



2012 Annual Report



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.

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Friends of OSD Board of Directors

*2012
A YEAR OF CONTINUED STABILITY*

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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 non-profit foundation to assist OSD by *enhancing* the education experience for students.

The FOSD Board has identified four initiatives as the focus of their efforts:

- education,
- cultural activities,
- innovative programs, and
- capital improvements.

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 state fees, insurance, accounting etc.).

The idea of a foundation was envisioned by then School Director, Jane Mulholland. For her efforts in bringing that vision to reality, FOSD was pleased to present Jane with a student-created art print. This artwork, in a variety of formats, has been adopted by FOSD for our use in acknowledging those who support our mission and goals. Thanks to board member Judy Lorenzen who made arrangements for this presentation.



Judy Lorenzen presents student artwork to Jane Mulholland

Board of Directors

In 2012 the all volunteer board of directors listed below celebrated 6 years of FOSD's support to the Oregon School for the Deaf:

Roshani Shay, President
John Freeburg, Vice President
Charlotte Iliff, Secretary
Linda Couoh, Treasurer
Judy Lorenzen
Bill Moncsko
Joe Sendelbaugh

In an effort to utilize board meeting time more efficiently, several work groups have been established. Board members voluntarily join the group that most closely matches 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.

- **Fundraising**
- **Grant Writing**
- **Public Outreach**

In January FOSD purchased Directors and Officers Liability Insurance which most nonprofit organizations carry. While we have not had, nor do we anticipate having any liability issues, it is just good business to have a policy in place. We can now reassure prospective board members, committee members and volunteers that we provide this coverage if they choose to serve with FOSD.

FOSD has enlisted the services of a firm to handle day-to-day bookkeeping and provide reports for board meetings. This allows more flexibility for the board treasurer and relieves that position of the use of accounting software. The board continues to pursue a similar arrangement for the secretary position so that these directors can more fully participate in board meetings, but still fulfill their duties as defined in FOSD By-laws.

Enhancing the Educational Experience for OSD Students

Educational Enhancement Awards

The Educational Enhancement Award Program provides funds for small, “mini-grant” projects that are outside the budget responsibility and/or capability of the School. Open to all OSD staff, the application form can be accessed from the FOSD website.

In 2012 the EEA application instructions were revised to allow expanded requests to be considered. There are now two types of EEA applications. Those for:

- “Expedited Awards” of \$500 or less; and, those for
- “Board Review Awards” of \$501-\$1,500, which require a more detailed proposal narrative with emphasis on the purpose, goals, benefits and an evaluation component.

Board member Joe Sendelbaugh attended the 2012 end-of-year all staff meeting to announce the changes and encourage staff to submit applications.

FOSD was able to continue making Educational Enhancement Awards (EEA) during 2012 *thanks to funding from the O.C.F. JOSEPH E. WESTON PUBLIC FOUNDATION.*

Board members individually reviewed and scored all applications against established criteria and approved those listed below.

- **Purchase of a 42” television monitor for *Deaf Panther Productions* studio** (“Panther” is the School’s team mascot)

Panther TV is an enrichment offering for high school students. 39 students 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, kindergarten through age 21. The 42” television monitor was needed for the studio floor so that the actors and reporters actually can see themselves as the broadcast is occurring.

All students and staff are encouraged to 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 for interested

viewers. OSD is a residential program, so students come from all corners of the state of Oregon. It is often a hardship for families to make the trip to Salem. The Panther TV broadcasts provide families and friends the opportunity to keep in touch with activities and events at the School and encourages communication about what they have viewed.

- **Repair of Canon GL-2 professional video camera for Deaf Panther Productions**

The video camera used by students for the weekly Panther TV productions needed repair. There were no School funds available, so staff applied to Friends of OSD for an Educational Enhancement Award which was granted.

Visual communications (television, video, movies) is an emerging career field for individuals with hearing problems. With the studio and professional equipment available, students become aware of the wide variety of work it takes to produce a program, a video, a movie. Besides the technical aspects, they also learn how to work as a team/crew, how to cooperate and make sometimes tough decisions in the planning, writing, editing, production and direction. They critique each broadcast and work to improve each week. These broadcasts have become cultural events, not only for students and their families, but also for the greater community—both deaf and hearing.

- **Purchase physical and occupational therapy equipment**

This EEA request helped the special needs population at the School: those with vision problems, cerebral palsy, autism, attention deficit, behavior and emotional problems in addition to deafness and hearing problems. The School's Occupational Therapist made this request and provided an excellent evaluation of how this equipment was helping students improve their behavior, their attention span, and their skills so that they can participate in a regular classroom. The Occupational Therapist stated on her evaluation,

"I was overwhelmed to find out that this award was a possibility, let alone actually receiving the award for this equipment."

On the evaluation form, we ask grantees if there were things we could improve. By including her response in our Annual Report, we are implementing her suggestions.

"Any room for improvement only would be making future beneficiaries aware of the application process and the opportunities you have provided others. I hope you are able to make the local and extended OSD community aware of the wonderful ways you help our school. Thank you for this most generous award."

Her gratitude is shared with the OCF Joseph E. Weston Public Foundation as the resource for the funds that purchased this equipment.

- **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.

At the end of the 2010-11 school year, staff reported that the program was a huge success and wanted to continue this work. The goal is for at least a 90% favorable response that OSD has a documented system for rewarding student behavior, and FOSD was pleased to be able to provide funding toward reaching that goal.

- **Life Skills Curriculum**

The School Psychologist was awarded an EEA to purchase a program (called FACTOR) that was used school-wide to improve students' everyday life skills so that learning can take place. Over the years OSD has focused on classroom skills, but the need is great in non-academic areas in order to help students be more successful and independent in adult life.

The program was first designed to help autistic students, but OSD has found that it helps any student who needs daily tasks broken down into smaller steps and taught in a systematic manner. It helps staff identify student life-skills that need improvement. It provides staff with the tools needed to teach those skills. The goal is for students to develop life skills at school and then transfer those skills to real life situations in their homes, in leisure activities, on the job, etc.

There are 14 students at OSD who have been identified as having Autism Spectrum Disorder. There are 312 classes that incorporate life skills into their instruction.

- **LIFE Middle School Leadership Conference**

This was the 4th year for this 4-day conference which includes deaf and hearing impaired students from all over the state of Oregon. More than half of the participants were from regular public schools and rarely get the opportunity to socialize with other deaf students their own age. The number of participants varies

from year-to-year, depending on the middle school population. The 2011 Conference hosted 72 students. The 2012 Conference hosted 45.

Funds were used for gas cards for the presenters, food, office supplies and workshop materials. No stipends or gratuities were given, and 20 volunteers were involved in the Conference. Other fundraising activities (T-shirt sales, the Haunted House, etc.) supplemented the Weston Foundation contribution. Presenters at the workshops included deaf adults from a variety of professions to inspire and instruct the students. The Conference Coordinator reported

that this activity was a huge success and generated many positive comments by students and presenters alike.

- **Swimming Pool Lift**

OSD has a beautiful pool that students may use for exercise regiments, learning life saving skills, teamwork, endurance, and recreation. The benefits of water exercise have been shown to improve well-being, intellectual development, emotional regulation, self-esteem, mood, sleep patterns and more. Due to changes in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), after January 31, 2013 all public pools are required to have a lift chair to provide pool access for those with physical disabilities. FOSD partnered with OSD's Nightmare Factory haunted house to fund the purchase and installation of this required piece of equipment, and OSD's pool remains open.



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. Since that time it has been the hope of school administrators that other funds could be found to re-establish the Program.

During 2012, Board members successfully acquired private foundation grants and income from fundraising activities to re-establish a more modest weekend Family Learning Program that was held on November 10-11.

***Thanks to funding from
THE SALEM FOUNDATION,
the O.C.F. JOSEPH E. WESTON PUBLIC FOUNDATION,
and Friends of OSD fundraising activities.***

A number of families attended (a total of 54 participants), with children of all ages. OSD's dietary staff prepared delicious meals for families who were housed in OSD's

dormitories. Moms really enjoyed being able to relax, to eat without doing all the chores, and to get to know other parents. Workshops for parents included:

- "Reading with your Deaf Child"
- "Love and Logic: Behavior and your Deaf Child." (led by a parent of deaf children)
- "Hands and Voices: Resources for your Deaf Child in Oregon"
- A Sign Language Clinic to help parents improve their signing skills
- A sharing of resources available in the community

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.



Pentacle Theatre Benefit

In June, the Fundraising work group coordinated a Pentacle Theatre benefit performance and silent auction that raised \$3,175 for FOSD. The performance, "*The Signal Season of Dummy Hoy*," told the story of **William Ellsworth "Dummy" Hoy (1862-1961) who, though deaf, began his baseball career in 1886 at the age of 24. At the end of his rookie year with the Washington Senators, Hoy led the National League with 82 stolen bases. He set a fielding record for the Senators that still stands. Hoy also played for the Cincinnati Reds and the Chicago White Sox, among other teams.**

The play was interpreted, there was a display of OSD sports accomplishments, and there was a silent auction of baseball memorabilia and other items before the play and during intermission.



Thanks to Pentacle Theatre

for giving FOSD this opportunity to increase not only our visibility in the community, but also an awareness of the courage of those with hearing impairments as they pursue their dreams in the hearing world.

Community Awareness Expanded

In the fall of 2012, Friends of OSD was pleased to learn that we will be the featured nonprofit for the month of June in the

**Tom Dwyer Automotive Services
2013 Charitable Giving Calendar**

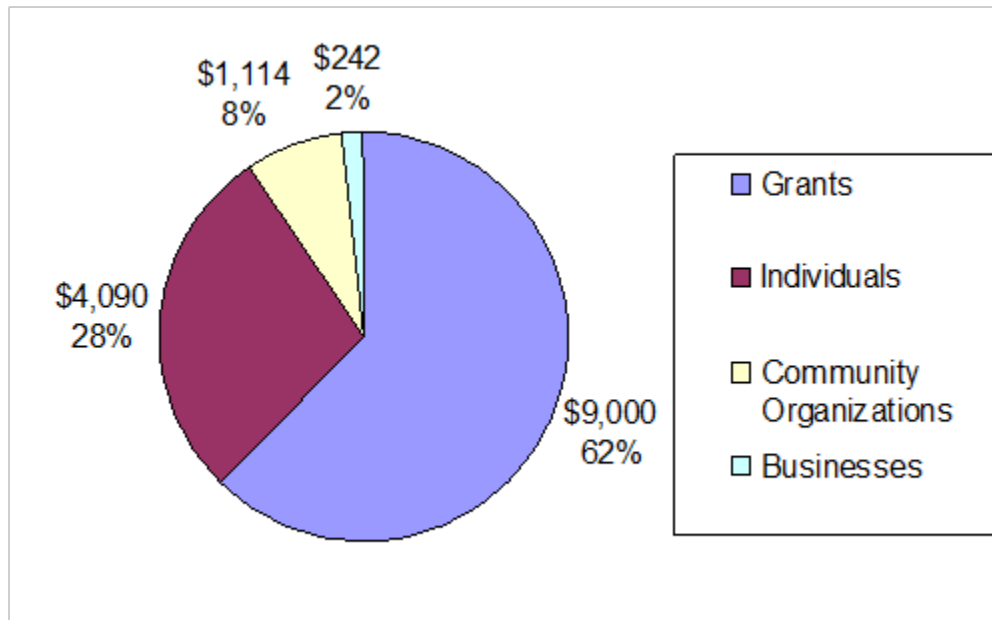


Based in Portland, this family-owned company developed their Charitable Giving Calendar as a way of spreading the word about organizations that are doing good work, but often go unnoticed. Each year they select twelve nonprofits from those nominated by their clients. Friends of OSD was fortunate to be selected and is grateful for their support.

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 \$30,573.82 in the bank and ended with a balance of \$23,192.11 on December 31, 2012.

During 2012 we were able to broaden our donor base through new foundation grants, individuals, businesses and community organizations.



End-of-year balances in FOSD's program budget, not including operations and special programs were as follows:

Education	\$1,245.84
Cultural Activities	\$28.82
Innovative Programs	\$6,246.52
Capital Improvements	\$539.10

2012 Remembered

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

FOSD received the following memorial and honorary donations in 2012:

In memory of Billie Jean McKnight

Howard & Darlene Anderson
Linda Couoh
James McKnight
JoAnne Perry
Robert & Verna Scheffel

In memory of Dr. Richard Walker

Beverly Walker

In honor of Charlotte Iliff

Mike & Karen Wraight

In honor of Don & Judy Lorenzen

Betsy Dunn Richman

In honor of Linda Couoh

Larry & Theresa Austin

On behalf of Wayne Emroe

FLIR Systems, Inc.