



Letter From the Executive Director Honoring Christina San Filippo's Leadership

This spring brings celebration and new chapters for the Springfield Education Foundation. After more than a decade of service—and six years as Executive Director—Christina San Filippo has retired, leaving a legacy that will continue to shape our schools for years to come. Christina led SEF with a genuine heart and an unwavering belief in what's possible for Springfield students.

We invite you to celebrate Christina's impact by making a gift in honor of Christina.

Because of her leadership, thousands of students have experienced enriched learning, educators have been empowered to innovate, and our community has grown stronger together. Please join us in recognizing Christina by making a gift in her honor!

It is truly a privilege to step into this role and build upon the strong foundation Christina and so many of you have created. **I am inspired by what your support makes possible**—from innovative classroom grants to programs that meet students' basic needs and help them feel seen, supported, and ready to learn.

For 30 years and counting, SEF continues to invest in opportunities that spark curiosity, build confidence, and expand what students believe is possible. These moments—whether in a classroom, on a field trip, or through essential support services—are made possible because of our community that shows up.

In the months ahead, I am committed to listening, learning, and deepening partnerships across our district. I look forward to meeting many of you—our donors, educators, families, and community partners—and working together to further grow

SEF's impact. Thank you for the warm welcome you have extended to me, and for your continued belief in Springfield's students. Together, we can honor Christina's leadership by continuing to say “yes” to more opportunities, more innovation, and more students.

With enthusiasm and deep gratitude,



Sona Hodaie
Executive Director,
Springfield Education
Foundation

We invite you to
make a donation in
Christina's honor at
SEFLane.org/give



Clockwise from top left: Sona Hodaie; 2018 Night of 11,000 Stars, 2020 Grant Cycle; 2022 Honor Roll Society; 2024 BookFest; 2026 Jazz, Bubbles, & Books; Christina San Filippo.



SEF Grant in Action

Catching Them Early: Preparing Future Healthcare Professionals *by Angel Montes-Michel*

Healthcare workforce shortages continue to challenge communities, making it more critical than ever to inspire the next generation of professionals early. At Thurston High School (THS), Kristen Rosenblum is doing just that, giving students the experience to step confidently into the field. As a CTE Health Science teacher, she became certified to teach American Heart Association Basic Life Support CPR, but limited and outdated equipment made hands-on training difficult.



That changed thanks to a \$4,000 Springfield Education Foundation Innovative Educator Grant. With new AED trainers, adult and infant manikins, and essential tools, **her classroom is now an immersive environment where students can earn their CPR certification directly in class.**



“It’s really important because of how funding works in education,” Rosenblum said. “My program gets about \$500 a year for basic supplies like pencils, paper, and gloves. You just don’t have the resources for projects like this. **The grants allow you to dream.** Without this, I could have taught CPR, but not actually have certified students.”

Students now work in pairs instead of large groups, allowing more practice and real-time feedback. “Getting the correct [chest compression] depth is hard,” Rosenblum said. “Having that kind of feedback makes a huge difference.”

Beyond technical skills, the program emphasizes teamwork and real-world application, preparing students for high-pressure situations. CPR certification becomes part of a broader credential portfolio, alongside HIPAA and bloodborne pathogens training.

“Career Technical Education (CTE) is all about relevant, real-world instruction that helps students imagine themselves and their futures. The SEF grant is a great way to recognize the dedication instructors like Kristen bring—providing enriching, hands-on learning experiences for our students,” says Kimberlee Pelster, THS Principal.



By equipping students with real-world skills, Rosenblum’s class, supported by SEF, is helping shape future healthcare professionals. **This hands-on education builds confidence and gives students a meaningful head start in nursing, pre-med, and other healthcare careers.**



Photos: Students in Thurston High School’s CTE Health Science course learn CPR using SEF Grant-funded tools and equipment.



See additional photos and learn more about this program at bit.ly/CTECPR



Investing in Young Readers, One Note at a Time

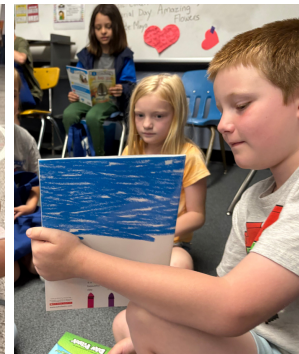
SEF event raises thousands for Literacy by *Brody Wasson*

The Jazz, Bubbles, & Books fundraiser this January was an inspiring evening that brought the community together to celebrate music while supporting literacy for local students. Hosted by Tavern on Main, the evening featured captivating performances by Gina Saputo and Macain Treat, along with a talented ensemble of musicians who kept the room energized throughout the night. The lively atmosphere, great music, and shared purpose created a memorable experience for nearly 60 guests, all gathered in support of a meaningful cause.

Funds raised from the evening will support BookFest 2026, presented in partnership with United Way of Lane County. **BookFest is a community-wide program that helps K-2 students build their home libraries, maintain reading gains over the summer, and ultimately improve their reading skills and confidence.** This fundraiser, alongside generous community contributions, helped expand the reach of this year's program in a significant way.

Because of this strong support, **BookFest will be held at three schools this year:** Guy Lee, Mt. Vernon, and Walterville Elementary Schools. The Springfield Education Foundation extends sincere thanks to the musicians, sponsors, volunteers, and guests who made the evening possible. Their generosity helps ensure that more local students have access to the books and resources they need to succeed.

Below: K-2nd graders at every SPS elementary school have received books in the spring thanks to BookFest; Right: Musicians and guests at Jazz, Bubbles, & Books 2026.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Ava Martin



My name is Ava Martin, and I am a senior at Thurston High School. I'd love to share a bit about my high school journey and how the Springfield Education Foundation has impacted my experience.

SEF provides grants to teachers across our schools. This year, **the Thurston High School band received funding for instrument repair tools and supplies.** Instruments and their parts are expensive, and this grant allowed us to repair what we have instead of purchasing new ones, saving valuable resources.

Our band performs year-round, including at football and basketball games, school assemblies, concerts, and graduation. Thanks to SEF, programs like ours can continue to thrive, giving students meaningful opportunities to learn and perform.

I'm grateful to have been part of such a supportive community.

After graduation, I will attend Linfield University to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I hope to become a nurse and eventually lead a team in a clinical setting.

2025 Honor Roll Society Members

This special distinction recognizes individuals and businesses who make a significant financial investment to SEF through an annual gift of \$1,000 or more, a bequest, or a lifetime gift of \$10,000 or more.

Legacy Builders

Cumulative gifts of \$100,000+

Cressey Family Charitable Trust
Erik & Hilary Vos
Gray Family Foundation
Hamilton Construction Company
International Paper
Kenneth & Kenda Singer
PacificSource Health Plans
The Oregon Community Foundation
Timber Products Company

Lifetime Friends

Cumulative gifts of \$10,000- \$99,999

A3 PTSA

Albin Brandstetter

Anthony & Diane Bova
Banner Bank

Brandi Starck

Bruce & Michelle Webber
Bruce & Shelley Smolnisky

Burrito Amigos

Cafe Yumm! Gateway

Carol Garringer

Chambers Construction

Children's Legacy Foundation Network

City of Springfield

Columbia Bank

Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation

Dan & Shannon Hangengruber

Dan & Terri Hurley

Del & Cheri Johnson

Dennis Shine

DLX Family Foundation

Domenic Ruffatto & Cyndi Solesbee

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Eugene Hearing & Speech Center

Fred Meyer

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Grocery Outlet Eugene

Industrial Source & National

Extinguisher Service

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Lifetime Friends Cont.

Lou & Gail Woodford

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McDonald's of Gateway & Thurston

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OCCU

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Paine Family Charitable Trust

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SELCO Community Credit Union

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Sierra Pacific Foundation

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Springfield District/Twin Rivers Rotary

Springfield Public Schools

Springfield Rotary

Springfield Utility Board

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The Haugland Family Foundation

Todd & Cathy Hamilton

Tracy Berry

Travis & Demi Joseph

University of Oregon

Wells Fargo Bank & Foundation

Westwind Fund of OCF

Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund

Willamalane Park & Recreation District



Above: Chifin Native Youth Summer Camp 2025; BookFest at Thurston Elementary May 2025.

Those listed in **bold print** were added to the list during 2025.

Founder

\$10,000 or more during 2025

Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation
Cressey Family Charitable Trust
MillsDavis Foundation
Murphy Plywood
OCCU

Peak Credit Union

Sierra Pacific Foundation

Spirit Mountain Community Fund
The Haugland Family Foundation
Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund

Leader

\$5,000 to \$9,999 during 2025

DLX Family Foundation

Donna P. Woolley Fund of OCF
Gray Family Foundation

International Paper

Kendall Auto Group

Lane Forest Products

Lewis & Nancy Degeneault
Mark & Cindy Whittington
Matt & Kara Walter
Sandra Perry

SELCO Community Credit Union

SHS Grad Night Committee

Steward

\$2,500 to \$4,999 during 2025

Banner Bank

Bi-Mart & Cascade Farm & Outdoor

Carol Garringer

City of Springfield

Columbia Bank

Daniel Radford & Zori Cook

David Hersch State Farm

Erik & Hilary Vos

FPW Media

Harry Ritchie's

Industrial Source & National Extinguisher Service

John & Shari Peterson
Justin & Malia Martin

King Estate Winery

Kristina Crandell
Marc & Shirley Anderson

PacificSource Health Plans

Raven Dental

Richardson Sports Inc.

RISE of the Umpqua/Willamette Valleys

Sanipac Waste Connections

Springfield Public Schools
Springfield Rotary

Springfield Utility Board

Umpqua Charitable Foundation

Legacy Gifts

**Given in recognition of
donors who have included
the SEF in their estate plans**

Don and Sharon Piper
Kate Wallace

Investor

\$1,000 to \$2,499 during 2025

Adam & Ivy Barr
Albin Brandstetter
Anthony & Diane Bova
First United Methodist Church
Beth De George
Brian Steffen
Bruce & Michelle Webber
Bruce & Shelley Smolnisky

Bushnell University

Chick-fil-A
Complete Vision Center
David Collins
Don & Dolly Woolley
Friends for Floyd Prozanski
Gail Sandgathe

Giustina Resources

Greg & Anne Erwin

Heritage Bank

Hexion

IBEW Local 280
Jeff & Kate Mather
Jeff & Leanna Thompson
Jeffrey & Amy Paschall

Jerry's Home Improvement

Jim & Nancy Stark
John & Diane Garagliano
John & Tresa Lively
Ken & Polly Kohl
Lance Larson

Lease Crutcher Lewis

Lee & Terry Beyer

Lifeslice Photography

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Megan Burrows
Micah & Jennifer Adams
Michelle & Logan Heisler

My Accounting Team

Natalie Carter
Northern Lights Tree Farm
NVIDIA

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Obie Companies

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Oregon National Guard
Pamela Reim

Parr Lumber

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Springfield Chamber of Commerce

Stan & Cathy Paine
Steve & Cynthia Dustrude

Timber Products Company

Tom & Marjorie Cochran
United Women in Faith of Eugene

University of Oregon

Valley Med, PC
Whitney McKinley

Ziply Fiber



Above: Two Rivers-Dos Ríos Elementary students enjoyed over 10 field trips thanks to an SEF Frank Sherman Grant.

Champions Circle

2025 Monthly Donors

Adriel Pickar	Katie Bernstein
Alma Jesus	Keith Fjordbeck
Amber Mitchell	Keith Manring
Amber Morris	Kelli Warner
Amethyst Beard	Ken Kohl
Amy Brooks	Kristi James
Amy Stephens	Kyle Minney
Ann Manring	Lacey Macdonald
Ashley Mahlum	Landry Cummings
Bill & Peggy Bowers	Laura Fowler
Brandi Starck	Laura Scruggs
Brandy Edwards	Lisa Fjordbeck
Brandy Selby	Lisa Zenev
Briony McFarland	Malia Martin
Carla Smith	Mandie Driskill
Catherine Bullinger	Mary Harwood
Catherine Raleigh	Mary Kayl
Christina San Filippo	Megan Moreland
Columbia Bank	Meorah Solar
Complete Vision Center	Micah Adams
Crystal McPheeters	Michael McGraw
Danielle Smith	Michael Moffitt
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David Wasserman	Nicole De Graff
Deanna Brown	Olivia Sorensen
Dustin Reese	Pam Enberg
Evan Cheng	Rebecca Dopps
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Jeff Paschall	Sara Burgin
Jennifer Heiss	Sarah Bowman
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John & Tresa Lively	Stephanie Lovdokken
John Peterson	Tara Sloan
Jonathan Light	Teresa Page
Jose da Silva	Tony & Diane Bova
Justin Martin	Travis Joseph
Kari Isham-Skelton	Vahana Horn
Kate Angelos-Mather	Veronica Elsner
Katherine Waugh	Whitney McKinley

2025 Night of 11,000 Stars Sponsors are in **bold print**.

Member giving levels are accumulated January 2025 to December 2025.

Note: Every attempt has been made to ensure the information on this list is complete and accurate. If you made a gift and your name is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please excuse this oversight. Please contact Sona Hodaie so proper acknowledgement can be made of your future support.

CHOOSE YOUR ESCAPE RAFFLE

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Caribbean escapes & beyond!



\$50 per ticket
All proceeds benefit
Springfield students!

Scan to win!
Enter by May 15, 2026.
Escape26.fundraiser.bid



Oregon Battle of the Books 2026

Springfield students rise to the challenge

SEF was proud to support this year's OBOB regional tournament, hosted by SPS at Thurston High and **powered by an incredible team of more than 70 volunteers**. From moderating competitions to greeting families to keeping the day running smoothly, volunteers made it all possible. Special thanks to CLF Network for their generous support, providing funding for team/volunteer t-shirts, meals, and sending a dedicated group of volunteers to lend a hand.

Congratulations to Guy Lee Elementary's "The Ultimate Legends of Ketchup" for taking first place this year after a second-place finish in 2025. We're cheering them on as they advance to the state competition!



Top: CLF Network volunteers helped the competitions run smoothly;
Bottom: Guy Lee Elementary's team will advance to state competitions.

OCCU \$20,000 Gift for Basic Needs

Family Resource Centers to receive support

The Springfield Education Foundation is grateful to the OCCU Foundation for a generous \$20,000 grant supporting Family Resource Centers across Springfield Public Schools.

These centers, staffed by dedicated Family Resource Center Educational Assistants (FRC EAs), help connect families with essential supports so students can focus on learning. Funds will be distributed across schools based on enrollment, with a portion reserved for SEF's Basic Needs Fund and grocery gift cards to respond quickly to urgent family needs.



Above: SEF & OCCU surprised FRC EA's with a check; below: SEF provides Douglas Gardens with winter food support

The funding will provide high-need items such as hygiene kits, food boxes for weekends and school breaks, snacks, clothing, and shoes. Sometimes the impact is as simple and powerful as helping a student choose their very first pair of new seasonally appropriate shoes in the right size.

We are deeply thankful to OCCU Foundation for investing in students' well-being and helping ensure every child feels safe, supported, and ready to succeed. Thank you, OCCU Foundation!



Honoring a Legacy of Learning

Remembering two educators whose passion shaped generations of Springfield students

Conrad Roemer



Keith Keener



“Conrad Roemer taught at Springfield High School from 1962 -1995 (33 years of service). He was a beloved history teacher for thousands of students. He taught through role playing and class simulation so that kids could have actual first hand experience on how people actually felt in those times. He brought history alive! He was so loved and respected by both student and faculty that he was honored with the Roemer Wing that still stands today at the entrance of the Springfield High schools Social Studies Department.”

“Keith Edward Keener passed away on 1/17/2026 after a brief fight with cancer. Keith was planning to retire this year, after teaching shop for 31 years with Springfield Public Schools. He formed strong bonds with his students, many of whom visited after their middle school years to update him on their lives. He even taught 2 of his sons-in-law! Keith leaves behind his wife Kristin; two children; two stepdaughters; as well as four grandsons. He will be sorely missed.”

SPECIAL GIFTS 2025

In Memory of...

Barbara Booth Davis - Gift from United Women in Faith of Eugene First United Methodist Church

Bill & Faith Kinkel - Gifts from David Loveall & Barbara Rueter

Carolyn Batsch - Gifts from Beverly Chadburn & Joanne Walters

Conrad Roemer - Gift from Le Groupe' Book Club

EJ Rotherham - Gifts from Nancy Golden & Roger Guthrie and Tom & Barbara Roberts

Gary A De George - Gift from Clare Beth De George

Jan Hinricks - Gift from Joanne Walters

JD Bryant - Gift from Nancy Golden & Roger Guthrie

John Svoboda - Gifts from: Loren & Gloria Olson, Nancy Golden & Roger Guthrie, Sharon & JR Robertson, Steve & Cynthia Dustrude

Keith Keener - Gifts from: John & Linda Urness, Lauren Lucht, Janet Ames, Nancy Golden & Roger Guthrie, Nancy Novitski, Dr. Quentin A. Holmes, Gerry Keener

Judy Langworthy - Gift from Stan & Cathy Paine

Marie Spores - Gift from John Spores & Sharifah Syedahmad

Mark Dome - Gift from Jennifer & Michael Von Flatern

Philip Cohen - Bienn Quaas-Annsa

Ruben Moore - Gifts from Le Groupe' Book Club, Deanna Jacobson, and Judy Sheppard

Walter Reim - Gift from Pamela Reim

In Honor of...

Kathy Kingsbury - Gifts from Stan & Cathy Paine and Zehra Greenleaf

Kay Boyd - Gift from Nancy Golden & Roger Guthrie

Save the date

Night of
Eleven Thousand
STARS

OCT 24 2026

Join us for
Springfield
Education
Foundation's
17th annual
gala in support
of Springfield
students &
educators

Upcoming Events

Monthly

Toast to Teachers at PublicHouse
April 23 - Yolanda Elementary
May 14 - Thurston Middle

May 27

SEF Grant Giving Tour

Jun 27

SEF Summer Celebration

For more information on upcoming events,
visit SEFLane.org/Events.

InspirED is published twice per year for donors, families, Springfield Public Schools employees, educators, alumni, volunteers, sponsors, and other supporters of Springfield Public Schools.

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WHEN
STUDENTS
SUCCEED
we all do!

WAYS TO SUPPORT SEF

There are many ways to make a meaningful impact through SEF! Become a monthly donor, volunteer, join our Board of Directors, 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.

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Follow us on social media for all the latest updates! We share stories about how your impact is making a difference in our community, info about upcoming events, and so much more. Find an easy list of our socials by scanning the QR code below with your camera or visit

Linktr.ee/SEFLane.



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