

North Yellowstone Education Foundation



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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www.GardinerNYEF.org

PO BOX 166
Gardiner, MT 59030

DEAR FRIENDS & DONORS

Strategic Highlights

North Yellowstone Education Foundation (aka NYEF) is proud to be able to support Gardiner School in our three focus areas, Connect! Grants, Mental Health, and the Teacher Housing Initiative.

In the 2022-2023 school year, NYEF supported almost \$30,000 in Connect! Grant requests. For the 2023-2024 school year, we plan to support \$40,000 in Connect! Grants.

2023 was the first year we supported mental health initiatives through our Connect! Grant requests. We supported three solid requests for a total of \$10,471. In October 2023, we awarded \$20,000 to Rural Resilience to continue the vital work of behaviorist Bridget Kelly. This donation was part of their annual campaign, which AMB West matched.

The Teacher Housing initiative made great strides in 2023. In October, we made our final loan payment of \$85,000, thus securing three apartments for our local teachers for years to come. We continue to identify local rentals (phase 2), and we are actively seeking properties to purchase (phase 3).

Financial Highlights

In 2023, we raised \$191,500 in grants and \$167,981 in donations.

Operating Highlights

In addition to achieving our goals in our three focus areas, NYEF pivoted to assist with Gardiner School's failing kitchen equipment. We secured over \$18,000, which provided much-needed kitchen and safety equipment to keep our school functioning.

Our Mission

“Working with the community to build sustainable support and enhance innovative educational opportunities for students, teachers, and community members in partnership with Gardiner Public Schools.”

Looking Ahead

The Gardiner School continues to face financial challenges due to declining enrollment. However, with new affordable housing developments on the horizon, NYEF is dedicated to partnering with the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) and Gardiner School to monitor new options for our teachers. NYEF is actively seeking grant opportunities to sustain the school during times of decreasing funding, demonstrating our commitment to finding innovative solutions and ensuring that the Gardiner School continues to offer exceptional educational opportunities.



Jessica Warren
Board Chairperson



Gardiner Teams at World Quest.

PROGRAM SUMMARIES

Connect! Grant

Connect! Grant is our classroom grants program. Connect! Grants support projects that fill educational gaps, promote health and wellness, and reach many students. Connect! Grants are community-driven (meaning they respond to community needs), community-funded, and community-evaluated (meaning a committee of community members chooses funded projects).

- 11 Classroom Grants awarded for the 2022-2023 school year. 5 “Bonus” Grants awarded for the fall of 2023 and 1 “Bonus” grant that spans the 2023-2024 school year.
- 558 students served, 57 teachers, 415 parents, and 63 others for 1093 total served. *



Grants 2023	Amount Funded	Grants 2023	Amount Funded
3/4 Combination Classroom	\$970.25	Library update	\$493.35
Bruin Buddies Mentor Reading Program	\$167.33	Little Bighorn Battlefield & Plenty Coups State Park Field Trip	\$1,707.91
2023 UMT Marching Band Day	\$1,735.68	Garden Mentorship Program	\$491.71
Breakout Boxes	\$719.00	Traffic Education Class	\$1,510.70
Snoopy Cooperative Preschool Needs	\$800.00	Park County Middle School Band Festival	\$600.00
LPLC Crib	\$387.21	Yellowstone Adventure Camp	\$2,750.00
Ice, Ice, Baby!	\$3,221.50	Board Meeting Technology	\$416.98
Outdoor Education Shelter	\$159.99	Europe Trip	\$1,900.00



Mental Health

In 2023, the North Yellowstone Education Foundation began including our mental health support through its Connect! Grant program/process. We continue to support our primary partner, PCRS 360 (now Rural Resilience), Park County Special Education Cooperative, and our local school nurse. In 2023, we awarded four Connect! Grants that supported the mental health of our students and teachers.

- 4 Grants awarded for the 2022-2023 school year.
- 725 students served, 114 teachers, 658 parents, for 1503 total served. *

Grants 2023	Amount Funded
Social Optics	\$2,000.00
Park County Character Strong Leadership Team	\$4,000.00
Nurse Office Revived!	\$4,246.34
Arrowhead School - A Healthy Start	\$1,000.00



In cooperation with Rural Resilience, Gardiner School continues to use Bruin Strong as its school-wide social-emotional learning program. Students also benefit from the support of Bridget Kelly, the Lead Behavior Analyst for Rural Resilience. Bridget works with students one-on-one or in small groups to navigate classroom dynamics and peer relationships.

**Note: students, teachers, parents, and others are counted each time they participate in a NYEF Connect! Grant.*

Teacher Housing Initiative

Gardiner, MT, is facing a housing crisis. The Successful Gardiner Campaign in 2019 identified affordable housing as the top concern for residents. This crisis has affected the Gardiner Public School's ability to hire and retain teachers, as the starting salary is only \$35,777. NYEF is working to address this issue through our Teacher Housing Initiative.

In 2020, NYEF purchased property, a historic building built in 1908 that Earl Hall once owned and most recently used as a bed and breakfast in Gardiner, for \$500,000. Thanks to support from the Gardiner Area Resort District and very generous donors, we completed \$300k in



renovations in just four years and made our final \$85,000 loan payment in 2023. We are debt-free and can provide three subsidized housing units for four Gardiner School teachers. In 2023, our accomplishments thus far were acknowledged by KBZK Bozeman, and we were also featured on the front page of the Bozeman Chronicle.

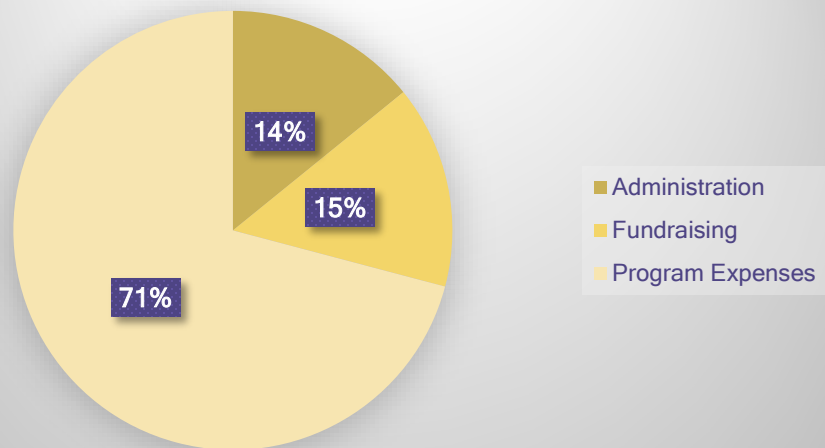
We continue to address the upcoming need for teachers because many educators are expected to retire in the next 3 to 6 years. NYEF's strategic agenda encompasses identifying additional rental properties and acquiring our next real estate asset. With real estate prices continuously escalating, we estimate that a minimum of \$2 million will be required to realize this objective. Public awareness and financial backing will be crucial to ensure the success of this endeavor.



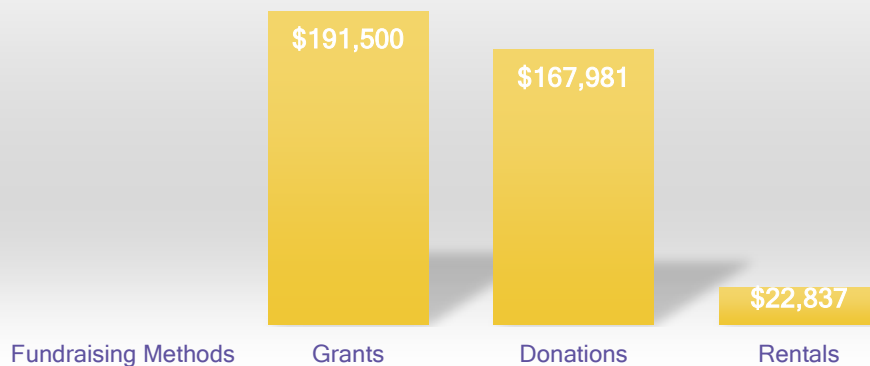
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Total Raised in 2023
\$360,739

Distribution of Expenses



Fundraising Methods



North Yellowstone Education Foundation

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2023

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1000 First interstate checking	475,368.04
Total Bank Accounts	\$475,368.04
Total Current Assets	\$475,368.04
Fixed Assets	
1600 B&B	389,377.32
1610 B&B Improvements	274,909.00
1615 B&B Land	95,850.00
Total 1600 B&B	760,136.32
Total Fixed Assets	\$760,136.32
Other Assets	
1500 Retainer-Attorney	0.00
1800 LPLC Bridge Loan	0.00
1900 Security Deposits	-1,750.00
Total Other Assets	\$ -1,750.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,233,754.36
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
2000 Accounts Payable (A/P)	14,226.40
Total Accounts Payable	\$14,226.40
Other Current Liabilities	
2100 YE Liabilities	0.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$0.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$14,226.40
Long-Term Liabilities	
2200 Nicoles Loan	0.00
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$0.00
Total Liabilities	\$14,226.40
Equity	
Retained Earnings	984,467.52
Net Income	235,060.44
Total Equity	\$1,219,527.96
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$1,233,754.36

“NYEF is a deserving partner to the school and community of Gardiner and should be given great consideration for grants/fundraising. Their impact on our school has been very instrumental to our success for our students and staff.”

Jim Baldwin Superintendent Gardiner Public Schools

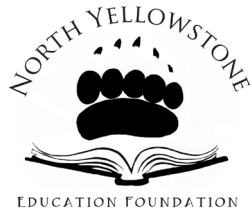


Takeaways

The current success of our teacher housing initiative demonstrates how supportive our local community is of our teachers. We could not have accomplished phase one without all the support from our donors. We continue collaborating with locals for available rentals (phase 2) but are also actively seeking our next purchase, phase 3, which would provide housing for at least three additional teachers.

In 2024, we expect to see additional teacher requests through Connect! Grants as funding continues to be a challenge for the school. NYEF will continue to support these requests and seek additional sources of revenue to ensure our teachers are creating innovative opportunities for our students.

NYEF's collaboration with Rural Resilience is imperative for the mental health of our students. We look forward to continuing to support these needed programs.



PO Box 166
Gardiner, MT 59030

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Carlson, Library Update by Hali Kirby,
Yellowstone Adventure Camp by LPLC
staff, Snoopy Cooperative Preschool
needs by Amy Tuning

(5) Nurses Office Revived by Juanita Bueter,
Social Optics by Jenny Malloy,
Arrowhead A Healthy Start by Juanita
Bueter

(6) Teacher House photos by Laura Chastain

(7) Gardiner School Bus by Laura Chastain

