

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



VASHON  
SCHOOLS  
FOUNDATION





**Vashon Schools Foundation harnesses  
community funding to ensure  
excellent, equitable public schools  
where all kids can thrive.**

# EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY IN EDUCATION, IT TAKES AN ISLAND!

We are filled with gratitude for another year of incredible generosity from the Vashon community, championing excellence and equity in education! Thanks to your support, students at our Vashon Public Schools receive vital programs and services that the State of Washington doesn't fully fund. In 2024, we worked hand-in-hand with families, teachers, and the Vashon Island School District to identify what our students need to succeed. Your unwavering commitment to the Vashon Schools Foundation (VSF) made a direct impact—funding dedicated school staff, science curriculum, critical social-emotional support, arts in the classroom, and so much more. Together, we're shaping a brighter future for our students and ensuring they have the resources to thrive!

## Did you know?

- Washington State is mandated to fund basic education, yet it does not fully cover essential staff and services such as paraeducators, counselors, nurses, reading interventions, substitute teachers, electives, maintenance, and athletics.
- Although the state's overall operating budget has grown, the percentage allocated to K-12 education has decreased by nearly 10% and is set to decline further in 2025.<sup>1</sup> At the same time, costs for necessities like food, fuel, electricity, and salaries have risen significantly since 2020,<sup>2</sup> placing increasing financial pressure on school districts to make up the shortfall.
- Behind every successful school district is a thriving schools foundation! At Vashon Schools Foundation, we work to ensure every child has access to quality education by bridging gaps in public school funding and empowering students with the resources and opportunities they need to achieve their full potential. We are committed to fostering a thriving educational community by partnering with families, educators, and supporters to provide rich, equitable learning experiences that prioritize student well-being and inspire lifelong success.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.waschoolfunding.org/> (reporting a reduction in state general funds for K-12 education from 52.4% of the State's general fund to about 43.1% of the State's general fund).

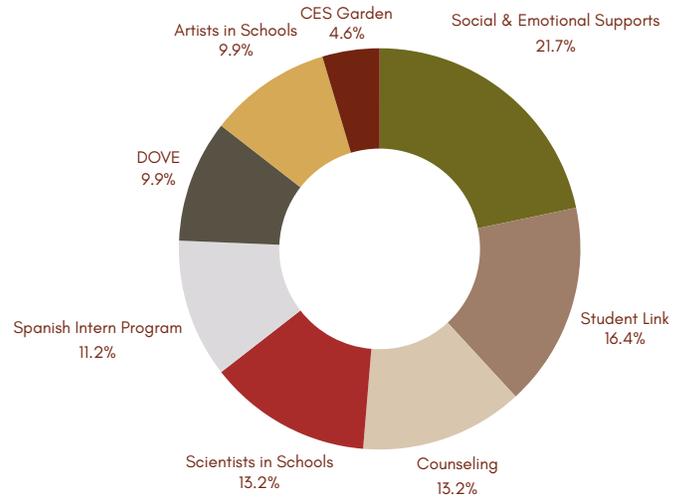
<sup>2</sup> Id.

# FINANCIALS

## 2023-2024 School Year Funding

For the 2023-2024 school year, VSF played an important role in bridging the gap between what our community has come to expect from public education and what the state is able to provide. VSF’s contributions to our schools for the 2023-2024 school year totaled \$152,000.

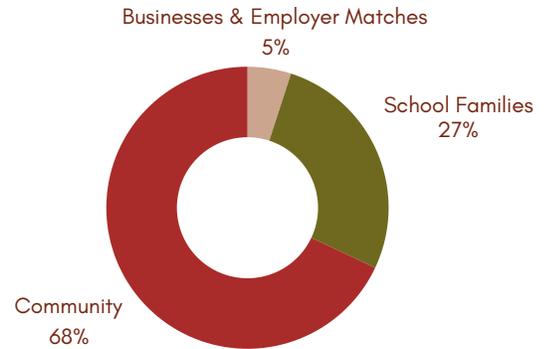
## 2023-2024 Contributions: \$152,000



## 2024 Fundraising Highlights

In addition to funding key programs and services for the 2023-2024 school year, VSF also made significant progress with our fundraising over the course of the entire 2024 calendar year. With these resources we were able to support the 2024-2025 school year and reserve a portion for the 2025-2026 school year. By harnessing community funding, we work to ensure all kids can thrive in our schools.

## Fundraising by Donor Group



<b>Amount Raised by VSF in 2024</b>	<b>\$221,570*</b>	<b>70% from 2023</b>
<b>Amount Raised by Sustaining Monthly Donors</b>	<b>\$42,950</b>	<b>30% from 2023</b>
<b>Number of First Time Donors</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>100% from 2023</b>

\*Funds raised in calendar year 2024 reflect our 2024 Give Big campaign, described below, as well as resources that will support the 2025-2026 school year.

## RAPID RESPONSE FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

In addition to our annual giving, last spring (2024) elevated a critical gap for VSF to help bridge. Deep cuts in state funding for public education threatened two of Vashon Schools most valuable positions: the school nurse and middle school counselor. Faced with this daunting funding gap, our community rose to the challenge! Through our annual Give Big campaign in May 2024, your generous donations, totaling more than \$88,000, covered the salaries of these staff members who are protecting students' physical and social-emotional well-being so that they can learn and succeed.



### **Brandi Greenidge, Vashon Island School District Nurse**

As the single full-time nurse for VISD, Brandi is responsible for ensuring the safety, health, and wellness of students and staff. She develops Individual Health Plans, conducts health screenings, vaccines, and coordinates care for medically-fragile students. She also responds to playground injuries and illnesses, trains staff and coaches, and coaches track!



### **Mallory Shull, Middle School Counselor**

“In our Island community, there are numerous barriers preventing students from accessing support resources. School counselors catch students before they fall through the cracks, provide direct mental health support, and build sustainable systems of care tailored to each child, their family, and school. We are so grateful to the Vashon Schools Foundation for working to preserve this important role!”

# KEY HIGHLIGHTS

## Opening the Doors of Opportunity

Since 1998, the Doors of Opportunity award honors a VISD educator who exemplifies a true spirit and grit that goes beyond their job description, opening doors and maximizing students' potential. Recipients are nominated by their peers, and the award winner is determined by input received from district staff, school families, and the community. This year, the award went to Chautauqua's cherished third-grade teacher, Margie Butcher, who explains the power of teaching this way: "When a student starts to see their superpowers and believes in themselves, that is just amazing to witness."



Previous award winners include: Roxanne Thayer, Mike Kirk, Doug Kloke, Renae Taylor, Jim Dorsey, Martha Woodard, Cornelius Lopez, Cherry Champagne, Shirley Ferris, Mike Scott, Julie Jaffe, Gail Labinski, Harris Levinson, Lance Morgan, Mary Heath, Geri Wilson, Char Phillips, Larry Dubois, Esther Morrison, Yvette Butler, Dr. Stephen Floyd, Jenny Granum, Lisa Cyra, Sarah Day, Lisa Miller, and Nan Van Putten.

## Enhancing Education through Community Partnerships

Our schools rely on talent in the Vashon community to enhance students' educational experiences inside and outside the classroom. For the 2023-2024 school year, your dollars supported enrichment opportunities that truly distinguish a Vashon education. Your generosity has supported the following partnerships:

Program Partner	Overview	VSF Funding in the '23-'24 School Year Contributed to...
<p>Vashon Youth and Family Services</p>	<p>Vashon Youth and Family Services (VYFS) partners with school counselors and staff to provide students and families with behavioral health and case management support services. This includes counseling to mono-lingual and multi-lingual students as well as resource referral and navigation.</p>	<p>2,092 resource connection sessions and 6,800 counseling hours to 369 clients.</p>
<p>Vashon Artists in Schools, Vashon Center for the Arts</p>	<p>Vashon Artists in Schools enhances curriculum by pairing professional regional artists with VISD classroom teachers. By bringing the arts to students in the classroom, the program helps remove barriers to arts education, reaching approximately 80% of students.</p>	<p>1,100 students and 23 teachers experiencing 15 artist residencies with over 450 classroom hours across the district.</p>
<p>StudentLink</p>	<p>StudentLink provides an alternative learning environment for students in grades 9-12 to work independently to complete their high school course requirements.</p>	<p>Enhanced supports such as structured group tutoring time and access to community services.</p>

Program Partner	Overview	VSF Funding in the '23-'24 School Year Contributed to...
<p><b>Scientists in Schools, Vashon Nature Center</b></p>	<p>Scientists in Schools facilitates student projects with real-life benefits and valuable teacher resources across all three schools, as well as FamilyLink and StudentLink. Scientists in Schools reaches over 40% students each school year.</p>	<p>600+ student scientists through the Owls of Vashon (2nd Graders), Birding (3rd Graders), Salmon (4th Graders), Stream Health (6th Graders), Community Science (9th Graders &amp; LINKS Classes), Beach Naturalist Certification for Marine Science Career and Technical Education students, and Carbon Sequestration for AP Environmental Science students at VHS.</p>
<p><b>CIRCLES, Journeymen</b></p>	<p>Journeymen mentors Vashon youth by offering positive role models who facilitate weekly in-school talking circles and experiential learning. Using nature-based rights of passage, mentorship, and community engagement, they encourage compassionate, inspired, and resilient youth.</p>	<p>70 youth participating in the CIRCLES in-school mentorship program which promotes emotional intelligence, mental health, and self-expression.</p>
<p><b>Circles in Schools, DOVE</b></p>	<p>Circles focus on trust-building and creating a welcoming space of belonging. Students learn and practice the foundation of Circles – listening and speaking from the heart. This is done through group exercises, art, and thought-provoking prompts.</p>	<p>16 Chautauqua and 24 McMurray student participants working to create a culture around how they want to engage as a group and with the larger school community.</p>
<p><b>Teen Council, DOVE</b></p>	<p>A youth leadership peer education program. The Teen Council program model is part of a national award-winning youth evidence-based peer education program. Teen Council sits at the middle of three intersecting spheres: (1) Public Health (prevention), (2) Social Change, and (3) Healthy Sexuality.</p>	<p>12 VHS Teen Council participants attending weekly 2.5 hour meetings leading peer-to-peer learning at McMurray Middle School and Vashon High School.</p>
<p><b>CES Spanish Intern Program</b></p>	<p>The Spanish Intern Program ensures multi-language learners have language and cultural support in the classroom.</p>	<p>Teaching Assistant providing multilingual students with primary language support within the classroom.</p>
<p><b>Chautauqua Learning Garden</b></p>	<p>Over the years, our students are delighted by the food they grow and the garden has served as a cherished resource for learning and fun among CES students.</p>	<p>Expanded garden hours, giving more students access to taste and learn about things like growing seedlings and the power of photosynthesis!</p>

## The Power of VSF Investments

While VSF funding does not represent a large proportion of the partner programs' broader organizational or programmatic budget, our grantmaking demonstrates a tangible commitment from the district and support from the broader community. This allows these organizations to tap into additional public and private resources to further advance and sustain their work.

## WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON IN 2025?

We have listened to you and we are prepared to expand our efforts to fund essential school needs. State funding for education has steadily declined and the outlook for the 2025-2026 school year is uncertain. As your schools foundation, VSF is committed to bridging the gap between the funding the state provides and the resources we know our children need to thrive. We appreciate your ongoing support and hope you will join us on **November 15, 2025** for our inaugural **VSF Gala!**

Be on the lookout for more details and reach out to [vashonpublicschoolsfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:vashonpublicschoolsfoundation@gmail.com) if you'd like to learn more about how you can contribute to the 2025 Gala. Together, we can ensure that every Vashon student has the opportunity to succeed.

**Want to Learn More about VSF?**

[VashonSchoolsFoundation.org](https://VashonSchoolsFoundation.org)



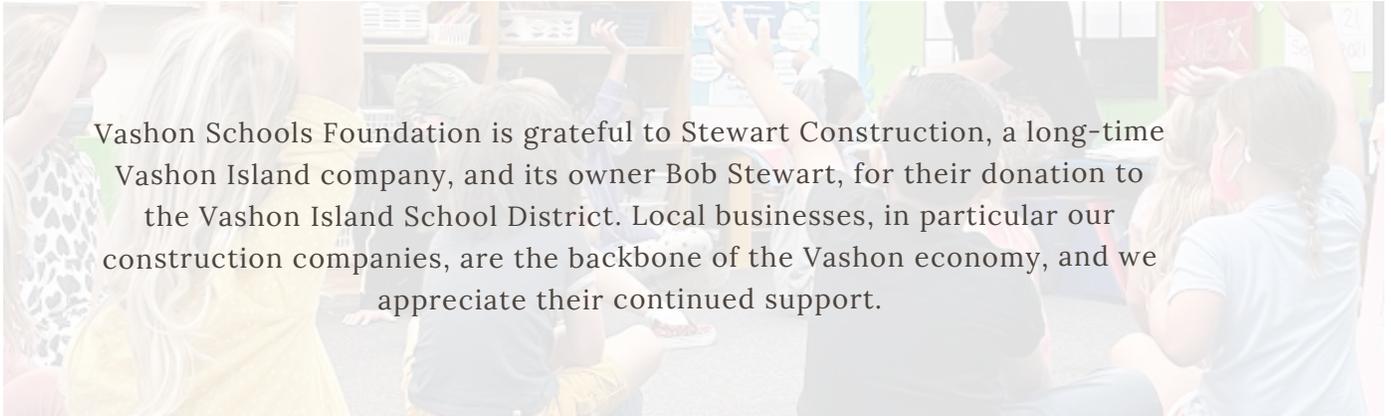
**Interested in Volunteering?**

[vashonpublicschoolsfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:vashonpublicschoolsfoundation@gmail.com)

# DONOR SPOTLIGHT



## Building a Brighter Future for Our Schools



Vashon Schools Foundation is grateful to Stewart Construction, a long-time Vashon Island company, and its owner Bob Stewart, for their donation to the Vashon Island School District. Local businesses, in particular our construction companies, are the backbone of the Vashon economy, and we appreciate their continued support.

# THANK YOU DONORS!

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 Dunn, Anastasia\*  
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**THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

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