

# 2023-2024 Gratitude Report



**NORTH THURSTON**  
Education Foundation  
— PARTNERS FOR KIDS —

Highlighting the  
profound impact we've  
achieved together this  
year for students in  
our community.



NORTH THURSTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

[ntef.org](http://ntef.org)

Dear NTEF Supporters,

What an incredible year it has been! The 2023–24 school year was filled with meaningful milestones, and I'm so grateful for your support as I navigated my first year as Executive Director of NTEF. Your generosity and dedication have been truly inspiring.

Together, we directly supported 9,132 students through our Student Assistance Grants, ensuring they had essentials like school supplies, clothing, hygiene items, sports fees, and Chromebook repairs. Our McGimpsey Pantries provided over \$16,000 worth of food to students experiencing hunger, and our Personal Needs Drive supplied hundreds of hygiene items, socks, and underwear.

Thanks to local partnerships, we distributed 1,200 coats, countless school supplies, and even helped 83 seniors with caps and gowns to celebrate graduation.

This work is only possible because of the compassion and generosity of people like you. While I've learned so much in this role, one constant has been the unwavering support from our community. Together, we're empowering students, meeting critical needs, and laying the foundation for lifelong success. Thank you for being part of this journey!

Warm wishes,



**Deanna East**  
Executive Director  
North Thurston Education Foundation



## Mission

*NTEF's mission is to mobilize the resources necessary to enrich programs, provide basic needs, and enhance educational opportunities for the students and staff of North Thurston Public Schools.*

*Our vision is that every student, regardless of their background or financial situation, has the opportunity to excel and achieve their dreams.*

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Christine Forrey</b>	<i>President</i>
<b>Eric Zabala</b>	<i>VP for Resource Development</i>
<b>Jerry Long</b>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<b>Veronica Shriver</b>	<i>Secretary</i>
<b>Deanna East</b>	<i>Executive Director</i>

Robert Almada	Brenda McAferty	<b>Honorary Members</b>
Casey Crawford	Dave Newkirk	Jon Halvorson
Blake Knoblauch	Erica Palkovitz	Ken Parsons
Heather Larsen	Hana Sandifer	Judy Wilson
Serenity Malloy	Dr. Jennifer Thomas	
	Michelle Gipson	

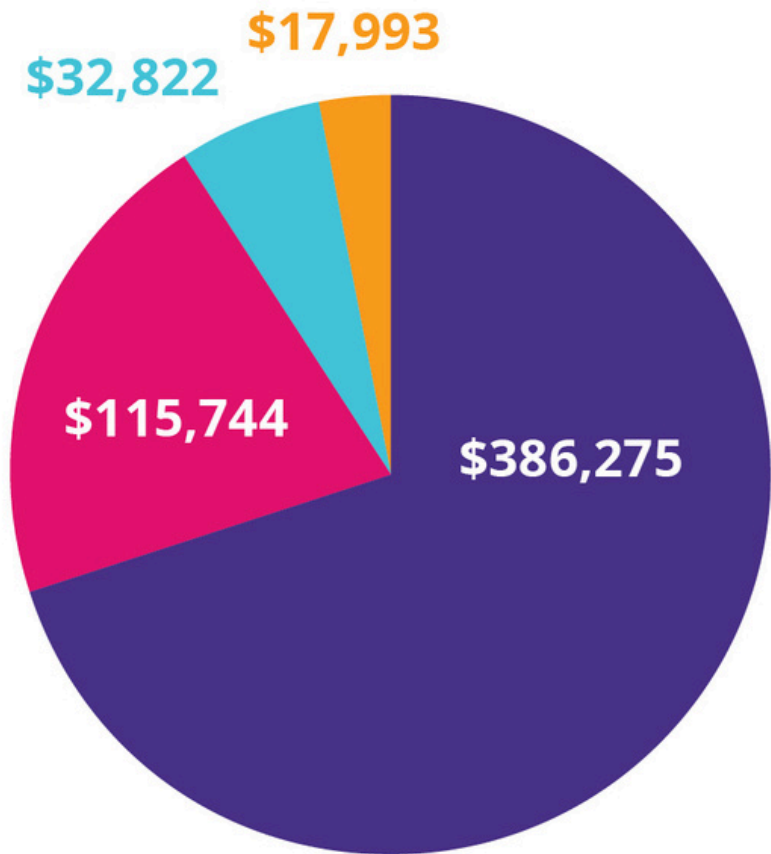
## RING OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

GENE DOLAN 2019	BILL WILLIAMS 2021
JON HALVORSON 2019	CARLETTA GARRAWAY 2021
THE MCGIMPSEY FAMILY 2019	DORN BARR 2022
SUE SHANNON 2019	MIKE JONES 2023
KEN PARSONS 2021	BRENDA MCAFERTY 2024
RON & CAROL BUSCHE 2021	

# 2023-2024 Student Support

- Student Assistance Grants
- Scholarships
- Learning Improvement Grants
- Board Discretion

*DATA COMPILED FROM  
2023 FISCAL YEAR.*



## Student Assistance Grants

Funds are provided to every NTPS school to assist low-income students and to NTPS Student Support for all homeless students' needs.

## McGimpsey Pantries (Student Assistance)

\$500 allocated to every NTPS school for in-school nutrition support and \$2,000 to each comprehensive High School.

## Learning Improvement Grants

\$25,000 allocated to educators to enhance learning opportunities.

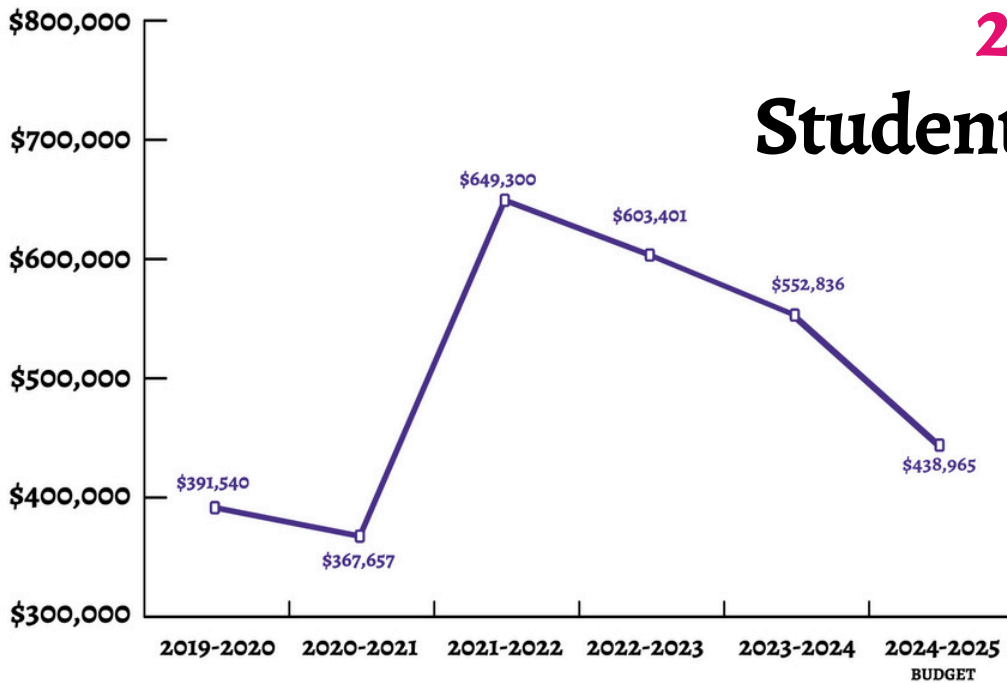
## Scholarships

Over \$141,000 awarded to 45 students (24 graduating seniors and 21 renewable scholarships). Annual award: 22 Foundation scholarships and 23 named scholarships (Lisa Corwin Memorial, Davies Vocational-Technical, Mary P Dolciani, Friends and Family, Gillis Breaking Barriers, Lewis R. Hawthorne & Edna C. Hawthorne, Jeannette Hostetter Ford Memorial, John Gott Educational, James Koval Memorial, Frank Parker Memorial, Roy Pedersen, Ethel & Vaughn F. Philpot, Porter Scholarship for Hope, Carles E Callahan Educational, Alex Ward Memorial, Rahman Family, Skip Scoggin Memorial, Craig A. Shanafelt, Dr. G. Sue Shannon Memorial, Supporting Women in STEM, Colton Thorstrom Smith, Nicholas T. Walker, Bill Williams Memorial Scholarship.

## Board Discretion/Community Outreach Programs

All Kids Win, Lacey Boys & Girls Club, Gravity, Lacey Loves to Read, Little Red Schoolhouse, St. Mark Lutheran Church (Grace's Guest House, Clean Kids & Showers), TOGETHER! Host Homes, and YMCA Power Scholars.

# 2023-2024 Student Support Growth



## BUDGET

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Student Assistance Grants	\$245,589	\$149,881	\$481,200	\$352,748	\$386,275	\$265,965
Learning Improvement Grants	\$27,518	\$14,577	\$15,000	\$39,653	\$32,822	\$25,000
Scholarships	\$105,790	\$180,911	\$133,100	\$191,000	\$115,744	\$115,000
Board Discretion	\$12,643	\$22,288	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$17,993	\$33,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$391,540</b>	<b>\$367,657</b>	<b>\$649,300</b>	<b>\$603,401</b>	<b>\$552,836</b>	<b>\$438,965</b>

During the pandemic, the needs of students and families in our community surged as they faced unprecedented challenges. To meet these urgent demands, NTEF relied heavily on the generosity of our donors and an endowment thoughtfully established to be spent over 20 years. These resources enabled us to expand our programs and provide critical support when it was needed most. Now, as we transition to realigning our funding with current giving levels, we remain committed to adapting to the evolving needs of our community.

Funding naturally fluctuates, and maintaining and sustaining impactful programs is always at the heart of our mission. Our primary goal remains ensuring that students receive the resources they need to thrive. While we are distributing less funding this year, the strides we've made continue to create a lasting and meaningful impact on the lives of students and families throughout our district.



# You make the difference.



**NORTH THURSTON**  
Education Foundation  
PARTNERS FOR KIDS

Like most nonprofit organizations we have had to tighten our belt a bit due to less funding available. Thanks to your generosity, we're able to tackle many challenges students in North Thurston Public Schools face every day. In the 2023-2024 school year, 44.9% of students (6,469 out of 14,000) qualified for free or reduced-price lunch—a stark reminder of the financial hardships many families endure. Even more concerning, 1,024 students were homeless, including 307 unaccompanied youth.

Because of you, we've been breaking down these barriers for nearly three decades, providing over \$1.2 million to support students and schools. In 2023, your support helped us reach \$351,000 in program funding, giving hundreds of students the resources they need to succeed.

Here's what you make possible:

## **Funds served 9,132 students in 23-24**

- **Ensure** students have essentials like food, clothing, and supplies through Student Assistance Grants at all schools in the district and McGimpsey Pantries, now at all 23 in person schools.
- **Increase** access to higher education with scholarships—\$141,000 awarded in 2024 alone.
- **Improve** learning with innovative classroom grants, providing resources like reading materials, enrichment activities, and support for English Language Learners.
- Helped 111 children either keep their home or get into a home with our Emergency Rental Assistance.

Your support changes lives. It puts glasses on a student who couldn't see the board, ensures kids have shoes that fit, and allows them to join sports teams or music programs they otherwise couldn't afford. Every dollar you give removes a barrier, opening the door to opportunity for these children.

## *A Message from Lindsey Canley, Social Worker*

“

Every day, I see the life-changing impact the North Thurston Education Foundation has on our students. Their support breaks down barriers to learning, stability, and well-being, helping students and families in profound ways.

One student, after years of trauma, attended the Washington Youth Challenge Academy thanks to the Foundation's help. Equipped with everything they needed, they completed the program with confidence and returned stronger, ready to rebuild their future.

Another student struggling academically found renewed purpose after a week-long backpacking trip funded by the Foundation. This transformative experience reignited their excitement for school and learning.

The Foundation also steps in for everyday needs—providing nutrition support for students recovering from eating disorders, helping a family with five young children create stability at home, and covering vital records and medication for a teen working toward independence.

These moments wouldn't happen without the Foundation—and without donors like you. Thank you for providing hope, stability, and a chance for every student to thrive.

”

With gratitude,  
Lindsey Canley, Social Worker  
North Thurston Public Schools



## *A Message from JJ Pritchett, Elementary School Counselor*

“

Fourteen years ago, I transitioned from teaching high school to working as an elementary school counselor—a change that brought new energy to my career. While I loved the wit and courage of high schoolers, I've grown to admire the humor, bravery, and curiosity of “the littles.”

Students face countless barriers to learning and attending school, and the North Thurston Education Foundation (NTEF) is a lifeline for removing those obstacles.

**Because of your generosity:**

- We can provide clean clothes for students in need, along with detergent and fresh sweatshirts.
- Wobble seats and fidget tools help kids focus, even outside special education programs.
- Hygiene products and spare clothes in the health room ensure kids can quickly return to learning.
- Instrument rentals make band and orchestra accessible to all students.
- Snacks stock our pantry and even fill weekend food bags for kids in need.

Your support helps us meet students' basic needs and creates a safe, welcoming environment for learning. Thanks to you, NTEF removes barriers every day so kids can focus on what truly matters—learning, growing, and thriving.

– JJ Pritchett



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## *Anonymous Testimonial*

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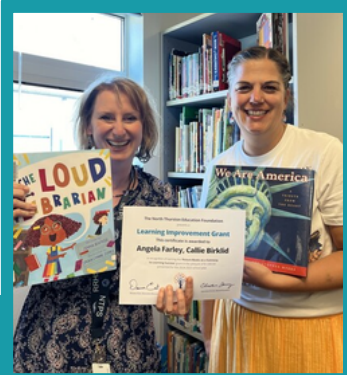
“I just wanted to take some time from my busy day to say, thank you, to the team of North Thurston Public Schools, McKinney Vento Services, and NTEF for all your help and advice. It's been a month now since I have accepted to take on eight kids in kinship. The oldest is 16 years old and the youngest is 5 months old. I would have never known about this program until I met such kind and awesome peeps on the team. I cannot express how grateful I am to you all. You have all made a difference in our lives, especially to the kids. Once again, we want to thank you all for your services. Respectfully, Supportive Mom” 10/10/23

”



## You're Empowering Teachers to Inspire and Transform Classrooms

Thanks to your support, Learning Improvement Grants have been sparking innovation in classrooms since 1996. These grants give educators the resources they need to bring creative ideas to life, boosting student learning and aligning with district and state goals. In 2023-2024, you helped us allocate \$32,000 to fund projects that inspire students and create lasting impacts in our community. Here's how your generosity is making a difference:



At River Ridge High School, Angela Farley and Callie Birklid received a \$1,500 Innovative Teaching & Learning Grant to launch "Picture Books as a Gateway to Learning Success." This program is opening new doors for students by connecting literacy with creativity and engagement.

At Chinook Middle School, Bassie Whipple, advisor of the Dream Team Club, received a grant for Dream Team—a safe and empowering space for BIPOC students and Allies to connect and thrive. This program fosters inclusivity and belonging for every participant.



HERE'S A VIDEO OF A PROJECT YOU MADE POSSIBLE



At Summit Virtual Academy, a writing project led by Erinn Zeitlin and Elana Towers was funded to spark creativity and pride in their students. As one educator shared, "They were thrilled to share their published work with family and friends, creating lasting memories from their virtual learning experience."

HERE'S A VIDEO FROM NORTH THURSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



*These projects are only possible because of you. Your contributions empower educators to dream big and ensure every student has access to meaningful, innovative learning opportunities. Thank you for being a champion for teachers, students, and the future of our community!*

# Your Generosity is Fueling Bright Futures



**Ariana Jackson**

John Gott Education Scholarship



**Ayiana Young**

Lisa Corwin Memorial Scholarship



**Isaac Osuna-Perez**

Lewis R. Hawthorne & Edna C. Hawthorne Scholarship

Thanks to you, the North Thurston Education Foundation is proud to support North Thurston Public Schools graduates as they take their next big steps—whether that’s attending a vocational school, trade program, college, or university.

In 2024, your contributions made it possible to award 45 scholarships totaling over \$141,000! This included 24 scholarships for graduating seniors and 21 renewable scholarships for past recipients. These scholarships ranged from \$2,500 to \$14,000, providing crucial support to students pursuing their dreams.

Your support is more than a donation—it’s an investment in the leaders, innovators, and changemakers of tomorrow. Thank you for making these life-changing opportunities possible!

Over 1,200 seniors in the North Thurston School District graduate from NTPS each year, but for those who rely on Free or Reduced Lunch or are homeless, the journey isn’t easy. Because of your support, we can make their graduation day unforgettable. For only \$150, donors can sponsor a senior and provide a cap, gown, tassel, class yearbook, and a gift card to help with graduation dinner or other expenses. In 2023-2024, we helped 83 seniors be able to celebrate with their peers.



Thanks to your generosity, Jim Sharp and Mindy Atkinson were able to use grant funds to purchase caps and gowns for the graduates of the VOICE program

**SPONSOR A SENIOR PHOTO**

# Thank You Sponsors

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North Thurston  
Education Foundation  
PO Box 3312  
Lacey, WA 98509



Our executive director, Deanna East, is happy to assist you with your year-end charitable giving. For instructions, please call 360-628-3281 or email [Deanna@NTEF.org](mailto:Deanna@NTEF.org). North Thurston Education Foundation can receive the following types of charitable gifts before the end of the year:

- **IRA Distributions**
- **Gifts of Appreciated Stock**
- Make an **online donation** on or before December 31 at 11:59 pm through our website's giving page at [ntef.org](http://ntef.org)
- **By Check:** Make sure your check is postmarked by December 31. NTEF, PO Box 3312, Lacey, WA 98509

Please don't hesitate to contact us about all of your year-end giving questions.

**Donate Today!**  
[bit.ly/NTEF\\_Donate](http://bit.ly/NTEF_Donate)



## FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

1st Security Bank	Fred Meyer - Lacey Store	Jeff & Nancy Neyenhouse	Rotary Foundation- Hawks Prairie
Dorn Barr	Susan Gillis	Thorstrom-Smith Nishon	Rotary Foundation- Lacey
Nick Barr	Dr. John Gott	Nisqually Indian Tribe	Seattle Foundation
BECU	Lewis R. & Edna C. Hawthorne Trust	Nobis Global Holdings	Kristy Shanafelt
Benevity Community Impact Fund	Help Us Move In	Norcliffe Foundation	Dr. Sue Shannon
Beverly J. Benner Estate	Heritage Bank	NTEA	Heather Sweet
Larry Blume	Sandra Hill Estate	Olympia Choral Society	Priscilla Terry
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Ron & Carol Busche	Hops N Drops	Carol Porter	TwinStar Credit Union
Cathleen & Charles Callahan	Lisbeth Johnson	Claudia Page	U.S. Martial Arts Center
George H. Carl Trust	Dennis Johnston	Frank Parker Trust	Umpqua Bank Community Foundation
Chicago Title	Phil & Carol Juergens	Jane Parks	Stuart & Carol Vannerson
Community Foundation	Carolyn Keck	Ken Parsons	Van's Burger
Cooper Moss Advanced Dentistry	John & Gloria Kuula Estate	John & Nelda Patton	Venture Bank
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Marie Demme	John & Opal McGimpsey	Carol Porter	John Williams
Dutch Bros. Coffee	Molina Healthcare	PrimeLending	Windermere Foundation
Karen Eitrem Estate	Bob Mosebar	Puget Sound Energy	Young Hak Lee, U.S. Martial Arts Center
Fisher Jones Family Dentistry	David & Linda Newsome	Paul and Carole Ressler	WSECU