

Innovative Grants Spark Inspiration at Two Rivers-Dos Ríos

Elementary school receives \$8,826 in SEF grants for 2024-25

SEF grant recipients are creating impactful new opportunities at Two Rivers-Dos Ríos Elementary thanks to grant awards from SEF! Three TRDR educators received grants to enhance learning, promote kindness, and support physical education. Principal Kristen Noor received an SEF Innovative Educator Grant to create a kindness-focused 20'x8' mural, painted by every student with support from the Lane Arts Council. Unveiled during the October 30 Kindness Assembly, the mural reflects TRDR's commitment to kindness and creativity.



Above: students work on the kindness mural; Left: Kristen Noor & Christina San Filippo with the new mural; below left: Jason Clark; Bottom: some of the 5th grade field trips from the "STEAM" grant.



PE Teacher Jason Clark used a Frank Sherman Grant to upgrade gym equipment, purchasing new gymnastics mats for tumbling lessons and cooperative games, as well as enough badminton rackets for full-class participation.

Sara Burgin, a third-time grant recipient, received an Outdoor Education Grant for "STEAM in the Four Spheres," taking all 75 fifth graders on 10 outdoor education experiences this year. Students will explore Earth's systems through activities at locations like Mt. Pisgah, the Eugene Wetlands, and the Oregon Zoo.

"This funding will enrich, extend, and enhance what is learned in the classroom with physical, experiential learning opportunities that would not be possible within a typical school budget. Thank you, SEF Donors!"

- Sara Burgin, fifth grade teacher

Support from generous donors like you makes these projects possible. Every donation to SEF supports educators to inspire creativity, collaboration, and a love for learning. Thank you for helping SEF transform education!



NATURE
GAMES



WETLAND
TOUR



POND
STUDY



A Night of Inspiration and Impact

SEF's 15th annual gala brings community together in support of students

On October 19, 2024, SEF celebrated an incredible milestone—30 years of supporting Springfield students and educators—with an unforgettable event: the Night of 11,000 Stars Gala & Auction. This year's gala was more than just a fundraiser; it was a celebration of community and the impact we can make in our schools when we come together. With the help of our generous supporters, sponsors, and partners, we raised an astounding \$200,000 to empower the next generation through education!



The funds raised at this event will support SEF's Innovative Educator Grants, enabling teachers to launch engaging, hands-on learning projects that ignite a love for learning in our students. See the list of award-winning projects for the 2024-25 school year on the following pages.

This successful event would not have been possible without the dedication and support of many. We owe a huge thank you to the SEF Board of Directors, whose leadership and vision bring our community together. We also want to express our gratitude to our incredible student volunteers: THS & SHS Band Programs, THS Dance Team, THS Culinary,



THS Tennis, SHS Cheer, Mariachi del Sol, Gateways Cosmetology Academy, & SHS Rotary Interact Club.



Thank you also to SELCO Community Credit Union and Eugene Active 20-30 Club for supporting our event with volunteers, and guest speakers, Ally Warner (THS Alum) and Colton Petersen (SHS Alum) for sharing the impact SEF support of student programs made on their educational experiences at Springfield Public Schools.

With your help, we're lighting the path for Springfield's future leaders, innovators, and dreamers. Cheers to 30 years of impact and here's to many more years of empowering student success through community engagement!



Clockwise from top left: Christina San Filippo on the red carpet with SHS Cheerleaders; guests pose in the photo booth; SEF Board; SHS Rotary Interact Club; Innovative Educator Sarah Ferren shows off her grant project; SEF hosts enjoy dinner; Mariachi del Sol; THS Dance Team; Gateways Cosmetology Academy students & CTE teacher Shirley Arnett.



For a full recap and to see more photos from the event, scan this QR code with your phone's camera or visit bit.ly/NOS24Recap

Thank you to our North Star Sponsors



SIERRA
PACIFIC
INDUSTRIES



International
Paper

SEF Supports Basic Needs with \$20,000 Grant

Every school in the district receives funding for family resources

This past spring, the Springfield Education Foundation (SEF) made a significant contribution to Springfield Public Schools (SPS), providing \$20,000 to support Family Resource Centers across the district. This funding boost, made possible by a generous grant from the MillsDavis Foundation, is dedicated to fulfilling the basic needs of students and families throughout Springfield.

Every school in the SPS district has received \$1,000 to help stock their sites with essential supplies such as food, personal care items, shoes, and clothing. Family Resource Educational Assistants welcome students and families by providing a welcoming space where students and families feel safe, supported, and connected to their school community. They play a vital role in ensuring that every student is ready to learn by addressing basic needs that, for some, may otherwise go unmet.



This support is accessible to all students, offering crucial support especially to those who may lack access to these necessities.

“Having resources readily

available makes an incredible difference for our students,” shares Jaydi Fullerton, Family Resource Education Assistant at Agnes Stewart Middle School. “When a student’s basic needs are met, they are more comfortable, focused, and able to succeed in the classroom.”

In addition to supplying essential items, many Family Resource Centers provide family engagement activities, strengthening connections between schools, students, and their families. These activities, along with connections to community services, make the centers an invaluable part of the SPS district’s commitment to supporting student success. We’re proud to be a part of it!



Above: Jaydi Fullerton and Stephanie Leahy show some of the resources available to students and families at Agnes Stewart.

Grants open soon!

SPS Educators: apply for up to \$4,000

SEF Grant Award Applications will open Sunday, December 1, 2024! Submit your applications to receive funding for your creative classroom, grade level, school, or district-wide projects. SEF offers up to \$4,000 awards to provide enriching learning opportunities for students attending Springfield Public Schools. Individuals or collaborative SPS staff teams are eligible to apply. Three types of funding requests are available: Innovative Educator Grant Awards, Social Emotional Learning Fund (SELF) Grants, and Frank Sherman Grants for health, physical fitness, & outdoor education. Applications are due by April 1st.

To learn more, scan this QR code with your phone’s camera or visit SEFLane.org/Grants



SEF's Grant Award applications open soon!

Up to \$4,000 grants available!

SPS Educators are eligible to receive funding for classroom projects or programs that keep students engaged in school!

Grant applications open December 1, 2024 and are due April 1st by midnight.

Create.
Innovate.
Inspire.



SEFLane.org/Grants



2024-25 SEF Grant Award Winners Announced

40 Springfield educators receive funding for innovative projects

SEF staff, board members, and supporters spent a fun-filled day surprising SPS educators with grant awards on May 22, 2024 during the Grant Giving Tour! This year, 40 educators at 14 schools received grants totaling \$112,773, a record high!

INNOVATIVE EDUCATOR AWARDS

\$101,720 Awarded, 24,841 Learning Opportunities

These awards are given to encourage, facilitate and recognize innovative teaching programs at Springfield Schools to empower student success.

Learn more about
each grant project

**SEFLane.org/
Grants**



School	Recipient	Grant Title	Amount
District-wide Elementary Schools	Karen Babcock	Library Activity Centers	\$3,960
	Jack Blashchishen	Learn to Ride a Bike Program Expansion	\$4,000
	Meridien Howe	PE is Powerful Education	\$4,000
District-wide Middle/High Schools	Dara Brennan	Technology for Science	\$4,000
	Xavier Davis	SPS Middle School Black Student Union Summit	\$4,000
Page Elementary	Ivy McClain	Increasing Student Engagement	\$3,299
Douglas Gardens	Tara Sloan	Building Foundational Handwriting Skills	\$2,228
Guy Lee Elementary	Elisha Oestreich	Music in Motion	\$3,823
	Krystal Sundstrom	Connecting Cultures Through Mariachi Music	\$800
	Monica Tapia	SEATS (Sharing Equitable Access to Seating)	\$1,629
Two Rivers-Dos Rios	Kristen Noor	Kindness Mural	\$4,000
Yolanda Elementary	Sarah Bowman	Let's All Be Heard	\$992
	Shoshana Brice	Get Wiggles Out with Flexible Seating	\$1,293
	Kristin Woodford	Redesigned Recorders	\$1,349
	Lelia Zsiga	Equalizing Volume	\$4,000



Briggs Middle	Ana Gavrilovich	Ensuring Long-Term Success of My Music Program	\$4,000
Agnes Stewart Middle	Matt Weber	Roald Dahl Books for Amplify	\$2,000
	Nathan White	Raku Kiln	\$800
	Megan Wyatt	Using Ozobots to Enrich Middle School STEM Lab	\$2,990
Hamlin Middle	Tracy Poe	Engaging Student Readers with High Interest Books	\$3,745

INNOVATIVE EDUCATOR GRANTS CONTINUED

Academy of Arts & Acad.	Katie Ryan	SPHERO Robots for STEAM Projects	\$3,284
	Ruxandra Westra	Cake Club	\$3,457
Springfield High	Jon Bridges	Feeling the Beat	\$4,000
	David Frost	Cultural Heritage Months Celebration	\$750
	Sonja Ljungdahl	Flow of Genetic Information Kits	\$4,000
	Jill Plumb	Technical Education Shines a Light on Students	\$4,000
	Dani Schneider	Creating A Multi-Use Library	\$4,000
Thurston High	Bren Bovee	Podcast Equipment & Media Studio Supplement	\$3,993
	Jonathan Hornung	Enhancing Hands-on Experiences in Science	\$3,865
	Perry Joseph	Printmaking 2	\$3,000
	Casey Leonard	Cross-Curricular Learning in High School Arts	\$2,500
	Crystal Martorano	Recipe Development	\$4,000
	Timothy McSwain	Library "Glow-up" – Enhancing Engagement	\$3,955



SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING FUND (SELF) GRANTS

\$2,000 Awarded, 815 Learning Opportunities

These grants provide funding for educators who wish to implement sustainable social emotional learning opportunities for students attending SPS.

Thurston Middle	Michelle Molony	Middle School Mindfulness	\$1,000
Academy of Arts & Acad.	Wendy Zacharias	Suicide Prevention	\$1,000



FRANK SHERMAN GRANTS

\$2,926 Awarded, 4,974 Learning Opportunities

The purpose of these grants is to promote and support health, physical fitness, and outdoor education activities and curriculum offered at SPS.

Agnes Stewart Middle	Shannon Clark	Understanding Heart Rates	\$1,000
District-wide Elementary	Misty Acker	PE is Powerful Education	\$1,000
Two Rivers-Dos Rios	Jason Clark	Equipment to Enhance Physical Education	\$926



OTHER GRANTS

\$6,127 Awarded, 383 Learning Opportunities

Page Elementary	Char Sandefer	Basic Needs Grant: Laundry Access	\$2,237
Two Rivers-Dos Rios	Sara Burgin	Outdoor Education Grant: STEAM in the Spheres	\$3,890



Professional Tech Gives Students Tools for Future Innovative Educator Grant for SHS Theater upgrades equipment

Jill Plumb has big aspirations for her students - to empower them with professional tools in Theater Classes at Springfield High! SEF is providing this opportunity through an Innovative Educator Grant. Students will be able to set up and utilize SACN (Standardized Architectural Control and Networking) technology to program, create, design technical aspects of lighting/sound production utilizing platforms and tech that will give them experience and knowledge to make them immediately employable post graduation.



Above: students perform in Urinetown; a student explains the technical side of theater.

"This project will be raising the bar for the technical education offered within our programs. SACN technology is used in all local performing arts venues. Students who choose a path in technical fields will be immediately employable with this experience. Those who pursue higher education will have a leg up as they will already be familiar with the systems in professional use. In turn, all concerts, play performances, festivals, assemblies, and events featured in this building would benefit from a professional technical experience that will make student work "shine" brighter onstage." - Jill Plumb

SEF has empowered student success for 30 years! Follow us on social media or visit our website to read about the 40 award-winning projects for the 2024-25 school year. To learn more about this and other vital SEF Programs, go to bit.ly/SEFGrants24.

Sponsor Spotlight LifeSlice Photography

For 16 years, LifeSlice Photography has been capturing moments that inspire and reveal beauty in everyone. Owner and photographer Mike Nordtvedt and his wife Elsie have built a business that embodies artistry and purpose.

"As photographers, we approach creation with a sense of respect and artistic intention to create experiences of revelation, truth, and beauty through the images we create," Mike shares.

A longtime SEF supporter, Mike's connection to our mission is deeply personal. Reflecting on his own school experience, he explains, "Back when I was in elementary school, I had dyslexia. No one caught it... School became a torture of embarrassment for me. If there had been opportunities like SEF provides, I may have 'learned to be a learner' more quickly in life."



LifeSlice
PHOTOGRAPHY



Mike & Elsie Nordtvedt

Mike and Elsie have attended countless SEF events, and many of SEF's most iconic photos are products of their talent. LifeSlice offers portraiture, event photography, school photos, commercial headshots, and even legacy videos. Certified by Professional Photographers of America and accredited by Hearts and Lens, their dedication to craft and community shines through every project. Thank you, LifeSlice Photography, for helping SEF support creative learning opportunities to unlock student potential!

WeddingPhotographyEugene.com

SPRINGFIELD EDUCATION FOUNDATION
INVITES YOU TO

Become a Monthly Donor

Your sustaining monthly contribution will help students achieve greatness. Contributions can go towards any program or school, district initiatives that matter to you, or for general support of SEF's mission to empower student success!



SEFLane.org/
Donate





SEF Jazz & Bubbles Party

Join us on Sunday, January 19, 2025

As we ring in a new year, SEF invites you to gather with us at Tavern on Main in downtown Springfield for a classy evening of jazz music and bubbly drinks!

Internationally renowned jazz vocalist Gina Saputo joins us again at this special event to serenade guests with classic jazz hits, alongside other talented jazz musicians.

A Springfield High alum and internationally celebrated jazz performer, recording artist, and session singer, Gina is also a sought-after clinician, model, actress, and author.

Recently, Gina was inducted into the Springfield High School Hall of Fame, which preserves the memory of SHS Alumni whose accomplishments have brought honor and recognition to SHS.

Complimentary welcome bubbles and heavy hors d'oeuvres are included as well as wine, beer, and other beverages. Specialty jazz-era cocktails available from the Tavern bar. Jazz-era attire encouraged! Tickets:

Fundraiser.bid/JazzBubbles25.

Welcome, New SEF Board Members!

Nate Bill

Nate is the Senior Community Engagement Manager at Northwest Community Credit Union, where he supports initiatives that help strengthen our community. He's also involved with Jackson Street Youth Services in Albany, supporting homeless youth in our area, as well as with the American Cancer Society in Lane County. Nate has called Oregon home for 19 years, and it's where he met his wife, Dana. When he's not working, you can find him on the golf course, cheering on Gonzaga basketball, or attending his son's sporting events.



David Hersch

Driven by his passion for community involvement and making a positive impact, David looks forward to contributing to the foundation's mission of supporting education in Springfield. Originally from West Linn, he now calls Springfield home, where he serves as a State Farm Insurance Agent, helping protect the Lane County community. He married his high school sweetheart, Maddie, in 2023, and David enjoys spending time with her and their two Australian Shepherds. In his free time, he loves golfing, bowling, playing card games, and engaging in any activity that brings people together.





Happy Holidays from SEF!
May your season be merry and bright.

WAYS TO SUPPORT SEF

There are many ways to make a meaningful impact through SEF! Become a monthly donor, volunteer on a committee, or even link your Fred Meyer account to SEF in support of our mission! Use the enclosed envelope to donate now, scan the QR code below, or visit **SEFLane.org** to learn about our mission.



Would you like to join our digital mailing list to receive this newsletter by email? Go to **SEFLane.org/Unsub** to change your mailing preferences.

JOIN OUR BOARD

Join the Springfield Education Foundation Board of Directors and make a lasting impact on local students' lives! Your voice and expertise can help drive innovative programs and create brighter futures for our community's youth. To learn more, scan the QR code below with your phone or visit **SEFLane.org**.



SEF BOARD OF DIRECTORS and STAFF

Micah Adams
Umpqua Bank

Nate Bill
NWCU

Adam Anderson
UO Law School

Nicole De Graff
SPS Board Liaison

Todd Hamilton
SPS Superintendent

Evy Hernandez
Entrepreneur

David Hersch
David Hersch State Farm

Travis Joseph
*American Forest
 Resource Council*

Timothy Leahy
NWCU

Stephanie Lovdokken
SPS Educator

Justin Martin
Columbia Healthcare Banking

Malia Martin
Security Monster

Crystal McPheeters
*UO Advancement
 Financial Services*

Adriel Pickar
NWCU

Patty Schulz
Banner Bank

Erik Vos
Retired CFO

Kelli Warner
Turell Group

John Wheeler
Harry Ritchie's Jewelers

Christina San Filippo
SEF Executive Director

Ashley Mahlum
SEF Program Coordinator

EMPOWERING STUDENT SUCCESS

Springfield Education Foundation
 541-726-3243 | PO Box 663, Springfield, OR 97477



THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

For more information:
SpringfieldEducationFoundation.org