

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON



SEEING THE GOOD



Life is about moments; big, small and everything in between. No matter what comes along, seeing the good in any situation allows us to persevere.

No matter what comes along, seeing the good in any situation allows us to persevere. Our team strives to bring this optimism to our work with donors and caring community members across southwest Washington.

This year, we partnered with fundholders to respond to the housing crisis in significant ways. Together, we granted nearly \$4.5 million toward emergency shelters and housing, mental and behavioral health services, and other critical supports. In addition, our scholarship program awarded more than \$1 million for the first time in its history. Even more impressive than the numbers, are the students and donors who fuel this impact.

At the same time, our strategic grant-making programs invested in 50 nonprofits driving change. These incredible organizations provided vital community resources, including culturally specific food pantries for Native Americans, mental health support for Latinx communities, enriching environments for local youth, and small business and skills training for neighbors

who are charting their own course toward prosperity.

The impact we created together shows that we can find opportunity everywhere—chances to learn, grow and tackle whatever comes next. This pursuit makes our collective work rewarding, so I can't think of a better time and place to be engaging in community efforts.

The conversations we're having and the issues we're tackling operate on a higher plane, and we see our partners and local communities rolling up their sleeves. Our region is full of people who are digging into the data and are working together on solutions that address both urgent needs and root causes.

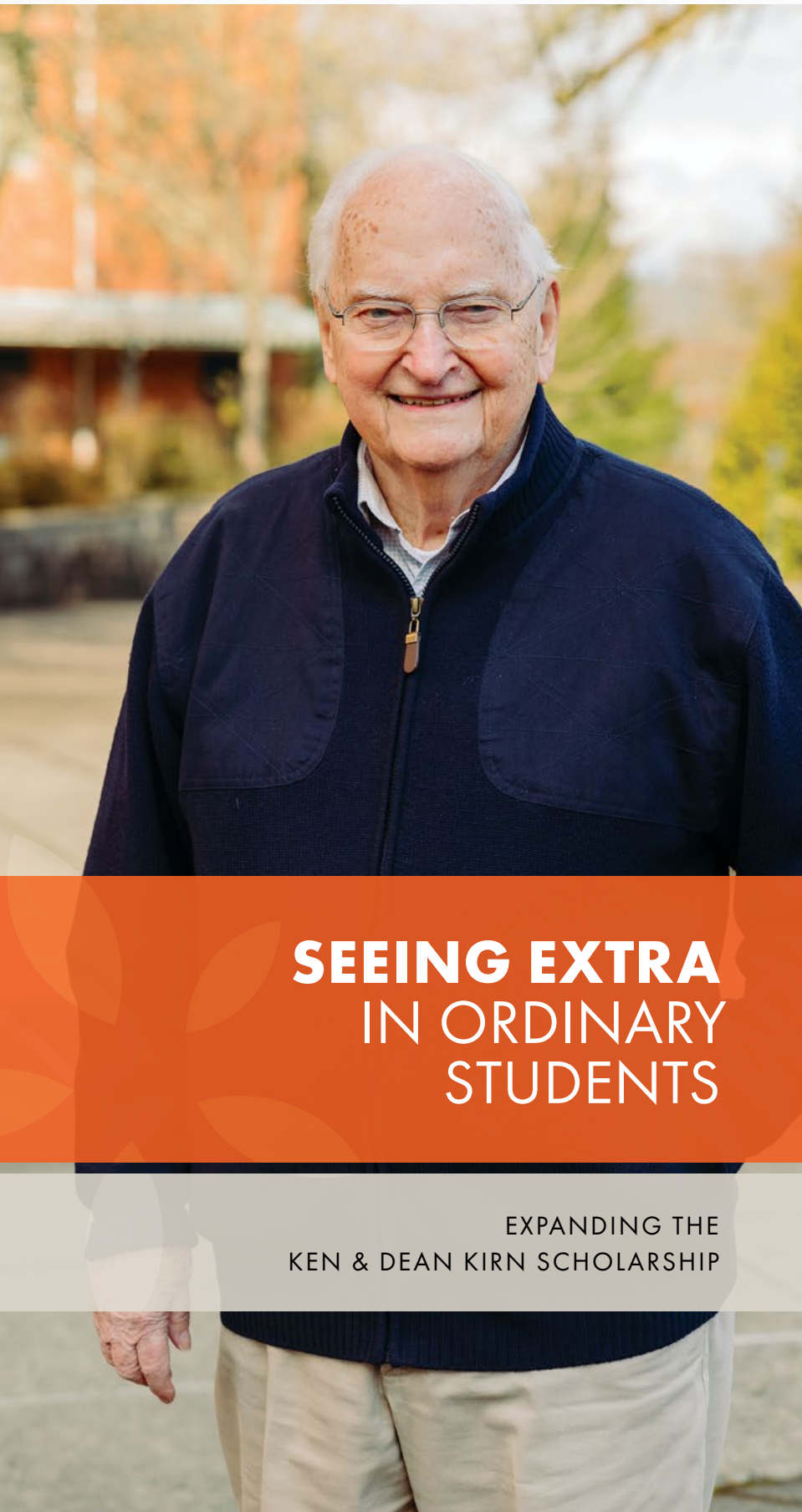
This is what we are called to do as members of this broader community. And as long as we keep seeing the good—in each other and the opportunities in front of us—we are sure to find positive results.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Morton'.

Matt Morton
President





SEEING EXTRA IN ORDINARY STUDENTS

EXPANDING THE
KEN & DEAN KIRN SCHOLARSHIP

Ken Kirn didn't think he had many options after graduating from his small-town high school. Most of his friends were getting blue-collar jobs or enlisting in the service. Up until then, Ken thought college was a path for other, more capable students. Thankfully, he had an incredible mentor who saw his potential and guided and encouraged him. He helped Ken find his place at a nearby community college, which opened a world of opportunity.

"It wasn't easy. I still had to find the money and earn the grades, but your perspective changes when you know someone else believes you can do it." Kirn said.

Ken worked the graveyard shift at the local pulp mill to pay his tuition and attended class during the day to earn his associate degree. He went on to receive his bachelor's degree in industrial management from the University of Southern California. After a successful business career working for others, he launched Columbia Cascade Company—a business he built into one of the premier providers of public playground equipment and outdoor furnishings.

As his company prospered, Ken saw an opportunity to help guide the next generation of students. He and his late wife, Dean, set up a scholarship fund at the Community Foundation to support employees and their dependents. In the early years, the Kirns awarded two or three scholarships a year. After seeing the impact that the Ken and Dean Kirn Scholarship created, they decided to expand beyond their factory floor and offices.

Ken saw that many young people were writing themselves off much like he had years ago. Some were also facing incredible struggles such as addiction, abuse and homelessness. He wanted them to see the same opportunities and encouragement his mentor had shown him. So, Ken decided to open the scholarship to residents of a local youth treatment center.

One of the early applicants was Sally Bovee. She was a sophomore at Clark College who had recently dug her way out of addiction with the help of sponsors and friends. Now, she was working toward her next goal: helping others through a career in social work. She had a job to pay for classes but still fell short of covering her college expenses.

Her determination and achievements were enough to earn the scholarship, but her deep sense of purpose is what caught Ken's attention. He began rooting for her — hoping and waiting to see if

she would reapply. Sally kept coming back, even through a school transfer, the COVID-19 pandemic, a wedding and giving birth to two children.

As she worked to build the life she envisioned, Ken also grew his vision for the Ken and Dean Kirn Scholarship. In 2020, he began to offer scholarships to former Open House Ministries residents and their children. Then, through conversations with our staff, he began accepting southwest Washington students pursuing vocational, technical or career pathways at local community colleges.

Today, the Ken and Dean Kirn Scholarship is opening new opportunities for around 15 local students each year. His investments have provided more than \$214,000 in scholarships since opening the fund. Ken hopes that the awards spark the same confidence he found as a young man. If Sally is any indicator, it's working.

This year, she earned her bachelor's degree in human development with honors from Washington State University Vancouver. She isn't stopping there though. She's already eyeing graduate programs so she can become a licensed school-based social worker or therapist. Soon, she'll be helping youth and families who are facing barriers like the ones she has worked so hard to overcome.

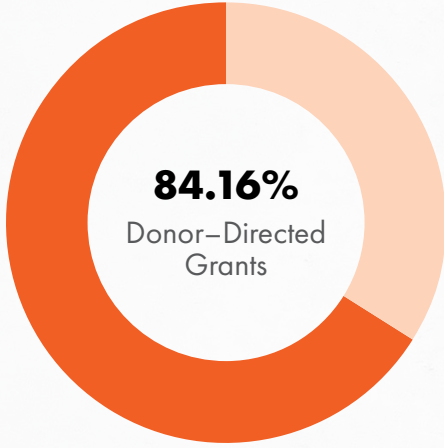
Her desire to pay it forward is a story that resonates deeply with Ken. It reminds him of how his giving will continue to live on in unimaginable ways.

“The real impact is what happens ten or fifteen years from now,” Kirn said. “As these students graduate and apply their skills, they can provide their families with a better life and contribute even more to the community.”





\$25M Granted in 2022



Donor-directed grantmaking increased by nearly 5.35% over the previous year.



\$12.25M

Basic Needs & Healthy Living



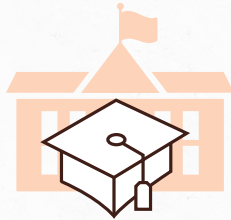
\$7.7M

Communities & Neighborhoods



\$3.1M

Education



\$1M

Scholarships



\$743K

Arts & Culture



\$235K

Conservation & Environment



Grants at a Glance

\$16,217

Average Grant Amount

1,544

Grants Awarded

Strategic Grantmaking Programs

Grantmaking directed by the Community Foundation provided a 48% increase in year-over-year support to nonprofits operating in Southwest Washington. Culturally specific organizations received 43% of total funding.

\$1.98M
Dollars Distributed

47

Grants Awarded

41

Non-Profits Supported



Scholarship Impact

The scholarship program surpassed a milestone in 2022, awarding more than \$1 million to local students for the first time.

2022

322
Scholarships

\$3,250
Average Award

\$1,046,733
Total Awarded



Overview of Charitable Assets

382 Total Funds

FUND TYPE	NO. OF FUNDS	% TOTAL ASSETS
Donor Advised	159	72.96%
Discretionary	44	13.26%
Designated & Agency	79	8.34%
Scholarship	69	3.05%
Other*	31	2.38%

\$369M

Total Charitable Assets

\$280M

Grants Since Inception

GIFTS



\$14.1M

Total Dollars Raised

11

New Funds Established



SEEING OPPORTUNITY FOR EXCELLENCE

NAACP VANCOUVER GROWS ACT-SO
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Bridgette Fahnbulleh enters a bustling community room and sits near the wall to take in the sights and sounds. Ambitious high school students and passionate volunteers are crowded around large tables. This bustling space all started as an idea two years ago. Now, dozens of people have dedicated roughly 25 Saturdays to be part of the Afro-Academic Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) Achievement program.

This program encourages academic and cultural achievement among African American students through project-based learning. Pairing up with volunteer mentors, students bring their ideas to life in various creative and career categories. The whole experience culminates in local and national events where students present their work to compete for scholarships and accolades.

Bridgette is one of the architects who launched the ACT-SO Achievement program at NAACP Vancouver. In its first year, two local students received medals on the national stage. This year, the group built on its success by securing a multi-year grant from the Community Giving Fund to expand youth programming and hire a staffer to lead the program.

With the added capacity, the ACT-SO Achievement program engaged 180 more students this year.

Kyla Palmer is a sophomore who came back for her second year after making it to the national competition. She got involved

because its paths and opportunities seemed exciting, especially the health and medicine track.

“In healthcare, there are not a lot of people of color or women, so it’s difficult to find a way in,” Kyla said. “Through ACT-SO, I got paired up with an amazing mentor from PeaceHealth who’s also an African American woman, which was awesome.”

Representation is one reason that NAACP Vancouver started the program. Its culturally specific approach helps youth see and connect with successful students and professionals who they can relate with. ACT-SO also fills a gap in local schools. Bridgette said the existing enrichment programs don’t make Black students feel seen or welcomed. According to her, this void makes it hard to address the racism and low expectations directed toward Black students at school.

“It’s not subtle. They get called the N-word. They get told that they’re not good enough,” Bridgette expressed. “But when they come here, we really emphasize excellence, potential and college.”

Kyla said the ACT-SO Achievement program has been a major influence on her. She is more confident, passionate and aware of the opportunities in front of her. Her trip to the national competition was eye-opening. The experience affirmed her plan to go to medical school and become a cardiothoracic surgeon.

“Everything about it pushes you to be great,” she said. “For me, I want to do whatever is in my power to make sure people of color are not taken advantage of or left in the dark when it comes to healthcare. I want to be a role model or mentor for the next generation and have a bigger impact.”

The talent and drive of students like Kyla inspired Bridgette to take ACT-SO one step further. Working with the Community Foundation, she shared early success stories that inspired five fundholders to provide seed funding for the NAACP ACT-SO Scholarship Fund. The fund is already supporting a brighter future for two ACT-SO students who are applying their talents and excellence at the next level.





SEEING IMPACT IN A MAJOR MILESTONE

GREG AND BETSY HATTON
PLAN A LASTING LEGACY

Starting and growing organizations is extremely difficult. There is an enormous amount of time, risk and energy involved. There is also a huge emotional investment. Just ask the Hattons.

For 53 years, Greg and Betsy have been confidants in marriage and leadership. Greg built a global commercial vehicle component business based in Vancouver, while Betsy helped establish and operate the Portland Columbia Symphony Orchestra. All the while, the couple held a deep sense of gratitude and care for the many communities that enriched their lives.

Whether it was music, cycling, public schools or their alma mater, the Hattons have always been actively involved and supportive. But they say their perspective on giving changed as they approached two major life milestones — the sale of their family business and retirement.

“You get to a point in life where you realize what you’re looking forward to is shorter than what you have to look back on,” Greg said. “This is when we started to think about what’s next and what we wanted to leave behind.”

Greg and Betsy already had a Donor Advised Fund at the Community Foundation, so they knew where to turn to plan a lasting legacy. They had a lot of respect for the trajectory of the organization, its mission and our staff. Working together, we created an estate gift that — in their words — helped them evolve from donors into philanthropists.

To them, that means taking a holistic view of the community and our shared humanity. The Hattons still dedicate a portion of their giving to personal passions, but they have also entrusted the Community Foundation to direct a large part of their estate toward our region's greatest needs.

Having led organizations for decades, they also understand the constant and inevitable nature of change. They saw the unique role our team can play in stewarding their charitable resources and leveraging them for the best interests of our entire community.

"We've worked hard, scrimped and saved to have the funds to make an impact," Betsy said. "Now, as grandparents, that means having a healthy community for our kids, their grandkids and all the generations to come in southwest Washington."



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