

Hello Sojourner Community. This is the Sojourner Education Foundation's first of what we hope to be a quarterly report. In this issue, we would like to tell you about who we are and what we do.

First, the Sojourner Education Foundation (referred to as SEF), was created to fund a portion of the Sojourner Program. The SEF is separate from the PTA because much of the money it raises goes toward teacher salaries, which the PTA's national bylaws do not allow.

What exactly does the SEF pay for?

- We pay 100% of Ms. Sinell's salary (Orff teacher). She is actually an employee of the SEF.
- We receive an invoice each year from the school district for Sojourner students' Spanish instruction, a portion of our Violin instruction, and two hours of Flow planning time per week.
- We also pay for two days of planning time for our core teachers twice a year, to enable them to focus on the elements that make the Sojourner program unique.

Who is the SEF comprised of?

We are a board of Sojourner community members. We volunteer our time to ensure the sustainability of funding for, and preservation of, the Sojourner Program. We meet once a month or every other month, as needed. Currently, we are looking for new board members to join. If you are interested in joining, please email us at sef@sojournerschoolcommunity.com. You are also welcome to attend a board meeting. We post the day and time on the community website at sojournerschoolcommunity.com once we have a meeting scheduled.

How do we raise money for the program?

The annual auction is our largest fundraiser. All of the money raised from the auction goes to the Sojourner Program. This year, our auction is on Friday, March 1, at 7pm. We are celebrating the 20th anniversary of Sojourner School.

Some families prefer to make a tax-deductible financial contribution to the Sojourner Education Foundation. Donations can be left in the school office, or made online at www.sojournerschoolcommunity.com.

We have a Fred Meyer rewards program, as well. If you link your rewards card to the Sojourner Education Foundation (account WE112), we get a percentage back. This does not interfere with your other reward benefits you receive.

Amazon Smile is another great way to give back. If you purchase items through Amazon Smile, and link it to the Sojourner Education Foundation, we receive a percentage of the sales.

We have also held a raffle in past years, which some families have found to be a great way to contribute. Thank you to those who volunteered to donate time this year to the raffle. In order to hold a successful raffle, we need a volunteer coordinator to lead the event. While we were unable to find a volunteer to lead the program this year, we are hopeful that we will be able to bring the event back in the future. Please let us know if you are interested in leading the raffle next year!

How much money do we need to raise this year?

Each spring, we receive an estimated budget from the district telling us how much will be billed for the Sojourner Program for the following school year. This school year, our costs are projected to be approximately \$68,554. Based on our enrollment, this equates to \$396 per student. Of course, since we are a public school, families are not required or obligated to contribute financially. Any amount helps our program and we appreciate anything you are able to contribute – including your time!

The community website sojournerschoolcommunity.com is a great way to find information about upcoming events and even history and FAQ's about the Sojourner Education Foundation. The PTA and SEF try to keep this as up to date as possible. If you haven't checked it out yet, now is a great time.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions at sef@sojournerschoolcommunity.com.

The Sojourner Education Foundation

Mindy Hillard, President
Lynette Heiden, Secretary
Crystal Collinsworth, Treasurer
Angie Ferrer, Board Member