction* by Michelle Nijhuis. HRCEF also contributed **\$5,000** for new curtains at Hood River Middle School.



## AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

HRCEF saw the growing need to support after school programs that provide homework time, healthy snacks, and engaging activities, allowing parents to fulfill afternoon work obligations. The board allocated **\$25,000** for the Champions Program which enabled 58 students to receive full and partial scholarships.



## OUR IMPACT

*"Thank you for believing in me and my potential. I am committed to making the most of this great opportunity you have given me."*

**Sofia, Parrott Family Scholarship**

*"I share a passion for athletics and community that Steve shared with the Hood River Valley. I look forward to using your help to further my academics and carry on Steve's commitment to the Gorge."*

**Isis, Steve Gates Memorial Scholarship**

*"My family and I have struggled through financial hardship in recent years and this scholarship is a huge financial relief. I am so happy and grateful to attend Oregon Institute of Technology."*

**Adrianna, Mary Clifford Memorial Scholarship**

*"Thank you so much for this scholarship! I look forward to becoming an elementary educator at Western Oregon University. I hope to return to Hood River and give back to my community."*

**Hailey, Parkdale Elementary Alumni Scholarship**

*"This scholarship provides me with the means to pursue my educational goals but also motivates me to give back to this community. I am eager to honor your investment in my future."*

**Iara, Providence Hospital Healing Careers Scholarship**

## CONTRIBUTORS

HRCEF is incredibly grateful for the support of many local businesses, families, and individuals. Here are some contributions received in 2023/24:

### Monthly Donors & Renewing Members

Over \$15,000

#### Jeff & Melissa Rippey

\$18,000 Rippey Scholarship Fund

#### Wy'East Foundation

\$30,000 Impact Teaching Grants

#### Rod & Mary Anne Parrott

\$45,000 Parrot Family Scholarship Fund

#### Ten For Tomorrow

\$25,000 Renewing Scholarship Fund

#### Greenfish Foundation

\$15,000 General Operations

#### Providence Memorial Hospital

\$16,000 Providence Healing Careers Fund

#### Lake Family Foundation

\$10,000 General Operations

#### West Wind Fund

\$10,000 General Operations

#### The Boeing Company

\$10,000 Dionne Warwick Concert

## FY 2024 FINANCIALS

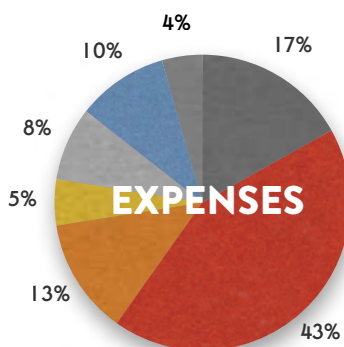
The Foundation operates on a fiscal year basis from July 1-June 30. Assets are primarily held in a Trust Account, a broad portfolio that aggregates perpetual scholarship funds, and a Local Account which includes renewable scholarships, programs, and reserves.

### Notable for FY 2024:

*Total revenue increased due to new restricted gifts, market gains in the Edward Jones Trust, and proceeds from the spring Dionne Warwick concert*

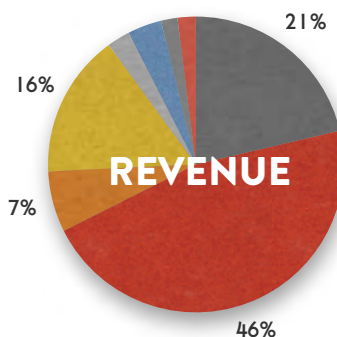
*Personnel costs increased due to retention of a full-time staff person to manage our increasing level of program activity on Kaleidoscope, our scholarship and teacher grant platform*

*Unrestricted gifts were higher primarily due to new multi-year grants to support general operations and new donor gifts*



General Operations	\$83,806
Scholarships	\$213,168
Impact Teaching Grants	\$63,000
After School Programs	\$25,000
Field Trips / Swim Lessons	\$40,000
Program Admin	\$49,675
Edwards Jones Trust Mngmt	\$21,881

Total Expenses \$496,530



Portfolio Gain	\$128,761
Gifts: Restricted	\$279,498
Gifts: Unrestricted	\$40,251
Fundraising	\$94,864
Memberships	\$15,213
Administration Fee	\$22,526
Reimbursements	\$10,858
Interest	\$12,111

Total Revenue \$603,792



## Board of Directors

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*Vice President*

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Chrissy Reitz  
*HRCSO Board Liaison*

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Yesenia Sanchez-Oates

Mike Schend

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Jan Veldhuisen Virk

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## STAFF

Michael S. McElwee  
*Executive Director*

Alex Fleming  
*Director of Programs*



## DONOR FOCUS

**Mary Anne and Rod Parrott** enjoyed long careers in education before retiring and moving to Hood River in 2007. Rod served as a seminary dean and taught at various seminaries throughout the Western United States. Mary Anne earned her Masters in Education then taught 3rd grade before working in seminary administration. The Parrotts are major contributors to HRCEF, including starting a scholarship fund in 2023 that awards \$2,000 a year to students with limited financial means. Both Rod and Mary Anne were recipients of college scholarships. They say that establishing a scholarship fund is one way they can provide that same boost to current students.



*Rod and Mary Anne Parrott*



## How You Can Help

The Foundation is overseen by an active volunteer Board of Directors, composed of 21 members, all drawn from within this community. The board works hard to carry out the programs that enrich learning and enhance the future of our graduating seniors.

HRCEF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that supports public education.

In 2023/24, our programs were made possible by generous gifts from **LOCAL BUSINESSES, FAMILIES, AND INDIVIDUALS**, and through fundraising events like the sold-out **Dionne Warwick Concert** held at Hood River Middle School, **Columbia Gorge Toyota Car Raffle**, and February's **'Reach for Excellence' Banquet**.

## Here are some ways you can help:

- Become an HRCEF member
- Attend our fundraising events
- Support a program through a one-time or recurring gift
- Fund a perpetual or renewable scholarship fund
- Consider the Foundation in your will or trust



For more info, reach out:

Michael S. McElwee, *Executive Director*

541-387-5713 | [michael.mcelwee@hoodriver.k12.or.us](mailto:michael.mcelwee@hoodriver.k12.or.us)

## Become a member today

**Individual:** \$45 donation

**Family:** \$100 donation

**Advocate:** \$250 donation

**Patron:** \$500 donation

**Benefactor:** \$1000 donation

**Business Membership:** \$350 donation

[hrcef.org/contribute](https://hrcef.org/contribute)

Charity  
Navigator  
96% Four Star Charity



SCAN THIS!