

FR1ENDS of the  
CH1LDREN  
Klamath Basin

# Gratitude Report FY21

9/2020 - 8/2021



We're grateful for  
Friend José, who  
celebrated his  
14th anniversary  
with our chapter in  
May 2021

# Our Mission

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



# Our Staff

This year our team welcomed Liz Fitzgerald as part-time Operations Coordinator and welcomed back (from sabbatical) Amanda Squibb as Executive Director. We also secured a funding commitment for fiscal years 2022-2023 for the new position of Family & Community Engagement (FACE) Specialist – See page 15 to learn about Jordon Falconio's work.



Amanda Squibb,  
Executive Director



Liz Fitzgerald,  
Operations Coordinator



Anne Keyser, Director of  
Development & Marketing



Jordon Falconio,  
FACE Specialist



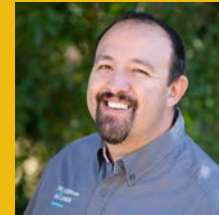
Crystal Muno,  
Program Director



Anne Taylor, Friend



Jon Glidewell, Friend



José Hernandez, Friend



Jeff Press, Friend



Kara Ranger, Friend



Naomi McCleve, Friend



Cheyenne Jackson, Friend

# A Message from Our Board Chair

The end of 2021 is an excellent time to pause and reflect on the past year's challenges and successes. Like many organizations, Friends of the Children - Klamath Basin faced multiple unknowns and changes, but throughout, we held strong to our model and mission of supporting program youth and families, 12+ years, no matter what!

There are countless people who made this consistent support possible. Our remarkable staff team cares deeply about our mission and works tirelessly to advance it each and every day. Generous foundations, corporations, and individual donors continue to fund our work. Klamath's schools, tribal leaders, and agency partners champion our presence in classrooms and the community. Volunteers show up again and again to our events. We appreciate every one of you and are thankful for your part in the Friends of the Children community.

Together we not only maintain our chapter's work but continually expand and enrich it, and we already look forward to remarkable growth in 2022, including expanding family supports through a Two-Generational (2Gen) approach to mentoring and positioning for future growth through an expansion of our clubhouse facilities.

I am proud that we are meeting our world's challenges with creativity, determination, and teamwork. Thank you for your dedication to seeing youth thrive in the Klamath Basin!

What's my "why"?

Our family loves Friends of the Children! I've had the privilege of serving on the Board of Directors since 2012, and I truly believe in the program's model of creating consistent, caring relationships with children. When I was teaching, I saw firsthand how valuable it is for children to know they have someone who will always be in their corner, no matter what.

**Traci Freid**



# Our Board

Chair Traci Freid, Former Educator  
Vice Chair Debi Catron, Retired Executive Administration Office Manager, JELD-WEN, Inc.  
Secretary Susan Kandra, Retired Educator  
Treasurer Tessa Koch, Owner TMK Creamery

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Gian Christmas, Educator, Conger Elementary School  
Dr. Carey Fitzgerald, Assistant Professor, Oregon Institute of Technology  
Dr. Tracy Graham, Pediatrician, Sanford Children's Clinic  
Jessie Hecocta, Edward Jones  
Alycia Edgeworth Kersey, Circuit Court Judge  
Cathy Mason, Relationship Banker, Umpqua Bank  
Robert Mulcare, Marketing Director, Klamath Insurance Center  
Jenine Stuedli, Loan Consultant, Caliber Home Loans  
Janet Thede, Retired Branch Manager, Umpqua Bank  
Heather Tyler, Branch Manager, WaFd Bank  
Victor Vazquez, Sales Representative, Lithia Ford

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Emeritus Terry Kenfield, Retired Administrator, Klamath Falls City Schools  
Emeritus Wayne Snoozy, Retired Principal, Klamath County School District  
Emerita Nancy Wendt, Founding Board Member



Operations Coordinator Liz Fitzgerald and Board Member Carey Fitzgerald take a break from working at the 2021 Crater Lake Rim Run. The couple joined other volunteers to staff the 13-mile finish line and earned \$1,000 for our chapter!

# Our Ambassadors

Faithful volunteers donated holiday surprises, supported Friend Raiser 2021, and staffed community events that raised awareness and funds for our chapter. Sabree Johnson and Ray Tatekawa, co-owners of The Clubhouse Bar & Grille, even organized a charity golf tournament for our chapter at Harbor Links Golf Course!



Holiday donations (L and center) fill the clubhouse, and a basket (R) from Ambassador Dena Morosin awaits Friend Raiser 2021 auction bids.



Executive Director Amanda Squibb (L) accepts golf tournament proceeds from The Harbor Clubhouse.



Johanna Scholer (center) facilitates a game at the Klamath Works Free Family Fun & Vaccine Event at Stukel Park. Scholer became an Ambassador volunteer after her June retirement from Friends - Klamath Basin.

# Our Youth

Our youth are overcoming great obstacles, including poverty, foster care, and social disadvantage. This year:



89% qualified for  
free/reduced lunch



58% lived in a  
single-parent  
household



46% identified as African  
American, Latinx, or  
Native American



45% were impacted by  
foster care

# Our Enrollment Partners

We work closely with Klamath's two school districts, the Department of Human Services (DHS) and other youth advocates to identify children ages 4-6 most in need of professional mentors. With COVID-19 preventing kindergarten observations to fill program openings this year, we relied greatly on referrals from DHS, which, for the 6th year, helped fund our work with youth in foster care and began funding our work with caregivers (see page 15).

"A consistent relationship with a nurturing adult has a profound impact on a child's development and can change their life's trajectory. Friends of the Children provides such relationships, empowering children from even the most challenging circumstances to reach their full potential."

Maurita Johnson,  
Director, District 11  
Manager ODHS

# Our Model

Our model is data-driven, research-based, and time-tested. Friends teach 9 Core Assets and help youth achieve individual goals in 5 Intermediate Outcomes, which are mapped annually and measured weekly for 12+ years.

## Core Assets



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

## Intermediate Outcomes

School Success - see page 8

Improved Health - see page 9

Making Good Choices - see page 10

Prosocial Development - see page 11

Plans & Skills for the Future - see page 12

## Our Graduates' Long-Term Outcomes

Postpone parenting until after the teen years: 96%

Remain free from juvenile justice system involvement: 100%

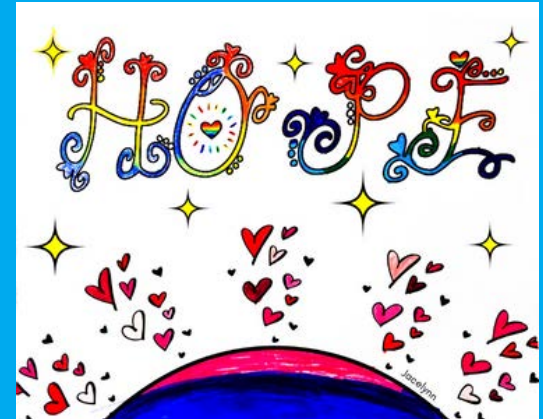
Earn a high school diploma or a GED: 89%

## Return on Investment

The Harvard Business School Association of Oregon showed that each program graduate saves the community \$900,000 in social costs. Notably, this excludes foster care savings. A recent study showed that youth in foster care with a Friend exit care almost six months sooner than youth without a Friend.

# Core Asset Coloring Contest 2021

These and other winning designs were printed as stickers for all youth!



96% of youth worked on their School Success goal at least 2x monthly

## School Success

\*Rogelio has been “couch surfing” for years with his younger brother in tow. Last year, facing his father’s death and the challenges of distance learning, he derailed academically and even failed two required junior-level courses.

Friend José met with school administrators in the spring, then encouraged and urged Rogelio throughout the summer, ultimately persuading him to register for summer school classes.

Talking to the high school’s dean of students last spring, Rogelio had said, “I know I’m the oldest in the Friends program and know I’m a role model for the other kids, so I’m going to make sure I graduate.”

Having recovered his required credits and moved in to his aunt's home, Rogelio started his senior year on track to meet that graduation goal, on schedule, in spring 2022!

\*Name changed to protect privacy



**88% of youth worked on their Improved Health goal at least 2x monthly**

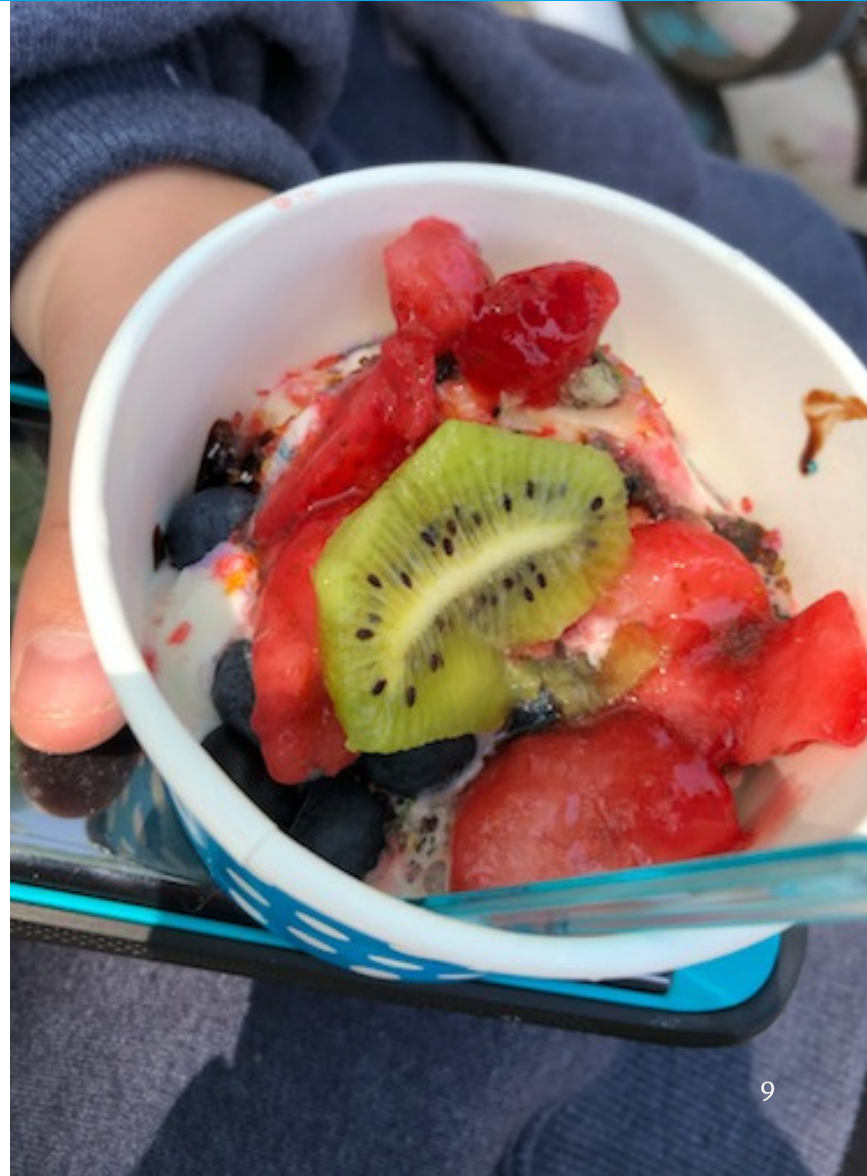
## Improved Health

Teen vaping isn't always about rebelling or trying to look cool. Struggling with severe anxiety, Tony\* vaped to “calm his brain” and avoid the panic attacks that were making him afraid to leave the house.

This year, Tony asked Friend Jeff for help kicking the habit. Guided by Tony's doctor and our chapter's contracted social worker, Jeff helped Tony quit vaping and adopt healthier coping strategies.

Tony braved summer camp this summer, where he found the great self-care activity of sailing and gained confidence to face school and friends.

\*Name changed to protect privacy



**96% of youth worked on their Making Good Choices goal at least 2x monthly**

## Making Good Choices

As he researched, saved for, and built from scratch two gaming computers during his 8th-grade year, 14-year-old Jack\* developed technical skills of course, but also self-management skills that have been a struggle due to past trauma. He also developed smart priorities:

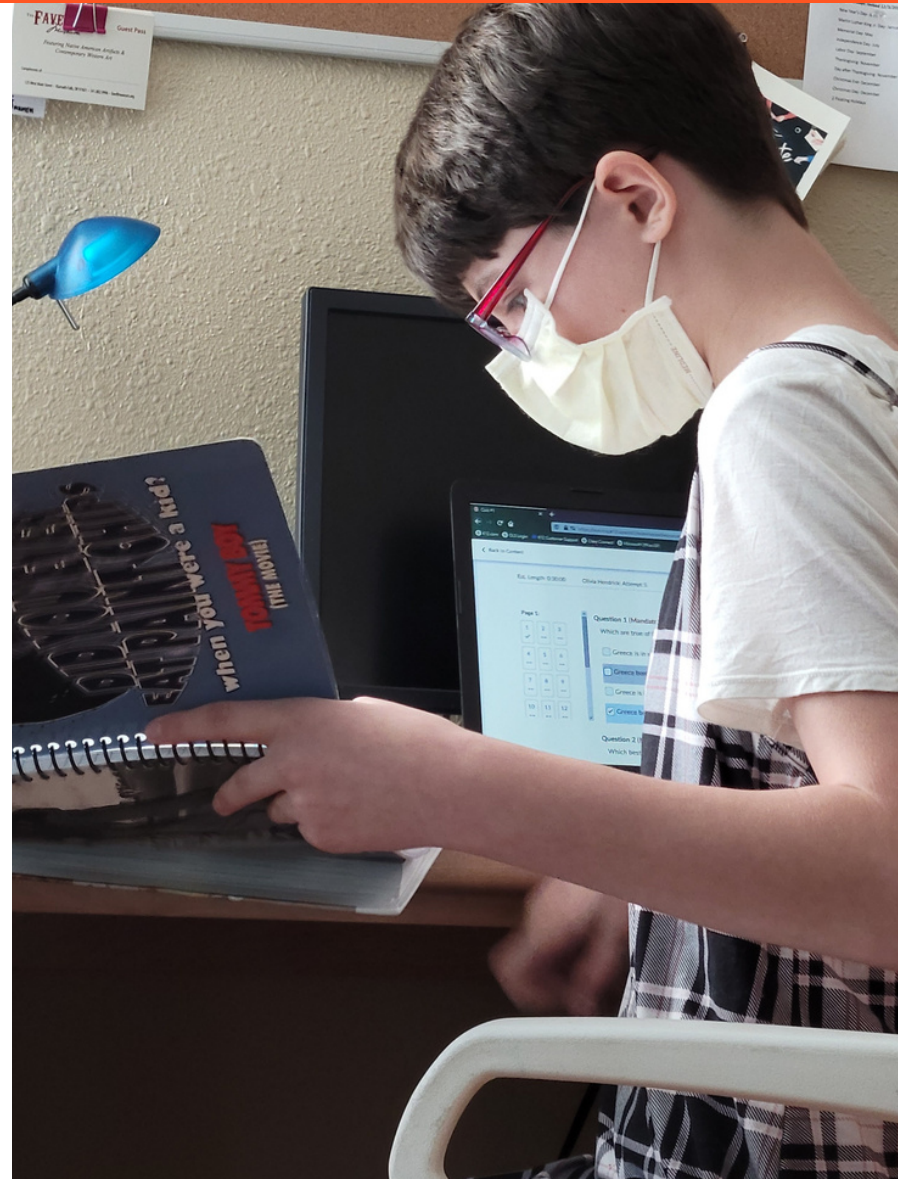
This spring, Jack confided in his Friend that he'd been staying up all night playing games with online gamers whose behaviors he'd come to see as "obnoxious."

Unprompted, he said, "I need to prioritize real life stuff. I need to say no to them and get back to a normal sleep schedule."

Jack has since blocked those peers, saying, "They're toxic and I don't need them in my life."

Friend Jeff will continue modeling the best qualities of a true friend in hopes of keeping Jack's bar high!

\*Name changed to protect privacy



**92% of youth worked on their Prosocial Development goal at least 2x monthly**

## Prosocial Development

Violent outbursts triggered by childhood trauma resulted in 14 foster home placements in four years for Betsy\*, and, at age 13, a transfer to a residential care facility this year.

There, Betsy refused to attend school and scored as low as 48% in assessments on coping skills, cooperation, and anger management. In February, after being granted regular visits with Friend Anne and access to virtual game nights with Friends – Klamath Basin, Betsy scored above 75% on all benchmarks and resumed school without complaint.

The change was no coincidence according to Betsy's therapist and case manager, who attributed Betsy's progress to the hope and belonging she gained by reconnecting with Friends of the Children.

\*Name changed to protect privacy



## **Plans & Skills for the Future**

When should kids learn financial planning? Friends start with the first opportunity!

When kindergartner Eliot\* suggested a walk to Walmart “to buy things . . . because that’s what you do if you have money,” Friend Jon saw a chance to talk about saving for bigger items or unexpected expenses down the road.

“It’s going to be a process,” Jon said, “but it was definitely an ah-ha moment.”

Fortunately, the pair has 12 years ahead to continue the conversation!

\*Name changed to protect privacy



# Community Collaboration

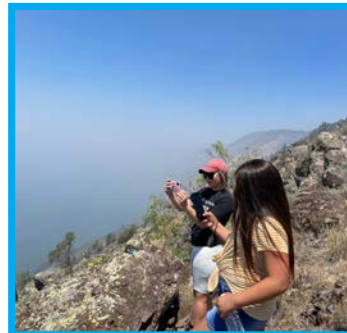
Dozens of community partners enrich our work by providing extracurricular experiences for youth, sponsoring fundraisers, advocating for grant awards, and donating supplies and auction items. We are humbled by 21 years of community investment.

In 2021 we were particularly honored to expand our partnership with the Klamath Tribes, whose ancestral lands we inhabit.

Friends - Klamath Basin has been serving Native youth since its founding in 2000 and, since 2018, has served a cohort of youth enrolled from Chiloquin, whose population includes 47% Indigenous people.

In spring 2021, we collaborated with tribal leaders on a grant-funded nature photography program for chapter youth and Klamath Tribes Youth Council members. Participants completed a series of online nature photography classes through the Udall Foundation's Parks in Focus program, then took field trips to natural sites of significance to the Tribes, including ni'Laks and Grandma Rock.

The project introduced media arts skills, encouraged outdoor exploration, and expanded understanding of Native history and of Native land, which is central to identity, spirituality, and well-being.



# COVID Impact

COVID-19 stole jobs, childcare, classroom learning, school supports, social contacts, extracurriculars, and security. Our chapter's youth and families even lost loved ones to the virus.

Caregivers needed extra support, from referrals for grief counseling, to help paying bills or securing housing during periods of isolation and quarantine. We were thankful for Oregon Health Authority funds that allowed us to provide such vital support.

Through it all, kids needed connection more than ever, and despite many challenges, our chapter's Friends **SHOWED UP . . . NO MATTER WHAT.**



# The Two-Generation (2Gen) Approach

While Friends stay focused on our program youth, Klamath Basin's Family & Community Engagement (FACE) Specialist will proactively empower caregivers to support program youth and their siblings. The FACE Specialist will:

- Support parents as they meet their children's needs and build their strengths
- Equip parents at every stage of their children's social-emotional development
- Promote self-advocacy within complex systems such as education and child welfare
- Connect families to concrete supports, like housing and education/employment pathways
- Create opportunities for culturally-responsive community and peer connections

"If it means helping my son,  
I'm on board."

Klamath Basin program parent  
introduced to 2Gen



# On the Move

3837 Altamont Drive is our beloved clubhouse. It is the work/play space that we have called home since our chapter's founding in 2000. But at 1,392 square feet, it is now too small for a program that has grown to 7 mentors, 5 staff, and 51 youth. Its size inhibits programming opportunities and chapter growth.

Our Board has discussed the possibility of an expansion or move since 2018, when we received a designated gift from The Mike & Bessie Short Trust. The physical distancing requirements of COVID-19 magnified our space needs, and in 2021 the Board and staff named additional space a priority. By fiscal year end, a potential forever home had been found on Old Fort Road!

The new house – 3,700 square feet on 5+ acres – provides space to play, study, cook, craft, work, meet, garden, even host group meals or instruction. It has the tranquility of a country home and quick access to town so that transportation doesn't consume mentoring time. It offers room to grow.

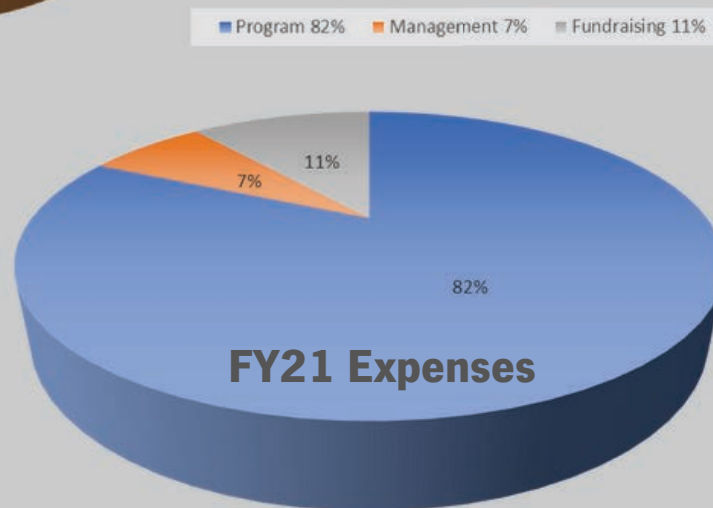
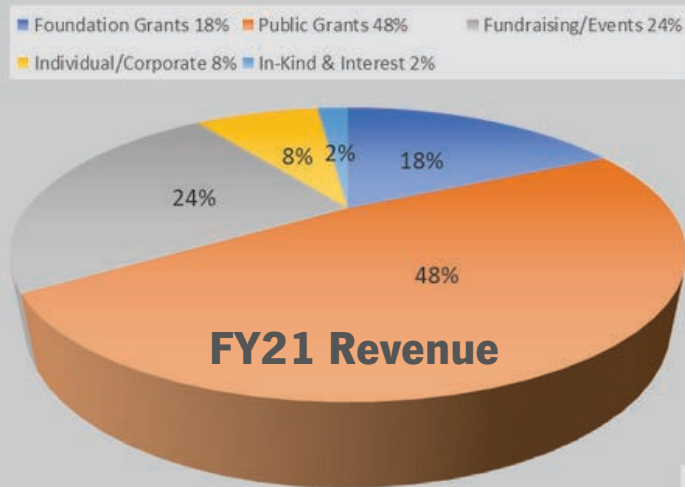
We closed November 2021. Stay tuned for updates!

The clubhouse on Altamont Drive (L) and the Old Fort clubhouse (R)



# Financials\*

\*preliminary and unreviewed, and note that public revenue was greater than usual due to COVID relief grants



# Our Corporate and Foundation Sponsors

AAA Property Management  
Advanced Chiropractic  
Anonymous Foundation  
Armijo Designs  
The Arthur R. Dubs Foundation  
Ashley's Cheesecake Delights  
The Autzen Foundation  
Avista Utilities  
Basin Book Trader  
Bills Bug E Business  
The Blue Zones Project  
Bogatay Construction  
Cal-Ore Produce  
Canvasback Books  
Cascade Health Alliance  
Columbia Forest Products  
Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation  
D.A. Davidson & Co.  
Del Taco  
Diamond Home Improvement  
Elite Retreat Medi-Spa and Salon Suite  
Ferguson Wellman Capital Management  
The Collins Family Foundation  
The Cow Creek Umpqua Foundation  
Diamond Home Improvement Center  
Ed Staub & Sons Petroleum, Inc.  
The Gray Family Foundation  
The Grocery Outlet  
The Grocery Pub  
Harbor Links Golf Course

The Herald & News  
Holliday Jewelry  
Howard's Meats  
House of Shoes  
Impressions Design and Marketing  
IMS Capital Management, Inc.  
The Juan Young Trust  
541 Jump  
Klamath Basin Medical Service Bureau  
Klamath County Museums  
Klamath Falls Orthodontics  
Klamath Falls Subaru / Honda  
Klamath Lake Land Trust  
Klamath Spine  
KLAD/Basin Mediactive, LLC  
The Klamath Tribes  
KOA  
KOTI-TV NBC2/KOBI-TV NBC5  
Lake of the Woods  
Lassen Canyon Nursery  
The Ledge  
Les Schwab Tire Center  
The Linkville Playhouse  
Lithia Chrysler - Jeep - Dodge - Ram  
Lithia Ford of Klamath Falls  
Mia & Pia's Pizzeria  
M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust  
Oregon Ave Fuel Good  
Oregon's Choice Seafood  
Oregon Community Foundation  
Oregon Department of Human Services

Oregon Department of Juvenile Justice  
Oregon Health Authority  
Oregon Youth Development Division  
Pacific Crest Federal Credit Union  
Pacific Power  
Pacific Seafood  
Peoples Bank of Commerce  
Reach  
Rogue Credit Union  
Rocky Mountain Construction  
Running Y Ranch Resort  
Sargent Certified Public Accountant, LLC  
Shannon Ridge, Inc.  
Shield Crest Golf Course  
The Silver Family Foundation  
Slush N Smart  
Smith Bates Marcomm Solutions  
Subway  
Taste of India  
TMK Creamery  
Umpqua Bank Charitable Foundation  
The United Way of the Klamath Basin  
The Washington Federal Foundation  
The Wendt Family Foundation  
Winema Elevators, Inc.  
Wynne Broadcasting  
Zach's Bikes

If we have omitted you from this list,  
please accept our sincere apologies  
and email us at  
[ddm@friendsklamath.org](mailto:ddm@friendsklamath.org)



"The "No Matter What" Friend Raiser, held virtually May 27, 2021, was a great success thanks to many devoted supporters, including Presenting Sponsor Lithia Ford of Klamath Falls. Auctioned items included the "G'Olden Times Champagne Breakfast Soiree" (pictured left and above), held at the historic Baldwin Hotel in November. Stay tuned for Friend Raiser 2022, scheduled for May 19th.

# A Message from Our Executive Director

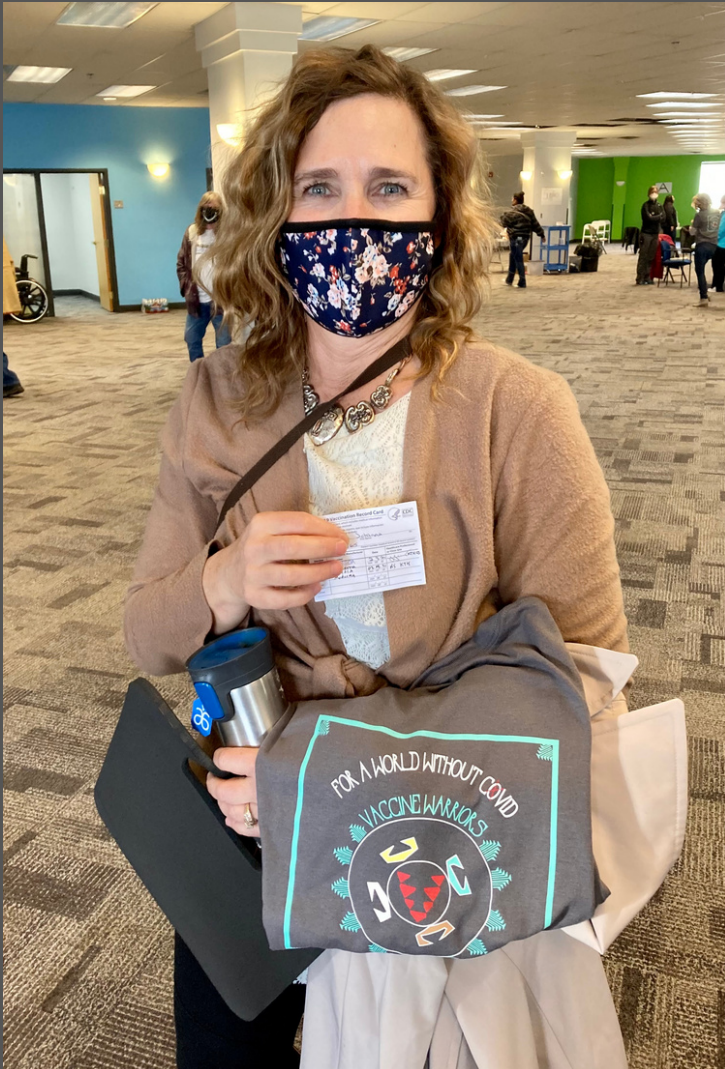
As I reflect on another challenging year, I am encouraged by our demonstrated community strength and spirit. Thank you for continuing to support Friends of the Children - Klamath Basin through thick and thin – and two virtual Friend Raisers! In these unpredictable and difficult times, we certainly have deepened our understanding of what “no matter what” really means. You, our community of supporters, remained committed to us as we remained committed to uninterrupted 1:1 support for youth. While I look ahead with hope for gatherings and a return to “normalcy,” I am also incredibly proud of our community resilience and unwavering “no matter what” commitment to children.

**Amanda Squibbb**



## Did You Know?

Friends of the Children now has 25 locations! Established in 2000, Friends - Klamath Basin was among the first few! The model is expanding because the mentoring works.



Thanks to the Klamath Tribes, Friends - Klamath Basin was offered COVID-19 vaccine early in 2021, enabling Friends and staff to stay healthy, safely serve kids and families, help protect the community, and return to classrooms. Pictured here with her "Vaccine Warrior" t-shirt is Johanna Scholer, who served as our Interim Executive Director through June.

booby trapped tower

lookout tower

imagination

security camera

hand scanner

## FRIENDS of the CHILDREN

Klamath Basin

**Pictured:**  
Engineering Day at  
2021 STEAM Camp

[friendsklamath.org](http://friendsklamath.org)  
(541) 273-3022

