

## AWESOME 3000 a resounding success



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### Our Mission

*The Salem Keizer Education Foundation is a catalyst for the enhancement of the education and development of all Salem-Keizer youth by providing resources for creative and innovative programs and materials, educating and mobilizing the community, and sustaining collaborative partnerships that support its goals.*

The morning started cloudy, but by the end of the 33rd annual Awesome 3000 on May 2, the bright sun matched the t-shirts of the participants: day-glo orange for runners, and yellow for volunteers.

More than 3,200 youths converged at Willamette University's McCulloch Stadium and Bush's Pasture Park for the event, raising funds for Innovation Grants for Salem-Keizer Schools while laying a foundation for a healthy and active lifestyle.

One of the largest timed, youth-only runs in the nation, the Awesome 3000 includes a range of events, from a 300-meter run for pre-schoolers and special-needs students to the full 3000 meters for middle- and high-schoolers.

On the track, students gave it their all and ended with smiles, high-fives and participatory medallions, many of which stayed around their necks as they left the stadium (and during the following days). Up in the stands, countless family members and friends cheered for their runners. Noisemakers, hand-lettered posters and even custom t-shirts were common sights.

Participants also got the chance to mingle with Olympians Dave Johnson, Nancy Thies-Marshall and Jenny Hill, and have their t-shirts signed by this year's Awesome 3000 artist, Sprague High School sophomore Jason Barrett.

The Salem-Keizer Education Foundation extends a heartfelt thank you to all of this year's sponsors, as well as the numerous volunteers who helped the event run smoothly.

"We are particularly thankful for our Awesome 3000 Co-Chairs Lisa Harnisch and Tyler Massey. With their passion and commitment and the leadership of our organizing committee, the Awesome 3000 continues to be one of the community's favorite rites of passage," said SKEF's Executive Director Krina Lee.

To view results from the run, visit [www.skeducationfoundation.org](http://www.skeducationfoundation.org).

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# AWESOME DAY at Salem Heights becomes fun run tradition

**PE teacher Dave Lemons started Awesome Day at Salem Heights Elementary School ten years ago – a tradition he continued this year.**

Pharrell Williams's "Happy" echoed through the gym as the first P.E. students of the day danced their sillies out — a warmup for the jogging, stretching and other fitness activities of their class.

"Did you wear a shirt that you think is awesome?" teacher Dave Lemons asked the kids, who responded by showing him their favorite shirts.

The familiar Awesome 3000 gator grinned from Lemons's own orange t-shirt. It was Awesome Day at Salem Heights, two weeks before the big run, and Lemons was doing all he could to promote the event to his students. He encouraged everyone to wear an Awesome 3000 shirt, or just any shirt they considered to be awesome.

Awesome Day is one of many methods Lemons uses to boost excitement for the event among children and parents. Another project is a shoe



wall — students who bring in a parental note confirming they are registered get to decorate a shoe and hang it.

Typically about 80-90 students from the school of 300 participate in Awesome 3000.

"The Awesome 3000 is a fun activity where everyone's a winner. It's a really positive experience for the kids," Lemons said. "I tell my students that even if they aren't running the Awesome, the training is good for their body and for their brain." ★

## Spotlight: Grove, Mueller & Swank, P.C

You may know Grove, Mueller & Swank, P.C. as the most highly respected accounting, tax and consulting firms in the Willamette Valley but here at SKEF we see them differently. We see them as our local hero, serving children in the Salem-Keizer area since the mid 80's. As they help provide a wonderful service to our community they are also investing in Awesome kids. They are our longest major sponsor of the Awesome 3000. Chuck Swank saw this collaboration as a perfect fit as he was an avid runner completing the Hood to Coast for numerous years. He has been on our board as the Treasurer for the last 21 years along with serving our community as a CPA for 38 years. His greatest enjoyment is giving back to the community. Their organization has the same values as they encourage all professionals to be involved in our community. In 2010 his philanthropic values were honored by the Salem Chamber of Commerce as he received

the Distinguished Service Award. If there is one thing that Chuck could say that he wished others knew about SKEF is that "we are not supported by the school district and we need their financial and volunteer support". With that said SKEF truly appreciates their partnership to help kids in the Salem-Keizer area. ★

Photo Caption: Chuck Swank and Krina Lee together at 2015 Awesome 3000.





# SKEF's Learning Gardens

featured on AM Northwest and in commercials



Salem-Keizer Education Foundation's School Learning Gardens and Salem area students will be featured on AM Northwest on ABC and in public service announcements this June.

Film crews shot the public service announcements April 7 at Parrish Middle School, featuring students in the garden. They will also film Grant Community School's garden June 1 for an AM Northwest feature to run June 5.

ABC and NW Honda Dealers Association, the sponsor of the spots, were looking for a top-notch garden program to highlight Oregon's commitment to school gardens, and Michelle Ratcliffe, former Farm to School Program Manager for Oregon Department of Agriculture, suggested Salem-Keizer Education Foundation (SKEF).

"I want to thank Michelle Ratcliffe who had the vision to come up with the concept and link Salem-Keizer Education Foundation with Honda," said Krina Lee, executive director for SKEF.

The public service announcements showed students planting, loading seedlings and harvesting from the school garden. The spots will run 341 times from April through June on ABC.

Eighth-graders Debbie Davis and Ashley Gregory are featured in the spots, planting veggies and carrying a tray of blooms.

"I didn't know it took that much work to shoot a commercial that is only 15 seconds long," Davis said.

Davis is a regular at the garden program afterschool. She enjoys harvesting fresh onions, strawberries, pears and peas, some of which she gets to take home and eat. In fact that's the message behind the public service announcement: "kids eat what they grow."

AM Northwest will feature SKEF's Learning Garden program 9 a.m. June 5 on ABC. It's a wonderful opportunity for SKEF to spread the word about its program and school gardens statewide and how the community can help. Watch Salem-Keizer school gardens in action June 5 on AM Northwest.

**How to Help:** Go to [www.skeducationfoundation.org](http://www.skeducationfoundation.org) for a map of learning gardens statewide and to learn how to volunteer or donate. ★



## Farewell to FOODCORPS Service Members



Two FoodCorps service members will leave SKEF at the end of July after making invaluable contributions to the School Gardens program during the last two years.

Aaron Poplack and Maggie Harkins coordinated and implemented numerous programs to connect students and teachers with food gardening, healthy eating and local agriculture

— meeting the goals of FoodCorps, an AmeriCorps program. Their contributions included after-school gardening and cooking clubs, a tasting table program allowing students to try fresh fruits and vegetables, a Food Stories class exploring the story of food from seed to plate, and an Urban AgFest program that included 20 educational activities connected to Next Generation Science Standards.

"The passion and energy the service members bring, along with the training they get from FoodCorps, empowers them to connect with educators and students in a meaningful

way," says Brenda Knobloch, school gardens coordinator. "Our program would never be where it is today if it weren't for FoodCorps."

Poplack, who served two years at SKEF, will now head to Portland as an Oregon FoodCorps Fellow, allowing him to support and build capacity for FoodCorps service members and programs in the state.

"I hope that I've given students meaningful opportunities to engage in positive experiences with healthful foods," Poplack says. "I also hope my service has opened the eyes of teachers and administrators to the power of food- and garden-based education."

Harkins, who served one year with SKEF, says she ultimately plans to open a bakery that also offers cooking education for students and families — a goal partly inspired by her positive experiences at SKEF. "It was wonderful to see sustainable changes in students and their parents as they got excited about growing and cooking food together," she says.

SKEF expects to welcome two new FoodCorps service members in September. If you are interested in financially supporting or participating in the School Gardens program, contact Brenda Knobloch at [brenda@skeducationfoundation.org](mailto:brenda@skeducationfoundation.org). ★

# AWESOME ESSAY Worth \$529 for College



Salem, OR May 2, 2015: Twenty-six local students have written a new chapter into the 33rd annual Awesome 3000. The Salem-Keizer Education Foundation has announced the winners of the second annual Why College is Awesome essay contest. Sponsored by the Oregon College Savings Plan, the essay winners each receive a \$529 Oregon College Savings Plan account.

Read and scored by a committee of literacy and writing professionals, 467 students submitted entries including 200 elementary students from 27 schools, 109 middle school students from 12 schools and 158 students from 7 high schools and three home school students. Students were asked to paint a

mental picture with drawings and/or words, keep the reader interested, and give a creative, and succinct expression of why going to college is an awesome experience.

Some student essays described how incredible it would be to be the first person in their family to attend college, while others knew the financial earning power a college diploma would provide.

Janis Wurgler, a Salem-Keizer School District Elementary Literacy Specialist, was thrilled about this opportunity for students. "One of a writer's main goals is to communicate a message or idea in a way that reaches their readers," Wurgler said. "The Why College is Awesome essay contest provides student writers with the opportunity to share their opinions in a real and authentic way to an audience beyond the classroom. It gives them a chance to test the power of words and to witness the impact their writing can have on others."

Read the essays online at [www.skeducationfoundation.org](http://www.skeducationfoundation.org). ★

## 8th Annual Caldarazzo Memorial Scholarship goes to McKay graduate

This scholarship honors the memory of Guido Caldarazzo, a long-time teacher, coach, administrator, and community advocate. Guido taught biology and social studies and served as vice principal at McKay and Sprague high schools and principal at McKay, West Salem, and South Salem High Schools.

This year's scholarship recipient, Winne Kong, will be attending Portland State University next year with a major in mechanical engineering and a minor in psychology. Winnie will receive \$1,000 from the Guido Caldarazzo Memorial Scholarship to help fund her schooling.

Winnie's vision is to make an impact on the community with her growing understanding of the diversity and cultures in the world around her.

After her involvement in Western Oregon University's Upward Bound Program, Winnie

grew her professional skills and excelled at building relationships in the community. Even with her participation in her high school's swim team, tennis team, Salem Youth Symphony, and Advanced Orchestra, her grades never suffered. Quite the opposite, Winnie has been on Academic Honor Roll many times, as well as All City Honor Group.

Yazmin Alvarez, who served as Winnie's internship coordinator and supervisor in the Upward Bound Program, says, "Winnie has become very independent, and her goals are not only for her, but for her family as well."

The scholarship, awarded through the Salem-Keizer Education Foundation, is awarded to young students who contribute their school and community.

The scholarship is for one-year and is potentially renewable with the amount determined by the selection committee.

**How to Help:** Call SKEF to sustain the Guido Caldarazzo Memorial Scholarship at (503) 364-2933. ★

## Why College is Awesome Essay Contest Winners

### KINDERGARTEN

Colleen Skelton (Myers)  
Lillian Neria (Lee)

### 1ST GRADE

Emilia Seden (Lamb)  
Sophie Smith (Home School)

### 2ND GRADE

Doc Kingsley (Harritt)  
Maya Schafer (Harritt)

### 3RD GRADE

Keira Cook (Chapman Hill)  
Lizeth Hernandez (Washington)

### 4TH GRADE

Caleb Hurley (Sonshine Christian School)  
Luis (Tony) Ojada – Washington

### 5TH GRADE

Evyn Wilhelm Baker (Myers)  
Lily Vink (Myers)

### 6TH GRADE

Mariana Acosta (Walker MS)  
Stephanie Rayner-Carreira (Claggett Creek MS)

### 7TH GRADE

Thuy-Tien Nguyen (Waldo MS)  
Emma Hurley (Judson MS)

### 8TH GRADE

Eden McCall (Judson MS)  
Josie Smart (Straub MS)

### 9TH GRADE

Hayley Kirkland (McNary HS)  
Roophir Singh (Sprague HS)

### 10TH GRADE

Elizabeth Wright (McNary High)  
Rachael Zollner (Sprague HS)

### 11TH GRADE

Brooke Chulantseff (West HS)  
Hannah Sanders (McKay HS)

### 12TH GRADE

Jeffrey Tran (West HS)  
Alexandria Roseborough (South HS)



# SKEF Innovation Grant pays for HOME VISITS

When teachers, parents and students meet outside of school, something special happens.



Suddenly there's less pressure. It's less formal. And everyone feels equal. That's the idea behind Salem-Keizer School District's Parent Teacher Home Visits program, which earned a \$3,500 SKEF Innovation Grant in 2014.

"It ends the cycle of blame between families and school staff, builds trust and respect and instills cultural competency," according to program organizers.

The visiting program started five years ago at a handful of schools and has spread to 43 schools across the Salem-Keizer School District. Students typically get two visits per year, one to build the relationship and the second to share information that helps students reach their goals.

Kathleen Sundell, president of Salem Keizer Education Association, experienced an "aha moment" during one of her first visits five years ago. The student's father, the one who was helping with homework, didn't speak English. Sundell started sending home instructions in Russian, his native language.

"It was amazing," she said, "the difference in achievement was overnight."

And it's not just for kids who struggle. It's a voluntary program that's open to any teacher and family. Teachers who are interested can contact the Salem Keizer Education Association for training.

The goal is to not only build trust but to increase the ability of parents and

teachers to help students succeed. Home visiting programs have been shown to increase attendance, academic success, decrease suspension and expulsion and decrease vandalism.

Organizers already see success at schools such as Grant Community School and Chavez Elementary.

"We know it improves attendance, student achievement and parent involvement," Sundell said.

Now the Education Association is working to track data to share the results. They're also working with school districts around Oregon to create similar programs based on Salem-Keizer's success.

Salem-Keizer Education Foundation awarded the Parent Teacher Home Visits program a grant in 2014 as part of its Innovation Grants for educators. It was one of 10 programs that received SKEF support totaling \$41,000 thanks to proceeds from the Awesome 3000. This year SKEF will once again ask educators to submit proposals to support innovative education programs in 2015.



## 2015 Innovation Grants

SKEF is now accepting applications for the 2015 Innovation Grants. Go to [www.skeducationfoundation.org](http://www.skeducationfoundation.org) to fill out an application or to help support the grants. ★

## Help SKEF fund future innovations

Sponsor the Awesome 3000, the major fundraiser for Innovation Grants. Call Krina Lee at (503) 364-2933.

# A Summer OF FUN On Tap at SKEF



The Salem-Keizer Education Foundation is eagerly preparing for a summer full of fun and learning. The 2015 SKEF Summer Enrichment Camps will launch June 15th. Summer Enrichment Camps, now in their seventh year, have something for every child to keep them busy and their brains flexing. This year the camps will be held at McKinley Elementary School, 466 McGilchrist St. SE, and will provide daily opportunities for kids to explore and learn all summer. Some of the highlights of the summer schedule include:

- Paper Made Magic, a camp that highlights using paper to make jewelry, sculptures, vases and toys.
- Super Heroes, which explores the world of our favorite super heroes through games, art activities, stories and writing.
- Junior CSI, a camp that uses scientific process to guide children to solve mysteries. \*Lego Robotics, a popular camp that combines robotics and programming and lets kids turn LEGO bricks into working robots.

SKEF Summer Camps will begin June 15 and continue through the week of August 24. We have full day and half-day options available. To register or to sponsor scholarships for students in need, you can visit our website at [www.skeducationfoundation.org](http://www.skeducationfoundation.org) or call (503) 364-2933. ★

# volunteer spotlight

## Lawrence Allise

Making Salem a better place is Lawrence Allise's passion, and one might say he's already done more than his share with his 20-year career as a paramedic.

But for the past decade, Allise also has volunteered as a basketball coach in SKEF's Youth Sports program — pairing his love for the sport with his desire to have a positive influence on youths.

"Basketball is one of the things I enjoy most, so coaching gives me the ability to go out there, forget everything else and have fun," he says. "I love interacting with the kids and the parents, and knowing that I'm impacting the kids' lives. When you get them busy playing basketball, it can help keep them from doing other things that may not be positive."

Allise volunteers during three sports seasons each year, often coaching two teams per season. He's currently coaching one team of fifth- and sixth-grade boys, putting in multiple practice and game hours each week on top of taking care of his own children and sometimes working graveyard shifts at his job.

"Lawrence knows how to teach the age-appropriate skills needed for the kids to grow as players," says Mark Lowery, SKEF's Youth Sports Director. "His composure, even during competitive and close games, ensures that his players are doing the right thing. Many families request to play for him season after season."

It's easy to see why when you observe him courtside — his critiques of the boys' play are intermingled with compliments when they do well. "I try to give them positive statements to help them learn more, rather than criticizing them too much," he says.

Allise says he aims to teach his players general life skills — teamwork, discipline, humility. "I tell them that they may know things, but they don't know everything," he says. "There is so much wisdom to be gained from others — mentally, physically and spiritually."

### Interested in volunteering?

The Youth Sports program needs coaches for soccer, basketball, football and cheer and game table volunteers. SKEF trains volunteers to teach fundamental skills, focusing on player development, sportsmanship, teamwork and respect over results. Volunteers must be positive leaders who can work with groups ranging from preschoolers to eighth-graders. They must also pass a criminal background check.

Time commitment ranges from about an hour a week for game table volunteers to three hours a week for coaching older-level students. Practices are in the evenings and games are on Saturdays. To learn more, call Mark Lowery at (503) 364-2933.★

**Photo captions:** 1: Lawrence Allise (far right) and his team 2: Lawrence Allise coaches players at a recent practice.



## Volunteer Opportunities

**TO VOLUNTEER** contact  
Valerie Steele at (503) 364-2933 or  
Valerie@skeducationfoundation.org

or go to  
[www.skeducationfoundation.org](http://www.skeducationfoundation.org)

**AWESOME YOUTH SPORTS** needs volunteers for coaching, equipment and field maintenance and administrative support.

**LEARNING GARDENS** needs volunteers for garden maintenance, teaching, events set-up and general program support.

**ENRICHMENT ACADEMY** needs volunteers for academic support, mentoring, leading activities, child supervision and general program support.

**SALEM-KEIZER EDUCATION FOUNDATION'S DOWNTOWN OFFICE** needs volunteers for clerical support, administrative assistance, office maintenance, data entry and general foundation support.

**EVENTS** needs volunteers for set-up and take-down of events, manning booths, sending mailers, leading activities, organizing materials, building curriculum boxes, general event support.

## Employee Giving Campaign

This year the Salem-Keizer School District launched an Employee Giving campaign to benefit Salem-Keizer Education Foundation in addition to United Way. There are over 4,000 employees that work in our schools and offices in the Salem-Keizer School District. These employees consists of janitors, principals, teachers, office managers, bus drivers, special needs assistants, and much more. They help our kids succeed beyond what we can imagine and this is a prime example of how they are creating an even greater impact on our kids, by making a donation to SKEF.

We want to say thank you to everyone who participated in the Employee Giving Campaign this year and announce the winners of the prize drawing. First place winner, Zoe Bardsley of Auburn Elementary School, won an Apple iPad. Our second place winner, Timothy Farness who works in the Student Services Department, won eight tickets to the 2015 Crystal Apple Awards and Reception. And our third place winner, David Morrison of Whiteaker Middle School, won two tickets to Shoot for the Stars Casino and Auction Benefit.

We are proud of our school district and appreciate the participation from each employee who helps support SKEF. Thank you. ★

## Thank You DONORS

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Vince Zollner

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- 1 Amazon will now donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to SKEF when you shop at AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com).
- 2 You can help Salem-Keizer Education Foundation earn donations just by shopping with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card!
  - Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to SKEF at [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards). You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number 83096
  - You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today.
  - If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.
- 3 Recycle your used Ink Cartridges with us. Please bring us your used ink cartridges and we turn them in for school supplies to fill the depot! Drop them off at Where the Sidewalk Begins, Monday-Saturday from 8:30-5:30 at 233 Commercial Street, NE.







233 Commercial St NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

## Save THESE DATES • 2015

Spring newsletter brought to you by:

**AUGUST &  
SEPTEMBER**  
School Supply Drive

**SEPTEMBER 16**  
Innovation Grants  
Reception

**OCTOBER 23**  
Harvest To Table  
Dinner



**SEPTEMBER 8**  
Back to School Lunch

**OCTOBER 22-23**  
Urban AgFest

**NOVEMBER 5**  
Crystal Apple Awards



## AWESOME 3000 2015

**Awesome 3000 Day is June 20th at Volcanoes Stadium** Wear your Awesome 3000 t-shirt and enter for free. For more information go to [www.skeducationfoundation.org](http://www.skeducationfoundation.org)