



# The Focus on Springfield Education Foundation

*Investing in Successful Students*

*Building a bright and successful future for all students through financial support and community involvement.*



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## Briggs Middle School Students Design Their Own Weather Balloon



*Students get ready to release their weather balloon.*  
Last spring, students in Zach Adler's flex class at Briggs Middle School launched a helium balloon with sensors on board to monitor pressure, temperature and altitude, and a Go Pro camera to record the flight. An SEF grant and donor helped fund the project. The students designed, engineered and constructed the balloon

with only minor supervision from Mr. Adler. The balloon soared to 103,000 feet—about 19 miles high. The students retrieved the balloon and all its instruments in a field near Sutherlin.

### The balloon soared to 103,000 feet

“The students were barely back in the van when they started downloading the data,” Adler said regarding what he calls the coolest project he has managed as a teacher. Adler has applied for a NASA grant for a larger balloon to launch in 2017. If funded, Briggs will be the only middle school involved in the project.

*A new video capturing the flight and showcasing the students will premiere at the Night of 11,000 Stars, October 15, 2015 and will be posted on our website and Facebook page. The video was produced by Kelli Warner of Turell Group and Barry Thomspson from KMTR NewsSource 16.*

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## Innovative Grants Make Exciting Impacts Across the District



*Students participating in the Teacher Cadet Program, funded in part with a Springfield Education Foundation Innovative Educator Grant, jump for joy after an all-day class. This special class is designed to attract and introduce current students to the teaching profession. All five seniors in the Springfield High School class will be pursuing a teaching degree at an Oregon college this fall. Among the five seniors, they received eight scholarships specifically for students pursuing the field of education.*

The reports we received from recipients of last year's Innovative Educator Grants, including the Teacher Cadet program pictured above, revealed great results. Here are two more examples of how SEF grants are impacting students in a positive way.

#1. Paul Weill, Principal of Gateways High School, told us about Charles, a senior, who went on a SEF supported field trip to Southern Oregon University (SOU) in Ashland. Charles was completely blown away by the college and the experience. He

mentioned it was the first time he had ever thought about college or wanted to attend. Charles graduated this year and plans to go to

Lane Community College and then transfer to SOU.

#2. Eva LaMar, 4th-grade teacher at Riverbend, wrote that she reached her objectives for her grant titled, “From Watershed to Youtube.”

Students were able to explain a cause-effect relationship between watershed and pollution, write a persuasive argument and create a public service announcement.

**“SEF grants are absolutely essential for us and all schools. They provide funds needed for innovative programming and student services.”**

**Paul Weill Gateways High School Principal**

## Please Join Us!

- **NIGHT OF 11,000 STARS!**  
Gala Fundraiser supporting the nearly 11,000 students attending Springfield Public Schools

Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015  
Willamalane Center  
5:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
\$75 per person

- **GRANT GIVEAWAY BUS TOUR**  
Join SEF board members to present this year's Innovative Educator Grants

Monday, Nov. 9, 2015  
School Hours • Free

To reserve your place, call 541-726-3243 or visit



## Board of Directors

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## Royal Caribbean Volunteers Rejuvenate Douglas Gardens Elementary School



Two hundred Royal Caribbean employees and family members spent a hot June day last summer making improvements to Douglas Gardens Elementary School, including painting this map and replanting garden beds. They also donated school supplies and backpacks.

Part of the Springfield Education Foundation's mission is to connect community volunteers to schools, and one amazing connection took place this past summer. Two hundred Royal Caribbean employees and their families spent a day painting, building and rehabbing Douglas Gardens Elementary School.

"Royal Caribbean volunteers made the entire school look beautiful. The

kids came back to school and noticed the huge difference. They took down the old wall on the playground used for handball, which was a eyesore, and replaced it with a new wall," Christina San Fillipo, mother of two Douglas Gardens Elementary School students said, so appreciative and thankful that tears came to her eyes. She explained how the school feels fresh and welcoming again and that volunteers from Royal Caribbean continue to assist with

## In Memory of Patricia Harms 1925 to 2015



Patricia Harms (pictured, a 1983 Maple Elementary School teacher photo) taught for 18 years at Maple Elementary.

"She loved her first graders and realized what an essential role she played in encouraging their love of learning especially through reading," wrote Kim Weston and Kerry Taylor, Patricia Harms' daughters. "Mom felt very strongly that a good education can really

make a difference in elevating all of us. She was honored to be a part of public education in Springfield."

Thank you to those who have given a special donation to SEF in memory of Mrs. Harms: Clayton and Linda Anderson, Deborah Cleere, Robert and Mary Lou Dunn, Estate of Patricia Honeywood Harms, Mike and Sheryl Eyster, Nancie Peacocke Fadeley, Leahy VanVactor Cox & Melendy, Judy and Joe Leahy, Phyllis O'Neal, Kent and Kerry Taylor and Kim Weston.

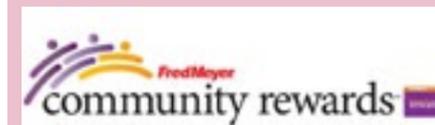
For information on making donations in memory and/or ways to support SEF in your estate plans, please contact Ronnel Curry at 541-726-3243.

## Donate When You Shop Fred Meyer and Amazon – it's free!

THANK YOU to those who have been donating to SEF simply by shopping at Amazon.com and Fred Meyer. The Last fiscal year, we have received \$644! If you haven't done so, please consider this easy way to give.



Before you shop at Amazon.com, go to the SEF website and click on the link. Amazon donates a percentage of your purchase to SEF and it doesn't cost you a penny. Amazon does not identify those who donate through this program, but please know that we appreciate you and you are making a difference by supporting SEF.



Don't forget to sign up for Fred Meyer's Community Rewards program by linking your Rewards Card to the Springfield Education Foundation at [www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards). You can search for SEF by name or by nonprofit number #90641.

Every time you shop using your Rewards Card, you are helping the Springfield Education Foundation earn a donation! It's automatic and you still get all your individual rewards points.

## Alumni Awards Presented at 2nd Annual Honor Roll Event



Savannah Martin (left) and Ambassador Victor Tomseth are recipients of the first annual SEF Alumni Awards. A new perpetual plaque with their names is displayed in the school district building next to the SEF office.

### Savannah Martin Springfield High School Class of 2009 Rising Alumni Award Recipient

"Savannah Martin is the picture of strength, intelligence and motivation," wrote Springfield High School language arts teacher Kathy Harrington. "She has a great sense of community and when she returns home, she speaks to our students about college and scholarship opportunities. Savannah plans to use her doctorate to research health issues in the Oregon Native American community, bringing the full focus of her studies back to our state to help others in need." Savannah is currently pursuing her PhD in physical anthropology at Washington University in St. Louis.

### Victor Tomseth



Savannah Martin (left) chats with Marilyn Williams and Kevin and Tama Rowan at this year's Honor Roll event.

### Springfield High School Class of 1959 Outstanding Alumni Award Recipient

Beverly Chadburn, a teacher for 30 years, nominated Ambassador Tomseth for this award. In his nomination, Beverly quoted Henry Ford who said, "To do for the world more than the world does for you—that is success." She continued by saying, "This is what Victor Tomseth has done, working on a stage far larger than most people would ever dream of entering; accomplishing a wide range of diplomatic achievements, even in areas never to be totally revealed, but critical to our nation; and serving well the world at large."

After graduation from the University of Oregon, Ambassador Tomseth joined the Peace Corps in Nepal. For the next 30 years, he worked for the State Department, including serving as deputy ambassador to Thailand from 1989 to 1992. He was also assigned to Iran where in 1979 Islamic militants held him and 52 Americans captive for 444 days in the U.S. Embassy. He served as ambassador to Laos from 1993 to 1999. In his "retirement," he has held international positions for the Organization for Security and Cooperation and for the U.S. Mission to the United Nations.

The Honor Roll Society was created in 2014 to recognize donors who make outstanding contributions to benefit future Springfield students. Specifically, it recognizes those who make an annual gift of \$1,000 or more, donors who have given a one-time gift of \$10,000 or more, and those who have remembered SEF in their estate plans. Members are invited to an annual appreciation event in which legacy and alumni awards are presented.

**The Focus** is published twice a year for donors, parents, Springfield Public Schools employees, educators, alumni and volunteers—supporters of Springfield Public Schools. To obtain an electronic version, please email [ronnel@springfielddeductionfoundation.org](mailto:ronnel@springfielddeductionfoundation.org).