
NORTH YELLOWSTONE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

A herd of bighorn sheep is gathered on a grassy mountain slope. The sheep have large, curved horns and are looking in various directions. In the background, there are snow-capped mountain peaks under a clear sky.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

www.gardinerNYEF.org / 406-848-1565 / info@gardinerNYEF.org

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The North Yellowstone Education Foundation (NYEF) has surmounted two remarkable 'firsts,' in 2021. We completed the year with our first, salaried, year-round employee, and we started providing the first dedicated, affordable housing for teachers in Gardiner. During this calendar year, NYEF further bolstered its approach and action in each of our three area-specific initiatives: classroom grants, teacher housing, and mental health and wellness programming.

NYEF's first Executive Director, Shelly Siedlaczek, guided the organization into a period of greater vision and capacity. Thanks to Shelly's dedication, we were able to complete a \$300,000 property renovation and enter into the status of landlord—just in time to house three young teachers for the autumn semester at Gardiner Public Schools! Through our partnership with Park County Rural Schools (PCRS360), a county-wide behavioral analyst served 40 students and families in 2021, and we supported over \$20,000 in classroom grants. All of our milestones were made possible by more than doubling our fundraising goals from the year prior.

The work that NYEF is doing is absolutely essential for the long term sustainability of our children's education. NYEF works to uphold the Gardiner K-12 school as the unifying pulse of our community. At the doorstep to the world's first national park, we take great pride in facilitating top-tier education in a way that honors the uniqueness of this place and its people. I would personally like to thank our dedicated board for guiding the organization and for the continued support, and for so many of you in our community of parents, educators, school staff, as well as our in-kind and financial supporters from at home and afar. We could not be at this stage in our development without you. More great things are to come in 2022!

Best wishes,



George Bumann | Board Chair



North Yellowstone Education Foundation works to enhance the Gardiner community by serving Gardiner Public Schools (GPS).

Our mission is to work with the community to build sustainable support and enhance innovative educational opportunities for students, teachers and community members in partnership with Gardiner Public Schools.

NYEF strives to improve the quality of life for students, staff, and community members, thereby bolstering retention at Gardiner Public Schools.

"Yellowstone relies on community organizations like NYEF to support a healthy, connected community for our park staff and local residents."

-- Cameron H. Sholly,
Superintendent for Yellowstone National Park



Connect! Grants

Classroom grants for Gardiner School & the Gardiner community



Projects Funded

Expanding the Arts at Arrowhead School - \$1,000

Art Supplies - \$800

STEM Learning Initiative for Preschoolers at LPLC - \$1,820

Cooking Program Equipment - \$303

Welder for Welding Program - \$2,700

Gear Replacement for Ski Team - \$2,574

Snoopy Preschool Aide - \$400

Bruins Writing Club - \$121

Graphing Calculators - \$3,249

SANE Nurse Presentation - \$1,594

Multicultural Awareness Through Literacy - \$3,100

Yellowstone Adventure Camp - \$2,000

First and Second Grade Field Trip - \$400

TOTAL AWARDED in 2021 = \$20,061

To apply for a grant, visit <https://www.gardinernyef.org/connect-grant>

Teacher Housing Initiative

Affordable housing for GPS teachers and staff

A lack of affordable housing is the biggest problem facing Gardiner, Montana today. At the time of this writing, there are two houses for sale in Gardiner: a 4-bedroom home for \$950,000 and a small 2-bedroom for \$640,000. There are almost no long-term rentals to speak of, while the number of short-term vacation rentals continues to grow. This has disproportionately impacted our school.

A starting teacher's salary at Gardiner Public Schools (GPS) is \$35,700. At this rate, no school teacher can afford to live in Gardiner, making it impossible for GPS to hire and retain staff.

If we do not have a high quality school, we will not attract qualified professionals to staff Yellowstone National Park, the Custer-Gallatin National Forest, Yellowstone Forever, Xanterra, and many other businesses. If we do not have enough teachers, we will not have a school.



**NYEF is thrilled to provide
housing to three GPS
teachers!**

"If you haven't experienced a 'Class C' Montana school, you can't fully comprehend the importance of the school to these rural communities. The work of NYEF is just beginning but already paying dividends for our staff, students, and the community of Gardiner."

-- Mike Baer

*Principal and Superintendent
Gardiner Public Schools*



In order to mitigate this crisis, NYEF launched our *Teacher Housing Initiative*. In 2020, NYEF purchased a historic property in Gardiner that had been used for short-term rentals.

**In 2021, we completed
\$300,000 in renovations
and paid down $\frac{1}{3}$ of the loan
(\$165,000).**

By providing affordable housing to teachers, we are reinforcing the stability of our school, setting a positive example for the entire community, and restoring Gardiner to its roots.

Phase I of the *Teacher Housing Initiative* is to **complete the acquisition of this property by 2023**. Phase II of the Teacher Housing Initiative will be to invest in **three more affordable units for teachers by 2027**.

Mental & Behavioral Health

North Yellowstone Education Foundation is the fiscal sponsor for Park County Rural Schools 360 (PCRS360). PCRS360 works to provide behavioral and mental health resources, assistance, programming, and accessibility to students, staff, and families in Park County Rural Schools.

PCRS360 employs a full-time behavioral analyst named Bridget Kelly. Across 2021, Bridget worked with more than 40 students and families to meet the mental health needs of our community. PCRS360 also provides support to teachers and staff in the form of meals, gift cards, and "self-care" days, as well as yoga for Gardiner elementary students.

In the fall of 2021, PCRS360 began collaborating with Montana State University to bring a counseling intern into the fold. This will enable more students, staff, and families to receive the mental and behavioral health care they need.

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/PCRS360> to learn more about the important work they do!



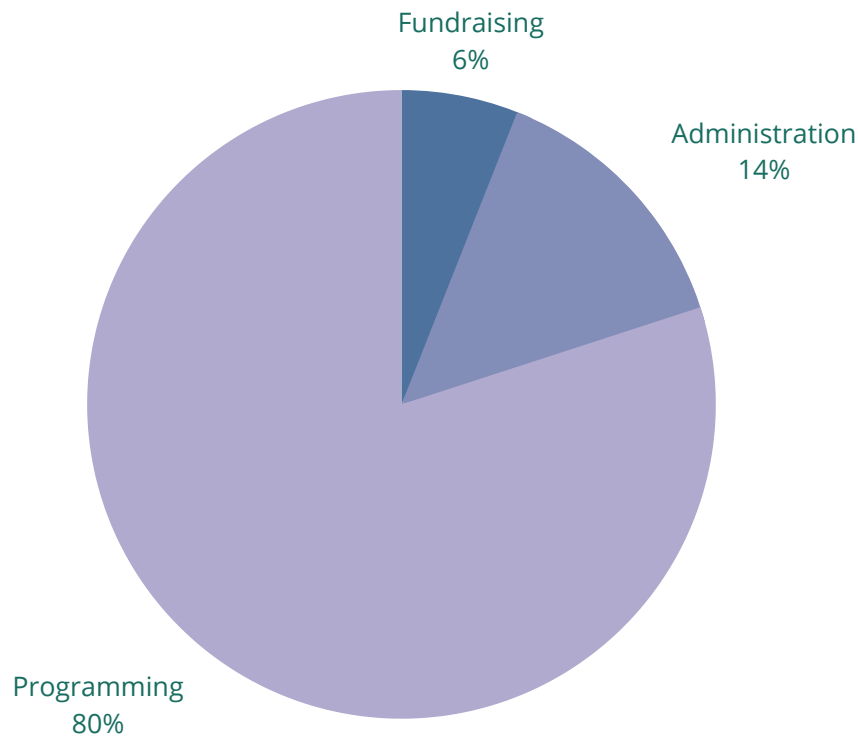
"Bridget Kelly's work continues to provide interventions, resources, programs, and referral connections to students and families in need, and she helps to design a supportive network and strategies for the school day to find what works best for our students."

-- Billi Taylor

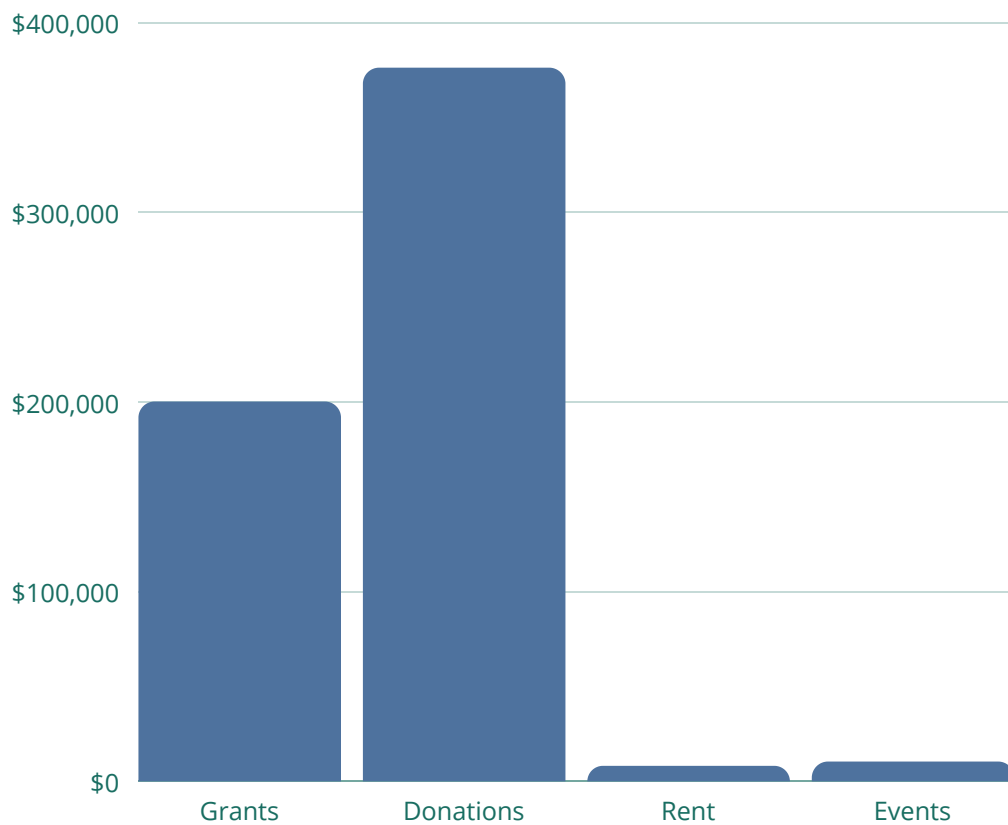
Program Coordinator for PCRS360

Total raised in 2021

\$631,600



Distribution of Expenses



Fundraising Methods

North Yellowstone Education Foundation

Balance Sheet


As of December 31, 2021

| | TOTAL |
|--|---------------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Current Assets | |
| Bank Accounts | |
| 1000 First interstate checking | 192,325.03 |
| Total Bank Accounts | \$192,325.03 |
| Total Current Assets | \$192,325.03 |
| 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 |
| 1900 Security Deposits | -3,450.00 |
| Total Other Assets | \$ -3,424.78 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$949,036.57 |
| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | |
| Liabilities | |
| Current Liabilities | |
| Accounts Payable | |
| 2000 Accounts Payable (A/P) | 0.00 |
| Total Accounts Payable | \$0.00 |
| Other Current Liabilities | |
| 2100 YE Liabilities | 0.00 |
| Total Other Current Liabilities | \$0.00 |
| Total Current Liabilities | \$0.00 |
| Long-Term Liabilities | |
| 2200 Nicoles Loan | 334,891.00 |
| Total Long-Term Liabilities | \$334,891.00 |
| Total Liabilities | \$334,891.00 |
| Equity | |
| Retained Earnings | 291,743.62 |
| Net Income | 322,401.95 |
| Total Equity | \$614,145.57 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | \$949,036.57 |



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www.gardinerNYEF.org.

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*BOD, Staff, and Contributor are current as of April 2022 (date of publication).

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