



CELEBRATING
25
YEARS OF COMMITMENT
FRIENDS of the
CHILDREN
Klamath Basin

2025 Gratitude Report

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Let's Take a Journey

Join us as we journey through the past 25 years of Friends of the Children - Klamath Basin!

In this year's Gratitude Report, we reflect upon pivotal moments of programmatic impact over the past quarter century while celebrating graduates' individual stories of achievement and success along the way.

Change is inevitable, and while the past 25 years have brought much growth and expansion, space upgrades and program enhancements, our model hasn't wavered - It's 1:1 professional, long-term mentoring for youth facing the most significant barriers. This 12+ year commitment to each of our 77 enrolled youth is made possible by the generosity of our Board of Directors, loyal individual donors, corporations, and foundations. Thank you for believing in this proven, time-tested model.

We hope you will enjoy reflecting back with us and also remain a committed partner as we continue steadily down the road toward a strong, healthy community.



2000-2005

Friends - Klamath Basin

2000

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

With just two paid Friends and a volunteer Board of Directors, Friends - Klamath Basin became the third Friends chapter in the nation and the first rural chapter in the network.



2002

MORE TRAVELERS

We grew from two Friends and 16 youth to four Friends and 30 youth.



2004

FUNDRAISING ADVENTURES

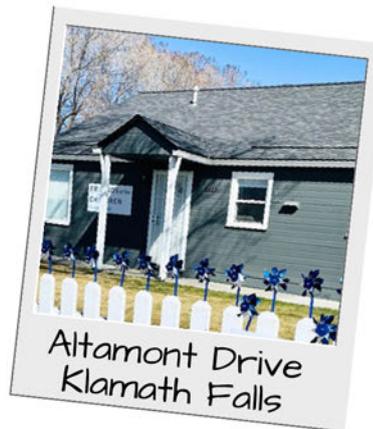
200 people attended the first "Friend Raiser" fundraiser.



2000

FIRST HOMEBASE

In 2000, the philanthropic Wendt family of Klamath Falls donated a 1,400-square-foot building for the chapter's program and office needs. This first "clubhouse" became a beloved homebase for all youth.



Altamont Drive
Klamath Falls

JOIN US FOR THIS
YEAR'S FRIEND
RAISER MAY 28

2005-2010

Off We Go!

2005

NAVIGATION

The Board hired former teacher and school administrator Terry Kenfield as part-time Program Director to take over Friend supervision and clubhouse management.



Terry



Doug



Wayne



Angela & Traci



2007

JOSE HERNANDEZ

Jose joined the chapter in 2007 and has been a beloved Friend for the past 18 years. In 2022 he was honored by the Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation for the compassion, selflessness, and grit he shares with that organization's namesake.



Jose & Xav '24



2012

BOARD GROWTH

Among many educators who first championed Friends - Klamath Basin were Doug Woods and Wayne Snoozy. The two friends served as Board members together, and together they recruited leaders Traci (Woods) Freid and Angela Groves. In 2012 these two friends joined the Board and co-chaired Friend Raiser. Angela would become the chapter's first Executive Director (2014-2016), Traci its Board Chair (2019-2024).

2010-2015

Moving Right Along...

2013



NEW ROUTES

First Ugly Sweater Run fundraiser!

2014



SOMEONE TO STEER

A grant was secured to hire our first, full-time Executive Director, Angela Groves.

2012



FIRST MAJOR MILESTONE

We graduated our first cohort of TEN youth!

94% of program youth obtain a HS diploma or GED compared to the county-wide average of 82.5%. More than just a fancy certificate, a high school diploma grants people access to more secure and higher-paying jobs and lessens the impact of poverty on a community. According to 2024 U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics, adults without a high school diploma face an unemployment rate of 6.2% and make an average of \$738 per week, while those with a high school diploma are 2% less likely to be unemployed and earn nearly \$200 more each week.

THE END IS ALSO THE BEGINNING

Graduates

2014

DEVON

SCAN ME!



2023

TRUETT

SCAN ME!



2025

JOHN

SCAN ME!



2023

2016

CHASE

Married with three beautiful children, Chase is a licensed phlebotomist and currently in nursing school. He spoke at our 2023 Friend Raiser to a standing ovation.

GRADUATING SOON!

2026

TEMPE



2016 - age 8



2026 Friend Raiser featured speaker!

2015-2020

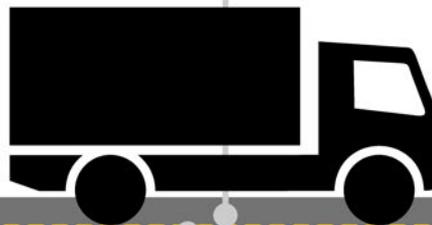
Onward!



2018

MAJOR GIFTS

Mike & Bessie Short gave to multiple charities related to children, including Friends - Klamath Basin. Their generosity continued after their passing. In 2018, estate trustees donated funds to buy a program vehicle and to seed a capital fund that in 2021 bought and renovated property at 1515 Old Fort Road.



2018

CAPACITY BUILDING

With a three-year capacity-building grant from the Murdock Trust, we added our first full-time Development Director.

NEW PATHS

We enrolled our first full cohort of Chiloquin-based youth.

WE CAN HELP

"The enthusiasm, professionalism, and all-around joy of the chapter staff was incredible. When we met with Executive Director Amanda Squibb and Development Director Johanna Scholer for the first time, they talked about bursting at the seams in the current clubhouse. [Trustee] Sally Copeland and I looked at each other and both said, 'We can help fix that!' That day we gave for a new clubhouse, bought a much-needed vehicle, and filled our hearts with joy."

-Trustee Susan Reynolds



2018

RAISING THE BAR

Hired as the first Director of Development & Marketing, former JELD-WEN director Johanna Scholer established the fundraising processes and relationships needed to fund major chapter expansions at Friends - Klamath Basin. Now serving as an Ambassador, Scholer led the plant sale at Friend Raiser 2025.



Johanna

COVID YEARS...

A Bump in the Road

2020

Not willing to let a global pandemic stop its relationship-based work, Friends - Klamath Basin adopted face masks, social distancing, and outdoor and virtual meet-ups!



Car Parades



Care Kits!



Grocery Help



Outdoor Homework



Chromebook Donation



Zoom Clown Class

NO MATTER WHAT

The impact of our work was most starkly visible during the COVID shut-down. Friends provided COVID tests, personal protective equipment, medicine, groceries, internet hot spots, utility help, activity kits, Chromebooks, hope, and a whole lot of love for families who were frightened and isolated.

2020-2025

Zooming Ahead!



2021

BRINGING THE WHOLE FAMILY ALONG

The program adopted a 2Gen Model, wrapping around the whole family and hiring a Family and Community Engagement Specialist to work with caregivers.



2023

NEW DIGS

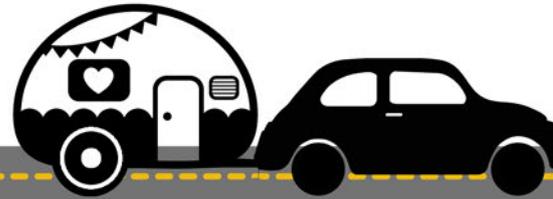
We opened TWO new clubhouses! Many donors funded a larger space in Klamath, and John and Fran Von Schlegell covered renovations for a leased clubhouse space in Chiloquin!



Old Fort Road
Klamath Falls



Main Street
Chiloquin



2022

CULTURALLY SPECIFIC PROGRAMMING

As $\frac{1}{3}$ of the youth we serve are Native American, we hired a Tribal Youth Engagement Coordinator to make sure we can offer richer culturally-specific programming.



2020

STEAM CAMP

Since 2020, Friends of the Children-Klamath Basin has prioritized STEAM in summer programming, blending Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math to spark curiosity and creativity. Hands-on projects and field trips disguise learning as fun to combat the so-called "summer slide" and help kids stay on track for educational success.

2025

EDUCATION COORDINATOR

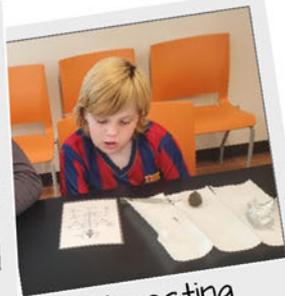
An experienced teacher joined our team, allowing us to deepen and broaden the level of academic intervention and support we can offer youth and families!



SUMMER SCHOOL STEAM Camp and Activities



Life Science!



Dissecting Owl Pellets



Central Oregon College Visit



Klamath Outdoor Science School



Crater Rock Museum



Stop-Motion Animation

NONTRADITIONAL CLASSROOMS

Summer 2025 included hands-on projects and educational field trips all summer long. The beauty of STEAM curriculum is that youth often don't even realize they're studying! Participating in an interactive role-playing event in the yard seems like a big game of dress-up and pretend rather than an exercise in problem-solving and communication, and creating stop-motion videos of hand-made felt-fabric creatures is a technology skills-building activity that the TikTok generation can't help but love.

The Klamath County School District generously funded summer STEAM programming!

This year we added literacy components into our regular STEAM events by connecting a reading list to our activities (*Cheetahs Don't Lose* and *A Wolf Called Wander* for our Wildlife Safari trip) and asking all youth and Friends to write activity journals.

"Our partnership with Friends of the Children-Klamath Basin is one we deeply value. They consistently seek meaningful collaboration with schools and community agencies to broaden both the reach and effectiveness of their work. We remain fully committed to supporting their efforts as they serve some of our most vulnerable children and families. Their work has the potential to break cycles of poverty and trauma, fostering lasting, generational change throughout Klamath County."

- Superintendent Glen Szymoniak

2025 AND ON

Down the Road



Positive
Relationship Building



Find Your Spark

Every child deserves to feel loved and supported.

**OUR VISION IS THAT ONE DAY,
EVERY CHILD WHO NEEDS A FRIEND
HAS ONE.**

2030 GOAL:

100 Klamath Basin youth enrolled!

DESTINATION: SUCCESS

Our Long-Term Outcomes



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

97% of youth earn a high school diploma or a GED

93% of youth remain free from juvenile justice system involvement

93% of youth wait to parent until after their teen years

2025 at a Glance...

Each program youth received 3-4 hours of community & school-based 1:1 mentoring support every week, year-round.

77 
enrolled youth

329
caregivers and family members served

100% 
of enrolled youth qualified for free or reduced school lunch

 **54%**
identified as people of color

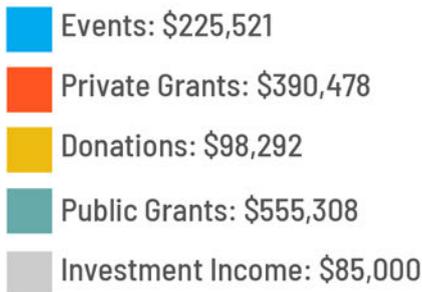
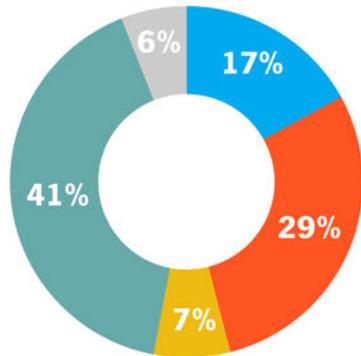
38%
resided in single parent households

 **6%**
have experienced homelessness within the last year

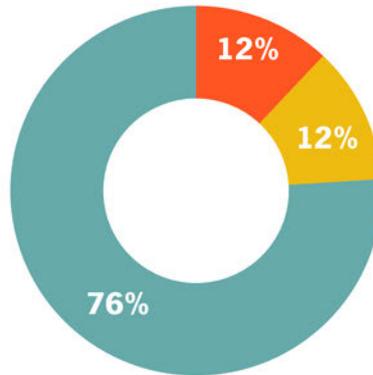
57%
were impacted by foster or kinship care

ADVENTURES IN FUNDING FY2025 Financials

Revenue Total:
\$1,354,599



Expenses Total:
\$1,364,826



MONTHLY GIVING

Some donors give every month. These "GEM"s show commitment to our year-round mentoring model.

PLANNED GIVING

Some donors ensure their legacy of generosity by including us in their will or trust, or by naming us beneficiary of an insurance policy, IRA account, or retirement plan.

SUSTAINABILITY

Board-Designated and Endowment Funds cover shortfalls and ensure long-term sustainability.

OVERSIGHT

Finances are reviewed by our Board Finance Committee and audited by Molatore & Co., CPA. Our endowment is managed by the Oregon Community Foundation.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

The Harvard Business School Association of Oregon found that \$1 invested in Friends of the Children returns at least \$7 to the community in saved social costs, taxes from wage income, and more!

Our Board



Ambassadors

In 2019 we established a Friends Ambassador Board. This dedicated group of volunteers goes above and beyond in championing the Friends mission and raising vital awareness for our work. A special shoutout to those who took the lead in wrapping family gifts and organizing this year's Ugly Sweater Run, Friend Raiser Dessert Dash, and Plant Sale. Their hard work, passion, and commitment is deeply appreciated.

Current Ambassadors

Breanna & Justin Henrick, Dena Morosin, Isa Daibes, Johanna Scholer, Kali Carter Hudson, Kendra Santiago, Lauren Peterson, LeRoy & Cynthia Ulrey, Maggie & John Huntley, Sue & Phil Harbin, Sabree Johnson, Shelly Cauble, Carol & Jerry Falconio, Alyssa Defillipo, and Tink Devoux

Our Staff

2007



Jose Hernandez
Friend

2020



Crystal Muno
Program Director



Naomi McCleve
Friend

2022



Sarah Smart
Friend



Corey Stamper
Friend



Michael House
Friend

2025



Cortney Tucker
Friend



Bridget Vargas
Family Engagement
Coordinator



Bilson Florvilus
Friend



2016



Anne Taylor
2Gen Program Manager



Amanda Squibb
Executive Director

2021



Jordon Falconio
2Gen Program
Manager

2023



Kenny Benson
Operations Director



Felicia McNair
Tribal Youth Coordinator

2025



Jen Nelson
Ed Coordinator



Dani Harmon
Event Coordinator



Bekah Cauble
Friend



FR1ENDS of the
CH1LDREN
 Klamath Basin

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