

# *Annual Report*



*Fiscal Year*  
*2015*

*Dear Readers:*

*Friends of OSD* would like to take this opportunity to thank the many family members, friends, foundations, community organizations and businesses that have helped us support the students and staff of the Oregon School for the Deaf.

Without your assistance in 2015, 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.*

*Charlotte Iliff, President*

## *Board of Directors*

In 2015 the all-volunteer Board of Directors celebrated 9 years of support to the Oregon School for the Deaf.



**Front row:** *Linda Couoh*, Vice President; *Judy Lorenzen*, President, *Roshani Shay*, Director

**Back row:** *John Freeburg*, Secretary; *Charlotte Iliff*, Director;  
*Jamie Lafady*, Director; *Bill Moncsko*, Treasurer

During 2015, in carrying out the work of Friends of OSD, Board members contributed:

- 459 hours of service valued at \$10,589.13
- \$443.96 in unreimbursed out-of-pocket expenses
- drove 3,863 miles valued at \$540.82

*Thank you, volunteer Board members,  
for 2015 in-kind contributions totaling  
\$11,573.91*

# 2015

***Friends of OSD*** (FOSD) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit formed by a small group of committed individuals in November 2006 to assist the Oregon School for the Deaf (OSD). We believe the School has a vital part to play in the education of deaf and hard of hearing children in Oregon. Our mission is to support this unique school and the children it nurtures by soliciting and distributing funds to enhance the School's programs and projects.

FOSD 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 educational experience for students beyond the basic level of State funding, helping an already strong program reach even higher goals.



A center of deaf culture for more than 140 years, OSD registered 115 students with hearing impairments for the 2015-16 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 identified four initiatives as the focus of their efforts. The following explanations 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.

- **Minor Capital Improvements** – Minor projects that upgrade portions of 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.



### *Advisory Council*

In 2014 an Advisory Council was formed to lend support and advice to the FOSD Board of Directors. Advisory Council members include:

<i>Larry Austin</i>	<i>Rocky Jastak</i>
<i>Jill Bailey</i>	<i>Chad Ludwig</i>
<i>Meredith Brodsky</i>	<i>Elisa Maroney</i>
<i>Mary Bunn</i>	<i>Kevin Marshall</i>
<i>Jerry Curtis</i>	<i>Tom Pfaff</i>
<i>Verne Duncan</i>	<i>Pam Rimmer</i>
<i>Lisa Heydemann</i>	<i>Tim Rocak</i>
<i>Jill Ward</i>	

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.

The Annual Joint Meeting of the Advisory Council and Board of Directors of FOSD was held Friday, April 24, 2015, at the School for the Deaf.

OSD Director, Sharla Jones, shared news and updates about the School. Board members shared information about FOSD financial resources and fundraising activities and gave examples of how proceeds have been used to support OSD.

- Physical Education Instructor Scott Pfaff showed a video of students using the Tchoukball equipment purchased by FOSD.
- Teacher Robyn Brown brought an iPad and demonstrated how the signed stories, purchased by FOSD, are used in the classroom.
- Bill Cruscial showed how students use the Panther Productions television broadcast studio and equipment.

At the request of the Board President, Advisory Council members suggested names of individuals who might be interested in serving on the FOSD Board of Directors. They also provided ideas for increasing community awareness and support for FOSD.



**We are grateful for their involvement and input!**

## *Enhancing the Educational Experience of 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. FOSD was able to continue making Educational Enhancement Awards during 2015

*thanks to grants from*

*the O.C.F. JOSEPH E. WESTON PUBLIC FOUNDATION,  
the WILLIAM S. WALTON CHARITABLE TRUST,  
and  
fundraising efforts of Friends of OSD.*

Open to all OSD staff, instructions and application forms can be accessed from the FOSD website. There now are three types of EEA applications:

- “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” requests that exceed \$1,500.

Board members individually reviewed and scored all applications against established criteria and approved the following proposals during 2015:

- **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 a larger award, such as a backpack, flashing alarm clock, 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.



- **Signed Story Books**

Access to 29 signed books was purchased from Apple and downloaded onto iPads for use by students and teachers. This award supports language and literacy development in both English and American Sign Language. Each fairy tale or folklore story can be shown with American Sign Language, captions, narration and/or music.



This computer application includes a video dictionary which builds a vocabulary library as stories are read. Students can watch the Signed Stories independently or as a class assignment. Teachers also can project them onto large screens for thematic teaching or as models for developing American Sign Language skills, even in the older grades.

The storytellers are deaf and hearing adults who provide entertaining, fluent performances and serve as excellent models for both English and American Sign Language communication. Having this media available encourages the development of communication skills in ways that are not supported in traditional trade books or texts.

- **Tchoukball Equipment**

Tchoukball is a hands-on sport that involves hand-eye coordination, footwork, teamwork, strategic thinking. It is a combination of handball and basketball which will expand the Physical Education curriculum, develop body coordination, self-esteem, and confidence. Many students can play at the same time, so it is of broad benefit to OSD students.



- **Camcorder and Tripod**

A digital video camera and tripod were purchased for administrators' use in the training, observation and improvement of teacher effectiveness and student learning.

The equipment enables documentation of the research-based practice known as "Reciprocal Teaching." Modeling and coaching, through videotaped classroom visits, influences the teaching behavior, which in turn enhances the impact on student learning. Measurable gains in student reading comprehension also can be documented with the ultimate outcome of a positive change in each student's leaning: an engaged and active process of reading comprehension in each classroom.



### ***Family Learning Program***

In past years, 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. However, thanks to funding from the

### ***JUAN YOUNG TRUST and THE SALEM FOUNDATION,***

FOSD made a commitment to restore this important annual event. Since 2013 families with children of all ages come to OSD for a weekend of workshops, special speakers and activities at no cost.

Parents report that this activity allows them to meet other families and to learn from experts in the field of Deaf Education. Friendships have blossomed between families, and many have signed up to continue communicating on the OSD Parent Resource Group on Facebook.



In April, 2015, while parents attended workshops, the children were divided into age groups for supervised activities including swimming, captioned movies, and even rock-climbing!



## ***CAMPERSHIPS***

In 2014 an anonymous donor made a generous contribution to Friends of OSD for the purpose of providing a summer educational and respite opportunity for OSD students. With input from the donor, it was agreed that Camp Taloali would be an ideal location.

Camp Taloali is located in the foothills of Oregon's Cascade Mountains about 20 miles east of Salem. The Camp borders the North Santiam River and encompasses 111 acres of beautiful pine and fir forestland. Programs are specifically designed for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Children of Deaf Adults, siblings and signing friends. Activities provide campers with a variety of challenges and achievements as well as arts and crafts, theater and communication, camping and outdoor skills, horseback riding, nature study, rope courses, environmental awareness, campfires and totem pole building.



*For more information about Camp Taloali  
go to [www.taloali.org](http://www.taloali.org)*

In 2015 FOSD awarded 6 camperships. In 2016 and 2017 FOSD plans to award up to 10 one-week camperships to students currently enrolled at OSD from ages 6-18, thanks to our very generous donor.

***All interested OSD students are encouraged to apply.***

**2015**  
***Fun with Fundraising***

***FAMILY & FRIENDS NIGHT***

***Boon's Treasury (McMenamins)*** sits on the northern side of downtown Salem and features delicious pub food and handcrafted ales, wines and spirits.



For the third year Boon's hosted a fall "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, to partake of menu items and just enjoy time together. Boon's management presented FOSD with a check for more than \$1,600 and invited us to come again in 2016--and we already have made plans to do so!

## *VINE GOGH*

In January the Vine Gogh Artist Bar and Studio in Tigard partnered with FOSD for a “paint-in” fundraiser.



A local artist, Vine Gogh colleagues and ASL interpreters led about 40 would-be artists in creating their own version of “Multnomah Falls” which they took home at the end of the afternoon.



This fun event raised nearly \$650, and we look forward to a repeat opportunity to add to our art collections in 2016.

## *IT'S SO EASY!*

During 2014 Board President, Roshani Shay, registered FOSD for a number of “passive” fundraisers whereby users generate donations to FOSD simply by taking advantage of corporate giving opportunities.

### *Fred Meyer Community Rewards Project*



Fred Meyer donates \$2.5 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give. Users can go to

[www.fredmeyer.com/community\\_rewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/community_rewards)

and link their Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Friends of OSD by searching for our name or our nonprofit number (93165). Each time the customer shops at Fred Meyer and uses their Rewards Card, a percentage of their purchases will be sent to FOSD. Customers continue to earn their own Rewards Points, Fuel Points and Rebates.



In 2015, this passive fundraiser earned \$350 for FOSD. Rewards Cards are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.

### *Amazon Smile*



Amazon shoppers can help support FOSD just by linking their online purchases at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) (search for **Friends Of Osd**--note specific capitalization), and Amazon will donate a percentage of purchases to FOSD.

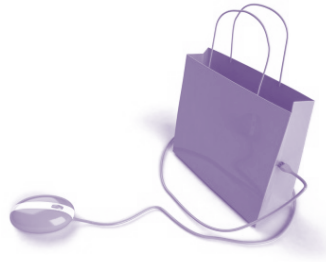


### ***GOOD Projects***

After signing up at [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com), Friends of OSD will receive a 1¢ corporate donation each time users search the Web with **Goodsearch**.

Likewise, by signing up at [www.gooddining.com](http://www.gooddining.com), a percentage of your restaurant bill from thousands of participating restaurants will be sent to FOSD.

Go to [www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com) and use **Goodshop** for online shopping and FOSD will receive a percentage of every purchase. In addition, users can access over 100,000 money-saving coupons.



During 2015, Friends of OSD also received \$175 from online donations at

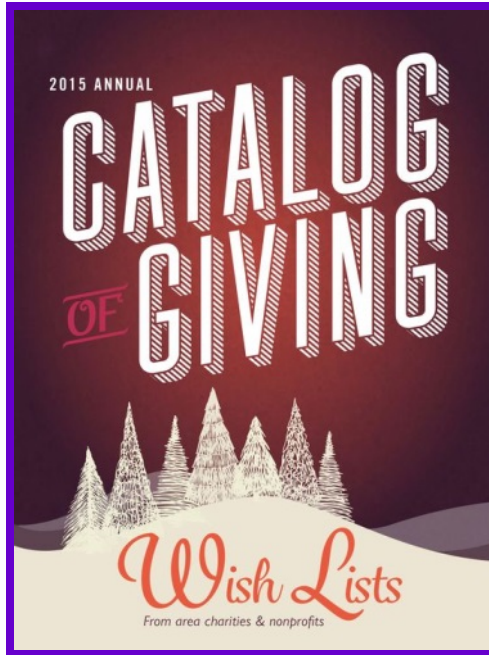
<http://indiegogo.com>

### ***FLOWER POWER***



For the third year, we partnered with **Flower Power Fundraising** to sell spring flower bulbs and vegetable seeds.

Our friends and families benefit from the beautiful blooms and tasty produce, and FOSD raised about \$300 to support programs and activities at OSD.



For the third year, the *Statesman Journal* solicited “wish lists” from local nonprofits. On Thanksgiving Day, while many of us were enjoying a delicious holiday meal in a warm house, surrounded by family and friends, many others in need were relying on nonprofits for assistance. The *Statesman* compiled and published a *Catalog of Giving* to ask the community to help meet those needs through donations.

Friends of OSD was invited to participate, and we listed these ongoing needs for students:

*Warm, waterproof coats of all sizes*  
*Board games and craft items*  
*Gift cards to local stores*



**We sincerely appreciate the support and assistance  
demonstrated by our local daily newspaper.**



## *TECH TALK*

In April, 2015, FOSD launched a re-designed website. Board members provided input to ensure that it would be welcoming, accessible and user-friendly. It is loaded with information and includes a student-produced video that demonstrates all the ways FOSD contributes to the School. Please check it out at

**[www.friendsofosd.org](http://www.friendsofosd.org)**

Our website provides a link to FOSD's Facebook page. With 325 "likes" this has proven to be a quick and easy way to post activities and events as well as photos, announcements and other information for our followers.



Thanks to the Board's Public Outreach Committee, we now have a PowerPoint presentation that Board members and others can use to help spread the word about Friends of OSD.



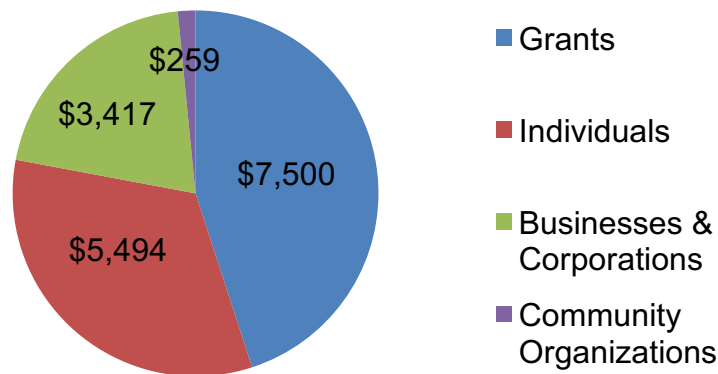
# PowerPoint

We are always looking for service clubs, community organizations and other groups who would give us a few minutes on their programs to provide information about who we are, what we do, and why. If you know of such opportunities, please contact us through our website.

## *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 \$35,052.59 in the bank and ended with a balance of \$41,385.45.

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.). The below chart shows FOSD income sources for 2015:



## *2015 End-of-year Account Balances*

Education	\$245.84
Cultural Activities	28.82
Innovative Programs	350.23
Fundraising	19,213.57
Operations	7,158.08
Restricted Grant Funds	<u>14,388.91</u>
<b>TOTAL funds available</b>	<b>\$41,385.45</b>

## *Honorary & Memorial Donations*

Friends of OSD provides an opportunity to remember and honor individuals through charitable giving. Significant events have included graduations, weddings, 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.



Thanks go to FOSD Board Vice President Roshani Shay and FOSD Advisory Council member Jerry Curtis who encouraged their families and friends to make donations to Friends of OSD in honor of their marriage in August, 2015.

## ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED***

Friends of OSD continues to develop a well-rounded board by recruiting individuals with diverse backgrounds and experiences. Board members are expected to attend monthly meetings and participate in the work of building a strong and effective nonprofit organization.

Additional members also are being sought for the Friends of OSD Advisory Council that meets annually, usually in April.

Information about the roles and responsibilities of these groups can be found in the *Get Involved* section of our website:

**[www.friendsofosd.org](http://www.friendsofosd.org)**

If you or someone you know is interested in applying for Board or Advisory Council membership, please contact us for an application and a more detailed description of responsibilities.

We can be reached via Email: **[fosd82kf@friendsofosd.org](mailto:fosd82kf@friendsofosd.org)**

or at our mailing address:

**Friends of OSD  
PO Box 15053  
Salem, Oregon 97309**

We look forward to discussing ways that you might contribute to the enhancement of the educational experience for deaf and hard of hearing OSD students.

