
Oregon
Episcopal
School
IMPACT
REPORT
2025-26



Dear OES Donors and Friends,

As we eagerly anticipate the coming school year, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on last year, celebrate the many accomplishments that occurred, and express deep gratitude for the generosity that elevates the educational experience at Oregon Episcopal School. This Philanthropic Impact Report for the 2025-26 academic year is a powerful testament to what happens when our community aligns its deepest held values, spirit of generosity, and resources.

Every story in this report represents a living piece of our strategic plan, *OES 2030: Leading with Purpose*. Your philanthropy breathes life into our core pathways of **Excellence**, **Character**, and **Community**, transforming our academic programs and evolving our campus so we can continue to help OES students use their power for good.

This report highlights a number of gifts that advanced the work of the school this year and the learning experiences of our students. From enhancing opportunities to embrace the living laboratory of the campus wetlands, empowering faculty to innovate curriculum incorporating experiential learning, re-visioning the theater experience for OES students through performance and production design, as well as strengthening community engagement work that promotes character development, philanthropic engagement serves to further enhance the experience of current and future students.

Your gifts power possibility and ensure that the OES we pass on to the next generation is stronger, greener, and more deeply rooted in community. You provide our students with the spaces and places to navigate complexity, collaborate in partnership, and lead with purpose as the innovative, compassionate, ethical citizens the world urgently needs.

Thank you for your partnership in making this vision a reality, for your trust, and for the vital light you shine for our school.

Gratefully,

The Rev. Michael Spencer
Head of School

Scan the QR code and enter **thankyou2026** to view our Honor Roll of Donors and see the powerful impact you helped make possible.

Thank you for partnering with us.


Leaders
Stewards
Advocates
Changemakers
Community-
Builders
Explorers
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Transforming the Living Laboratory: James R. Kuse Family Foundation's Visionary Gift to the Lower School

At Oregon Episcopal School, some of the most transformational learning happens far beyond the traditional four walls of a classroom. Thanks to a generous investment from the James R. Kuse Family Foundation, OES is dramatically elevating the Lower School educational experience by deeply connecting inquiry with action in the natural world. This visionary gift leverages our unique campus ecosystem through a dynamic, two-pronged approach to outdoor education.

First, the investment revitalizes the beloved OES wetlands, our signature living laboratory. New field study platforms, an expanded dock and canoe launch, an upgraded bird hide, and a gathering space with seating for classes will offer our student-scientists improved year-round access for sample collection, observation, and immersive environmental research. Simultaneously, the funding transforms two underutilized outdoor spaces—the First Grade "Treehouse" and the Fifth Grade Terrace—into vibrant, learning hubs outfitted with durable seating and protective sun and rain covers.

By seamlessly blending academic rigor with environmental stewardship, this partnership ensures that OES students learn to navigate both the natural world and their place within it with confidence, agility, and a profound sense of wonder. We are deeply grateful to Nick and Katrine Ehlen and the James R. Kuse Family Foundation for their shared commitment to inspiring tomorrow's leaders.



The expanded dock has space to sample water and launch multiple canoes.

"We are thrilled to partner with OES to provide children with immersive, hands-on opportunities that spark natural curiosity and foster lifelong learning. This is a big part of what drew our family to OES in the first place, and we are excited to further strengthen OES's connection to the natural world."

–Nick and Katrine Ehlen

Shining a Light on Sustainability: The Power of Reunion Giving

Members from the Class of 1986 celebrate at the OES Auction in March 2026.

When the Class of 1986 began planning their milestone 40th reunion, they envisioned a celebration that looked forward rather than backward. This vision materialized as the *Shine On Challenge*—a collaborative initiative to install a landmark solar array atop the OES Athletic Center.

Driven by a deep commitment to environmental stewardship, reunion year alumni rallied together to champion a sustainable future for the school. This ambitious project aims to outfit the facility with 187 solar panels, significantly reducing the campus's carbon footprint and transforming the Athletic Center into a visible symbol of OES's dedication to the planet.

While the journey to fully realize our campus energy goals continues, the incredible momentum generated by our reunion alumni represents a profound leap forward. OES is deeply grateful to the Class of 1986 and all participating alumni for their visionary leadership and dedication. Your support ensures that the spirit of OES continues to shine bright, guiding our community toward a more resilient tomorrow. Thank you for your inspiring stewardship.



Athletic Center solar panels add to the growing number of solar arrays on campus which also include the OES Middle School, SPARC, and the covered bleachers.



"I believe deeply that our future holds great promise, but only if we act to sustain and support what we cherish. OES has been a home for me, my siblings, and my kids. So is Earth. And with an investment like this, in sustainability, in the future of OES, and in our shared future, I believe we can inspire others to use their power for good."

–Bart Lematta '86

Illuminating Excellence in the Great Hall

OES ignites a passion for lifelong learning by teaching the fundamentals of inquiry, and then empowering students to guide the direction of their education. This year, the OES Theater program perfectly showcased student independence, creativity, and excellence. Through productions like *A Wrinkle in Time*, *Emily Brontë: Teenage Ghosthunter*, and the student-created *Spring Extravaganza*, these students navigated complexity with courage, creativity, and heart.

Philanthropy is vital to support this purpose-driven growth, and we are deeply grateful to John Holloran and Rick Rees for investing in our vision to modernize the Great Hall Theater lighting. John, a current Trustee, and his husband, Rick, both taught in the Upper School for eighteen years. By replacing the last 24 incandescent fixtures with sustainable LEDs, the gift is impactful on multiple levels.

This project structurally transforms the theater lighting of the Great Hall from a traditional proscenium set-up into a dynamic, three-quarter thrust model which immerses the audience in a more intimate viewing experience. Moreover, students will gain hands-on mastery of programmable, multi-colored cues through the QLab software interface, stretching into creative risks and sharpening technical teamwork.

In addition to benefiting current student learning and audience experiences, this upgrade reduces stage-lighting electricity usage by 80%, advancing our commitment to a full incandescent phase-out by 2030, to benefit future generations of students.

> When describing their motivation for supporting this project, John and Rick shared, "We jumped at the opportunity to highlight the unique ways theater and the arts allow students to showcase their initiative, leadership, and creative talents."

Their gift advances OES on several strategic fronts by simultaneously championing the visual and performing arts, centering student agency, and modeling environmental responsibility. Thank you, John and Rick, for your generosity. Your commitment to OES students lights the way forward.









Diving Deep: The Clark Family Fund Inspires Hands-On Marine Science



Ed Clark & Janet Roberts

Philanthropy has a profound way of expanding horizons at Oregon Episcopal School. Thanks to the generosity of the Clark Family Fund, Upper School students had the opportunity to dive into a brand-new Marine Science course this past year. Funded through a faculty stipend by the Clark family—who hold deep ties to our community as current grandparents, parents of alumni, and a former trustee—this innovative curriculum brings real-world environmental science directly to our students.

This spring, as part of the course, teacher Sarah Hile's class traded the traditional classroom for the tidal flats of Yaquina Bay at the OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center. Students stepped directly into the roles of field researchers, experiencing firsthand how scientists study Oregon's delicate coastal ecosystems. A memorable highlight of the trip was "shrimp slurping"—using PVC sampling tubes to collect ghost shrimp beneath the muddy sand flats at low tide. Back in the lab, students carefully measured the organisms, identified their genders, and recorded data to contribute directly to an ongoing ecological community study led by Oregon State University scientists.

The impact of this experiential learning was immediate. Leo C. '26 was amazed by the sheer energy of the organisms, while Avery C. '26 enthusiastically noted that "OES has the best field trips." By investing directly in our faculty, the Clark family has created an unforgettable academic pathway that sparks lifelong curiosity and nurtures the next generation of scientific leaders. We are deeply grateful for their enduring commitment to OES.





“We have been associated with OES for 40 years. Our two children received wonderful educations and opportunities at OES and we have had grandchildren at OES for the past seven years. We wanted to give back to OES. The Clark Family Fund reflects our interest and concerns about the environment. Our intent is to stimulate and support new approaches to educating OES students about the environment; we are pleased with several new programs that have resulted from our gift.”

–Ed Clark & Janet Roberts





Meet OES Annual Fund Ambassadors Gayle and Sam

Sam and Gayle Wertheimer joined the OES community as parents in the fall of 2023 after searching for a school community where academic growth and pure joys of childhood coexist. To them, OES stood out immediately as an institution committed to rigor, excellence and focus while balancing creativity, exploration and joy: "We love the way OES educators meet our daughters and their peers with challenges that build both knowledge and character."

Now, following a banner year of community generosity in 2025–26, Gayle and Sam are ready to propel that momentum forward. As they step into new leadership roles as the 2026–27 OES Annual Fund Ambassadors, they are focused on supporting their daughters and the community around them by striving toward the school's philanthropic success and carrying our collective support to new heights.

Inspired by the Studio

For Gayle and Sam, sustaining the school's fundraising momentum is deeply personal. A pivotal moment in their own philanthropic journey came through witnessing the creativity of the OES Lower School art curriculum—an area directly enhanced by parent giving.

"The art studios and curriculum continue to blow us away," they say. "Teachers like Miss Laura and Miss Carole are steady guides for the children. They respond to the children' s creative interests, offering just enough structure while letting the children guide, overcome roadblocks, and explore mediums and subjects that fire curiosity. They also maintain connection with the student's classroom lessons and subtly spur academic leaps through individualized lessons and progressive challenges."

This intentional, inquiry-based approach is deeply embedded throughout the Lower School experience inspires them to make the Annual Fund a priority.

"We hope our gifts enable OES the flexibility to innovate and be creative in delivering programming that fosters academic excellence, builds lifelong learners, and strengthens bonds amongst the OES community."

Seeing the Daily Return on Investment

As the school transitions from the successes of the 2025–26 year into the promise of 2026–27, Gayle and Sam remind all families considering making contributions to the Annual Fund, whether through a first-time gift, or a renewal of an annual commitment: the impact of a contribution has tangible impact on the campus every day.

"Small or large, every donation matters," they note. "Proof is in seeing kids hustling toward the building during morning drop-off with bright eyes and polished uniforms

and likewise as they reluctantly leave for home from EC3 with weary smiles and innovative cardboard creations." Their engagement, interest and commitment shows the impact of investments in the flexible, dynamic academic programming of OES.

Other powerful moments have come for Gayle and Sam while watching older and younger students connect in person outside the typical school rhythms and chuckle over shared jokes, while enjoying community-wide milestones like Homecoming and Walk4Fun, or while simply sitting in the Chapel listening to their youngest practice violin. "We love knowing that our contributions help in some small way to foster moments of growth. We also believe that regardless of amount or type of contribution, every member of the OES community has something important to share."

They entreat other members of the broad OES community to "join us by offering your own talent, time, and passions as we move into this exciting new year together. There are so many different ways to contribute and invest in our OES community—the returns are tremendous."

OES Profile
Gayle & Sam Wertheimer

OES Connection
Parents since fall 2023

Current Role
OES Annual Fund Ambassadors (2026–27)

Past Service
Grade Level Rep (GLR), Classroom Rep, Lower School Athletics Volunteer, Library Volunteers

Favorite Campus Traditions
Homecoming, Walk4Fun, Fall Festival, and Lower School Music Celebrations





Honoring a Legacy of Love in Action

The Solomon Jochnowitz-Kahn Memorial Fund

Earlier this year, Yoni and Rebecca Kahn honored the memory of Yoni's brother, Solomon who passed away in 2006 at age 18 after a courageous battle with pediatric leukemia, through the establishment of an endowment fund with the school. Solomon deeply embodied selflessness, dedicating his life to "tikkun olam"—repairing the world—by building inclusive relationships and supporting those who lacked a circle of support.

The Solomon Jochnowitz-Kahn Memorial Fund directly aligns with the mission of the OES Office of Community Engagement, by supporting initiatives that empower students to realize their collective "Power for Good," and act on it. The resources will strengthen volunteer infrastructure and provide critical funding for hands-on outreach, including Upper School Social Impact courses, transportation to non-profit partners like Neighborhood House, and essential supplies for projects addressing local food insecurity. As a secondary area of support, the fund will enrich campus life by providing resources for student affinity groups dedicated to celebrating Jewish culture and traditions.

"Solomon always prioritized giving back and making sure he left things better than he found them," reflect Yoni and Rebecca. "Through this fund, we hope to inspire OES students to act as compassionate partners for change, translating love into action to lift up our most vulnerable neighbors."

By connecting knowledge with public purpose, this meaningful gift ensures that Solomon's spirit of profound empathy will shape student leaders for generations to come.

“Through this fund, we hope to inspire OES students to act as compassionate partners for change, translating love into action to lift up our most vulnerable neighbors.”

–Yoni and Rebecca Kahn







Connecting Past, Present, and Future

Dr. Holly Pittman ’66

For Dr. Holly Pittman ’66, a renowned archaeologist and curator at the Penn Museum, a lifetime of exploring ancient history began in the nurturing environment of St. Helen’s Hall. Reflecting on her time in the close-knit, all-girls environment, Holly credits the accessible faculty and small class size for providing the perfect space to flourish. “OES was hugely important to my trajectory and I would like to give back,” she shares.

While Holly’s distinguished academic career has taken her from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City to ongoing excavations in Iraq, her thoughts frequently return to the foundational values of her youth. This enduring connection inspired her to establish a planned gift to OES. By utilizing a bequest, Holly exemplifies the unique power of planned giving: the ability to plan now for a future gift of significant impact, all without affecting her current resources.

Though her future gift is unrestricted, Holly’s visionary philanthropy is driven by a strong desire to foster campus inclusivity. She is deeply interested in helping the school recruit a broader, more diverse student body in every way. Holly’s bequest creates a lasting bridge to the future, ensuring that the transformative environment she enjoyed as a student will remain vibrant, diverse, and accessible for generations of future students to come.

Dr. Holly Pittman discusses the excavation at the largest site in southern Mesopotamia, Lagash (modern Tell al-Hiba).



$3.4 Million Raised for OES

in gifts and pledges

$1,915,208

OES Annual Fund

Including over $500,000 in the Auction Special Appeal for Financial Aid

$376,908

Restricted Gifts

Dedicated to Enhancing the Student Experience Today

$1,129,470

Endowment Gifts

Including Three New Endowed Funds to Support Strategic Plan Priorities

111
EMPLOYEE DONORS

741
DONORS



EVERGREEN CIRCLE MEMBER HOUSEHOLDS
376

$38,788
EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS







CLASS YEAR OF OLDEST DONOR

1949

CLASS YEAR OF YOUNGEST DONOR

2037



CONGRATULATIONS

Over 40 years of consecutive giving!

46 YEARS Katherine Karafotias ’66

45 YEARS Missy & Peter Bechen

42 YEARS Betty Charlton Labadie ’49

Oregon Episcopal School

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