

SEED TO SUPPER School Gardens Support Growing Families

Our Salem-Keizer Education Foundation school gardens team announces Seed to Supper and Family Cooking Classes.

Seed to Supper is a comprehensive, 5-week beginning gardening course that provides novice gardeners with the education and skills to successfully grow a portion of their own food on a limited budget. Class covers a variety of topics, which include, but are not limited to, choosing your plot and building healthy soil/compost, planning your garden with planting maps and crop charts, planting and direct

seeding, caring for the garden with watering, weeding, and fertilizing, and harvesting and cooking from your garden. A light meal and snacks will be provided. Classes are 120 minutes each. Ask for more information about childcare and bilingual options.

Families who receive SNAP benefits will be given priority in registration – a joint effort of Oregon Food Bank, Oregon State University Extension Service-Master Gardeners, Marion-Polk Food Share and SKEF's Family Engagement Coordinator.

Family Cooking Classes is an all-inclusive, four-week beginning culinary course that centers on the whole family and promotes healthy eating in the home. Class covers a variety of topics which

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LEMONADE DAY Creating future entrepreneurs



The Salem-Keizer Education Foundation is proud to host this year's Lemonade Day.

This year, Lemonade Day falls on May 1. It is a free program for all students interested in learning about what it takes to run a business – or in this case, a lemonade stand.

The goal is to cultivate entrepreneurs.

“Teaching the basics and skills to students is essential to their success and Oregon's economic prosperity. We do that through Lemonade Day,” said Krina Lee, Executive Director of SKEF.

Each child who registers receives a workbook and lessons on budgeting, profit, customer service, and much more. They are also connected with a mentor, or someone who can offer guidance through the learning and preparation process.

There will be Lemonade Day after school clubs throughout Salem-Keizer, during which students can learn from experts who will explain what running a business looks like in real life.

As Lee pointed out, “not only are we teaching business and life skills, but also aligning closely with the National Lemonade Day mantra of ‘spend some, save some, share some.’”

This mentality helps kids understand wise spending, saving money and identifying a budget and giving back to the community.

SKEF is looking for sponsors of the 2016 Lemonade Day, as well as mentors for students. To sign up, contact Krina Lee at krina@skeducationfoundation.org or call SKEF at 503-364-2933. ★

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Mission Statement

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.

Privacy Statement

Salem-Keizer Education Foundation never sells, loans or exchanges the names, addresses or other information about our donors or others who receive our mailings.

MLK DAY OF SERVICE

SKEF volunteers celebrate the holiday by giving

Nearly 70 community members celebrated the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday by offering their time and talents to the Salem-Keizer Education Foundation on Monday.

With 15 service projects to choose from, the volunteers – which ranged from individuals to families to business organizations – met for a brief orientation and instructions from Valerie Steele, Volunteer Services Director for SKEF, and other SKEF staff members. Projects included hand-addressing mail envelopes, sorting books in SKEF's Bazillion Books for Kids program and working in the soil in the Learning Gardens at Leslie Middle School and Washington Elementary School.

"All of these are projects that department directors have on the back of their plates. This relieves the pressure of those things," Steele said. "It's high quality of work that will benefit every department."

MLK Day of Service is recognized nationally as an opportunity to take part in community service to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. SKEF has benefitted from

countless volunteer hours on this day for the past five years.

At the Washington Elementary School garden, volunteers laid a fresh coat of mulch and cardboard to suffocate weeds. The Learning Garden at the northeast Salem elementary school hosts a variety of fruits and vegetables, including spinach, broccoli, Brussel sprouts and strawberries.

Kaiser Permanente was represented by a group of about 30 employees at SKEF on Monday.

"Since we work in Salem, we live in Salem, we are one of Salem's largest employers, we are happy to support SKEF in all they do," said Linnea Greenlund, an account manager with Kaiser Permanente. ★



WELCOME Kelly Gray

When Kelly Gray took the job at the Salem-Keizer Education Foundation in July, she was looking for a way to continue her work with the youth of the Salem-Keizer community.

As the Family Engagement and Learning Garden Coordinator, she has the opportunity to do that and much more.

"I didn't expect it, but it's a delightful surprise," Kelly said about her work focusing on gardens. "It's a great fit because I did a lot of volunteer work with OSU and their gardens program and I grew up in a rural school district."

Kelly attended middle and secondary school in the Cascade School District and then went to Western Oregon University, where she graduated with a degree in Visual Communications Design. After college, Kelly joined AmeriCorps and worked at the Oregon State University Extension, completed an internship with Susan G. Komen and worked at the Boys and Girls Club.

Wanting to stay involved with children in the area, Kelly applied for a job with SKEF and was hired through a Specialty Crop Block Grant from the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

"Specifically, I'm promoting Oregon agriculture and farmers and bringing resources to the community so they buy local," she said.

On top of running weekly Tasting Tables in Salem-Keizer schools and helping to maintain the gardens, Kelly took the lead on planning Urban AgFest, an annual SKEF event that attracts more than 1,000 students from across the district.

Additionally, her experience and talent in graphic design has made her a valuable resource on SKEF's communications team.

Welcome to the team, Kelly! ★



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Salem Alliance Church

Every October, a group of middle and high school students from Salem Alliance Church set out to serve the community.

The Salem-Keizer Education Foundation was the recipient of some of that community service when they came to Grant Community School's learning garden at the end of October and assisted with raking, weeding, making a pathway and prepping garden beds for winter.

Michelle Unwin, one of Salem Alliance's middle school pastors, said that once a year the students take part in what is a combination of service projects and fundraisers.

"They love it. It's one of their favorite days of the year," Unwin said.

Several of the students also took part in book sorting at Bazillion Books for Kids.

"To get the opportunity to serve is a big deal for them," Unwin said.

The church staff hope to cultivate a culture of serving both locally and internationally when they coordinate these service projects.

Between two weekends in October, the church had more than 200 kids serving in various capacities. About 30 of them helped out at SKEF.

"We do different trips that are totally based on service oriented things," Unwin said.

It all connects back to the church's purpose, which includes serving and blessing the community in any way they can. ★



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1: Seed to Supper

include kitchen safety, purchasing and storing Oregon's fruits and vegetables, plant-based diets, whole grains, reading nutrition labels, and connecting seasonality to traditional cultural recipes. A light meal and snacks will be provided at each class. Classes are 90 minutes long and will be held in the evenings at Salem-Keizer middle schools.

Families who receive SNAP benefits will also be given priority when registering for Family Cooking Classes. This is a joint effort of the Salem Hospital Community Health Education Center (CHEC) and SKEF's Family Engagement Coordinator.

SEED TO SUPPER 2016 SCHEDULING

| LOCATION | DATES/TIMES | HOSTS |
|-------------------------------|--|-------|
| La Casita | Saturdays 11am - 1pm • Jan 16 - Feb 20 | SKEF |
| Four Corners | March 2016 | MPFS |
| Hammond Elementary | Tuesdays 6pm - 8pm • Feb 2 - March 15 | SKEF |
| Salem Dream Center | March - <i>*bilingual</i> | MPFS |
| Youth Farm | April/May 2016 | MPFS |
| Englewood Elementary | Mondays 6pm - 8pm • April 4 - May 9 | SKEF |
| Grant Elementary | <i>*bilingual</i> | SKEF |
| Monmouth Seed Lending Library | April 2016 | MPFS |

FAMILY COOKING CLASSES 2016 SCHEDULING

| LOCATION | DATES/TIMES | HOSTS |
|-----------------------|---|-------|
| Houck Middle School | 12 Families: Thursdays • Feb 4 - March 10 (no class Feb 25 & March 3) | SKEF |
| Parrish Middle School | 8 Families: Tuesdays • April 5 - April 26 | SKEF |
| Leslie Middle School | 12 Families: Wednesdays • April 6 - April 27 | SKEF |

SKEF = Salem-Keizer Education Foundation • MPFS = Marion-Polk Food Share

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Every second Thursday at 6:00 pm*

**CONTACT: Valerie Steele at 503-364-2933
Or valerie@skeducationfoundation.org**

35TH ANNIVERSARY

SKEF wants to hear your stories

2017 will mark a major milestone as it falls on the Salem-Keizer Education Foundation's 35th anniversary.

As noted by SKEF Executive Director Krina Lee, a lot has happened in the last three decades and the foundation is making strides for the next three to be just as remarkable, if not more.



Thirty-five years of supporting thousands of kids is something to be proud of, and SKEF plans to commemorate that with a year's worth of events and programs that celebrate how far the foundation has come.

But we could also use your help. How has SKEF impacted you or your children? Did you run in the first Awesome 3000 nearly 35 years ago? No anniversary celebration is complete without a look back at our history, and we'd like to hear your stories.

Please share with us by calling 503-364-2933 or emailing joc@skeducationfoundation.org. ★

WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY

Evolving partnership

A partnership between SKEF and Willamette University's Office of Community Service Learning continues to evolve. In an effort to further this partnership, the Office of Community Service Learning has selected three WU students to serve as Community Engagement Scholars. These students will research, assess and conduct outreach activities that aim to increase our capacity, programing and volunteer recruitment.

In specific connection to SKEF, the WU Community Engagement Scholars will evaluate programs, research SKEF programs such as AVID and ASPIRE, report on the advantages of SKEF opportunities from a WU student's perspective, and create a marketing campaign for campus. The goal is to generate increased volunteer interest in SKEF.

If you're a Willamette University student and want information on how to get involved, contact the Office of Community Service Learning at 503-370-6807. ★

BUSINESS PARTNERS

CORBAN UNIVERSITY

Conference features three speakers

Corban University's 2016 Christian Thought Leader Conference will be held March 7-11 and will feature three distinguished speakers who will focus on the theme of flourishing at the intersection of faith, work and economics.



P. Griffith Lindell, Dean of Corban's Hoff School of Business, said there is a need for a revolution in how people view work, integrate faith and engage with economic models. The conference seeks to engage students, churches and businesses in the mid-Willamette Valley.

The three speakers will be Lakecia Gunter of Intel, Albert M. Erisman of Seattle Pacific University and Marshall Stevens, a businessman in Portland.

The conference will be held at both the Psalm Performing Arts Center at Corban University and at Broadway Commons in Salem. Learn more at www.corban.edu. ★

BMW OF SALEM

Promotion brings incredible results

SKEF couldn't make an impact the way we do without support from business partners like BMW of Salem.

Thanks to their charitable giving event, with the purchase of any vehicle in the fourth quarter of 2015, BMW donated \$100 to one of five charity partners. SKEF was lucky enough to be one of beneficiaries.

At a board meeting in January, Jonathan Taylor of BMW presented a \$4,200 check to SKEF. How's that for an investment in awesome kids?

Thank you, BMW of Salem! ★



SHOOT FOR THE STARS

Join us for this amazing event

This year's premier benefit event will be held on April 16 at the Salem Convention Center and hosted by SKEF and Law Enforcement for Youth (LEY). Shoot for the Stars is a fundraising event that features live and silent auctions, entertainment, dinner and casino activities.

Tickets can now be purchased on the event website: shootforthestarsbenefit.org. They cost \$50 per person or \$350 for a table of eight.

SKEF and LEY are also seeking donated items and packages to feature in the auctions. If you are interested in contributing, please contact SKEF at 503-364-2933 or email joce@skeducationfoundation.org. ★



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- 2 You can help Salem-Keizer Education Foundation earn donations just by shopping with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card!
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 - 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.



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LEGO Robotics Students tout projects at tournament



The FIRST LEGO League Qualifying Tournaments were again a success, with a lively display of team work, problem-solving and critical thinking.

December's two qualifying tournaments at Adam Stephens

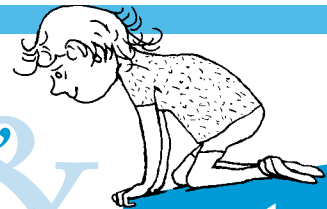
Middle School featured teams with students grades 3-8 from Salem and surrounding areas. Some even traveled as far as Eugene to compete.

Prior to the tournament teams received the "TrashTrek Challenge", which was the theme in all three judging categories: Project, Robot Design and Core Values and the robot competition. Observing projects and designs combatting the issue of unneeded waste and developing new ways to reuse and recycle, the judges had difficult choices to make in terms of deciding winners in various categories.

Salem-based teams took home the Champions award at both tournaments. Ten teams received Advancement to the Championship Event awards and invitations to the state tournament in January. ★



gift shop, gallery & smoothie bar



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8:30 am - 5:30 pm
Monday - Saturday



wherethesidewalkbegins.com

Business Spotlight Barrett Business Services, Inc.

Each branch of Barrett Business Services, Inc. has their own way of supporting its clients and the community. In Salem, BBSI Branch Manager Tyler Massey exemplifies community service through his volunteerism in various organizations and events, including SKEF.

BBSI is headquartered in the Northwest and provides HR services to businesses of all kinds, whether they're small with just a handful of employees, or large companies. The HR functions they offer include taxes, payroll, applications and employee handbooks, to name only a few.

"We try to let clients get out of the weeds and do what they specialize in," Massey said.

BBSI's services with SKEF allow the nonprofit to spend valuable time on organizing events and supporting the schools and the community – not on time-consuming HR functions.

But it's what happens outside of BBSI offices that sets the company apart. As branch manager, Massey has assisted with the Awesome 3000 since 2008 and is now a co-chair for the event. The younger runs, with kids in grade 3 and below, are his favorite.

Massey, now serving his second term as a SKEF board member, is also involved with LEGO Robotics and has helped drop off and pick up bins for SKEF's School Supply Drive. ★



2015 CRYSTAL APPLE AWARDS 10 educators honored at Elsinore Theatre

The Historic Elsinore Theatre became Hollywood for a night in November for the 19th Annual Crystal Apple Awards – except instead of famous celebrities, the red carpet was lined with Salem-Keizer's finest educators.

The Crystal Apple Awards are an annual event to recognize excellence in education throughout the community.

For nearly 20 years, the event has honored educators across the board – from crossing guards to principals – for the difference they make in students' lives. It is held by SKEF in partnership with the Salem Area and Keizer Chambers of Commerce.

For the last several years, SKEF has also honored a local organization with the Business Partnership Award. This year's recipient was Corban University, who works to create meaningful relationships throughout the community.



A total of 29 individuals were nominated for an award and 10 were selected by a Crystal Apple Award selection committee. All nominees were celebrated at a reception prior to the ceremony on Nov. 5 and then were interviewed on the red carpet on live T.V.

The following nominees were selected as the 2015 Crystal Apple Award honorees: David DeRoest, Waldo Middle

School; Amy Divelbiss, North Salem High School; Katie Gilmour, South Salem High School; Christina Gragg, Swegle Elementary School; Rebecca Hollen, Walker Middle School; Linda Kitchin, Parrish Middle School; Holly Rushton, Clear Lake Elementary School; Terra Shiffer, Claggett Creek Middle School; Jennifer Walloch, Early College High School; and Kevin Wise, McNary High School. ★

ASPIRE Program off to a great start in Salem-Keizer

You could walk into the College and Career Center at North Salem High School on any given day and find students working on essays, filling out applications, searching for scholarships or learning about admissions from a specialist from one of many colleges and universities throughout Oregon.

The center officially opened as an ASPIRE site in early October and is among many sites throughout the Salem-Keizer School District in its brand new pilot program.

ASPIRE is a statewide mentoring program operated by the Office of Student Access and Completion. The program helps middle and high school students gain access to education and career training after high school.

While the program has been around for quite some time, it has never been offered district-wide – until now. As the state’s second-largest school district, Salem-Keizer faces some challenges in implementing ASPIRE, but key players say it’s going well so far. A partnership between ASPIRE, the district and SKEF has already grown the program to incredible numbers within its first few months.

“The program is successful right now. The transition is going really smoothly,” said Adrian Rodriguez, of North Salem’s College and Career Center. He also runs the before and after school program there.



Valerie Steele, volunteer coordinator at SKEF, is charged with recruiting and training ASPIRE mentors who make the program possible.

“Getting that many volunteers in response to how the students responded was the biggest challenge. We didn’t anticipate how many students would sign up and be enthusiastic about it,” Steele said.

The goal, she said, is to have 50 mentors at each ASPIRE school this year. SKEF typically holds two ASPIRE mentor trainings per week that enable volunteers to be equipped to work with students. Steele highlighted that there is no education or professional requirement, and the time commitment is based on a volunteer’s availability.

“A prosperous community depends on the level of success students have after they graduate. If you can go in to a school and facilitate that success, the impact is far-reaching. It’s not just good for that kid, it’s good for that kid’s family and that kid’s community,” Steele said.

Trainings are held at 223 Commercial Street NE every Wednesday at noon and every second Thursday at 6 p.m.

To become a mentor, contact Steele at 503-364-2933 or at valerie@skeducationfoundation.org. Visit <http://skeducationfoundation.org> for more details. ★

Save THE DATES • 2016

MARCH 9
3:00 pm | Salem-Keizer Spelling Contest
Crossler Middle School

MARCH 21-25
Spring Break Lunch Program

APRIL 6 – MAY 31
Salem-Keizer Student Art Show
Keizer Civic Center

APRIL 16
Shoot for the Stars

APRIL 22
Earth Day

MAY 1
Lemonade Day

MAY 7
Awesome 3000

SKEF WISH LIST

- Postage stamps
- Construction paper
- AA batteries
- General office supplies
- Garden tools