

HELP SKEF CREATE FUTURE scientists, engineers and mathematicians

What's Inside

- PAGE 2** SKEF brings best practices in science to Oregon
- PAGE 3** MLK Day; Guido Caldarazzo Scholarship
- PAGE 4** Awesome 3000 Art Winner; Grand Canyon University Spotlight; Thank You Donors
- PAGE 6** Volunteer Spotlight
- PAGE 7** SKEF Innovation Grant; Shoot for the STARS
- PAGE 8** Upcoming Events



We're building the next generation of women (and men) in science, but we need your help to do it.

Afterschool coordinators will launch a new science program at 15 schools in January based on SciGirls, a national STEM outreach organization and popular PBS television show.

SciGirls developed the curriculum based on decades of best practices to keep girls (and boys) engaged in science, technology, engineering and math. The strategies include more collaboration, hands-on projects, positive feedback and relationships with role models.

These same strategies work for boys, too, said SKEF Enrichment Academy Director Lauren Jones. But the program needs volunteers with a love of science or those willing to discover alongside the kids.

Buoyancy, animal habitats and brain functions are just a few of the 400 lessons and experiments on tap, which are aligned with science standards used in Oregon schools.

The experiments rely on materials that are easy to find, such as rubber bands, straws or plastic eggs. Kids can test leaf toughness with a homemade penetrometer, find buoyancy and track heart rates.

"The whole point is getting kids to use the scientific method," Jones said.

continued on page 2

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.

Brent Neilsen
President

Jeff Aeschliman
VP Finance & Governance

Spencer Rockwell
VP Development &
Sustainability

Mary Jean Sandall
VP Mission &
Quality Assurance

Tyler Massey
Awesome 3000 Co-Chair,
VP at-Large

Jordan Willey
VP at-Large

Chuck Swank
Treasurer

Diane Childs
Secretary

Patrice Altenhofen

Bruce Anderson

Chris Brantley
School Board Liaison

Joe Egli

Jackie Franke

Lisa Harnisch
Awesome 3000 Co-Chair

Kelly Carlisle
School District Liaison

Lisa Norris

Monty Miller

Jodi Hack

SKEF brings best practices in science education TO OREGON

Salem-Keizer Education Foundation is one of eight partners leading the charge in Oregon to give girls more opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Together they formed the Oregon Girls Collaborative, a statewide initiative modeled after a national program, to encourage girls to pursue careers in STEM subjects.

In September, the collaborative hosted its kick-off conference drawing 60 STEM supporters from around the state, including everyone from Girl Scout leaders to university staffers, to learn how to keep girls engaged in STEM.

“I’m proud to have been on the leadership team to bring the collaborative to Oregon,” said SKEF Executive Director Krina Lee.

“We’re partnering with national and international organizations to bring best practices to Oregon.”

It’s not a matter of aptitude, they said. Girls AND boys do not display a significant difference in their abilities in math and science, according to the collaborative. Yet women only represent one quarter of the STEM workforce, according to a 2013 U.S. Census Bureau report. And women with science and engineering degrees are also half as likely to be employed in a STEM occupation.

But that doesn’t have to be the future. The collaborative will create a STEM pipeline for girls starting with elementary afterschool programs leading to university organizations and beyond. The infrastructure is already there; it’s just a matter of teaching partners how best to reach girls and working together to do it, which is what the collaborative is all about.



Programs geared toward girls will remove the barriers that tend to keep them out of some STEM subjects: teaching styles that discourage collaboration, lack of opportunities to take risks and lower confidence even when actual achievement levels are similar.

Soon SKEF will launch SciGirls as part of the collaborative effort. Girls and boys will participate in hands-on STEM activities that promote STEM subjects afterschool thanks to support from Twin Cities Public Television.

It’s one example of how partners are building that STEM pipeline. The collaborative also identified five goals in Oregon:

- Connect girl-serving programs through events, staff connections, web-based tools and electronic communication.
- Use network of girl-serving STEM programs to increase awareness and work with girls, families, communities, educators and employers to promote gender equity in STEM.
- Support programs that intentionally attract, engage and retain girls and foster their interest and skills in STEM.
- Advocate for more consistent STEM funding and standards for girl-serving collaborations.
- Share resources with a wider equity community. ★

Help SKEF create future scientists . . . *continued from page 1*

About 24 site coordinators and staffers experienced the hands-on learning themselves during a SciGirls training in January. They conducted experiments and discovered how fun science can be.

“It was a seriously amazing training,” said site coordinator Michelle Demarest.

She’s excited to roll out the program for her students at McKinley Elementary the third week in January. Contact Lauren Jones at Lauren@skeducationfoundation.org to volunteer today. ★

Create the next generation of scientists

We need you to teach and mentor students in science, technology, engineering and math whether you’re an expert or an enthusiastic novice. Contact Lauren Jones at Lauren@skeducationfoundation.org to volunteer today.

MLK DAY

Nearly 150 volunteers celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. by giving back to local kids at Salem-Keizer Education Foundation Jan. 19.

Large groups of employees from Kaiser Permanente, Starbucks and SAIF sorted books, stuffed Awesome 3000 packets and got their hands dirty planting flowers or building raised beds at a school learning garden.

“We are really excited to be part of something that can affect so many lives in the community. Small things can make a huge difference, so we’re here to do our part and help contribute to literacy and education in the Salem-Keizer area,” said Jennifer Hartwell, a store manager at Starbucks.

More than 60 Kaiser Permanente employees and their families participated including Elizabeth Engberg, Northwest Program Manager, Thriving Schools at Kaiser Permanente.

“It’s important for everybody to contribute to the future of our community, so we’re here today supporting health and access to healthy foods in the school gardens and sorting books to support literacy.”

Local students also showed up in force from Corban University, Chemeketa Community College and Sprague, South, West and McNary high schools. Sprague High School junior Shanti Basu was one of several students from her leadership class who volunteered.



BY THE NUMBERS:

16,031
books sorted

1,500
pounds of weeds pulled

1,000
plant labels made

20
totes filled with activities
for Mobile Ag Fest

9
raised beds built at
Washington Elementary

15
flats of pansies planted

“It’s a good time to give back to the community in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.,” Basu said.

Chemeketa Community College student Efra Quevedo was one of several Chemeketa Service Leaders who gave back on MLK Day.

“Since we don’t have school,” he said, “it’s a great time to do it.”

SKEF Volunteer Services Director Valerie Steele was overwhelmed by the response from the community.

“I think it’s so cool that people are willing to give up their day off,” she said.

Volunteers planted 15 flats of pansies along Commercial Street, sorted 16,031 books that will go to local children, built nine raised garden beds at Washington Elementary, pulled 1,500 pounds of weeds and made 1,000 plant labels. Thank you to everyone who helped make a difference for local kids. ★

Guido Caldarazzo SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are available for the eighth annual Guido Caldarazzo scholarship, which honors one Salem-Keizer student for making their school and community a better place.

This memorial scholarship honors long-time teacher, coach, administrator and community advocate Guido Caldarazzo. He 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 as well as Blanchet Catholic School.

Help fund the scholarship to honor his legacy and create the future generation of leaders. The amount of the

one-year scholarship, with potential to renew, will be determined by the selection committee.

The scholarship deadline is April 3, and it’s open to students who received a diploma, alternative diploma or GED from a Salem-Keizer School District high school or diploma from Blanchet Catholic School.

Applications can be downloaded at www.skeducationfoundation.org or picked up at Where the Sidewalk Begins, 233 Commercial St., NE, Salem. For more information, please contact us at (503) 364-2933. ★

Awesome 3000 ART WINNER

Sprague High School sophomore Jason Barrett crafted the winning logo for the 2015 Awesome 3000 fun run.



His design placed first out of 45 entries from students around the Salem-Keizer School District. Representatives from Salem-Keizer Education Foundation announced the news at Sprague High School Jan. 12.

Each year, the foundation invites young artists in the Salem-Keizer School District to come up with a design for the Awesome 3000 fun run held the first Saturday in May.

“I’m always impressed by the quality of the art,” said SKEF’s Executive Director Krina Lee. “Every year it becomes more and more professional.”

In addition to seeing his artwork on 5,000 t-shirts and thousands of registration forms and posters, Barrett gets a check for \$100. He also earns a \$250 contribution to the Sprague High School art department.

The second place Awesome 3000 design was created by Ian Allen, a junior also from Sprague. He will get a \$50 check. Third place went to McNary High School senior Megan Douglas who won \$25.

All of the colorful designs feature Foundation mascot “Geo” and show the words “Awesome 3000” and “2015” prominently. The Awesome 3000 is one the largest timed youth fun runs in the United States and the funding source for SKEF’s annual innovation grants. The 33rd annual Awesome is set for May 2, 2015. ★

Grand Canyon University SPOTLIGHT

Grand Canyon University College of Education was proud to be the title sponsor for the 2014 Crystal Apple Awards and the Back to School Lunch.

Since 1949, Grand Canyon University has been helping students find their purpose and achieve their potential by preparing them to pursue their career, advance in their current career or find a new career in a different field.

GCU, a faith-based university, offers online and campus-based degree programs within a dynamic learning environment for both traditional students as well as working professionals.

Learn more at (855) 428-1151 or visit gcu.edu/crystalapple ★



Thank You DONORS

- | | |
|---|--|
| AccurAccounts, Inc. | Kevin and Judy Cameron |
| Irma Aguilar | James and Barbara Campbell |
| Jenny Alger | Capitol Subaru |
| Dean Allen | Kelly Carlisle |
| Allied Video | Kevin Carlson |
| Amadeus Restaurant | Craig and Catherine Carlson |
| AmazonSmile Foundation | Mcrae Carmichael |
| American Easel | Jean Carney |
| Amerititle | Jeff and Aimee Carter |
| Robert and Jane Ammon | Scott and Carrie Casebeer |
| Alecia Andersen | Kari Caulder |
| Bruce and Lois Anderson | Anna Maria Cavazos |
| Mr. Karl Anderson | Jerry and Barbara Cecil |
| John and Anne Anderson | Steve Chambers |
| Anderson Shirley Architects, Inc. | Andrea Chandler |
| Chester Anonson | Christina Chapman |
| Anonymous | Chemeketa Community College |
| Apex Pro Audio and Lighting | Pamela R. Choc |
| Association of Salem-Keizer Education Support Professionals | Ewa Chomka-Campbell |
| Ms. Terri Axell | Karlina Christensen |
| Chuck and Linda Ayers | Carla Christensen |
| Vic and Karen Backlund | City of Keizer |
| Tami Badinger | Catherine Clark |
| Marvin W. Baker, Jr. | Kristina Clarke |
| Barbara Bamford | Class Act Event Coordinators, Inc. |
| Stephanie Banford | Shirley Clemens |
| Karen Barker | Pam Cobos |
| Yvonne Bashor and Rick Bastasch | Coldwell Banker Commercial |
| Jodell Bayan | Melissa Cole |
| Elizabeth Belshaw | Ryan and Holly Collier |
| Kathy Bennett | Jennifer Columbus |
| Best Buy Foundation | Comcast |
| Danielle Bethell | Michael and Jane Compton |
| Florence Bingham | Maureen Connolly |
| Bio Pest, Inc. | Corban University |
| Jodi Blackman | Michael Corbin |
| Karen Blocksom | Suzette Coulter |
| Gene and Susan Bloom | Country Insurance & Financial Services |
| Joseph and Teresa Blubaugh | Deborah Cox |
| Gladys Blum | Craig Huston Photography |
| Bob's Red Mill | Create A Memory |
| Don and MaryLou Boderman | Kolis and Shelaswau Crier |
| Denyc N. Boles | William Dalton |
| Nicholas Bondaug Winn | Ruth Dana |
| David Booth | Erin Dawson |
| Charles Bose | Erika DeArroyo |
| Richard Boyd | Brent DeHart |
| Chris and Louise Brantley | Dermatology Northwest, LLC |
| Chris and Sheena Bravo | Kyle Dickenson |
| Jody Brewer | Derek and Kelsey Dizney |
| Andrew and Leann Bromeland | Elesa Doll |
| Steven Broncheau | Timothy and Laurie Dotterer |
| Cheryl Brown | Daniel and Linda Dougherty |
| Taylor Buchheit | Marjorie Dudley |
| Megan Buczynski | Vickie Dull |
| DeEtta Burrows | George and Lois Dyer |
| Paul Butler | Kathryn Dysart |
| Gayle Caldarazzo-Doty | Joseph and Shelly Egli |
| | Roger and Pamela Elliott |

3 WAYS TO SUPPORT

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. 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.

Trevor Elliott	Christina Hefty	Bruce and Kristy Lathers	Mary Opra
Mary Ann Ellis	Robb Heppner	Gabe and Wendy Laudette	Oregon Beef Council
Dolonna Espinoza	Erika Hernandez	LCG Pence	Oregon Community Credit Union
James and Holly Eyre	Griselda Hernandez	Construction, LLC	Oregon Robotics Tournament & Outreach Program
Jim Fahlstrom	Ms. Ruth Hewett	Ron Lechner	Oregonians for Brian Clem
Mark Fancey	Tom M. Hewitt	Robert and Susan Lee	James and Julie Orth
Christi Ferrigno	Brad and Desiree Hilliard	Chuck and Krina Lee	Pahlisch Homes, Inc.
Michael Ferris	Dwayne and Julie Hilty	Sarah Lehmann	Connie Palanuk
Lesli Ficker	Erma Hoffman	Jason and Sara LeRoy	Anna Parker
First Tech Federal Credit Union	H. Kirk Hofstetter	Martha Lewis	Hazel Patton
Christopher and Adrienne Fischer	Charles and Mary Hollinger	Robert and Patricia Lewis	Jennifer Paul
Chuck Fisher	Don Holmberg	Laura Linares	Karl and Mary Paulson
Eric Fiskum	Virginia G. Hopkins	P. Griffith Lindell	Jill C. Pearson, M.D.
Michelle Fleener	Katherine Horn	Michelle Litke	Ronald Ped
Kayla Folden	Kelly Hurst and Jerry Howard	Frances Loberg	Laura Perez
Roxann Fonoimoana	David Hughes	Marjorie Lowe	Performance Health Technology
Sabrina Forsshee	Ryan Hunt	Loves	Dale and Christy Perry
Amber Forster	Dave and Elizabeth Hunt	Susan Luna	Joyce Peters
Mark and Kathie Foster	Stephanie Husk	Kali Lunenbach	Jennifer Peterson
Randy and Jackie Franke	Lucinda Jackson	Jenifer Luth	Abe Pfeifer
Nancy and Peggy Frantz-Geddes	Wilbur and Lela Jackson	Jeff Lutz	PGE Foundation
Jack and Coralee Frauendiener	Ron Steiner and Caren Jackson	Kimberly Lyman	Benjamin and Paula Phelps
Tony Frazier	Rebekah Jacobson	Ann Lyman	Fances Philipek
Fred Meyer Stores - Corporate Office	Erik Jespersen	Mary Maberry	Kenneth Phillips
Norman and JoAnn Frink	Ed and Carole John	Troy and Darcy MacDermid	Phiz Spa
Terry W. Gallagher	Michael and Connie Johnson	Molly MacMorris-Adix	Andrew Pickett
Jeanene L. Gann	Dave and Sheri Johnson	MannMade Designs	John and Karen Piper
Gannett Foundation	Becky Johnson	Marion County	Jim and Elizabeth Poplack
Amy Geerhart	Erik Jespersen	Marion-Polk Food Share, Inc.	Shannon Priem
Roanna Gingrich	Ed and Carole John	Tyler and Linda Massey	Gayle Priem
Tamra Goettsch	Edward Jones	Shane Matthews	Christina Puopolo
Larry and Vonnie Good	Leanne Jordan	Cathy McInnis	Ralph Hull Foundation
Frederick Graham	Karen Jordan	Alan and Sharon McKee	Russell and Mary Raney
Grand Canyon University	Lisa Joyce	Norma McKinzie	Elizabeth Schaefer
Bonnie Grawey	Leanne Jordan	McNary Golf Club	Nanci B. Schneider
Melissa Gray	Lisa Joyce	Michael McQuade	Ricki Schuberg-Myers
James Green and Raquel Moore-Green	Tami Ju	Stephanie Meagher	Paul and Jonet Schutz
Chris Grinstead	Julie Marie Chaves Corp	David Mercer	Eric Schutz
Ted Gross	Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Northwest	Joyce Micochero	Chad Seegmiller
Grove, Mueller & Swank, CPA's	Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit	John and Sue Miller	ServiceMaster of Salem
Anthony and Susan Guevara	Joan Kapowich	Eric Miller	James Seymour
Steve and Jodi Hack	Shelli Kataura	Linda Miller	Mark Seymour
Barb Hacke Resch	Mike Keane	Misc. Donations	Laurie Shaw
John and Tyke Hagedorn	Keizer Chamber of Commerce	Jerry Moore	Victoria Shinn
Georgette Hagerman	Alison Kelley	Jerry and Sue Moore	Mark Shipman
ElysaBeth Hall	Susan Tripp and Marguerite Kenagy	Michael and Kim Morrison	Don and Marilyn Shotts
Hallman Elementary School	Rob and Traci Kendall	Jennie Morrow-Lopez	Jeanne Silsby
Douglas Hamblin	Anita Kennedy	Mountain West Investment Corp	Shannon Simmons
Tina Hamel	Carol Kennedy	Rebecca Mucken	Tyrone Simmons
Bruce and Cindy Hammond	Brandie Kessen	Brent Murray	James Sinks
Kathleen Hanneman	Ms. Dorothy M. Kilmer	Thomas and Christine Neilsen	Garry Slobodian
Carsten Jay Hansen	Richard Kimball	Tami Neiman	LaDonna Smith
Kim Hanson	Jennifer Kinkade	Jennifer Neitzel	Mitzi Smith
Randall and Lisa Harnisch	Ryan Kirkpatrick	Hugh Nelson	Carey Ellen Smith
Dave Harvey	Stefanie Knowlton	Steven Nelson	Nichole Smith
Elaine Harvey	Kim Koloen	Salam and Kelly Noor	J. Elizabeth Smyth
Terri R. Hays	Doug Kosty	Bruce and Cherri Nopp	Elizabeth Snellings
Candi Hedrick	Karma Krause	Shelly Norton	Sodexo
	Alicia Kruska	Veronica Nunez	South Salem Church of Christ
	Kuenzi & Compnay LLC	Brandy O'Bannon	Spring Valley Dairy
	Paul Kylo	Karen Okada	
	Lisa Ladds Doche	Eva Olafson	
	Amie Lake	Bill Olson	

Pamela Rushing	Shelley Stamm Sheehan	Helen Visarraga Mills
Charlotte Sachtjen	Kari Stanaway	Nancy Vollmer
Scott Sadler	Debra Standing	Jim Vu
James Saffeels	Angie Stanley	Patricia Walker
SAIF Corporation	Starbucks	Kristine Walton
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce	Starbucks Schoolhouse Square	Jocelyn Watson
Salem Elks Lodge	Shaney Starr	Weddle Elementary School
Salem Gastroenterology Consultants, P.C.	Celeste Starr	Jason Weeks
Salem Keizer Education Association	Sean and Sarah Stephens	Jeremy and Bridget Welborn
Salem Pediatric Clinic	Leslie Stewart	Maggy Welker
Salem Riverfront Carousel	David and Gretchen Stueve	Kristina Welter
David and Mary Jean Sandall	Christie Sullivan	Norman and Nicole West
Jennifer Sanders	T.J. Sullivan	West Salem High School
Kathryn Saunders	James and Kathleen Sundell	Sheryl Wetzel
Kathleen Scanlan	Kathleen Sundell	Kati Weyer
Scenic Valley Farms	William and Kathleen Swancutt	William White
Elizabeth Schaefer	Chuck and Phoebe Swank	Wild Pear Downtown Deli & Catering
Nanci B. Schneider	Marianne Sweger	Willamette University
Ricki Schuberg-Myers	Carol Tabatt	Willamette Valley Bank
Paul and Jonet Schutz	Tangled Purls	Willamette Valley Pie Co.
Eric Schutz	Tiffora Tarbox	Jackie Willems
Chad Seegmiller	Hugh and Penny Telleria	Michael and Jordan Willey
ServiceMaster of Salem	The Benevity Community Impact Fund	Jeff Williamson
James Seymour	The Half Penny	Donnel Wilson
Mark Seymour	The Hello Foundation	Jackie Winters
Laurie Shaw	The Scotts Coi	Sanda Wiscarson
Victoria Shinn	Eric Thompson	Dick and Gayle Withnell
Mark Shipman	Micah and Lara Tiffin	Withnell Motor Company
Don and Marilyn Shotts	Adam Tran	Suzanne Witter
Jeanne Silsby	LeAnn Traylor	Mike Wolfe
Shannon Simmons	Tree Frog Photography	Carol Won
Tyrone Simmons	Bob Tribbett	Stephanie Wood
James Sinks	Triplett Wellman, Inc.	Pam Woodcock
Garry Slobodian	Larry Trott	Anna Wright
LaDonna Smith	Beth Unverzagt	Marcus Wulf
Mitzi Smith	Ms. Jan M. Updegraff	Janis Wurgler
Carey Ellen Smith	US Bank Foundation Employee Matching Gift Program	WVP Health Authority
Nichole Smith	Pam Vale	Nick Wymore
J. Elizabeth Smyth	Miranda VanWoert	Brenda Young
Elizabeth Snellings	Dino and Leslie Venti	Lyndon Zaitz
Sodexo	Patti Virden	Heidi Zuk

volunteer spotlight

Ellen Ray

Ellen Ray arrives like clockwork every Tuesday and Friday to sort books at Salem-Keizer Education Foundation's Bazillion Books for Kids, a program to end book poverty.

If the volunteer is late, staffers worry.

"It's not like her not to show," said Tyke Hagedorn, associate director at Salem-Keizer Education Foundation.

Even when Ray's brother-in-law surprised her with an offer to travel for the holidays, she hesitated. "That's on a Friday. I'll have to call my job and see if they mind my not being there," she said.

In reality, she misses the nonprofit as much as staffers miss her when she's gone. In a little more than a year, Ray has become a fixture at SKEF. She said it feels like home.

"I like the people," she said. "They don't look at my wheelchair. They look at me."

The 70 year old battles cerebral palsy, a disorder that impairs movement and keeps her confined to a wheelchair. Speaking takes great physical effort, but that doesn't stop her. Ray muscles her way through words and sentences to tell stories to anyone who takes the time to listen.

That's her true gift. She makes you slow down and appreciate what she's saying, Hagedorn said. If you stop and stay a while, she'll treat you to a story about growing up on the farm in Minnesota, often laughing her way through the funny parts.

"She tells the best stories," said SKEF Volunteer Services Director Valerie Steele, "everything she's been through is amazing."

Growing up, her dad didn't want her to sit around and do nothing, she said. She vacuumed the floors and cleaned her room on her hands and knees.

"He wanted me to do what I could even if it took me all day to do it," she said. "My dad didn't want people to look at me like I wouldn't be able. He treated me like anyone else."

She's thankful that her dad pushed her to be independent because now she doesn't give up. It might take her two hours to sort a table of books at SKEF, but she enjoys every minute.

"Life has been pretty good to me," she said. ★



TOP FOUR Book Needs

Bazillion Books for Kids puts free books into the hands of children around the state with help from community donations and proceeds from the bookstore at 223 Commercial St. NE. Join the effort in one of four ways:

- **Donate books** (largest need for preschool through second grade reading)
- **Donate empty printer paper boxes with lids** to transport books
- **Volunteer to sort books**
- **Help pay to ship free books from depository in Midwest or shop the bookstore 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.**

For more information contact Valerie Steele or Tyke Hagedorn at (503) 364-2933 or Valerie@skeducationfoundation.org or Tyke@skeducationfoundation.org



Volunteer Opportunities

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

or go to 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.

SKEF Innovation Grant helps students see BRIGHTER FUTURES

Salem-Keizer nurse Lynn Oehler tells kindergarteners to look at the light, and within seconds she captures a detailed analysis of their eyesight.



The portable photo screener, which resembles a Polaroid camera, not only detects astigmatism, nearsightedness and farsightedness but identifies the degree of impairment by eye.

"This blows my mind. I can't explain to you how cool this is," Oehler said.

The device saves time, delivers a more accurate report and gives both teachers and parents visual proof of potential problems, which could lead to faster treatment and better performance in the classroom.

Salem-Keizer Public Schools bought the vision screener this fall thanks to a \$7,765 Innovation Grant from Salem-Keizer Education Foundation.

Every year SKEF awards Innovation Grants to educators with proceeds from the Awesome 3000. Last year the nonprofit gave out 10 grants totaling more than \$41,000.

"We are just thrilled, and we're so appreciative to SKEF for this," said Eric Richards, Salem-Keizer's student services coordinator.

"It's making a difference for the kids."

Salem-Keizer is on track to screen 4,300 students in kindergarten, first and second grade with the new device this year. And unlike the old method, where students covered one eye and identified objects, the screener knows

no language barrier and doesn't require shy students or ones with disabilities to speak.

On a recent visit to Lamb Elementary, the screener identified three children with vision issues. Oehler shared the results with teacher Mary Ann Brucker.

"What this is telling me is that he has a tough time seeing out of his left eye," Oehler said about one little boy.

Research shows that poor vision in childhood affects performance in school and has a negative impact on the future of the child. The faster that schools identify vision needs, the better, Richards said. The nurse will print out a report for teachers and parents the same day.

"If we can fix it, just think how much more successful they're going to be in the classroom," Oehler said. ★

Help SKEF fund future innovations

Sponsor the Awesome 3000, the major fundraiser for Innovation Grants, on May 2, 2015. Call Krina Lee at (503) 364-2933.



PLEASE JOIN US *as we* Shoot for THE STARS

April 4, 2015
5:00 pm

SALEM CONVENTION CENTER

Enjoy gourmet food, bid on amazing prizes and help children in need at the annual Shoot for the Stars dinner, auction and casino night 5 p.m. April 4 at the Salem Convention Center.

Auction items include a signed Oregon Ducks football helmet, travel packages and culinary packages such as cooking lessons with a chef trained in French cuisine. Wine and beer will be sponsored by Redhawk Vineyard & Winery and Gilgamesh Brewing.

The silent auction runs until 7 p.m. followed by dinner, live auction and casino games including roulette, poker, craps and blackjack. The night also features music with a live DJ.

Be a part of the action and sponsor a table, donate auction items or be a title sponsor. For more information, call Krina Lee at (503) 364-2933 or go to www.shootforthestarsbenefit.org

Tickets cost \$50 per person or \$350 for a table of eight. Proceeds go to Salem-Keizer Education Foundation and Law Enforcement for Youth, which provides grants to at-risk, low-income and medically challenged youth and programs that serve them. ★



Winter newsletter brought to you by: **First Tech**
federal credit union

Save THESE DATES • 2015

FEBRUARY 13
Why I Love Oregon Essay
Contest Classroom Party

FEBRUARY 27
SKEF hosts Greeters
233 Commercial St NE

MARCH 11
Spelling Bee • 3:00 pm
Crossler Middle School

MARCH 13-14
ShamROCK Festival
3:00 pm - 11:00 pm (13th)
10:00 am - 11:00 pm (14th)
State Fairgrounds Pavillion

APRIL 3
Caldarazzo
Scholarship Deadline
Applications available
at SKEF, online

APRIL 4
Shoot For the Stars • 5:00 pm
Salem Convention Center

APRIL 10
Why College is Awesome
Essay Contest Deadline
Applications available
at SKEF, online

APRIL 22
Earth Day Events
TBD

MAY 2
Awesome 3000
8:00 am - 12:00 pm
McCulloch Stadium
Bush's Pasture Park

JUNE 20
Awesome Day • 6:30 pm
Volcanoes Stadium



**sham
rock**
BEER, BANDS & BLARNEY
Friday and Saturday
March 13-14, 2015
shamrockfestivalsalem.com

NEW FESTIVAL

Local brews, northwest bands
and **gourmet food**

Friday, March 13 • 3 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Saturday, March 14 • 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Oregon State Fairgrounds
Jackman Long Building

Entry is \$10 per person, which includes beer glass and two tastes. \$15 for both days, beer glass and six tastes. VIP passes for \$25 or \$40. **All ages welcome.**

**Proceeds go to Salem-Keizer Education Foundation
for awesome kids.**

For more information about the event,
volunteering or sponsorship call (503) 364-2933.