



Friends of OSD (FOSD) is a non-profit corporation formed in November 2006 as a public charity to assist the Oregon School for the Deaf (OSD) by soliciting and distributing funds to enhance the state School's programs and projects.

A center of deaf culture for more than 140 years, OSD currently enrolls students kindergarten through age 21 with hearing impairments who receive a comprehensive level of service and school experience.

Friends of OSD Board of Directors

In 2013 the all volunteer Board of Directors listed below celebrated 7 years of support to the Oregon School for the Deaf:

Roshani Shay, President

John Freeburg, Vice President

Joe Sendelbaugh, Secretary

Bill Moncsko, Treasurer

Linda Couoh

Kathryn DeVleming

Charlotte Iliff

Jamie Lafady

Judy Lorenzen

Friends of OSD (Oregon School for the Deaf) would like to take this opportunity to thank the many family members, friends, foundations and corporations who have helped us support the students and staff of the Oregon School for the Deaf.

Without your assistance, in 2013 and in years past, we would not have been able to fund the innovative projects that have transformed lives.

We appreciate your support more than you know.

*Dr. Roshani Shay
President, Board of Directors
Friends of OSD*

2013

Friends of OSD (FOSD) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit formed in November 2006 to assist the Oregon School for the Deaf (OSD) by soliciting and distributing funds to enhance the School's programs and projects.

Friends of OSD was created not to replace or supplant the responsibilities of the State of Oregon which has administrative responsibility for the School. Rather, FOSD operates as an independent nonprofit to assist OSD by *enhancing* the education experience for students.



Oregon State Deaf School (1910)

A center of deaf culture for more than 140 years, OSD registered over 120 students with hearing impairments for the 2013-14 school year (kindergarten through age 21). Students come from 43 different school districts across the state. About 60% are residential students who live in dormitories during the week. Students are provided the same subjects and diploma options as those offered in Oregon's public schools.

The Friends of OSD Board has identified four initiatives as the focus of their efforts. We recently added brief explanations to better define each initiative:

- **Education** – Projects that enhance the education of students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and their families: participation in the Academic Bowl and Space Camp; driver permit tutoring; and the Family Learning Program.
- **Cultural Activities** – Projects that relate to deaf culture and/or the arts: American Sign Language classes; artist-in-residence; and special speakers who are deaf, such as those who participate in the Middle School LIFE program.
- **Innovative Programs** – Projects that incorporate new learning methods or experiences: participating in robotics competitions and micro-lending experiences; new skills programs/equipment for special needs students; and a school-wide positive behavior reinforcement program.
- **Capital Improvements** – Projects that upgrade dated facilities and which are not mandated State responsibilities: assisting in the installation of a lift for the swimming pool; professional-quality equipment and remodeling for the Career Technical Education approved TV broadcast studio.

In an effort to utilize board meeting time more efficiently, several work groups have been established: **Fundraising, Grants and Public Outreach**

Board members voluntarily join groups that most closely match their areas of interest and expertise, and each group provides regular reports at board meetings. These work groups are expanded as needed by enlisting the help of others from the community.



During 2013 the board recruitment packet was revised to more clearly define board members' responsibilities, to assure prospective members that we have directors' and officers' liability insurance, and to list some desired characteristics that would contribute to the organization.

Our strategic plan was revised and updated in 2013 to better reflect the goals and objectives of Friends of OSD.

FOSD has enlisted the services of a firm to handle day-to-day bookkeeping and provide reports for board meetings. At the December board meeting, the Board voted to pursue a similar arrangement for clerical services, including producing meeting minutes.

Utilizing these services allows the board treasurer and secretary to participate more fully in board meetings, but still fulfill their duties as defined in FOSD By-laws.

Advisory Council

At our December board meeting, we voted to revise our By-laws to include provision for an Advisory Council to lend support and advice to FOSD. While the Board of Directors has legal responsibility to make policy decisions that guide the work of FOSD, the mission of the Advisory Council is to:

- lend their names to endorse the work of FOSD;
- lend their expertise to advise FOSD when needed;



- participate in projects, events and activities according to their interests and abilities; and,
- meet once a year to consider FOSD's annual report and to respond with relevant comments, advice, guidance and suggestions for the good of the organization.

Advisors have neither the same authority nor the same legal responsibilities as the Board of Directors and can neither control nor compel the Board to act. They are considered as ambassadors of FOSD and are valued for their advisory role and support of the organization.

Advisory Council members currently are being recruited, and their first annual meeting is planned for April, 2014.

Enhancing the Educational Experience for OSD Students

Educational Enhancement Awards

The Educational Enhancement Awards (EEA) Program provides funds for projects and activities that are outside the budget responsibility and/or capability of the School. Open to all OSD staff, instructions and application forms can be accessed from the FOSD website.

There now are three types of EEA applications. The Special Projects application was added during 2013 for projects which are larger in financial scope than our traditional Educational Enrichment Awards.

- “Expedited Awards” of \$500 or less.
- “Board Review Awards” of \$501-\$1,500, which require a more detailed proposal narrative with emphasis on the purpose, goal, benefit and evaluation component.
 - “Special Projects” for projects or activities that exceed \$1,500.

FOSD was able to continue making Educational Enhancement Awards during 2013

*thanks to a grant from the
O.C.F. JOSEPH E. WESTON PUBLIC FOUNDATION
and
fundraising efforts of Friends of OSD.*

Board members individually reviewed and scored all applications against established criteria and approved the following:

- **PAH awards**

The School Counselor requested money for awards to support an OSD positive behavior incentive program. Started in the 2010-11 school year, and based on a nationally-known model, any staff member who sees a student demonstrating safe, respectful, or responsible behavior fills out and submits a “PAH! Paper.” Every full week of school, there is a drawing in each area: elementary, middle, and high school.

PAH! Papers are randomly drawn, and the students receive small awards, such as gift cards, books, small toys or craft kits. On average, 50 students are recognized weekly through this program. At the end of the school year, one PAH! Paper is drawn from each area for larger awards such as backpacks, flashing alarm clocks, sports equipment, etc.

Staff report that the program is a huge success and want to continue this work. The goal is for at least a 90% favorable response that OSD has a documented system for rewarding student behavior. FOSD was pleased to be able to provide funding toward reaching that goal.

- **Theatrical Interpreting Workshop**

FOSD awarded funds to allow 2 OSD staff to attend 8 work sessions and 4 interpreted performances to train as theatrical interpreters to help bring literature and theater to life for OSD students. These staff will also work collaboratively with public and private school and community theater groups to make performances accessible to OSD students. This opportunity will assist students in meeting ODE's Core Curriculum Standards in the categories of Aesthetics

and Criticism and of Historical and Cultural Perspectives. It additionally provides hours towards the goal of a Career Technical Education certification in Theatre Arts for OSD.

- **Purchase of equipment and supplies to enhance the *Deaf Panther Productions* studio** (“Panther” is the School’s mascot)

Panther TV is an enrichment offering for high school students. 39 students, about 1/3 of the student body, are currently enrolled in these classes. As funds permit, OSD has been creating a television studio environment where students learn the nuts and bolts of television broadcasting. They plan, produce, direct and broadcast news events and happenings of all age levels and interests at the School.

Students and staff suggest topics and activities for filming, so there is a first-level decision-making of what is “newsworthy.” Guided by OSD staff, students then use professional equipment to film short videos, edit them, plan a broadcast, write a script and do a live weekly broadcast to the OSD audience. Then they post it on the OSD website. OSD is a residential program, so students come from all corners of the state of Oregon. Panther TV broadcasts provide families and friends the opportunity to keep in touch with activities and events at the School and encourage communication. These broadcasts have become cultural events, not only for students and their families, but also for the greater community—both deaf and hearing.

Visual communications is an emerging career field for individuals with hearing problems. Besides the technical aspects, students learn how to work as a team/crew, how to cooperate and make sometimes tough decisions in planning, writing, editing, production and direction. They critique each broadcast and work to improve each week.

FOSD purchased professional-quality digital video cards, adjustable light stands, a 10’ x 20’ green screen and a green suit, allowing students to experience and learn from the enhanced professional-level broadcast studio of *Deaf Panther Productions*.



Family Learning Program

In the past (8-10 years ago), the Family Learning Program was an event that brought families of deaf and hearing impaired students to the School for a week during the summer. The costs were included in the School’s budget, and it was one of the most successful and anticipated activities of the year. When budgets were cut, some tough decisions had to be made, and the Family Learning Program was eliminated.

In 2012 FOSD members successfully acquired private foundation grants and revenue from fundraising activities to re-establish a more modest weekend Family Learning Program. In 2013 FOSD made a commitment to fund this as an annual event,

thanks to funding from
the JUAN YOUNG TRUST
THE SALEM FOUNDATION,
the JOSEPH E. WESTON PUBLIC FOUNDATION,
and Friends of OSD fundraising activities.

In October 2013, families with children of all ages came to OSD for a weekend of workshops and activities at no cost to them. OSD's dietary staff prepared delicious meals for families who were housed in OSD's dormitories. Parents really enjoyed being able to relax, to eat without doing all the chores, and to get to know other parents. A full schedule of workshops for parents rounded out the weekend.

During the workshops, the children were divided into age groups for supervised activities including swimming, captioned movies, and a bouncy house. Before leaving, families participated in team-building activities, a family photo opportunity, an art contest, and a thrilling scavenger hunt.



The families commented on how grateful they were to be able to take part in this weekend—there was bonding time, and moments of reflection and appreciation for the deaf children in their lives. Here's what they said:

“I wasn't aware that there were opportunities in the community for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals prior to this workshop.”

“So nice to meet other parents going through what we are going through.”

“I am enrolling in a sign language class! This really helps with my teenage daughter. The more I sign, the more we communicate, the more she will tell me!”

“OSD is such a nice setting. The dorm was cozy and we had a lot of fun.”

“Thank you for offering this program.”

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WISHES GRANTED

The FOSD Board President meets periodically with OSD administration to coordinate activities and discuss priorities. At a meeting last fall, it was mentioned that some of the mattresses in the boys' and girls' dormitories were more than 25 years old, and, “It sure would be nice to get new ones.” This was not a formal request, but rather just sharing an unmet need that was weighing heavily on the minds of OSD administrators.

The FOSD Board President and her fiancé contacted the *O.C.F. Joseph E. Weston Public Foundation* which, along with *City Liquidators*, was instrumental in providing 80 new pillow top mattresses, mattress covers and memory foam pillows. They also made arrangements to fully recycle the old mattresses for use by other nonprofits. Thanks to their efforts, not only OSD students but also others in need are now sleeping more comfortably.





Memorial & Honorary Donations

Friends of OSD provides an opportunity to remember and honor individuals through charitable giving. Significant events have included graduations, birthdays, deaths, employer matching programs, and a variety of other special recognitions. Using information from a completed donation form, available on our website, we send an appropriate acknowledgement to the person or family being remembered.

**Please visit our website at
www.friendsofisd.org**

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Fun(d)-Raising 2013

FLOWER POWER

As a new activity in 2013, we partnered with ***Flower Power Fundraising*** to sell spring bulbs.

Our friends and families benefit from the beautiful blooms, and FOSD raised more than \$1,000 to support programs and activities at OSD.



FAMILY & FRIENDS NIGHT



This historic building that houses *Boon's Treasury (McMenamins)* sits on the northern edge of downtown Salem and features delicious pub food and handcrafted ales, wines and spirits.

On October 8, 2013, Boon's hosted a "Family and Friends Night" with a portion of the profits going to FOSD to support projects such as the Family Learning Program, Educational Enhancement Awards, and other innovative programs at OSD.



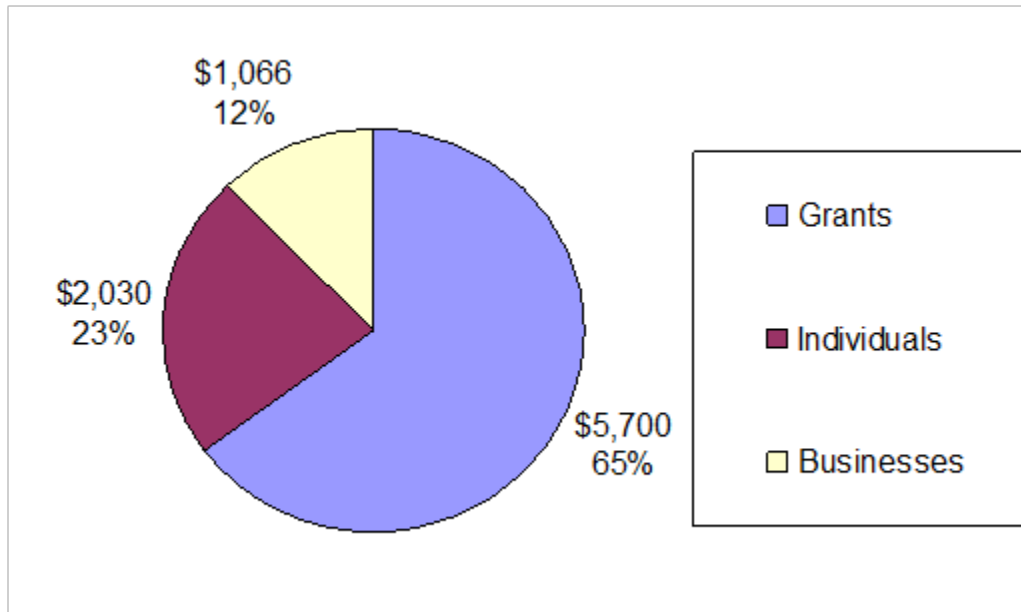
From 5:00 p.m. to closing, nearly every table was full as families and friends gathered to support FOSD, partake of menu items and just enjoy time together. At the end of the evening, Boon's management invited FOSD to come again in 2014, and we have already made plans to do so!

***Funding to assist the
Oregon School for the Deaf***

The sole purpose of Friends of OSD is to assist the Oregon School for the Deaf. FOSD started the year with \$23,192.11 in the bank and ended with a balance of \$28,320.89.

95% of all grants and donations go directly to programs that benefit students. A modest 5% administrative assessment covers the expenses of doing business as a nonprofit (office supplies, postage, annual fees, interpreters, insurance, etc.).

During 2013 we were able to broaden our donor base through new foundation grants, individuals and businesses.



End-of-year Account Balances

(December 31, 2013)

Education	\$245.84
Cultural Activities	28.82
Innovative Programs	11,700.54
Capital Improvements	- 0 -
Fundraising	6,004.17
Operations	<u>10,341.52</u>
TOTAL funds available	\$28,320.89



During 2013, in carrying out the work of Friends of OSD, Board members contributed

376 hours of service (valued at \$8,335)

and drove more than

2,000 miles (valued at \$288)



Thank you, volunteer Board members!!!

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