



Dear Supporters of the Hood River County Education Foundation,

Hello! I want to introduce myself as the newly elected President of HRCEF. Some of you may recognize me as an 18-year veteran of the Hood River County School Board. After spending years on the board, I was anxious to find a new opportunity to give back to our community's education system, and the HRCEF seemed like a perfect spot to land.

I'm excited to share some great news with you: The Foundation is growing (see the graph on page 2)! We have disbursed a record number of scholarships and grants this past year. But increased program costs mean we need even more annual membership dollars to administer and sustain these programs. So please renew your membership or join us for the first time. And please encourage your co-workers, friends and neighbors to join. We very much need your support!



Lastly, I want to thank you for your generous contributions to the HRCEF. Thanks to all of you, we continue to serve more students, teachers and schools than ever before.

With gratitude,
Jan Veldhuisen Virk

HRCEF membership levels and benefits are detailed on our website at hrcef.org/contribute/memberships/

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UPDATE

Our Membership Drive goal this year is \$15,000! You can join us by donating as little as \$35 to send more students to college, create new learning opportunities in our classrooms, and help economically disadvantaged kids participate in after-school activities! To donate, send a check to: HRCEF, 1009 Eugene St. Hood River OR 97031, or you may donate online at: <https://hrcef.org/contribute/>.

WONDERING WHO IS BEHIND THE HRCEF?

These volunteer Board members and staff of the HRCEF thank you for joining them in supporting the students and teachers of Hood River County:

Jan Veldhuisen Virk, President

Sue Hukari, Vice President

Yesenia Sanchez-Oates, Secretary

John Kasberger, Treasurer

Pat Evenson-Brady

Chuck Bugge

Mike Schend

Karen Asai

Chip Dickinson

Fred Trujillo

Brent Emmons

John Fine

Aspen McKenna

Karen Heinemann

Celia Newton

Caroline Park

Chrissy Reitz

Sara Hahn-Huston, Ex Officio

Executive Director: Laurie Stephens

Scholarship Program Coordinator: Corrie Smith

NEW THIS FALL:

Field Trip Grants for All Elementary and Middle Schools

Made Possible by Your Donations – THANK YOU!

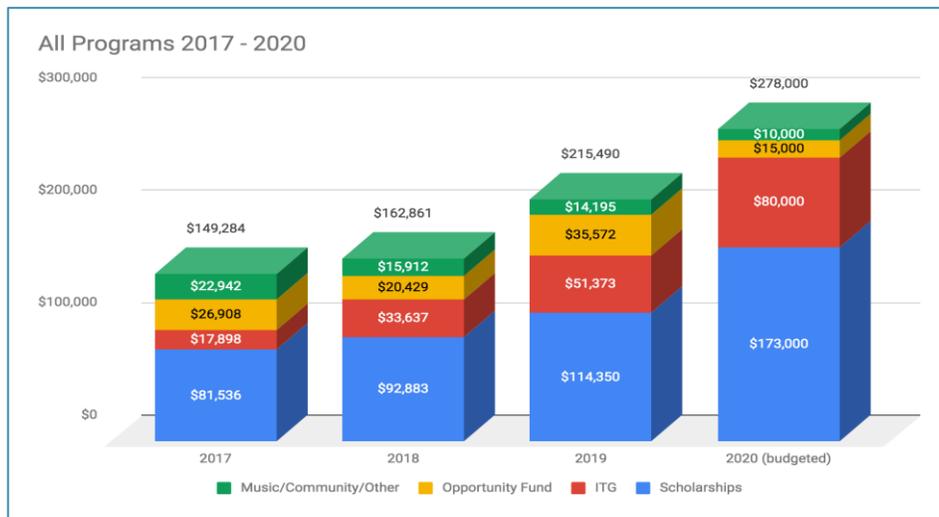
“Since 2019 was a record year for fundraising at the HRCEF, we are very excited to be able to start a new program that has been needed for a long time: Field Trip Grants!”

– Aspen McKenna, HRCEF Impact Teaching Grants Program Committee Chairperson

To help send more Hood River County students on educational field trips, please donate to HRCEF’s Impact Teaching Grants Program. We hope to raise enough money to grow this new program into an impactful arm of the Foundation.

BY THE NUMBERS

Foundation to Award Over \$275,000 to District Schools and Students in 2020



THE INSIDE SCOOP

New Scholarship Program Director Position Filled

As the Foundation grows and our programs expand (see above graph), we have created a new position, Scholarship Program Director, to provide dedicated support to both scholarship donors and scholarship recipients. We are pleased to announce that Corrie Smith, a local resident with two sons in the HRCSD, will be taking on this new role. “I’m looking forward to helping students in Hood River achieve their goal of a college education and have access to the opportunities and experiences that only education can provide,” says Corrie. Welcome aboard!



2019 SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT



Daniela Valle

Recipient of the Eagles Valedictorian, Earl Koberg and Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital Health Care Scholarships

My name is Daniela Valle, and I was fortunate enough to grow up in the beautiful valleys of the Columbia River Gorge. As a first-generation student and child of immigrant parents, I found my community to be welcoming and diverse. From an early age, my parents taught me the importance of hard work and perseverance, and I soon understood the immense opportunities higher education provided.

Through my own experiences and those of the students that I serve as a Migrant Summer School Teacher Assistant, I've gained a better understanding of the struggles first-generation, low-income families face: education access, nutrition inequality, and health disparities. These issues inspired me to further my education in order to meet the needs of underserved populations both in Oregon and across the country.

As I begin my studies at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Nursing, I am beyond excited to pursue my dream of serving rural communities as a Family Medicine Nurse Practitioner. My plans to obtain minors in Global Health and Hispanic Studies will provide me with the insight of complex health systems and prepare me to provide medical care to diverse communities. My educational pursuits would not be possible without the generous support from organizations like the Hood River County Education Foundation. On behalf of myself and my peers in the Class of 2019, I would like to thank the Gorge community donors for their endless support as we strive for higher education.

To learn about starting your own scholarship, please visit our website at www.hrcef.org. Or call our Executive Director Laurie Stephens at (541)387-5713 to discuss the many ways you can make a difference.

E-BIKE RAFFLE CREATES A BUZZ!

Local company **Riverhood Rentals** took it upon themselves to organize a fundraiser to benefit the Education Foundation and HR Community Education! They decided to sponsor Families in the Park this summer and wanted their sponsorship to be something a little untraditional...so they raffled off a Radwagon cargo e-bike. They own a cargo e-bike themselves and they love it as a great alternative to transporting themselves and their two children around town without using a car.

Riverhood Rentals is a party and event equipment rental business that launched in Hood River in 2011. After planning their own destination wedding in the Gorge in 2010, newlyweds Debbie and Keith Dennis

followed their hearts and returned to make Hood River their home. Inspired by their own wedding planning experience, they created Riverhood Rentals to help others create their dream wedding or special event. As firm believers in giving back to their community, the idea for the raffle was born!

THANK YOU DEBBIE AND KEITH!



UPCOMING EVENTS



February 8, 2020 at 6 pm
The Gorge Room, Hood River Inn

Join us for dinner, student entertainers, a live auction, and the final Dollar Tower. Proceeds support HRCEF's Impact Teaching Grants Program.

VROOM!



Sheila Heinemann shows off her new Chicago Go! Scooter. Sheila was the lucky winner of the 2019 HRCEF Summer Raffle, which raised over \$3,000 to support Hood River County school children.

RE/MAX River City Presents



May 2, 2020 7:30 pm

Hood River Middle School Auditorium

Chicago Transit Authority

TAKE ME BACK TO CHICAGO TOUR

Featuring Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Drummer Danny Seraphine and backed by a powerful horn section, CTA performs hits from 50 years of their legendary music. CTA has sold over 100 million albums and produced twenty Top-10 hits, including *25 or 6 to 4*, *Feeling Stronger*, *Saturday in the Park*, *You're the Inspiration* and *Look Away*. Tickets at TicketTomato.com starting Nov. 20. All proceeds support HRCEF.

THANKS TO OUR BUSINESS SUPPORTERS!

2019 BUSINESS SPONSORS

GLORY ORCHARD

CASCADE CENTRAL CREDIT UNION

HOOD RIVER DENTAL

NUMBER WORKS BOOKKEEPING

A KIDZ DENTAL ZONE DDS

2019 BUSINESS MEMBERS

DONNELLY ORCHARDS

COLUMBIA GORGE PHYSICAL THERAPY

A&J ORCHARDS

KIYOKAWA FAMILY ORCHARDS

VALLEY CREST ORCHARDS

HOOD TO COAST HEALTHCARE

TWIGGS

DUCKWALL POOLEY FRUIT CO.

MOUNT HOOD GARDENS

ANDERSON'S TRIBUTE CENTER

SUNFLOWER SCHOOL

SOLSTICE WOOD FIRE CAFÉ