

FR1ENDS of the CH1LDREN

Central Oregon

A photograph of a man and a young boy sitting on a wooden park bench with green metal armrests. The man, on the right, is wearing a black baseball cap with "FR1ENDS of the CH1LDREN" on it, a plaid shirt, red shorts, and sneakers. He has a beard and tattoos on his arms. The boy, on the left, is wearing a grey t-shirt with a graphic, blue jeans, and sandals. They are both looking at each other and holding hands. The background is a blurred park setting with green grass and trees.

2017 - 2018 Gratitude Report

“When I first heard about Friends of the Children, I was really excited. In my work with children over the past 25 years, what I have found is that a caring adult makes a difference and I’ve had the joy of working with lots of caring adults. The difference with Friends of the Children is that the caring adult stays with each child year after year from the very beginning, which starts in kindergarten for us, through high school. And that’s what got my attention about Friends of the Children.”

-Desiree Margo,
Principal at Redmond
Early Learning Center

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Breaking the Cycle of Generational Poverty

Our mission is to break the cycle of generational poverty. Our model is to achieve this goal through intentional relationship.

Friends of the Children is a prevention/early intervention program working to enable our nation's highest-risk children to develop the relationships, goals, and skills necessary to break the cycles of violence, poverty, and abuse in order to become contributing members of society. Friends of the Children was founded in Portland, Oregon in 1993 and now serves 15 communities nationally.

We aim to break the cycle of generational poverty by giving children facing the highest risks the ability to create a new story. We do this by providing our community's most vulnerable children with a long-term, salaried, professional mentor, who we call a "Friend," from kindergarten through high school graduation, 12.5 years – no matter what.

The goal is that one day all children will have a long-term, consistent relationship with a caring adult who believes in them, which would change the collective stories of our community.

The Harvard Business School Association of Oregon quantified that for every \$1 invested in Friends of the Children, the community benefits from more than \$7 in saved social costs. Helping one child saves the community \$900,000.

Based on demonstrated need and community commitment, our Central Oregon chapter launched in late 2017. After extensive research and partnership discussions, it was clear that, prior to the founding of Friends of the Children Central Oregon, no program existed in the Central Oregon community to serve our most vulnerable children with the level of wrap-around support, longevity, and intentionality our Friends provide. Specifically, we are the first and only professional mentoring organization in Central Oregon.





Our Friends and Youth

Three outstanding founding Friends were hired in January 2017.

Thanks to our partners with the Redmond and Bend-La Pine School Districts, Friends spent six weeks observing kindergarten students at Redmond Early Learning Center, Ensworth and Bear Creek.

After the selection process, 24 kindergarten students who were identified as in the top 10% of need were enrolled in Spring 2018 and paired with one of our Friends. Ninety six percent of youth selected have experienced <4 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in their lifetime, and more than half have experienced <8 ACEs.

Friends began to measurably impact the lives of these 24 youth and their families, almost immediately.

We call our professional mentors “Friends” because it isn’t just a job. They are forming meaningful relationships with our youth that last for years. This could look like:

- Helping a child’s reading skills by exploring countless books at the library
- Helping a child find constructive outlets for stress and frustration
- Teaching a child the importance of eating healthy and getting regular exercise
- Being the consistent adult in a child’s life as they move from placement to placement in the foster care system

Friends provide stability and are often the only consistent adult presence in the youth’s life. Friends spend time with youth in their schools, homes, and in the community and are frequently called upon to manage crisis situations within families as well as serve the critical function of connecting caregivers with community resources.

Board Chair and Executive Director Letter

One short year ago, this movement to bring a consistent, caring adult – “Friend” – to the most vulnerable kindergarteners in Central Oregon was funded by just over 50 local individuals, families and foundations. Since then, as a result of your partnership, the Central Oregon chapter of Friends of the Children has gone from a dream to a well-established reality.

In our inaugural year, we created our organizational infrastructure. We also built a diverse and extraordinarily qualified Board of Directors, along with two advisory bodies – our Development and Marketing Committee and Ambassador Board. We recruited, trained, and onboarded seven full-time staff members, including our three remarkable founding Friends. The team also secured a temporary Clubhouse, a space where children and their Friends create lasting memories like learning to ride a bike without training wheels for the first time.

Most importantly, we partnered with the Department of Human Services, Redmond and Bend-La Pine School Districts, and numerous community partners as we identified and began serving the most vulnerable children across Central Oregon. We now have 24 youth enrolled in Friends Central Oregon. The challenges facing these children are extreme. Equally intense, though, is the enthusiasm and dedication of our staff who serve them. During their four hours together each week, Friends and their youth build academic, social, emotional, and life skills in intentional and creative ways. Our network-wide database is used daily to track inputs and outcomes for the youth we serve.

Looking back at our first year, we are incredibly proud of our accomplishments and extremely impressed with how the community has supported us. Your support brings us the utmost confidence for what lies ahead; to secure resources that make us even more sustainable, expand our services to children in Crook and Jefferson counties, secure a permanent Clubhouse and continue to build meaningful partnerships across Central Oregon.

Thank you for your belief in the revolutionary Friends of the Children model, and for your generosity in bringing it to Central Oregon’s most vulnerable children. Together we can absolutely break the cycle of generational poverty in our community!

With Gratitude,

Laura Nofziger, Board Chair

Kim Hatfield, Executive Director





A Story of Perseverance

Grace and her Friend/mentor, Sarah, like to go on bike rides along the River Trail. As many Bendites know, the River Trail eventually turns from paved to dirt road.

It's usually at this point, where the concrete turns to dirt, that Grace wants to turn back. Not on their most recent ride--this time she wanted to keep going.

Eventually the two came to a hill and Grace asked, "how are we going to get up this hill?"

Sarah responded, "well, we could walk or we could ride...or we could do both".

Grace decided to start off walking and then halfway up the hill got on her bike and rode the rest of the way up. Sarah recalls a passerby yelling, "you go girl!" as they finished their trek.

Sometimes it's easy to forget that, like Grace, we don't always have to pick just one way up a hill. We can walk some, we can ride some, and we can rest some. It's a great reminder that we all "could do both".



Thank You!

Friends Central Oregon launched in 2017 because of the support of many partners. We want to acknowledge the following donors for their generous contributions greater than or equal to \$1,000 during our first fiscal year of operations.

\$100,000+

Meyer Memorial Trust
Tykeson Family Foundation

\$25,000-\$49,999

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Casey Family Programs
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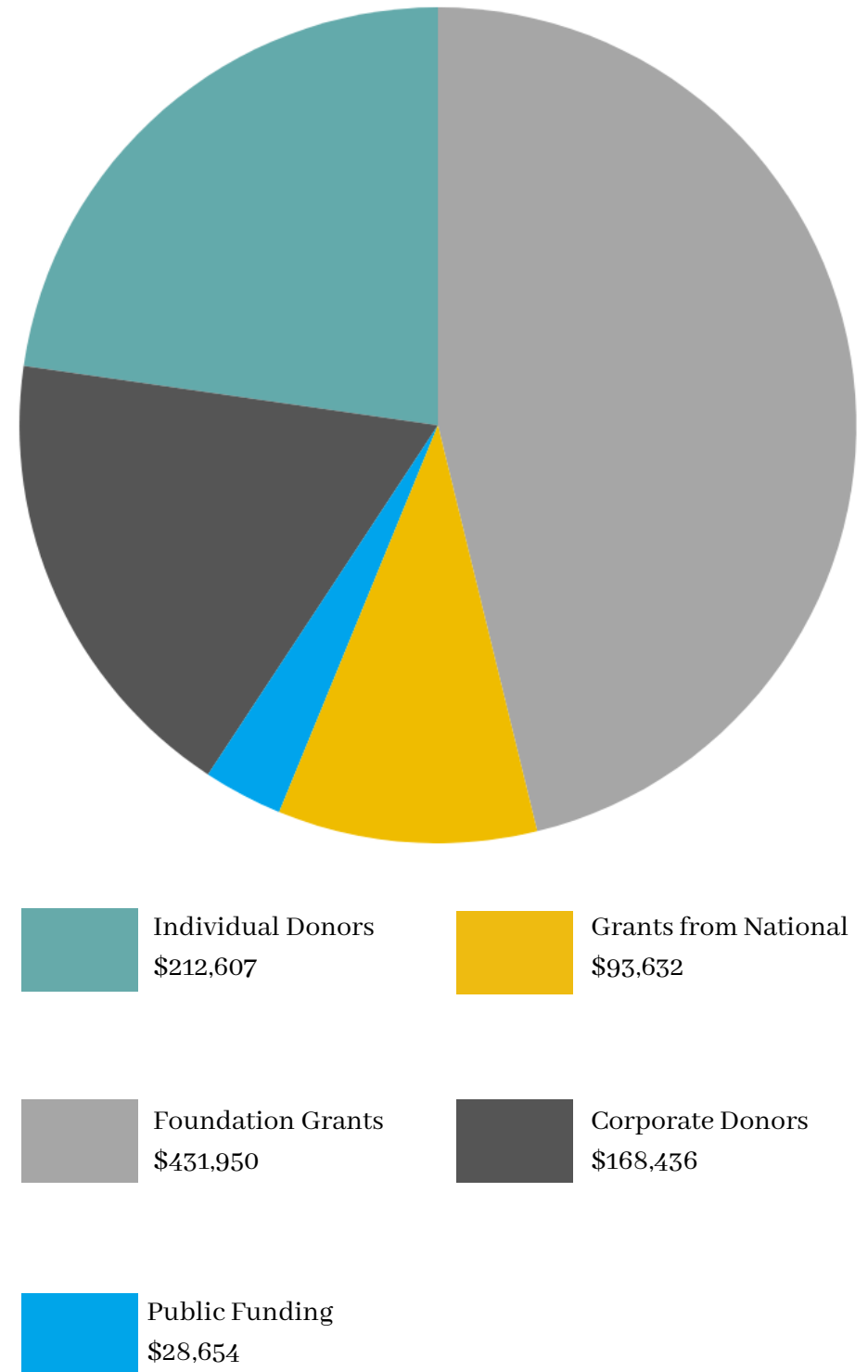
Kyle Wells
Financial Advisor, D.A. Davidson & Co.

2017 -2018 Fiscal Report

Revenue and Community
Support Total: \$935,279

Expenses Total: \$565,835

Net Surplus: \$369,444



"I wanted to be a positive and reliable person in these kid's lives. I had so many positive people in my life growing up who helped me become the person I am today. I try to live my life to the fullest by doing things that I love and exploring the world around me. I want to model this to the youth I work with and help them explore their limitless potential! I know all 8 of my girls are going to succeed in whatever they desire and it makes me smile to know I am a little speck in their lives helping them along their path."

-Sarah,
Friend/mentor

