

# Community is Connection

2025 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY





LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO, MINDIE REULE

# Where Community Becomes Connection

I am continually inspired by the generosity and commitment of the people who call the South Puget Sound home. This past year reminded me that when we come together with purpose, we can meet challenges, build understanding, and create meaningful change. At the Community Foundation, connection is central to our mission. It shapes how we bring people together, support local leadership, and move resources toward solutions shaped by the people who live here.

In 2025, that commitment came to life in meaningful ways. Through our inaugural Project Connect Grants, we supported local efforts that brought people together, built trust, and helped neighbors connect across differences. Our Community Conversation with Eric Liu invited people to reflect on their role in civic life and how to participate in shaping our communities. Give Local once again demonstrated the power of collective generosity, raising \$1.6 million for local nonprofits through gifts from more than 2,700 donors. Across this work, we saw what's possible when community is not just something we serve, but something we actively build.

At the same time, many in our region are navigating real challenges. Families are facing rising costs and uncertainty, and more people are turning to local nonprofits for support. Those organizations are experiencing increased demand, declining resources, and growing pressure on staff. In response, we are listening closely to what our communities need, continuing to provide flexible support, and helping grow the local giving needed to sustain this work.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to the work that matters most: strengthening connections across our communities, supporting more ways for people to care for and participate in community life, and growing the local generosity needed to support lasting change.

As I reflect on all we accomplished this year, I am filled with gratitude for the donors, nonprofit partners, volunteers, and community members who make this shared effort possible. Together, we are making more possible through connection, leadership, and investment—and through the belief that stronger communities are built when people have more ways to participate, contribute, and care for the places they call home.

# Table of Contents

Community Conversation .....	4	Financials.....	23
Photo Contest.....	6	Funds List .....	24
Generosity Luncheon .....	7	The State of South Sound Nonprofits .....	26
Legacy Circle.....	8	Fund Feature: Next Right Step Giving Circle .....	29
Give Local 2025 .....	10	Staff & Board List .....	30
2025 Scholarships.....	12	Friends Of the Foundation.....	31
Youth Mental Health Grants & Learning Cohort.....	14		
Project Connect Grants .....	16		
Community Grants.....	18		
How We Gave.....	22		

Cover: P. Comer, Landscapes & Wildlife

# Community Conversation

Community Conversations is one way the Community Foundation brings people together to exchange ideas, foster belonging, and strengthen the civic fabric of the South Sound. We are grateful to all who joined us—and all who continue to show that community is built through connection.

On May 20, 2025, more than 175 community members gathered at South Puget Sound Community College for this year's Community Conversation with Eric Liu—an evening rooted in connection, reflection, and shared purpose.

Through his remarks and a fireside chat with Renee Radcliff Sinclair, President & CEO of TVW, Liu invited us to see ourselves as active participants in civic life, with both the power and responsibility to shape their communities. Drawing on themes from his work, he emphasized that strengthening democracy begins with strengthening relationships—choosing connection over isolation and shared responsibility over division.

Following the program, participants engaged in a Q&A, reflecting on Liu's ideas and considering how they might take action in their own communities. These discussions created space to listen, learn, and build new connections—reinforcing that community is not something we inherit, but something we actively create together.

## Meet Eric Liu!

Liu is the co-founder and CEO of Citizen University and the founding director of the Aspen Institute's Citizenship & American Identity Program. He is a contributing writer for *The Atlantic* and the author of several books, including *You're More Powerful Than You Think* and *Become America*.

"Our work at Citizen University feels urgent and meaningful, especially in this time when faith in democracy is declining, and civic know-how and civic cohesion are waning. Our team believes it's possible to spark a civic revival in this country. And we try to show it as much as say it—to find and connect and activate people all around our country who want to practice civic power and cultivate civic character to achieve true liberty and true justice truly for all."

**To learn more about Liu's work**, we encourage you to visit his site at [citizenuniversity.us](https://citizenuniversity.us).



# Photo Contest

The Community Foundation's Photo Contest invites photographers to reflect on what they love most about their community by capturing it through their lens. This year's theme, *Love Where You Live*, highlights the everyday beauty, meaningful moments, and special places that connect us to one another and to our region.

Our team received 49 submissions that captured the heart of our communities—from natural spaces to acts of kindness—each photo offered a unique perspective on what makes the South Sound shine.

## THE SUBMISSION CATEGORIES ARE:

### Community Celebrations & People

This category invited participants to highlight their community's diversity and vibrancy. Photographers documented events, celebrations, and the individuals they love who contribute to their community's uniqueness.

### Landscape & Wildlife

In this category, participants emphasized how nature enhances their community. The submitted photos highlight stunning farmland, lakes, mountains, forests, wildlife, and the murals or buildings that characterize their surroundings.

First-place winners received a canvas print of their winning photo, and all winners were awarded a cash prize, with the option to donate their winnings as a grant to a nonprofit of their choice.



**Join us in celebrating this year's images!**

Photo submissions are found throughout this publication, identified with a camera icon, for everyone to enjoy.

# Generosity Luncheon

On March 26, the Community Foundation welcomed Friends of the Foundation and Legacy Circle supporters to our Generosity Luncheon—an afternoon rooted in gratitude, connection, and shared purpose.

Designed as a stewardship gathering, the luncheon offered space to pause and reflect on the generosity and trust that sustain the Community Foundation's work. Guests shared a meal and connected with friends—both new and familiar—enjoying meaningful time together and strengthening the relationships at the heart of our work.

During the program, President & CEO Mindie Reule introduced the Foundation's new Strategic Framework, highlighting the priorities guiding our work and the efforts bringing that vision to life. Her remarks reflected on 35 years of progress while looking ahead to opportunities to deepen impact, including support for home ownership through the Black Home Initiative and expanded access to local news through Press Forward.

Events like this are a reminder that philanthropy is about more than giving—it is about people. When we come together with a shared sense of purpose, relationships deepen, ideas take root, and our collective ability to support the South Sound grows stronger. We are deeply grateful to all who make this work possible.





# Legacy Circle

The Foundation's Legacy Circle honors community members who have chosen to make more possible for future generations by including a planned gift to the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound in their will or estate plan. Through their generosity, they are building a lasting legacy of care and community well-being.

By joining the Legacy Circle, you can create a lasting expression of what you value, while strengthening our community over time. Your generosity reflects a deep belief in the power of local giving and in a future where everyone across the South Puget Sound has the opportunity to thrive in communities that are sustainable, equitable, and resilient. Legacy gifts are flexible and can be updated at any time to reflect your changing circumstances.

As part of our commitment to make planned giving accessible to our community, we've partnered with FreeWill, a secure, online tool that helps you create or update your will at no cost.

To learn more and access this resource, please scan:



## Lifetime Members

Thank you to the many individuals and families who have already committed a gift to our communities through their will or estate plans.

*Anonymous (10 donors)*

- Barbara & Loren "Skip" Steffen**
- Barbara McPherson\***
- Beth Ann Wilder**
- Charles L. Trowbridge\***
- Charley\* & Kimberly Ellwanger**
- Cheryl & Thomas Oliver**
- Don Rhodes**
- Fambles Batalon Family**
- Harold\* & Inge Marcus**
- Ina Fennell\***
- Irving A. Lassen\***
- Jack & Neddie Rose Farrington\***
- Jane Larsen\***
- Janet McLane**

**Jesse R. Roberts\***

- John & Opal McGimpsey\***
- John McKinnon**
- Katherine Hayes\***
- Katheryne Boling**
- Kris Tucker**
- Maggie Bell-McKinnon**
- Marguerite Lynch Bishop\***
- Mary E. Williams**
- Norma & Charles Shelan**
- Phyllis Mandel**
- Todd Monohon**
- Walter A. Bratton\***
- William A. Lovett\***



Leave 10 South Sound is a regional campaign we co-founded in 2021 with the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, the South Sound Planned Giving Council, and other partners. This initiative encourages individuals to leave at least 10% to local charities and provides resources for advisors, donors, and nonprofit organizations. **We invite you to visit [leave10.org](http://leave10.org) to learn more and get involved.**

# Give Local 2025

Give Local is part of the Community Foundation's efforts to grow local philanthropy by inspiring generosity and building awareness and support for the nonprofits that care for our communities year-round.



We are always excited to band with other organizations and give those in our communities the opportunity to see all the work that is being done and how those that can, can help!"

—NONPROFIT

During our 9th Annual Give Local campaign, our community raised an impressive **\$1.6 million for 154 participating nonprofits**—making it our most successful year yet. We also saw increased community participation, with 100 individual fundraisers raising \$26,718.75 alongside nonprofit teams, helping boost awareness and engagement for the causes they care about.

This year also brought a **26% increase in unique donors**, reflecting growing enthusiasm and involvement across the region. Together, these acts of generosity strengthen the well-being of communities throughout Lewis, Mason, and Thurston counties, today and for the future.



By being made aware of the numerous nonprofits, I have donated more than I would have otherwise."

—DONOR



**Save the Date:**  
Give Local returns November 9 - 20, 2026.



Thank You to our 2025 Sponsors!

**PRESENTING SPONSORS**

- CHOICE
- Dawkins Charitable Fund
- Guild Mortgage
- Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel
- L&E Bottling Company
- MultiCare Capital Medical Center
- OlyFed
- SCAN Health Plan
- Titus-Will Automotive Group
- WSECU

**MEDIA SPONSORS**

- The JOLT News
- Shelton-Mason County Journal
- ThurstonTalk
- LewisTalk
- KELA AM 1470
- KMNT Country 104.3 FM
- KMAS 1030 AM/1033 FM
- KNKX Public Radio
- Roxy 94.5

# 2025 Scholarships

In 2025, the Community Foundation awarded 68 students a total of \$240,250 in scholarships, grounded in the belief that access to education strengthens the South Sound for generations to come.

Each year, the Foundation partners with high schools, youth-serving nonprofits, and scholarship donors to ensure students and families are aware of these opportunities. This year, we received 605 applications from 27 schools, reflecting growing awareness and the number of students seeking support for their educational goals.

Scholarship decisions are guided by community insight and care. In 2025, 34 volunteer reviewers contributed more than 250 hours, bringing their perspectives and lived experience to a thoughtful evaluation process that identifies the strongest match for each opportunity.

By investing in education, the Community Foundation helps students pursue their goals while strengthening our communities. We are grateful to all who make this work possible and celebrate the many accomplishments of this year's student scholars.

## Congratulations, 2025 Scholars!

**Coldwell Banker Evergreen Olympic Realty Scholarship**  
Brynn Williams

**Dan R. Montgomery Scholarship**  
Keegan Clemons

**Donald & Patricia Ernst Olympia Kiwanis Endowed Scholarship**  
Sydney Peters  
Monica Herness  
Aoi Kondo

**Ecosystems Scholarship**  
Elizabeth "Scout" Abbott  
Roan Ontjes-DeGroot

**Elizabeth Libby White Memorial Scholarship**  
Kennahn Trolson  
Leo Palmer

**Ellen Anderson deMoise Scholarship**  
Manta Ceesay  
Allie Anderson

**Henry J. Melusky Memorial Scholarship**  
Atlas Gardner  
Kalypto Bolender  
Zander Peden

**Jay Elder Creativity Challenge**  
Kevin Shen

**John & Opal McGimpsey Scholarship**  
Atlas Gardner  
Kennahn Trolson

**L&E Bottling Company Scholarship**  
Jonessa Wiedenmeyer

**Learning Seed Foundation Scholarship**  
Melinda Le  
Elhadj Toure  
Muhammed Toure  
Lawrence Joseph Balajadia  
Chhayanshu Joshi  
Lorena Slaughter  
Maria De Luna

**Mike & Sharon Welsh Scholarship**  
Atlas Gardner  
Kalypto Bolender

**OHS Faculty Memorial Scholarship**  
Emma Hankins

**OHS Foundation Alfred R. "Dick" Lewis Memorial Scholarship**  
Aarav Verma

**OHS Laurie Callaghan Memorial Scholarship**  
Ava Bautista

**Randy Edwards Memorial Scholarship**  
Magdeline Barker

**Richard J. Geiger Memorial Scholarship**  
Judah Holzgrove

**Russell Legacy: Women in STEM**  
Lorena Slaughter

## Student Spotlight: Atlas Gardner

Atlas graduates from Olympia High School with a 3.9 GPA and a passion for learning he hopes to pass on to future students. As a first generation college student, Atlas will attend Western Washington University to study Elementary Education. Inspired by teachers who supported him growing up, he hopes to create the same sense of encouragement and belonging in his own classroom. Through theater and stage management, Atlas also built confidence and discovered his voice—experiences that continue to shape his commitment to empathy, learning, and community care.



## Student Spotlight: Keegan Clemons

Keegan graduates from North Thurston High School with a 3.68 GPA and a strong commitment to service. While completing a full Running Start course load, he balanced work, volunteer service, and caregiving for his grandfather. As a first-generation college student, Keegan will attend Saint Martin's University to study Criminal Justice with the goal of joining the Washington State Patrol. His experiences volunteering and supporting his family have strengthened his dedication to leadership, resilience, and serving his community.

# Youth Mental Health Grants & Learning Cohort

Supporting young people takes strong, connected organizations. Through the Youth Mental Health Learning Cohort, local youth-serving partners built relationships, strengthened their practices, and turned shared learning into new collaborations.

In 2024, thirteen youth-serving organizations from Lewis, Mason, and Thurston counties came together for a year of shared learning, connection, and growth. Through monthly sessions, participants built skills in trauma-informed care, strengthened their own resilience, and formed relationships that continue to support their work.

Each organization received funding to support their participation—recognizing that time for learning and connection is essential, even when it can be difficult to step away from daily demands. As one participant shared, “These relationships have created meaningful opportunities to share resources and ideas.”

More than training, the cohort fostered a network grounded in trust—where participants could learn from one another, share resources, and build lasting connections. At the end of the cohort, participants had the opportunity to apply for additional funding to deepen their work together. These collaborative grants are supporting new approaches to youth mental health across the region in 2026.

## Meet the 2025 Grantees

The selected organizations represent the rich variety of youth programs across the South Sound. Their work ranges from essential basic needs to offering enrichment opportunities like outdoor education and dance programs. This range of services reflects what we know about youth well-being: young people need stable foundations and opportunities to grow and thrive.

**Cispus Learning Center**  
**Community Youth Services**  
**GRuB**  
**HeartStrides Therapeutic Horsemanship**

**Mason County Climate Justice**  
**Mason County HOST**  
**Mockingbird Society**  
**NAMI Thurston-Mason**  
**Our Ark**

**South Sound Dance Access**  
**Wild Grief**  
**Wolf Haven**  
**YWCA of Olympia**



# Project Connect Grants

In 2025, the Community Foundation launched Project Connect, awarding \$55,300 to 19 local projects—each offering a unique approach to strengthening community.

Designed to support civic participation, belonging, and shared understanding, Project Connect invests in community-led efforts that bring people together—especially those who might not otherwise connect. From neighborhood gatherings to collaborative initiatives, these projects reflect the creativity and commitment of local people working to build stronger communities.

Interest in the program was strong, with 44 applications submitted and 30 advancing to review by a volunteer committee representing Lewis, Mason, and Thurston counties. As a pilot effort, Project Connect also provided valuable insights to help guide future grantmaking, including opportunities to expand participation and better align timelines with community-led activities.

As this first round concludes, we are inspired by the many ways people across the South Sound are creating space to listen, learn, and connect. Project Connect demonstrates that when neighbors come together around a shared purpose, meaningful change can begin locally.

## Meet the 2025 Grantees

### Community Arts & Expanding Creativity

**Artists With Ecology** – A Sense of AWE:

Human Nature Mural Contest

**Arbutus Folk School** – Collaborative Art Project with Bella Kim

**Northeast Neighborhood Association** – Party in the Pocket Park

**The Center for Community Creativity** – Neighborhood Tiny Art Galleries

**Washington Center for the Performing Arts** – Sensory Inclusion Project

### Gatherings, Storytelling & Dialogue

**Family Education and Support Services** –

Family Threads: The Stories That Shape Us

**Lewis County Autism Coalition** – Voices of Belonging: A Community Storytelling Supper

**Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights** – POWER Community Dinner

**Puget Sound Estuarium** – SoundCore Exchange Network

**THE Coalition** – Fish War: Connecting History to Strengthen Civic Life and Community Belonging

**Window Seat Media** – The Pride Storytelling Project

**Women’s Dignity School** – Lead With Dignity

YWCA of Olympia – Bread and Belonging

### Connection to Place

**LP Brown Elementary School** –

Environmental Education Project

**South Sound YMCA** – Teen Forest Therapy Program

**Wolf Haven International** – Wolf Wise Communities on a Landscape of Hope

### Tools for Connection

**Capital City Pride** – Trash Talkers: Supporting Zero-Waste Efforts at Local Events

**Triceratops Technology Resources** – Thrive Online

**WSU Master Recycler Composters of Lewis County** – MRC Tool Bucket Library Tool Time




# Community Grants

Together with our communities, the Community Foundation awarded \$444,500 in Community Grants to 110 nonprofits, with individual awards ranging from \$2,000 to \$6,000 in flexible unrestricted funding.

This year brought both inspiration and challenge. We received more applications than ever before—a reflection of the extraordinary need facing local nonprofits as they respond to the loss of government funding and increasing community demand. While we were able to support many nonprofits, we also had to decline more applications than in any previous year. That reality weighs heavily on us and reinforces the vital role philanthropy plays in sustaining the services and programs that communities rely on every day.

Community Grants are awarded with the intention of providing two years of funding. The renewable two-year structure gives nonprofits more room to plan and focus more fully on their mission work. The grantmaking process itself reflects the power of collaboration, with 39 volunteer reviewers joining us in evaluating applications and shaping funding recommendations.

This year's grantees reflect the depth and diversity in the South Sound across missions and communities. Their work reaches people of all ages and backgrounds—connecting neighbors, nurturing young people, caring for elders, protecting our environment, and building pathways to opportunity. Each grant represents an investment not just in programs, but in people—and in the belief that our future is strongest when we work together and care for one another.

 D. Cossu, Community Celebrations & People

## Meet the Grantees!

While we are celebrating 110 grantees (full list on the next page), we wanted to spotlight three to highlight the breadth of good work these Community Grants are funding.

### Centralia Downtown Association (CDA)

Strengthening both the look and feel of downtown Centralia, the CDA helps keep the city's historic core vibrant, welcoming, and connected. Working alongside residents, merchants, and civic partners, CDA strengthens small businesses, enhances public spaces, and brings people together through cherished community traditions that build pride of place. While Roots: A Makers Collective and The Foundry offer mentorship and skill-building for emerging entrepreneurs. With support from Community Grants, CDA will continue blending preservation and innovation to nurture a downtown where people feel rooted, included, and invested in the community's future.



### Mason County Senior Activities Association (MCSAA)

Serving as a welcoming hub for older adults, the Senior Activities Center helps community members stay active, connected, and supported through a wide range of social, educational, and wellness programs. As rising costs and social isolation continue to impact seniors, the Center has become a true lifeline, offering a friendly space for those who might otherwise be alone. MCSAA staff and board members are active participants in the Center, and their firsthand involvement ensures that programs remain relevant and inclusive to real needs. Though this grant, MCSAA will continue to provide opportunities that help older adults remain engaged, resilient, and connected.



### Women's Dignity School (WDS)

Creating space for belonging, confidence, and leadership, WDS empowers immigrant, refugee, and marginalized women through education and community connection. Founded in Mali in 1998, WDS has equipped more than 31,000 women worldwide with literacy, vocational, and leadership skills—a legacy now expanding to rural Washington. Its first U.S. initiative, Lead With Dignity, is a community-based leadership program offering culturally rooted spaces where women gain confidence, share stories, and step into civic life. Grant support will help sustain these efforts and strengthen networks of belonging across the region.



# Community Grants Grantees

## ARTS & CULTURE

Arbutus Folk School  
 Artists With Ecology  
 Capital City Pride  
 Chehalis Ballet Center  
 Community Print  
 Fire Mountain Arts Council  
 Great Bend Center for Music  
 Hummingbird Studio  
 Indigenous Performance Productions  
 Olympia Arts & Heritage Alliance (OlyAHA!)  
 Olympia Symphony Orchestra  
 Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia  
 The Bridge Music Project  
 Washington Center for the Performing Arts

## COMMUNITY & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Alano 28 XII Step Club  
 Bounty for Families  
 Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County

Garden-Raised Bounty (GruB)  
 Lewis County Autism Coalition  
 Mason County Senior Activities Center  
 Mason County WSU Master Gardener Program  
 New Life Baptist Church of Thurston County  
 Pathways to Agency  
 Senior Center of Rainier  
 Strophy Foundation  
 Tenino Community Service Center  
 The JOLT News Organization  
 Thurston Community Media  
 Washington United Migrant Women's Dignity School

## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Centralia Downtown Association  
 Chehalis Tribal Loan Fund  
 Community Action Council of Lewis, Mason, and Thurston counties  
 Enterprise for Equity  
 Morningside  
 Sound Learning  
 Thurston County Chamber Foundation  
 Triceratops Technology Resources

## EDUCATION & YOUTH

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Washington  
 Boys & Girls Club of Lewis County  
 Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound  
 Boys & Girls Clubs of Thurston County  
 Child Care Action Council  
 Cispus Learning Center  
 Hands On Children's Museum  
 Kiddin' Around  
 Mi Chiantla  
 Pacific Education Institute  
 Pacific Shellfish Institute  
 Pizza Klatch  
 South Sound Dance Access  
 South Sound YMCA  
 Stonewall Youth  
 The Mockingbird Society  
 The South Sound Reading Foundation  
 TOGETHER!  
 Tumwater Education Foundation  
 YWCA of Olympia

## ENVIRONMENT & ANIMAL WELFARE

Capitol Land Trust  
 Community Nature Foundation  
 Concern for Animals  
 Friends of JAS  
 Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group  
 Mason Conservation District  
 Mason County Climate Justice  
 Nisqually Land Trust  
 Nisqually River Foundation  
 Oly Camp Kitties  
 Puget Sound Estuarium  
 The Place of Horses  
 WSU Master Recycler Composters of Lewis County

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

A Gift for Special Children  
 Crisis Clinic of Thurston & Mason Counties  
 Family Education and Support Services (FESS)  
 Health & Hope Medical Outreach  
 HeartStrides Therapeutic Horsemanship  
 NAMI Thurston-Mason  
 Nature Nurture Farmacy  
 North Mason Firefighters Association  
 Senior News  
 The Mayday Foundation  
 The Olympia Free Clinic  
 Violet Sees  
 Wild Grief

## HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES

4 the Love Foundation  
 All Kids Win  
 City Gates Ministries  
 Community Integrated Health Services LLC  
 Community Youth Services (CYS)  
 Family Support Center of South Sound  
 Homes First  
 Innovations Human Trafficking Collaborative  
 Interfaith Works  
 Love in the Name of Christ of Mason County (Love INC)  
 New Horizon Communities

North Mason Coalition of Churches and Community  
 Olympia Mutual Aid Partners (OlyMAP)  
 Olympia Union Gospel Mission  
 Our Ark  
 Rebuilding Together Thurston County  
 SafePlace  
 Senior Services for South Sound  
 South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity  
 The Saints' Pantry Food Bank  
 The Youth Connection  
 Thurston County Food Bank  
 Touched By One, Touched By All  
 Turning Pointe Survivor Advocacy Center  
 Valley Heart Food Pantry

 *T. Olson, Community Celebrations & People*



# How We Gave

The Community Foundation promotes generosity and advances well-being in the South Puget Sound by stewarding charitable resources that support local communities now and for the future.

Every year, donors, families, businesses, and nonprofits entrust us with generous gifts and bequests. The proceeds from these gifts are used to fund grants and scholarships that help transform our communities into more vibrant places.

To learn more about our funds or to establish a fund, please get in touch with our friendly and knowledgeable staff by phone at 360.705.3340 or email us at info@thecommunityfoundation.com.

## Here's how we gave together in 2025

### Grant Programs: \$643,250

Grants awarded to nonprofit organizations through Community Grants, Project Connect Grants, and Youth Mental Health Grants.

### Give Local: \$1,611,433

Funds raised through our regional online giving campaign helping raise nonprofit visibility. Total includes donations processed through the Community Foundation, and Mightycause Charitable Foundation.

### Scholarship Funds: \$245,166

Scholarship awards for students pursuing post-secondary education, including both new and renewable awards.

### Agency & Designated Funds: \$1,547,969

Nonprofit, educational, or religious organizations establish Agency Funds to sustain their work. Donors establish designated funds to benefit specific nonprofit organizations.

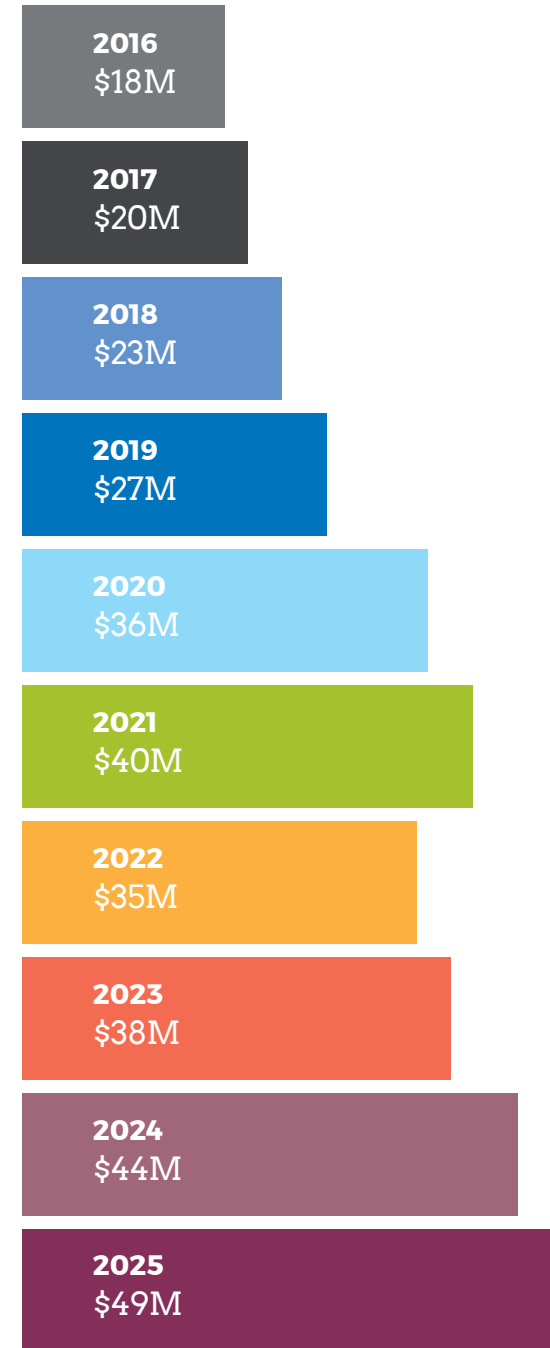
### Donor Advised Funds: \$207,894

Grants awarded through Donor Advised Funds, allowing individuals, families, and businesses to be actively involved in their philanthropy and support the causes they care about.

### Everything Else: \$140,739

Grants awarded through field of interest funds, special project funds, and off-cycle funding opportunities.

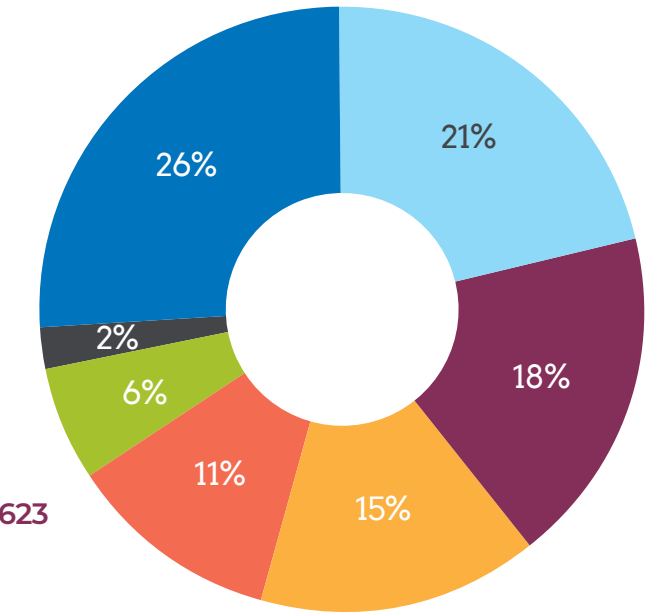
**TOTAL: \$4.4 M**



# Financials

## Assets by Fund Type

- Designated: \$12,898,417
- Unrestricted: \$10,510,897
- Agency: \$8,866,342
- Field of Interest: \$7,445,043
- Scholarship: \$5,502,293
- Donor Advised: \$2,988,773
- Operating & Special Projects: \$1,118,623



## Assets

Cash & cash equivalents	\$396,619
Investments	\$14,834,086
Prepaid expenses & other assets	\$8,324
ROU Asset	\$92,115
Endowment investments	\$34,179,196
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$49,510,340</b>

## Liabilities & Net Assets

Accounts payable	\$21,899
Grants payable	\$11,000
Accrued liabilities	\$54,208
Lease liabilities	\$92,846
Funds held for other agencies	\$8,304,209
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$8,484,162</b>
Net Assets	\$41,026,178
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$49,510,340</b>

# 2025 Funds

## DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

### Abercrombie Family Fund BHDBB Fund

Charneski L&E Bottling Co. Holiday Support Fund  
Chet Rhodes Family Chehalis Area Fund  
Clees Family Fund  
Darren Nienaber Fund  
David & Nancy Bayley Charitable Fund  
Dennis & Joan Peterson Family Advised Fund  
Don Rhodes Family Fund  
Fly Away Fund  
Fox-Dobbs Family Fund  
**G. Phalen & J. Chan Charitable Fund**  
Greater Yelm Area Fund  
Greene Realty Giving Fund  
Hannah S. McDonald Endowment  
Jack & Luellen Charneski Charitable Fund  
**James Krupke & Maureen Fitzgerald Fund**  
Jim Lazar Fund for Clean Energy, Environment, & Engagement  
Joe Family Fund  
Kimberly Ellwanger Fund for Women and Children  
**Knox Holt Community Fund**  
Lieb Family Fund  
Mismatched Socks Fund  
Next Right Step Giving Circle Fund  
OHS Foundation Fund  
Patricia O'Donnell & Myra Butts Fund  
Phyllis Mandel Fund for Animals in Need  
Powerful With Love Fund  
Rachel Corrie Memorial Fund  
Ray T. McLane Family Fund  
Robert & Lynn Brunton Family Advised Fund

The Monohon Initiative Fund  
Thurston County Children, Youth, & Families Fund  
Vannerson Family Advised Fund  
Warjone Family Advised Fund  
Wubben Family Foundation

## DESIGNATED FUNDS

Andrew William Oakes Memorial Fund  
**ArtsWA Wonder Fund**  
Build for Tomorrow Fund  
Community Foundation  
Administrative Endowment Fund  
Dawkins Charitable Designated Fund  
D. Michael Sharar Water Education Fund  
**Fred Goldberg Legacy Fund to Support Jewish Life**  
Friends Of the Foundation  
Hal & Inge Marcus Award Fund  
Harold & Inge Marcus Designated Fund  
Jean T. Dawkins Fund  
Norma Schuiteman Sustaining Fund  
Patty Mulhern Fund for Nurses  
Ruth R. Furman Little Red School House Fund  
William A. Lovett Fund  
Yelm High School Community Scholarship Fund

## AGENCY FUNDS

Andy Crow Wurlitzer Organ Endowment Fund  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Thurston County Club Graduate Endowment Fund  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Thurston County Club Member Endowment Fund

Boys & Girls Clubs of Thurston County Major Gift Fund  
Concern for Animals  
Grotsky-Brodoff Family Endowment for Pizza Klatch  
Hands On Children's Museum Endowment Fund  
James Andrew Adams Quixote Communities Fund  
Leighton Johnson Foundation Fund  
Mason County HOST Fund  
Mason General Hospital Foundation Endowment Fund  
Nisqually Land Trust Endowment Fund  
NOVA School Endowment  
Olympia Education Foundation Endowment Fund  
Olympia Kiwanis Foundation Scholarship Fund  
Pam Toal Leadership Fund  
PARC Foundation Endowment Fund  
PARC Foundation Jocelyn Dohm Classical Choral Fund  
Senior Services for South Sound Brighter Days Program Fund  
Senior Services for South Sound Endowment Fund  
The Chief Justice Gerry Alexander Endowment for TWV  
Thurston Community Television Endowment Fund  
YWCA of Olympia Women's Community Endowment Fund

## GENERAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Barbara McPherson Endowment  
Charles L. Trowbridge Memorial Endowment  
Coldwell Banker Evergreen Olympia Realty Fund  
Community Foundation Program Endowment Fund  
Gail Wyman Endowment

Irving A. Lassen Foundation  
Vannerson Family Endowed Fund

## FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Bruno and Evelyne Betti Foundation Fund  
Capital City Marathon Foundation Fund  
Community Foundation Disaster Relief Fund  
Community Foundation Fund for the Environment  
Community Youth Fund  
Dawkins Charitable Fund  
Ina Fennell Fund  
Jack and Neddie Rose Farrington Endowment Fund  
Jane Larsen Music Fund  
Jane Larsen Youth Endowment Fund  
Jesse R. Roberts Fund  
Katherine Hayes Memorial Fund  
Marguerite Lynch Bishop Fund  
Thurston County Dental Access Network (TCDAN) Fund  
Thurston County School Retirees Association (TCSRA)  
Thurston Mason Medical Alliance Fund  
Walter A. Bratton Youth Endowment Fund

## SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Amanda Winters Scholarship Fund  
Coldwell Banker Evergreen Olympic Realty Scholarship Fund  
Dan R. Montgomery Scholarship Fund  
Donald & Patricia Ernst Olympia Kiwanis Endowed Scholarship Fund  
Ecosystems Scholarship Fund  
Elizabeth Libby White Memorial Scholarship Fund

Ellen Anderson deMoise Scholarship Fund  
Grade 13 Fund  
Henry J. Melusky Memorial Scholarship  
Jay Elder Creativity Challenge  
John & Opal McGimpsey Scholarship Fund  
Keith Skogsberg Memorial Scholarship  
L&E Bottling Company Scholarship Fund  
Learning Seed Foundation Scholarship Fund  
Mike & Sharon Welsh Scholarship Fund  
Next Step Scholarship Fund  
OHS Faculty Memorial Scholarship Fund

OHS Foundation Alfred Lewis Memorial Scholarship Fund  
OHS Foundation Laurie Callaghan Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Pielak Family Legacy Fund  
Randy Edwards Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Richard J. Geiger Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Robert & Kathryn Wolf Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Russell Legacy: Women in STEM Fund  
**Sophia Joe Scholarship Fund**

## SPECIAL PROJECT

THE Coalition Project Fund  
G. Saxon Rogers Memorial Fund  
Youth Mental Health Initiative Fund

Give back to your community by investing in the local causes you care about.



We focus on the details while you focus on making a difference. **Learn more today** about how to start or give to a fund by visiting [thecommunityfoundation.com/funds/overview](https://thecommunityfoundation.com/funds/overview).



J. Cahill, Landscapes & Wildlife (left), P. Comer, Landscapes & Wildlife (middle)

G. Sterling, Landscapes & Wildlife



# The State of South Sound Nonprofits

Nonprofits are essential to life in the South Sound, yet many are operating under growing strain. Demand for services is rising while resources remain limited. In a recent Community Foundation survey, 68% of local nonprofits reported increased demand in 2025, and many are facing staffing shortages, burnout, and difficult financial decisions.

These local challenges reflect broader national trends. Across the country, nonprofits report operating deficits, rising costs, and increasing pressure on staff. Many organizations are being asked to do more with less—while continuing to show up for their communities every day. As one nonprofit leader shared, “We’ve had to make layoffs while demand for our services keeps growing.”

For organizations that rely on government funding, shifting federal and state resources are adding new uncertainty. Across Lewis, Mason, and Thurston counties, nonprofits collectively receive millions in public funding to support essential services. Changes to these resources can have immediate and far-reaching impacts, particularly in areas like housing, food access, health care, and youth services.

At the same time, giving patterns are changing. Fewer individuals are giving overall, and charitable dollars are becoming more concentrated, leaving many small and mid-sized, community-based organizations with fewer options, even as demand grows.

Behind these trends are real people. Nonprofit teams are adapting to shifting conditions and assisting community members relying on these services for stability, care, and opportunity. The strain is real—but so is the commitment to continue showing up.



**Our team is deeply committed to this work, but the pace and pressure are real. We’re being asked to do more with less—and that’s not sustainable without broader community support.”**

**—NONPROFIT LEADER**

In response, the Community Foundation is working alongside partners to strengthen the nonprofit sector and the communities it serves. This includes investing in flexible, unrestricted funding, supporting capacity-building opportunities, convening partners to foster collaboration, and expanding initiatives like Give Local to grow community-wide giving.

We are also continuing to listen—through surveys, conversations, and partnerships—to better understand what nonprofits need now and what will sustain them in the future.

There are meaningful ways for everyone to be part of the response. Giving to local nonprofits, volunteering time, supporting local businesses, and sharing what you learn all help strengthen the network of care that supports our region.

This moment is challenging—but it is also an opportunity to come together, invest in what matters, and ensure our communities continue to thrive.



**We're seeing more need than ever, but we don't always have the capacity to meet it."**

**—NONPROFIT LEADER**



# Fund Feature: Next Right Step Giving Circle



## Building Community & Giving Together

The Next Right Step Giving Circle (NRS) is a local example of collective giving—pooling resources to meet shared needs. While this approach has deep roots across cultures, it has gained renewed momentum as communities respond to growing challenges.

NRS shows how small acts of generosity can make a meaningful difference. Rooted in the idea that challenges can feel insurmountable without the right support, the circle helps “right-size” those moments—providing timely assistance so local women can move forward.

The circle began in 2016, when members of the Zonta Club of Olympia partnered with trusted nonprofits to meet urgent needs. In 2023, NRS became an independent giving circle at the Community Foundation, bringing together contributors, the Foundation, and Family Education and Support Services (FESS). Eligible women in Thurston County can apply for up to \$750 to cover essential expenses through FESS.

As of 2025, the circle has supported more than 330 women, providing over \$113,000 in assistance. As one participant, Maggie Hollinger, shared, “One time, all it took was a key fob”—a simple fix that restored a woman’s access to her car and her independence.

Beyond financial support, NRS fosters connection. Contributors gather quarterly to share meals, hear stories of impact, and build relationships—demonstrating how intentional connection strengthens community well-being. Annual contributions of \$1,000 support the circle’s grantmaking, and guests are always welcome. **Learn more at <https://sites.google.com/view/nrsgivingcircle/home> to get involved.**

# Staff

Chrissy Carlson  
Director of Philanthropy

Heidi Oehler  
Engagement & Initiatives Officer

Mary Lam-Witcher  
Philanthropy & Communications Officer

Mindie Reule  
President & CEO

Susan Adams  
Finance & Operations Officer

Tami Mason Lathrop  
Program Officer

# Board of Directors

## CHAIR

Julie Cooke  
Coldwell Banker Evergreen Olympic Realty, Broker

## VICE CHAIR

Alejandro Sanchez  
WA State Department of Licensing, Deputy Director

## TREASURER

Todd Shobert  
WSECU, VP of Investments & Insurance

## SECRETARY

Renee Radcliff Sinclair  
TVW, President & CEO

## PAST CHAIR

Teresa Loo  
Tacoma Power, Wildlife & Lands Manager

Amanda Martinez  
Inatai Foundation, Senior Manager of the President's Office  
& Senior Executive Assistant to the Board

Bradley Miller  
Totten Inlet Wealth Strategies, Principal

Craig Ottavelli  
OrgSupport, Founder

Katie Rains  
WA State Dept of Agriculture, Food Policy Advisor

Kristen Standifer  
FINRA, Senior Director of State Government Affairs

Katya Miltimore  
Providence Southwest Washington Foundation, Chief Philanthropy  
Officer/ Executive Director

Licia Sahagun  
Firecraft NW, Co-owner & Instructor


Nicole Miller  
Free Bird Projects, LLC, Owner

Robert Bradley  
Family Office CEO, Retired

Rodney Youckton  
Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel, Chief Community Relations Officer

Zahid Chaudhry  
People of Color Community Coalition, Founder

Thank you to our retiring  
Board Members **Charli Terminelli,**  
**Courtney Prothero, John Stormans** and  
**Wesley Nguyen** for your dedicated service  
to the Community Foundation.

 T. Sterling, Youth Category

# Friends of the Foundation

Friends of the Foundation is a group of local community members—businesses, individuals, families, groups, and others—who support the Community Foundation’s mission and ongoing work.

Imagine a future where everyone can thrive in sustainable, equitable, and resilient communities. This vision is not just a dream; it is within our reach. By giving back as a Friend, you help promote local generosity and address the evolving needs of our Lewis, Mason, and Thurston County communities.

Change does not happen in isolation; it happens together. We have the power to cultivate collaborative action that fosters positive change across our South Puget Sound communities.



We invite YOU to join us in this vital community work.

**Join us in making a difference!**

[thecommunityfoundation.com/funds/friends](https://thecommunityfoundation.com/funds/friends)

## 2025 Friends

Anonymous: 19 individuals


Alejandro Sanchez  
Abercrombie Family Fund  
Allison Zusi  
Ann Smith  
Ann Vandeman  
Cathy Wiggins  
Charli Terminelli  
Cheryl Reule  
Chris Barnes  
Chris Hawkins & Sayre Hodgson  
Craig Ottavelli  
Dan & Linda Konopatzke  
Dennis & Christine Peck  
Doug Mah  
Dr. Annie Iriye & Steve Pogge  
Dr. George & Karen Bray  
Elizabeth Auerbach  
Fred Goldberg Family Foundation  
Ian & Lynne Bannerman  
James Krupke & Maureen Fitzgerald  
Janet McLane

Jim Morrell  
Jocelyn Wood  
Jose Angel Valdez  
Julie Cooke  
Katie Rains  
Kris Tucker  
Martin & Susan Fortin  
Mary Barrett  
Mary Williams  
Mindie Reule & Brock Milliern  
Nicole Miller  
Pat Cole & Jamie Jenson  
Peggy Bright  
Peter & Nancy Kmet  
Rachael Langen Lundmark  
Renee Radcliff Sinclair  
Richard Kalman  
Roger Jones  
StoryOly  
Tiara Kellam  
Todd Shobert

## CORPORATE FRIENDS

City of Olympia  
Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis  
Reservation  
Heritage Bank  
Panorama  
Port Blakely  
Puget Sound Energy  
Putnam, Lieb, Potvin & Dailey  
South Puget Sound Community  
College Foundation  
ZenBusiness



 J. Levien, Landscapes  
& Wildlife




212 Union Ave SE, Suite 102  
Olympia, WA 98501

# Together We Make More Possible

Are you interested in opening a fund, making a lasting legacy gift, or strengthening your nonprofit's work in the South Sound? Curious about the initiatives and partnerships that help make more possible for our community? Our friendly, knowledgeable staff is here to connect, listen, and help turn your generosity into local impact.

Reach out today—and together, let's make more possible.

 *J. Hathaway, Youth Category*

Contact us  
360.705.3340

Visit our website  
[thecommunityfoundation.com](http://thecommunityfoundation.com)