



PANHANDLE ALLIANCE  
*for* EDUCATION



Promoting  
*excellence*  
in Education.

2022  
ANNUAL REPORT

# A Message From the President

I became involved in Panhandle Alliance for Education after my wife and I moved to the area and we had two small children that would be entering the school district in the next few years. At the time, Lake Pend Oreille School District struggled to get much-needed resources and suffered low graduation rates. With PAFE's support, the district has progressed tremendously since then, and I am proud to say that my children have now graduated from the Lake Pend Oreille School District with honors. However, I remain involved for a few reasons. As an employer, we rely on a thriving school district to attract and retain great peo-



**Kelly Prior | President**  
Panhandle Alliance For Education

ple. Secondly, our work will never be done. There will always be more we can do to support our schools and to help our teachers and administrators do things they couldn't otherwise do within their existing resources.

This year PAFE celebrated 20 years of supporting education in our community. This is a big milestone marked by an even greater one: Our Endowment earnings have grown to a level that covers our administrative overhead and fundraising. We can now ensure that 100% of the dollars you give go directly into the district and for strategic programs.

As you'll see in the following stories, thanks to your generosity, our work allows teachers to stretch their creativity and try new things in the classroom, like Danielle Packard and her Masks of Identity grant. It enables us to test ideas for future curricula like the Construction Combine project, which proved to us the need for our next Big Idea, which you can read about in the following pages. It also allows the school to step out of its box with a strategic initiative like the Industry Insights video series.

I hope you'll take the time to read through these stories and continue to follow us as we share the good work our teachers and school administrators are doing day in and day out for the next generation. I continue to be inspired by them and remain proud to be able to facilitate this.



## Emeritus Board

(left to right): Tom Gibson, Barbara Eacret, Chris Bessler, Georgia Simmons, Vickie Pfeifer, Mel Dick, Marcia Wilson, Roxie Lowther, Mindy Cameron, Bill Berg \*\*\*not pictured: Carol Deaner, Debra Heise, Don Robson, Dave Slaughter



# Board of Directors



Chris Blanford, Nicole Eacret, Kelly Prior, Stefanie Nostdahl, Read Tuddenham, Matt Mire, Allison Gilmore, Wendy Dunn, Tom Albertson, Amy Longanecker, Caleb Bowman, Kendon Perry, Eric Paull, Matt Gillis, Heather Lowman, Tom Chasse, Malia Meschko, Tom Puckett, Kelli Bult, Mary Weber-Quinn \*\*not pictured: Dick Cvitanich, Christian Groenke, Toby McLaughlin, Julie Reister-Keaton, Patty Staglund, Hannah Vollmer, Joe Williams, Dr. Becky Meyer

## Building Our Partnerships

### **SPECIAL RECOGNITION:**

We would like to thank LITEHOUSE, INC. for donating over \$166,000 in proceeds to the Panhandle Alliance for Education from the 2021 Litehouse Charity Golf Classic. Litehouse is 100% Employee Owned and a very generous community partner. Their passion is about sharing food, goodness, inspiration and opportunities. Thank you Litehouse!

### **SUMMER GALA SPONSORS:**

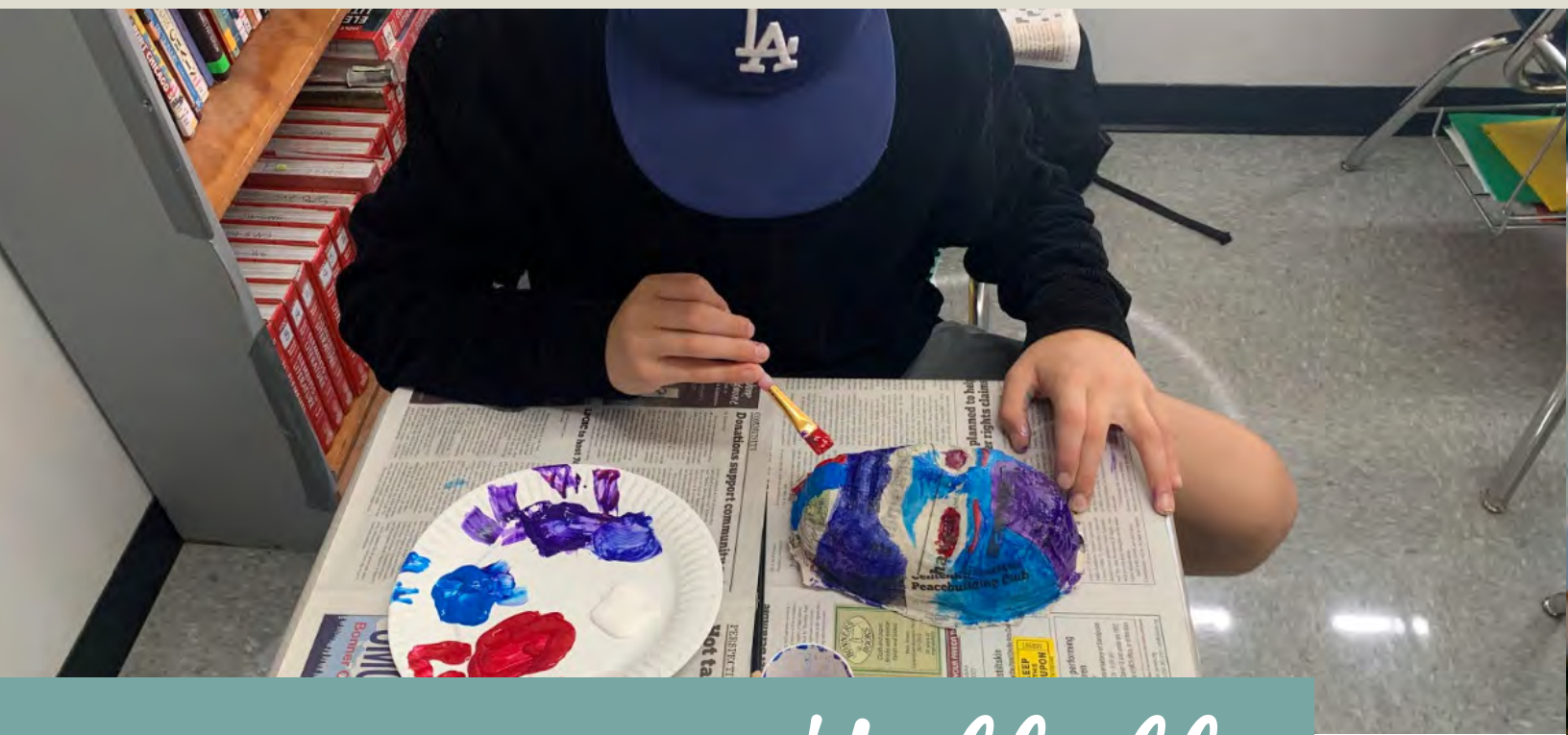
We would like to recognize the following local businesses and individuals who made our 2021 Summer Gala possible: Litehouse, Inc., Daher, Trinity at City

Beach, Mountain West Bank, Family Health Center, Edward Jones – Caleb Bowman, The Alpine Shop and Dr. Jim & Geraldine Lewis. A special thanks to Clif and Carol Warren for sharing their beautiful property with us for the evening.

### **GRANTS RECEIVED:**

We are grateful for the generosity of the foundations and organizations that granted significant dollars to the Panhandle Alliance for Education towards our Mission including: The Equinox Foundation, Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children, The Idaho Community Foundation, P1FCU, Innovia Foundation, Washington Federal Foundation, and STCU.





# Teacher Grant Highlights

## **MASKS OF IDENTITY: AN EXPLORATION OF CHARACTER**

Many eighth-graders feel they don't have a lot of say in how their life goes, which can feel frustrating. Masks of Identity is a year-end unit led by Sandpoint Middle School English Language Arts (ELA) teacher Danielle Packard that celebrates a significant milestone for students: The transition from middle to high school where often they are expected to make decisions that affect the rest of their lives.

It's an ideal finale to the eighth-grade year-long theme, Character Strong, where all units relate to how character is formed and what decisions one can make to improve or strengthen personal character.

This three-year project integrates Science with ELA through reading and writing about periodic table elements. PAFE supplied funds to purchase mask forms, papier mâché glue, paint, paint brushes, and books required for the research.

Students investigate and reflect upon their identities in both narrative and nonfiction formats. Through tests and research, they identify with an element from the Periodic Table of Elements. (This gives them a safe way to talk about themselves and start to understand things they didn't realize before.)

After researching and reflecting on the meaning of identity, students create a multimedia presentation including two essays, a Haiku poem, and a papier mâché mask.

"At first, I didn't know how this part of the project would go over with the students," said Danielle, {side note, we love giving teachers the ability to experiment in the classroom} "but it ended up making them more open and more reflective about their personality and character. They had this element, and they could look at it and think, 'oh, yeah, that's the way I react to things,' and I was pleased to see this level of reflection and personal work, especially at the end of eighth grade when many students are typically checked out."



Previous page: An eighth-grade student paints their mask for Masks of Identity. This page left to right: We interviewed Robin Levy at Keokee to learn about careers in graphic design for the Industry Insights video series. High School senior Will Clark stands outside Litehouse, Inc to film the introduction of the food manufacturing episode.

# Industry *Insights*

## INDUSTRY INSIGHTS: THE 2022 STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

Every year, we work closely with Lake Pend Oreille School District to invest in a strategic initiative that is larger in scale than our teacher grants and addresses a key challenge the district might not otherwise be able to pursue within its resources.

This year, the district leadership team told us they'd like to give students more tools to think about their next step after high school.

When you were in high school, did you know what you wanted to be when you grew up? The odds are your answer is "no." While a small percentage of students have a clear idea, most do not.

Industry Insights is a video series that connects students with our business community and offers ideas and insights into how people got into the

work they do, what they do, and advice they'd give to the high school version of themselves.

If you're considering construction, where do you start? The founder of Idagon helps break that down. The director of human resources at Kochava describes what it takes to become an HR director and pairs positions like HR and marketing with a passion like computers or skiing. The CEO of Schweitzer Mountain Resort explains his path to resort leadership from the start as a ski instructor.

But the founding partner of Williams and Schiller accounting firm suggests not following your passion and instead doing something that adds value to the community and puts you in a financial position to enjoy your passions when not at work.

The videos showcase an array of possibilities and provide a real-life window into how people got into the work they do today.





**Above: Alicia at North County Electric teaches students at Construction Combine. Students learn to construct the base for garden sheds that were then given to local military veterans.**

## TEACHING STUDENTS THE BASICS OF CONSTRUCTION

If you've been trying to get any work done on a re-model or new build, you might have noticed a need for more skilled construction workers in our area. Specifically, there is a great deal of growth in the industry and a lack of young people entering the field.

Construction Combine begins to address the entry-level need in our region. And it's just a start.

Students from Sandpoint High School, Clark Fork, and Lake Pend Oreille High School worked with local contractors and builders to create four garden sheds that were then given away to local veterans.

Construction Combine is an event that started in Idaho Falls to connect students and young adults to careers in the construction field.

This project allowed students to experience different stations for two days. They learned about building the base, constructing trusses, plumbing, drywall and electrical from framing to roofing.

But also, this effort was a huge community collaboration that PAFE only partly made possible. We can't thank Jeralyn Mire and Angela Dail enough for the amount of effort they put into pulling off this event, rallying volunteers and community partners.

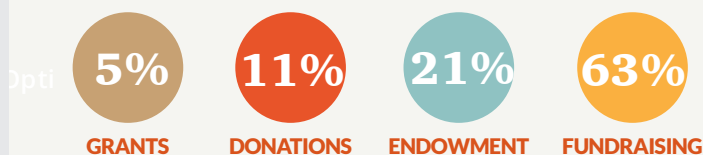
Contractors from every genre in our community participated in the teaching.

Students loved it. Jasmine Johnson said, "So far, the framing has been my favorite part because you learn about where the studs are and how to put the walls and studs together. But also, Construction Combine has taught me about teamwork and actually enjoying working with people!"

The success and enthusiasm of this event has validated what LPOSD leadership has known and identified as a need in our school district and has become the subject of our Next Big Idea: A residential carpentry and apprenticeship program as a next step to enhancing the existing Career and Technical Education curriculum.

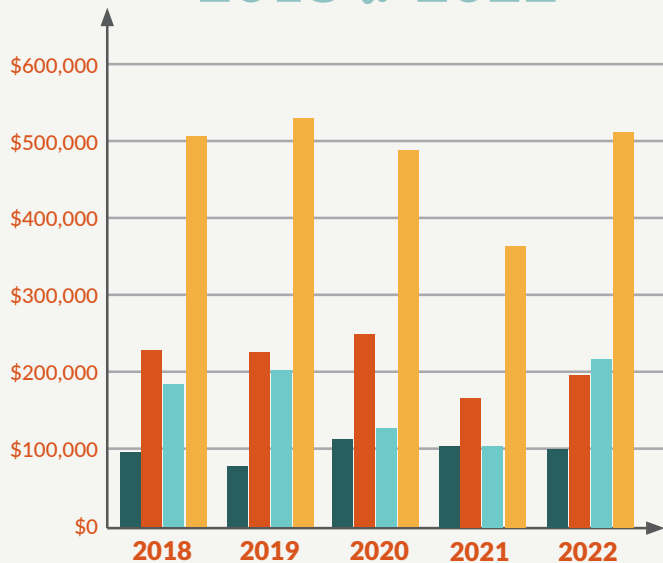
*Read the full stories about these grants on our blog at [panhandlealliance.org](http://panhandlealliance.org).*

# Financial Highlights 2022



## PROGRAM & ENDOWMENT INVESTMENTS

2018 to 2022



TEACHER GRANTS STRATEGIC PROGRAMS ENDOWMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TOTAL INVESTMENTS

## GRANTS AWARDED TO TEACHERS SINCE OUR INCEPTION

2003 to 2022

GRANT YEARS	GRANT AMOUNT	# OF GRANTS
2003	\$35,000	15
2004	\$72,000	34
2005	\$100,000	35
2006	\$100,000	33
2007	\$125,000	51
2008	\$170,000	57
2009	\$147,000	52
2010	\$167,000	65
2011	\$111,000	48
2012	\$77,800	45
2013	\$77,340	41
2014	\$75,000	32
2015	\$100,000	52
2016	\$107,008	46
2017	\$109,320	42
2018	\$102,950	34
2019	\$118,723	44
2020	\$112,926	42
2021	\$109,628	35
2022	\$111,166	46

**TOTAL:** \$2,128,861 849

# Our Legacy

## SECURING THE FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN

The endowment is a secure financial strategy and ensures savings are invested wisely to produce cash flow for future needs in perpetuity. A portion of revenues are deposited each year into the endowment. Commitment to growing our endowment ensures the permanence of the Panhandle Alliance for Education and our commitment to the children in the Lake Pend Oreille School District.

At fiscal year end, the endowment stands at \$4,718,556. We are close to reaching our goal of \$5 million to help fund education in perpetuity.

## HAVE YOU CONSIDERED LEAVING A LEGACY TO THE CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY?

Adding to your will or estate plan is a simple act with exciting consequences. In fact, legacy gifts generate much of the philanthropy that is at work today – right



here in our community. When you leave a charitable bequest you create a personal legacy that endures forever.

For an informative brochure about adding charity to your will, call the Panhandle Alliance for Education at 208-263-7040.



PANHANDLE ALLIANCE  
*for* EDUCATION

*Citizens, businesses and educators building an independent,  
community-based foundation for public schools.*

### MISSION

Our mission is to promote excellence in education and broad-based community support for the Lake Pend Oreille School District. As an independent organization, we will create and sustain an endowment to provide resources in support of effective teaching, learning and school management.

### ABOUT THE PANHANDLE ALLIANCE FOR EDUCATION

The Panhandle Alliance for Education (PAFE) is the designated education foundation for the Lake Pend Oreille School District #84. PAFE was created in 2002 to promote community and financial support for our students and educators. The State of Idaho's per capita funding for public education ranks 49th among the fifty states in the U.S. There simply are not enough dollars to keep Idaho public schools competitive with the rest of the country. The state is tapped out, and federal funding is a minor player at less than ten percent of the district budget. This discrepancy is a challenge that can only be resolved with individual and local support.

*100 percent of your donation goes directly to programs and strategic initiatives that enhance educational opportunities for LPOSD students, educators and families.*

Stories by Lisa Gerber. Design and Layout by Keokee Media + Marketing

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For information contact Amy Longanecker, Executive Director. Or visit our website at [www.Panhandlealliance.org](http://www.Panhandlealliance.org)