

Gratitude ReportSeptember 2019 - August 2020

FR1ENDS of the CH1LDREN



Central Oregon



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A Message From Our Board Chair

Twenty-twenty has been a transformative year for Friends of the Children – Central Oregon. I am pleased to report the unexpected challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic were successfully navigated with creativity, enthusiasm, and flexibility by staff and leadership. Indeed, 2020 demonstrated our collective core asset of perseverance and grit.

With the formative years of Friends-Central Oregon behind us, the board supported pivots to ensure the sustainability and expansion of our program. Actions included:

- providing market adjustments to staff compensation to facilitate continuity;
- outsourcing some non-youth-facing roles for cost savings;
- evolving responsibilities among some full-time staff to enhance our development efforts and further raise community awareness;
- and purchasing our forever home, "The Ranch", in late October.

This beautiful 19-acre Ranch, located between Bend and Redmond, will provide a safe and secure place for our children to develop. The purchase also positions the organization for future growth and gives us the ability to control the cost and quality of the services we provide, and has the potential to become an income-producing asset.

One of the guiding values of Friends-Central Oregon is to demand equity for our youth so they can overcome systematic and institutional barriers. This year raised awareness of this challenge to the forefront of our nation's psyche. One of the reasons I am most proud of being involved with Friends-Central Oregon is that the organization has been walking the walk and talking the talk since the very beginning.

With the continued generosity of our donors, supporters, champions and friends, we are more assured than ever in achieving our long-term vision of strengthening the communities of Central Oregon one child at a time. We are deeply thankful that you have chosen to be an essential part of this positive change.

If you are reading this, then you have reason to be proud too: Friends-Central Oregon's mission is precisely designed to break to cycle of generational poverty and to help our youth successfully launch into adulthood with the confidence and resolve necessary to shape their world.

Sincerely, Stu Malakoff 2020-2023 Board Chair



A Message From Our Executive Director



I am deeply thankful to have the honor of partnering with this incredible team and serving this caring community. We warmly say "thank you" to our generous donors for travelling alongside us, not unlike how we walk beside our youth, on this journey in breaking the cycle of generational poverty.

As we celebrate our third anniversary and move into our fourth year of operations, I am acutely aware of how we are constantly pivoting to improve and adapt our program at Friends of the Children. Each year has proven itself to be distinct from the others, and like all of our partners and friends, this fiscal year embodies the spirit of development more than any other time.

When the pandemic hit our region, every facet of the organization responded uniquely in order to overcome a new set of hurdles. The Friends/Mentors went straight to work adapting their mentorship in beautiful, creative ways. We saw them making connections in virtual environments, meeting caregivers and children's basic needs through food and supplies delivery and working with school staff to deliver seamless mentorship and love to program youth. We took "no matter what" to a whole new level.

The execution of our primary goal of ensuring that our full-time professional mentors walk alongside our youth and their caregivers for the long term may appear differently this year, but its integrity remains intact. Our mantra – 12+ years no matter what, continues to hold true as the north star of our organization, and we are more committed than ever to seeing it through. The board of directors, administrative team, and Friends are proud of how we continue to serve our youth with consistency and fervor over these last three years.

As you will read throughout this report, our youth continue to grow and learn through your generous support. Your contributions ensure that we continue to impact generational change, one child at a time. The team at Friends of the Children Central Oregon hope you find both hope and inspiration in the stories and accomplishments in this gratitude publication.

I am deeply thankful to have the honor of partnering with this incredible team and serving this caring community. We warmly say "thank you" to our generous donors for travelling alongside us, not unlike how we walk beside our youth, on this journey in breaking the cycle of generational poverty.

With extreme gratitude,



Core Assets

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



785

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



919

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



1185

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



519

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



1024

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



1945

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



638

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



671

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



2808

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

The Power Of Relationships

66 I am really happy my daughter is a part of Friends of the Children. She is so happy with her Friend, Dani, and she misses her all the time. Thank you for the time you spend with her and for everything you do with her. I, too, am happy that she has you as a Friend. 99

-Parent

I can tell you as a grandmother raising her grandson, being in this program has taken so much pressure off. I don't feel so scared and alone. *Gary adores Kasey and the security I see in his eyes when he knows Kasey is around is a wonderful thing. I am so grateful for you all and Kasey is perfect for us. *9

-Caregiver

Working with Sarah and Colleen have been amazing and I feel blessed to have Friends of the Children in our lives. They are both two of the nicest people I've ever met and I love that my daughter has had both of them in her life. My daughter needs people like them in her life, so thank you so much for letting them in hers. **

-Parent

Working with Friends of the Children was a wonderful experience for our family. The mentor our child was matched with was a stable, positive role model that consistently supported and encouraged him. His mentor not only helped him manage himself at school, both academically and socially, but also helped him explore outside interests as well. Having the connection to a mentor was an invaluable resource to us. **

- Foster Parent

This program has been such a blessing! It's been so great to have people dedicated to my son and his success. I truly appreciate and applaud Friends of the Children. It feels like an extended family!

FOTC has been an incredible emotional and physical support for my grandson since day one. His time with Corey each week means so much to *John, who is only 7, and has few good male role models in his life. The extra help Friends has offered our whole family with food, shoes, school supplies, and a caring ear has been a blessing. They have been especially helpful during COVID and when we were going through a tough time. They always seem to have fun together and *John wants more time with Corey. **Caregiver*

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



"The thing I enjoy most about being a Friend is the long-term commitment we make to the youth in our program. We have a no matter what, 12+ year commitment to the youth we serve. I have had the privilege of knowing the youth I work with since they were five years old, providing me the ability to witness them hit major developmental milestones. Over the years, I have seen their confidence and self-worth grow tremendously. I have been with them when they have caught their first fish or when they have learned to ride a bike. I have seen them light up with joy as they accomplish something they never thought possible, like overcoming a fear of heights and soaring to the top of the climbing wall. I have witnessed how this confidence and self-esteem translates to school success and I routinely hear from teachers how their attitudes have drastically improved in the classroom. I have been fortunate to be with them during some great times and I have also been there during some difficult times. As a Friend, I get to keep showing up in these kids' lives and offering whatever support I can. No Matter What."

Corey, Professional Mentor/Friend

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

"I have been working with *Stella and George since February. I was really excited to see this relationship grow because the dynamic between George and *Stella was one that I hadn't worked with before. I have never seen a father be so present in their daughter's life. He is an excellent communicator, and he keeps me up to date with what *Stella is doing in her everyday life. I even get text messages on the weekends showing me pictures of whatever adventure they embarked on. When I first started working with her, she struggled a lot with abandonment issues, stemming from her absent relationship with her mother. Over the last 10 months, we have worked on coping mechanisms and self-soothing skills to help *Stella navigate big emotions. George has reached out to me multiple times to ask for support surrounding food needs, home appliance needs, etc. In the beginning of our relationship, these are things he would not have been comfortable asking for. George and I have built a great relationship, and we both have a mutual respect and understanding for the roles we each play in *Stella's life. It feels great that we have built this relationship of trust and that he is comfortable sharing with me any obstacles they might be experiencing. Working with this family has given me a new purpose, and I feel incredibly blessed to be a part of this organization because it allows me to build these long-lasting relationships."



Collective Impact

The Friends of the Children model is distinct, courageous and proven. We select children who face multiple systemic obstacles and amplify their voices as they write their own stories of hope and resilience. Our youth are paired with a paid, professional mentor that serves as a link between the different areas of a child's life to create stability and consistency – spending time in school as an advocate and support; time in their neighborhood to build connection and community; and time at home, becoming a trusted resource to the youth and their caregivers. We commit to every child for the long-term, from kindergarten through graduation. 12+ years, no matter what.

We could not deliver on our no matter what promise without the support of our community partners who are driving collective impact in Oregon. This year more than any other, our community and state partners have stepped up to stand beside us in serving children who face the greatest obstacles. The list is long and we sincerely thank each and every partner, friend, foundation and donor for the ongoing support, especially during this year of pandemic pivots and unknowns.

Direct COVID Reponse Funders:

Broken Top Bottle Shop

Cascade Catering Central Oregon Health Council **Crook County Public Health Department Deschutes Public Health Department** Ford Family Foundation The Giving Plate Herbert A. Templeton Foundation Jefferson County Public Health Department **Kuni Foundation** Let's Eat Together Fund – Paige and Erich Schultz & Friends **Oregon Health Authority** Pacific Source The Roundhouse Foundation **United Way of Central Oregon** Westside Church AND numerous community members listed on our donor page













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. The data below represents the number of hours Friends spent making progress with their youth this year.



Friends spent 3,236 hours making progress on social and emotional development with their youth such as building relationships with Friends and adults who provide social support and connections to resources.

PLANS AND SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE Friends spent 456 hours working with youth on attaining skills for safety and independence, setting short and long-term goals and monitoring progress toward them.



Friends spent 413 hours helping their youth make good choices such as engaging in positive extra-curricular activities and making self-guided decisions to avoid risky behavior.



Friends spent 1,071 hours supporting youth in school success by encouraging them to finish homework and stay focused in the classroom.



Friends spent 753 hours coaching youth on improved health, such as making healthy eating choices and getting regular activity.

Long - Term Success

Our youth's success with intermediate outcomes leads them to achieve long-term success. Nationally, these numbers represent 27 years of Friends of the Children youth outcome data.

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



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



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



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



\$1=\$7

Fiscal Year September 2019 - August 2020



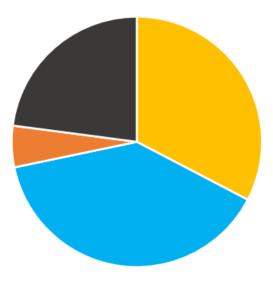
- Individual \$475,958
- Corporation \$65,103
- Government \$279,156

Federal: \$118,517

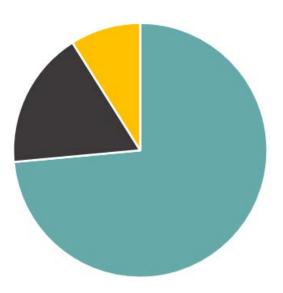
State: \$44,540 County: \$5,418

CARES Act: \$110,681

- Program \$678,020
- Management \$161,418
- Development \$ 82,544



Revenue Total: \$1,217,812



Expenses Total: \$921,982



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FR1ENDS of the CH1LDREN

Central Oregon



Friends of the Children Central Oregon is committed to transparency in every part of our organization. We are proud to announce that we were awarded the Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest seal possible for nonprofits, by GuideStar, the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations.

Madras **Prineville** Sisters Redmond The Ranch Bend Represents communities where vouth are served.

The Ranch A Sanctuary for Friends

Join us in 2021 as we launch our capital campaign to purchase our forever home. The Ranch will offer space for active learning, discovery, and healing for the children we serve. It will be a permanent sanctuary for Friends and youth to connect, build resiliency, and feel at home. The location of The Ranch is intentional. The Friends of the Children Central Oregon board and staff were steadfast that the property needed to be centrally located and accessible. Owning this property outside the Bend and Redmond city limits will improve the organization's sustainability over the long-term, decrease operational expenses, as well as enable equitable access for children in Crook and Jefferson Counties.



THANK YOU FROM THE CENTRAL OREGON TEAM



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Nona Armstrong Program Director



Megan Lengele Events and Marketing Manager



Joe Beaton Team Lead/Friend/Mentor



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