

North Yellowstone Education Foundation



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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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 2021-2022 school year, NYEF supported almost \$20,000 in Connect! Grant request. For the 2022-2023 school year, we plan to support \$25,000 in Connect! Grants.

2022 was our last year as the fiscal sponsor for Park County Rural School 360 and we supported \$99,000 for mental health programming. Moving forward with mental health, we plan to support local requests of up to \$10,000 per year. In October of 2022, we awarded \$10,000 in 3 Connect! Grants that focus on mental health.

The Teacher Housing initiative made great strides in 2022. We have three occupied teacher units housing four local teachers. Phase One of our teacher housing initiative is almost complete. In September of 2022, we made a \$250,000 loan payment thanks to both individual donations and grants. Our goal is to make our final \$85,000 loan payment by the end of 2023. This would complete phase one of our housing initiative which will secure three teacher units for many years to come.

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.”

Financial Highlights

In 2022, The George L Ohrstrom Jr. Foundation matched our donations. In total, we raised \$184,000 in grants and \$418,000 in donations.

Operating Highlights

In addition to achieving our goals in our three focus areas, NYEF strategically pivoted to assist with the flood event. We helped to secure emergency funding for both Gardiner School and Little Peoples Learning Center for extended before and after school care due to the flood.

Looking Ahead

Gardiner School continues to face financial challenges due to declining enrollment. There is new affordable housing on the horizon and NYEF will continue to work with HRDC and the Gardiner school to monitor this progress. Currently, NYEF is actively seeking grant opportunities to continue to support our school while funding is decreasing. We will continue to partner with the school on their needs and work at creative solutions to ensure Gardiner School is able to continue to offer the innovative educational opportunities we have come to expect.

Miriam Watson

Miriam Watson
Interim Board Chairperson



2nd Grade Students with Bruin Buddies volunteers.

PROGRAM SUMMARIES

Connect! Grants

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

- 13 Grants awarded for the 2021-2022 school year.
- 466 students served, 34 teachers, 34 parents, and 125 others for 659 total served.



Snoopy Cooperative Preschool Snack Program	\$610
Unreserved OTO	\$685
Band Instrument Refurbish	\$3,029
Art Supplies/Materials	\$69
FFA CDE Day	\$1,525
EPI Yellowstone	\$3,000
CNC Router	\$1,158
Elementary Character Strong Library	\$466
Bal-A-Vis-X-Balls	\$413
Gardiner Leatherbacks Costa Rica 2022	\$1,950
Elementary Playground	\$5,000
High School Library Improvement Plan	\$500
Little Peoples Learning Center Cribs	\$400

Mental Health

In 2022 North Yellowstone Education Foundation continued to be the fiscal sponsor for Park County Rural Schools 360 (now Rural Resilience). “Rural communities are recognized for their resilience and grit. However, long-standing stigmas surrounding mental health, coupled with a lack of access to support in these areas often negatively impact an entire community’s ability to thrive. Rural Resilience connects rural students, families, and community members to behavioral and mental health solutions while protecting their social well-being and fostering resilience to thrive.

Rural Resilience originated in Park County, Montana thanks to grant support from AMB West. Rural Resilience currently provides mental and behavioral health services and supports 20% of the combined student population in the communities of Wilsall, Clyde Park, Arrowhead, Pine Creek, Gardiner (including Mammoth), and Cooke City.

Rural Resilience has positively impacted small, isolated communities while successfully helping students and families overcome the stigma surrounding mental health. Their goal is to continue to provide these unparalleled services to rural communities through grant funding. Rural Resilience embodies the rural ideal by investing directly in local youth and leading with a boots-on-the-ground philosophy, thereby ensuring the long-term growth and sustainability of the rural lifestyle.” Billi Taylor Rural Resilience

NYEF also supports Bruin Strong. This is our K-12 social-emotional learning program. In 2022 we supplied books for elementary teachers to use in their curriculum. In the fall of 2022, we approved sending 2 teachers to the national Character Strong conference through a Connect! Grant Request.

Gardiner School is working to become the first JED school in Montana. “The Jed Foundation (JED) is a nonprofit that protects emotional health and prevents suicide for our nation’s teens and young adults, giving them the skills and support they need to thrive today...and tomorrow.” JED has been working with students, teachers, and parents to develop a program for our 7th - 12th grades. NYEF looks forward to supporting needs identified by the subcommittees moving into 2023.



Teacher Housing



Gardiner is in the midst of a housing crisis. In 2019 through the Successful Gardiner Campaign, affordable housing was identified as the #1 concern for residents. This situation has impacted the Gardiner Public School's ability to hire and retain teachers, with a starting salary of \$35,777. NYEF is working to alleviate this problem through our Teacher Housing Initiative.

In 2020, NYEF purchased a property, a historic building built in 1908 that was once owned by Earl Hall and most recently used as a bed and breakfast, in Gardiner. Thanks to support from the Gardiner Area Resort District and very generous donors, in just three years we completed \$300k in renovations and have paid \$415,000 towards the mortgage (\$250K in 2022). We are now able to provide three subsidized housing for three Gardiner School teachers and one teacher from Little Peoples Learning Center.

This is just the start of meeting the upcoming teacher needs as more teachers will be retiring in the next 3-6 years. NYEF's strategic plan includes identifying additional rental units, and working with HRDC as they plan to build additional long-term housing in Gardiner.

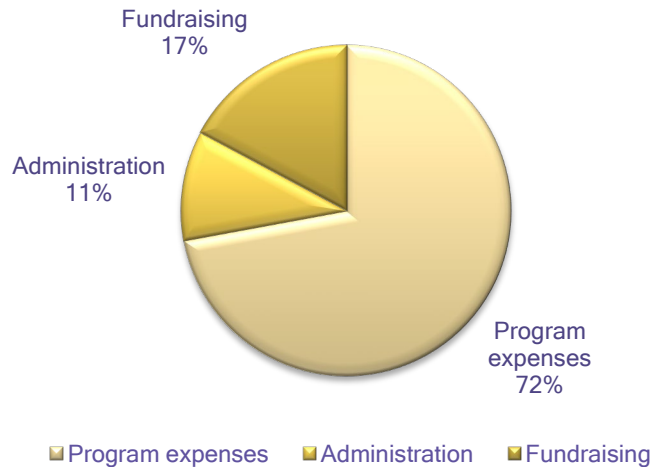
"My husband and I have the huge privilege of living in one of the three teacher housing units provided by the North Yellowstone Education Foundation (NYEF). When we first considered accepting teaching jobs in Gardiner, we were informed that there would be teacher housing available through NYEF. I was blown away that there was a non-profit that would take on the huge task of buying a house and subsidizing rent for school employees. I knew that an organization that took on such a task must be a driven group that not only finds solutions but follows through to put those solutions into action. Since moving to Gardiner into the teacher housing, I can confirm that NYEF has been a wonderful landlord that has supported our well-being as both educators and new community members." Kiara Carlson, music teacher at Gardiner School.



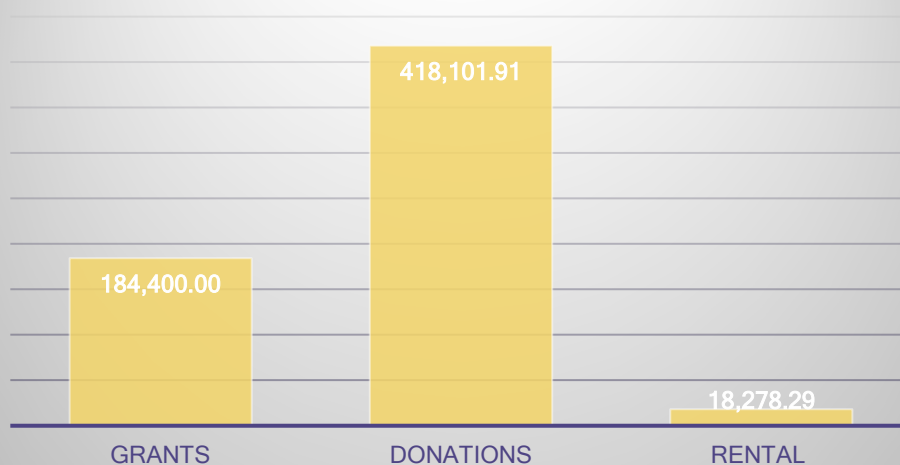
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Total Raised in 2022 \$620,780

Distribution of Expenses



Fundrasising Methods



North Yellowstone Education Foundation

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2022

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1000 First interstate checking	297,901.78
Total Bank Accounts	\$297,901.78
Total Current Assets	\$297,901.78
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	25.22
1800 LPLC Bridge Loan	14,000.00
1900 Security Deposits	-1,750.00
Total Other Assets	\$12,275.22
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,070,313.32
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
2000 Accounts Payable (A/P)	2,104.05
Total Accounts Payable	\$2,104.05
Other Current Liabilities	
2100 YE Liabilities	0.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$0.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$2,104.05
Long-Term Liabilities	
2200 Nicoles Loan	85,000.00
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$85,000.00
Total Liabilities	\$87,104.05
Equity	
Retained Earnings	614,145.57
Net Income	369,063.70
Total Equity	\$983,209.27
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$1,070,313.32

Debt

NYEF took on debt to purchase and remodel a house for local teachers. We have 5 years to repay the loan. Our goal in 2023 is to raise an additional \$85,000 to finalize this debt and pay it off in 3 years.

“NYEF is a deserving partner to the school and community and should be given great consideration for any grant/funding they seek as the impact being made is so crucial to maintaining a way of life.”

***Mike Baer Superintendent
Gardiner 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 look forward to fully completing this phase this year and then continuing our work to ensure we have housing available as teachers retire.

In 2023, 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 will be seeking additional sources of revenue to ensure our teachers are creating innovative opportunities for our students.

NYEF's collaboration with Rural Resilience, Bruin Strong, and JED is important to the mental health success of our students, teachers, and community. We look forward to continuing our support of these needed programs.



PO Box 166
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www.gardinernyef.org

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Laura Chastain, Director

Photo Credits by page

(1) Bruin Buddies by Karen Hoeninghausen

(3) 2nd Grade Students by Karen
Hoeninghausen

(4) Costa Rica by Tammy Dalling, FFA by
Lori Hoppe, Snack Program by Snoopy
staff

(5) Bruin Strong books by Julie Reinertson

(6) Teacher House and Teachers by Laura
Chastain

(7) Roosevelt Arch view of Gardiner School
by Laura Chastain

