



A PASSION FOR
PLACE
2015 ANNUAL REPORT



A PASSION FOR PLACE

Places have an untold influence on people. Whether it's an alma mater or a city that you hold dear, our settings tend to become a part of us.

In that way, they also set us apart. We come to define ourselves through places of worship, hometowns and neighborhoods. Each has a unique set of people, customs and stories that create a sense of belonging and our notion of home.

Some of us may consider a few places home, but one that we all share is southwest Washington. We also share passions for this place. Some of us are stewards of the lush natural surroundings, while others are improving local schools.

At the Community Foundation, we understand the value of these interests. Our organization was founded to help donors and nonprofits turn their values and visions into philanthropic pursuits. For donors, we can create charitable plans and facilitate gifts that support local causes. With grantees, we provide grants and trainings that enable them to help our most vulnerable residents find their place in southwest Washington.

Nurturing local philanthropy is a generative process, because when people care enough to invest in a place, that place is better able to care for its residents. Over time, this cycle of reciprocity has made our community exceptional.

We want to keep this spirit alive. So, as you read along, think deeply about how southwest Washington inspires you and how the Community Foundation can support your passion for this incredible place we call home.



“Our hope is that these gifts can keep vital organizations functioning and available to the community forever.”

OF HONOR AND PRIVILEGE

The pain of battle and the privilege of a great community inspire deep compassion

When Don Fuesler was 19, he met a fresh-faced kid from Washington who claimed that his corner of the union was “God’s country.” After sharing some laughs he urged Don to make a visit someday. Unfortunately, the two were entrenched on the front lines of World War II—an about face from the scenic views of Washington.

Months before, Don arrived in the icy waters a mile off Omaha Beach. He was forced to either rip free from his heavy pack or drown. Luckily he was skinny enough to wriggle free, swim to shore and survive his first grueling brawl in combat. This was just one of nearly a dozen times he faced death during his 157-day tour that helped liberate the city of Metz from Nazi Germany. It was an experience of trauma and triumph that imprinted him deeply and decorated him with 20 military medals, including the Légion d’honneur—the highest French order for military merits.

Don says that in war, “You come to realize how valuable any one life is, including yours, and that everything should and needed to be done in order to preserve that life.”

This realization is part of what led him into the medical field after war. He also reconnected with his high school sweetheart, Margaret, and the two were soon married. Living meagerly and working as a team they put Don through medical school, moved west for an internship and eventually opened a general practice in Longview, Washington of all places.

Don’s passion became patients rather than any one area of expertise. This allowed him to do almost everything needed to ensure that each of his patients could lead healthy lives. For 23 years, he performed surgeries, set fractures and delivered what he estimates as 1,000 babies for local families. Along the way, he and Margaret brought three of their own into the world.

They also discovered a call to help others in their community. Margaret became active with the Longview Junior Service League, and after retirement Don got involved with numerous boards. To better manage their charitable pursuits, the Fueslers opened a Donor Advised Fund at the Community Foundation and gave generously to Cowlitz County organizations addressing causes like arts and culture, education, basic needs and health.

In 2015, they decided to double down on their legacy of caring in Longview by giving \$50,000 to the Cowlitz County Community Endowment Fund. This endowed gift is an investment that will grow over time and support local nonprofits year after year. The investment also ensures that the entire community is able to enjoy the same treasures that the Fueslers love about Longview and Washington state.

“I wanted to share with the community what they have given to me, because I’m grateful for the life we’ve had here,” Don said.

Don still remembers the young replacement soldier who told him to visit Washington. While the war robbed Don of the chance to thank him for the advice, he and Margaret have certainly shown their gratitude through local giving. Together, they have made Cowlitz County an even better place and shown that legacies of compassion and generosity can grow strong from even the darkest of places.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Number of Gifts Received

4,272



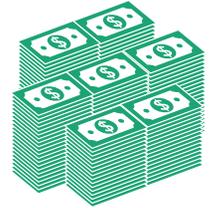
New Funds Established

14



Dollars Raised 2015

\$30.57 million



OVERALL CONTRIBUTIONS

Total Funds Established

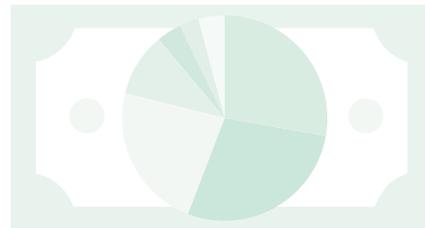
304



To review a list of our fundholders and supporters, please visit www.cfsww.org

Funds Established by Fundtype

Fundtype	# of Funds	% of Total Assets
Donor Advised Funds	115	43%
Designated Funds	64	21%
Discretionary	38	21%
Scholarship Funds	50	7%
Field of Interest Funds	12	3%
Charitable Trusts	7	2%
Other	18	3%

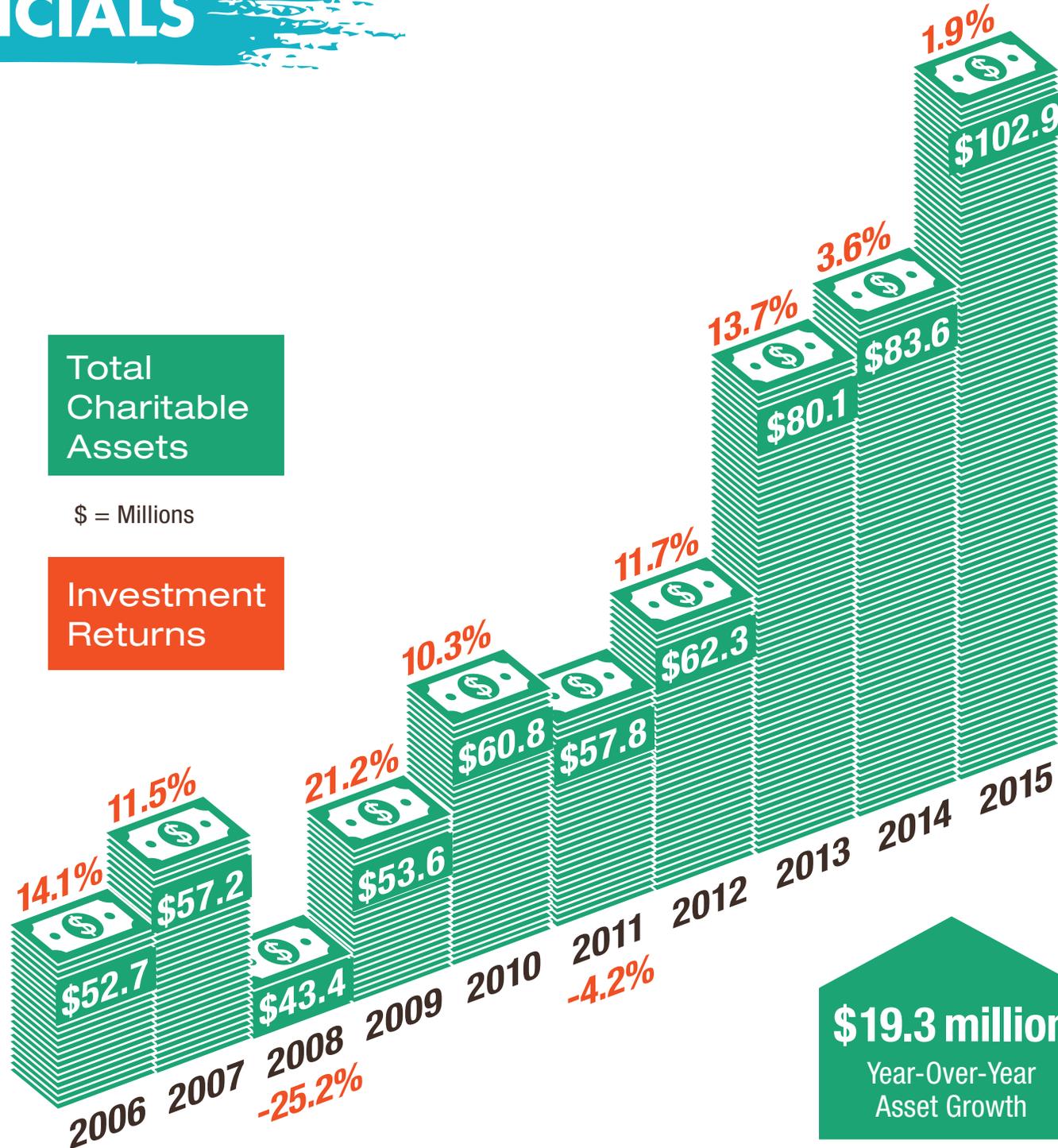


Total Charitable Assets

\$102.9 Million



FINANCIALS



Total
Charitable
Assets

\$ = Millions

Investment
Returns

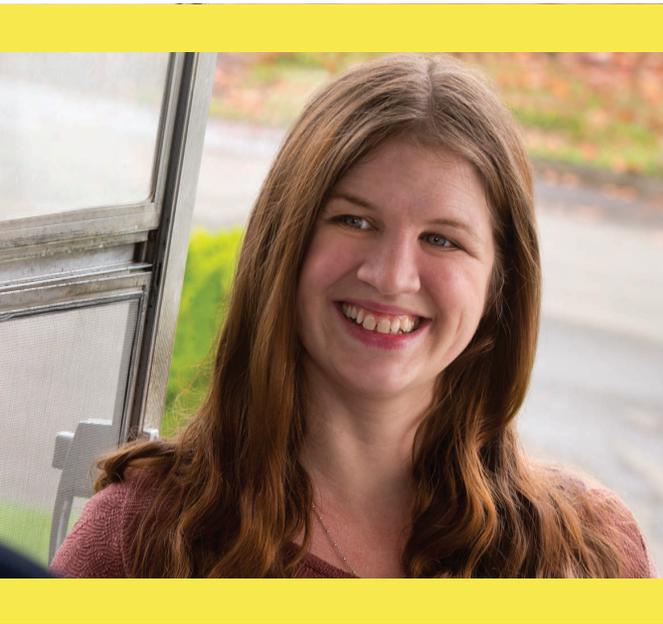
\$19.3 million

Year-Over-Year
Asset Growth

NEW VOICES FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH

A collaborative effort transforms lives and perceptions by including new voices

Dominique Horn is the type of neighbor people trust to watch their kids and solve domestic disputes. Helping others is a given for her, which is why she never considered her efforts “health work” until the Healthy Living Collaborative came calling.



This backbone organization organizes a cross-sector coalition that identifies and pursues community-based solutions for greater health equity. The Community Foundation believes in this model and recently supported one of the organization’s most successful programs, which cultivates Community Health Workers.

That’s where Dominique comes in. She was identified because of the trust she had established as a natural helper in her community—a vital part of this program.

Though skeptical, she still registered for the 8-week training. To her surprise the course didn’t involve books and, rather than listening to a lecture, students gleaned lessons from each other’s experiences. The group of 30 dove into issues like social justice, equity, race and discrimination. Dominique said that sharing these personal stories showed that every experience matters and deserves to be heard. It gave them confidence to share their own stories and become stronger voices for their communities.

The Healthy Living Collaborative creates space for these voices too, because it believes that functional communities and systems depend on one another. That philosophy is visible at its meetings, which encourage candid conversations between Community Health Workers and leaders and policymakers from housing, criminal justice, health care, education and tribal organizations.

It’s an approach that flips the traditional model inside out by asking residents about their needs and barriers first. By listening to one another, these groups can combine ideas and resources to improve lives. More importantly, they are reshaping the existing dynamic between systems and people.

The experience certainly changed Dominique’s perspective. Where she once vented frustrations about a flawed system with neighbors, she is now using her experiences to improve services and programs for everyone. Dominique has

also built her public speaking and advocacy skills through the trainings offered. Now the woman who once feared being in the spotlight is picking up the microphone at city council meetings and regional conferences.

What hasn’t changed is her desire to help her neighbors. Since finishing her training, Dominique has helped to house evicted neighbors, delivered Thanksgiving food packages, joined a walking group, and taken on leadership roles related to local and regional community health work.

“You can see the sigh of relief in people when they realize that you understand their experience and they’re not alone,” Horn said. “Every time we make this connection with an individual or family it ripples out.”

Those ripples are expanding in her own life too. Becoming a Community Health Worker has inspired her to look beyond day-to-day survival and plan five and ten years down the road. She enrolled in a Bachelors program and made college an expectation for her two children who have become her miniature community organizers in training.

We’re no longer ashamed of our struggles, because we now see the lessons we learned as opportunities to grow and help others.



“ This program prescribes the belief that health and wellness are connected. Health doesn't only include vital signs, because there is a lot going on beyond whether or not someone is sick. ”



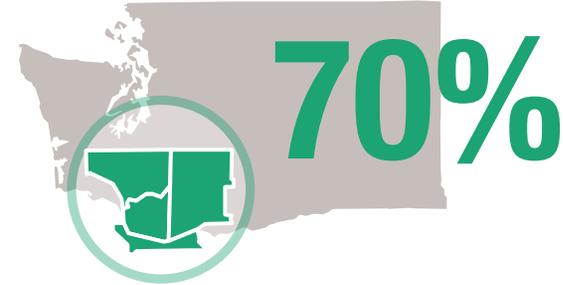
ANNUAL GRANTS

Grants Distributed in Dollars

\$7.86 Million



Percent of Grants in Service Area



Grants by Cause Area



Basic Needs and
Healthy Living
\$2,521,136



Communities and
Neighborhoods
\$2,060,055



Education
\$2,246,736



Scholarships
\$483,703



Arts & Culture
\$329,543



Conservation and
the Environment
\$219,174

Grants
Awarded

795

A grey silhouette icon of a hand holding a coin.

Average Grant

\$9,278

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Scholarships
Awarded

212

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Average
Scholarship

\$2,281

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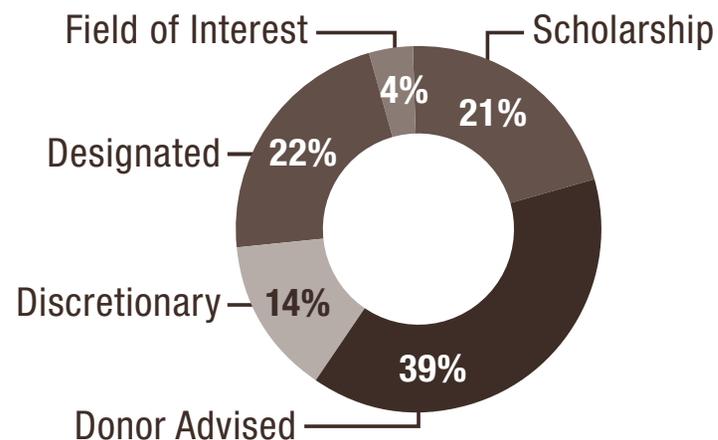
ANNUAL GRANTS

Discretionary Granting in Focus Areas



55% Percent Increase in Discretionary Granting

Grants by Fundtype



Multi-Year Grants

\$450,000 over **3 YEARS** 

Bridgeview Housing and Boys & Girls Clubs of SW Washington
Aces Action Alliance*
Healthy Living Collaborative*

*These grants support **Collective Impact Programs** in southwest Washington. Ask Us More!

Grants Since Inception

\$146.8 Million



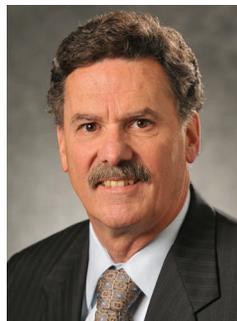
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OUR MISSION

We inspire a culture of giving to create a vibrant and engaged community



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

SOUTHWEST
WASHINGTON

610 Esther Street, Suite 201

Vancouver, WA 98660

360.694.2550

www.cfsww.org