

A Legacy for Education

OIEF and the Future:

Your charitable bequest will ensure excellence in education for our island's children.

America's public education has been underfunded for years. Unfunded mandates such as "No Child Left Behind," soaring special education costs, and dropping enrollment across the country have left school districts struggling to maintain effective academic programming for the entire spectrum of their student population. Today, our Orcas public schools are ranked among the top academic performers in the state, thanks to an incredibly dynamic and challenging k-12 curriculum and an exceptional teaching staff committed to the success of the individual child. The breadth of educational opportunities we provide for our students is far beyond what such a small public school district would normally offer.

Federal, state and local monies do not completely fund the level of programming which has made the Orcas Island public schools so successful. Without a reformation of Washington State school legislation, private money is needed to safeguard the quality of our public schools. Yearly gifts from donors like you have allowed the public schools students to have more than a "core" curriculum. Private support has given students Advanced Placement courses, k-12 music classes, woodworking, all-day Kindergarten and additional math and English specialists to help reduce class size in the elementary. We as a community can decide what kind of educational future to provide for students going to the public school -- it can be basic education or it can be the kind of education that has ranked Orcas Island schools in the top 5% of schools in the state. And when you think about local solutions for local problems, "basic" education is never enough when "really good" is possible and doable. Think about the Orcas student who receives an exceptional education here, goes on to a good college, then moves back to the island become a local doctor, or a marine biologist. By contributing to our schools, you are contributing to the sustainability of our quality of life on Orcas.

While OIEF continues to work for immediate needs in our schools, our goal is to create a substantial endowment to ensure incomparable education for children and for our public schools **far into the future.**

What is working:

Since the 1980s the Orcas Island Education Foundation has been raising money for our Orcas Island Public School. Our schools needs are are great and over its history OIEF has given so that:

Orcas public schools can continue to offer a diversity of curriculum: OIEF has funded dozens of course offerings ranging from wood shop to AP Biology. In a time of shrinking public funding, these courses would have been lost forever.

Scholarships for graduating Seniors. Every year, OIEF awards scholarships to graduates who hope to go to college.

Teacher grants. we help teachers get more than the basic materials they need for their classrooms.

New curriculum. OIEF has responded to parents' and students' needs by helping to fund such new programming as: All-Day kindergarten, the Arts Initiative, and Marine Science and Farm-to-Cafeteria.

What can work?

Income from a \$5,000,000 would provide:

- A stable and perpetual source of funding to provide dynamic, diverse and challenging programs in the Orcas Island Public schools.
- New experiential opportunities for our Orcas students through field trips and visiting lecturers.
- Support for special new initiatives, such as the OIEF supported Arts Initiative, which will provides arts curriculum in the schools and Farm-to Cafeteria which ensures organic nutritional choices in the cafeteria as well as offering classroom connections to our local organic farms.