

# FR1ENDS of the CH1LDREN

Central Oregon



2021 Gratitude Report

# OUR VALUES

Our values guide us to achieve our mission. Each value applies not only to youth, Friends and program teams, but also applies to all Friends of the Children employees, volunteers and partners. We use our values to make informed decisions; to hire, coach and manage; and most importantly, we use our values to change the way the world treats and views the youth and families we serve.



## DEMAND EQUITY

We acknowledge the historical and present injustices impacting marginalized communities. We demand equity from ourselves and from our community. We insist that all people have the necessary support to achieve all of their hopes and dreams. We amplify the voices of children, families and communities. We bring together different experiences, skills and backgrounds to provide opportunities to overcome personal, systemic and institutional barriers.



## COMMIT TO EMPOWERMENT

We leverage personal strengths to take ownership of our futures. We build relationships within the communities of youth and families to strengthen social networks and provide bridges to new opportunities. We consistently inspire possibility through empathy, hard work and fun. We model all of this for youth, families in our program and each other.



## PUT CHILDREN FIRST

We intentionally serve youth who are facing the greatest obstacles. To help youth discover their limitless potential, we foster their internal resiliency. We listen to youth and base decisions on each youth's needs and dreams. We prioritize self-care so that we bring our best selves to our work and focus on youth in our program.



## PURSUE GOALS RELENTLESSLY

We celebrate all achievements, big and small. We are disciplined in our commitment to goals, while innovative in how we reach them. We believe that the definition of success requires intentional reflection and adjustment over time. We work together and hold ourselves accountable with data to achieve short- and long-term outcomes.



## BUILD RELATIONSHIPS ON LOVE

We nurture long-term relationships from a foundation of love, acceptance and culturally informed practice. We don't give up easily and take a no matter what approach to our work. We commit for the long term. We intentionally develop collaborative relationships over time with trust, empathy and health communication. We believe that we build community through one-on-one connections that are authentic, respectful and meaningful.

## OUR MISSION

We impact generational change by empowering youth who are facing the greatest obstacles through relationships with professional mentors – 12+ years, no matter what.

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

*Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose:* the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Nearly 175 years after penning them, French writer Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr's words still ring true. Globally, and even here in the United States - the world's wealthiest country for over a century - the ravages of poverty stubbornly remain. At Friends of the Children Central Oregon, we have experienced change as well, but rest assured that our commitment to breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty for the youth we serve stays the same.

What are some changes that happened this year at Friends Central Oregon?

- Kim Hatfield, our visionary founding Executive Director, stepped down from that position as she relocated to Washington to be near her growing family; congratulations on becoming a grandmother, Kim...twice! We are thrilled that Kim continues to provide administrative support and wisdom remotely. And, as Kim often espoused, we will keep dreaming big.
- In May, we welcomed our new Executive Director, Rachel Cardwell. Rachel has confidently stepped into a relatively young organization blessed with the strong foundation that Kim built over the past 4 years. Rachel's passion and energy will be integral in helping Friends Central Oregon to transition beyond its formative years into a larger, sustainable organization reaching more families in the Central Oregon area. If you haven't already had a chance to meet Rachel, I encourage you to reach out to her.
- We are delighted that the Ranch – the home-away-from-home for our kiddos - recently became operational. This beautiful 19-acre property, boasting meadows and pristine forested land, is already inspiring our youth, and promises to be a safe and dependable part of their lives during their critically important developmental years. The Ranch is the vehicle through which our organization will provide the consummate Central Oregon experience to our youth.
- We are steadily adding new Friends: our incredible, dedicated professional mentors who work directly with our youth and their families. The Board is committed to providing an inclusive, supportive environment for our staff so that we can remain an attractive career choice in a challenging labor market.
- Our planned addition of two new Friends will open our doors to 15 additional youth in the coming year, bringing us to a total of 61 children served.

As you can see, there is much to celebrate as we usher in a new year. The Board recognizes that the successful initial launch and future growth of Friends Central Oregon is due to the generosity of you, our individual and corporate donors and key strategic supporters. We all share a common passion for the mission of our organization. You can be proud that the achievements of our program here in Central Oregon are inspiring the formation of other rural chapters throughout the country. Please help us by continuing to direct resources and spread awareness about our model throughout our community. With your support, we will continue to work with our youth and help launch them into adulthood with confidence and purpose...no matter what.

Sincerely,  
Stu Malakoff  
2020-2023 Board Chair



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Founder, Bend Wealth Advisors

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Psychotherapist (LCSW), Private Practice

### **Laura Nofziger, Former Board Chair**

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Vice President, Coachwell

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Educator, Community Leader

### **Fernando Gottlieb, Director**

Owner, Moving to Bend

### **Kim Garner, Director**

Community Leader

“As a mentor, I want to bring light to the darkest places. I see myself as a beam of light, illuminating shadows from someone's life. My youth know they can lean on me during the tough moments and we can celebrate the joyous ones. Being a mentor is the most rewarding career and I love my job.”

- Aaron, Professional Mentor / Friend



# Nate and Aaron

Nate is an adventurous, kind youth that loves his family and friends.



On one outing, Aaron decided to take Nate somewhere new, The Bend Rock Gym. Nate's eyes lit up as he saw people of all skill levels climbing. Feeling adventurous, he got his gear on and went for it. He tried different routes, handholds and footholds. By the end of the climbing session, he was hooked.

On the way home, Nate couldn't contain the excitement he felt at the gym and told Aaron that he wanted to go there on every outing. Aaron mentioned that while that would be super cool, they should set a goal so Nate can work towards doing a special outing like that again. Nate asked, "What's a goal?" Aaron shared that a goal is something you work towards. Together they thought about a goal that Nate could work on.

Nate loves spending his time with his mom at home, they do everything together! In the past, Nate wouldn't go to school very often so he could stay at home, so Aaron thought this would be a great opportunity to set a goal around school attendance. "So you know how your mom has a job she goes to? That is her daily responsibility, and your responsibility is to go to school so your brain can grow. How about this, if you can go to school all five days next week, we can go to the Bend Rock Gym for another outing."

The next week, Nate attended school every day and enjoyed the time getting to know his classmates. When Aaron saw him, they talked more about goal setting and are building core assets like Find Your Spark, Self Determination, and Building Positive Relationships. Aaron was so proud of Nate for following through on a goal and can't wait to introduce him to new activities.

**100%**

of our youth are  
experiencing poverty



**41%**

of our youth identify  
as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous,  
People of Color)



**21%**

are experiencing  
foster/kinship care



**11%**

are houseless



**100%**

of youth have six or  
more Adverse Childhood  
Experiences

**46**

youth served this year

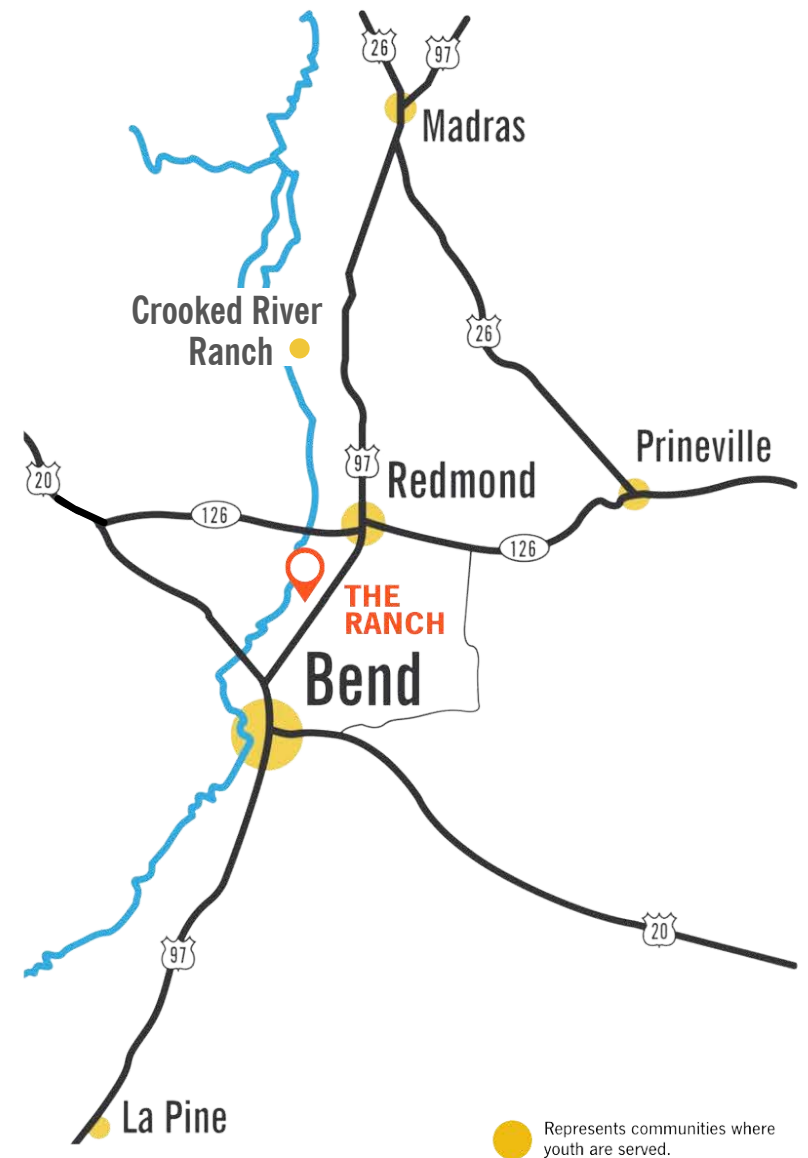
Children range from  
**5 to 11 years old** and are  
enrolled in kindergarten through  
fourth grade

Attend **19 schools** across  
**6 districts** throughout  
Central Oregon

## OUR PROGRAM

Friends of the Children Central Oregon selects children who face multiple systemic obstacles, and pairs them with a paid professional mentor, called a "Friend", from kindergarten through high school graduation. 12+ years, no matter what.

Our model was founded on research showing that the single most important factor in overcoming childhood adversity is a long-term, nurturing relationship with a consistent and caring adult. Friends spend at least four hours of individualized time with their youth each week. They serve as a link between the different areas of a child's life to create stability and consistency – spending time in school as an advocate; time in their neighborhood to build connections and community; and time at home, becoming a trusted resource to the youth and their caregivers.



## REPORT CARD

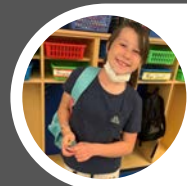
Friends of the Children have nine research-based Core Assets, which are specific qualities we focus on to encourage the social and emotional development of our youth. Our intentionality around Core Assets is what sets us apart and supports our youth entering adulthood with a solid foundation for future success.

**This page shares the number of times our youth and mentors have worked on each Core Asset over the year.**



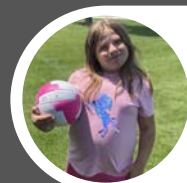
**1001**

**PERSEVERANCE AND GRIT:** I work hard through challenges and finish what I start.



**1733**

**BELONGING:** I understand who I am, have a place where I feel accepted, and know that my contributions count.



**1150**

**FIND YOUR SPARK:** I use creativity to explore my passions.



**1045**

**PROBLEM SOLVING:** I know how to weigh the pros and cons and make a decision.



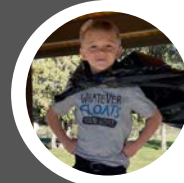
**1090**

**SELF-MANAGEMENT:** I know how to manage my feelings and take care of myself in a healthy way.



**1307**

**GROWTH MINDSET:** I love learning and know that my abilities will improve through dedication and effort.



**1469**

**HOPE:** When I have tough times, I believe it can get better.



**970**

**SELF-DETERMINATION:** I believe in myself and am able to set goals and achieve them.



**2364**

**POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP BUILDING:** I get along well with others and am able to find people to support me.



# LOOKING AHEAD

## The Ranch

We moved into our forever home this year. The Ranch is a space for active learning, discovery, and healing for the children we serve. It is a permanent sanctuary for Friends and youth to connect, build resiliency, and feel at home. Centrally located the property enables equitable access for children in Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson Counties. Join us in 2022 as we ignite a capital campaign to transform The Ranch into a truly extraordinary space, providing a bridge to new opportunities for the youth across Central Oregon. A comprehensive plan will guide intentional creation of spaces that encourage the social and emotional development of our youth.



*“Kids feel comfortable here, the professional people that are on staff that mentor these children feel comfortable, and what makes them feel comfortable? It's a place of freedom, it's a place of learning... it's wide open and we're all in.”*

- Steve Hendley, Managing Partner  
Compass Commercial Construction Services

## The STEM Lab Skills for the Future

STEM education empowers children with the 21st Century skills to succeed and adapt to this increasingly complex world. Having the opportunity to experiment and learn in the STEM Lab at The Ranch will equip our children to meet school-based outcomes, and ready them for success in a STEM-rich economy.



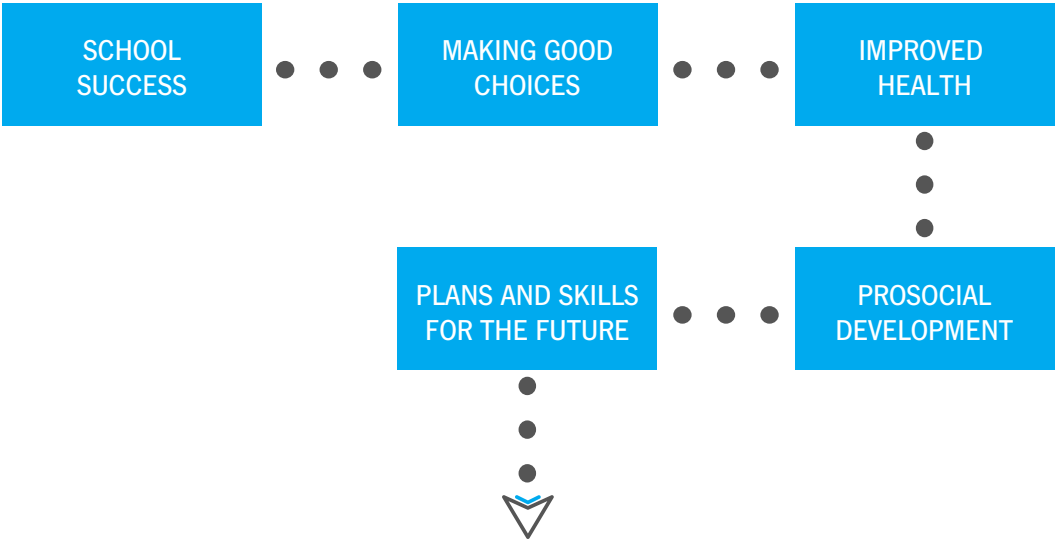
## The Library Literacy for Life

For the children we serve, the one-on-one connection while reading with a Friend is priceless. The Library at The Ranch is a perfect location for this interactive and educational experience to occur. Instilling a love for reading builds confidence in every other core subject. This foundational skill sets our youth on a path toward academic achievement and lifelong curiosity.



## INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

To ensure that youth are on track to reach long-term success, we support youth to achieve their own goals within our five intermediate outcome areas.



## LONG-TERM SUCCESS

Our youth's success with intermediate outcomes leads them to achieve long-term success. Nationally, these numbers represent 28 years of Friends of the Children youth outcome data.



93% of youth remain free from involvement in the juvenile justice system.



92% of youth go on to enroll in post-secondary education, serve our country or enter the workforce.



98% of youth wait to parent until after their teen years.



83% of youth receive their high school diploma or GED.



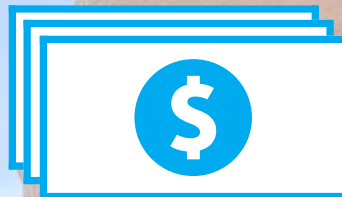


## LASTING IMPACT



**\$1**

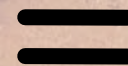
invested in Friends of the  
Children Central Oregon



returns

**\$7**

to the community in  
saved social costs

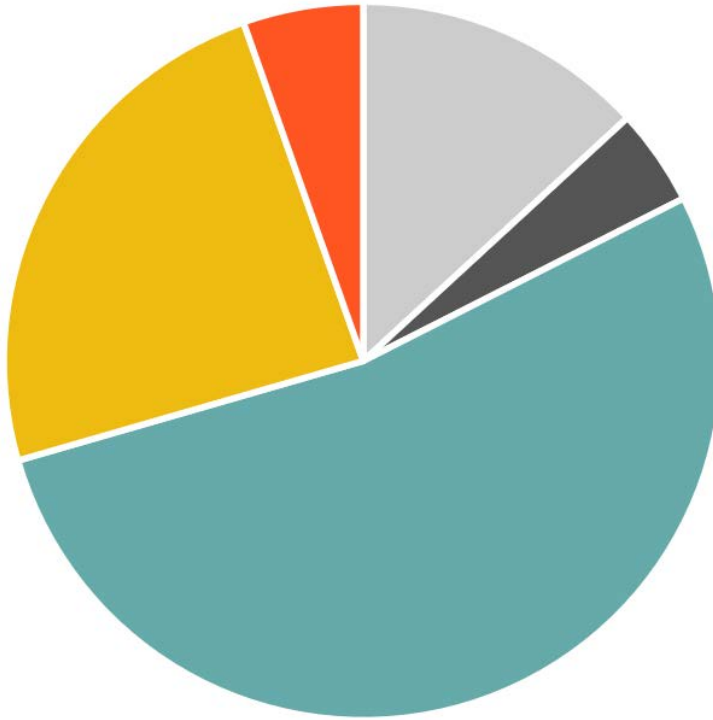


Helping one child saves the  
community

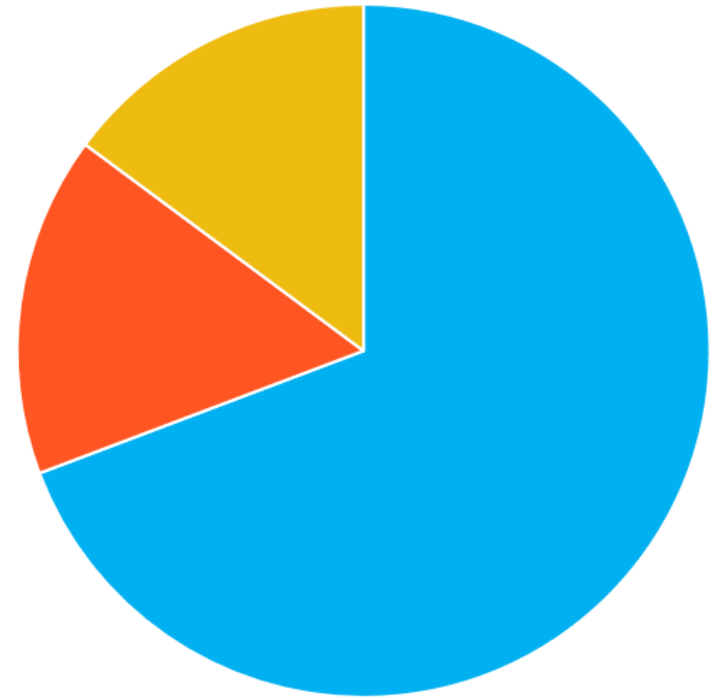
**\$900,000**

*\*Based on a study conducted by the Harvard Business School Association of Oregon*

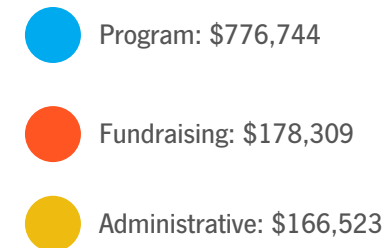
## FINANCIALS - FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021



**REVENUE TOTAL: \$1,658,505**



**EXPENSES TOTAL: \$1,121,576**



\*Includes \$262,338 in net assets released from restriction



## DEAR FRIENDS OF FRIENDS CENTRAL OREGON

Gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder...

I've always loved this quote from Gilbert Chesterton. It encapsulates two really wonderful feelings and packages them into a grounded moment where one looks back and forward simultaneously. For gratitude spans both the past and the future. It allows us exhale and reflect, but also to imagine what may come.

Turns out 2021 brought with it a lot of things to be grateful for: a return to the classroom for our youth following months of isolation; treasured connections between Friends and our families; and pushing ourselves to innovate and imagine new ways of serving them. We moved into our forever home and already the sounds of children laughing and playing fill our halls. We have welcomed new team members, myself included, who are eager to join this work.

2021, for all its challenges, has been pretty full of happiness and wonder thanks to our community of supporters. We have weathered the storm thanks to you and are better positioned to increase our capacity in 2022 because of your gifts. Your optimism about our future will drive our impact on the lives of the youth we serve.

We cannot do this without you. Our gratitude is sheer happiness doubled by wonder, nay awe, that you have chosen our youth and our program to support.

On behalf of the entire team at Friends Central Oregon, thank you for bringing joy and wonder to our lives. And here's to more of it in 2022!

*Rachel Cardwell*  
Rachel Cardwell, Executive Director

## THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Our heartfelt thanks to the following donors for their generous contributions in fiscal year September 2020 - August 2021. You helped us continue our mission of providing mentorship to youth in our community.



Patti Adair  
Renee Alexander  
Amanda Kruit, Hayden Homes  
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 Lana and Matt Wittmer  
 Ana Wright  
 Jacquelyn Young  
 Andrea Zechmann  
 Andy Zook

If you feel you have been excluded from  
 this list or we misspelled your name,  
 please accept our sincerest apologies  
 and email [info@friendscentraloregon.org](mailto:info@friendscentraloregon.org)  
 so we may properly thank you.



"\*\*Kayla brings up how grateful she is to be in this program a lot, but on the ride home, she explained why. She told me that she is so relieved we chose her because her life was really stressful before. She said that she is more active and thoughtful because of the program, and even that her life means more to her and to others because of it. At one point she said, "my jaw won't stop moving!" Saying she never talks this much, only with people that make her feel safe. How amazing that she feels this way, and even more so that she is able and willing to articulate it! This girl is truly one of a kind."

Story shared by Friend / Professional Mentor, Colleen

*\*Youth name changed to protect family's privacy*

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