



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

Executive Director's Message

As I reflect on the past year, I am grateful to be leading an organization making a real difference in our community. SEF put resources directly into the hands of our students and teachers—scholarships and trades grants that opened doors for graduating seniors; classroom grants that gave teachers the tools to bring new ideas to life; and essential needs funding that helped families ensure their children arrive to school ready to learn. These efforts matter in practical, meaningful ways, and are possible because of the generosity and involvement of this community.



For nearly 40 years, people in Snohomish have built SEF by showing up—through donations, volunteering, and other means of support. That shared commitment has allowed the Foundation to grow, adapt, and continue serving each generation of students and teachers in our district.

Looking ahead, SEF is growing its impact. SEF is investing in new opportunities for students pursuing trades and technical careers, strengthening partnerships that connect community resources to our schools, and building toward an endowment that ensures our work continues long into the future. In 2026, we will mark 40 years of SEF. That milestone will be more than a celebration—it will be the launchpad for our next 40 years of impact.

Thank you for being part of this work and for helping every student in Snohomish get the chance to learn, grow, and succeed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erica Cenci".

Erica Cenci
Executive Director

The Snohomish Education Foundation (SEF) is a local 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that serves students and teachers of the Snohomish School District. It was established in 1986 by Marian Berge and Mal Harding. Since then, we've provided:

- **More than \$3 million in scholarships to graduating students**
- **More than \$1.3 million in classroom grants to teachers and staff**
- **Nearly \$800,000 for K-12 school-year and summer school programs across all schools in the district**
- **Thousands of dollars towards shoes, clothing and essential school supplies for children in-need**

Vision

To inspire, excite, and empower all students.

Mission

To elevate opportunities and possibilities for Snohomish School District students.

Core Values



Vision



Equity



Innovation



Connection



Integrity

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Sarah Spada Flom, Marketing & Communications Coordinator

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“Forty years – hallelujah! For the next forty years, I hope we are doing what we’re doing, more and better. And don’t forget the kids; that’s what we’re here for.”

- Marian Berge, founder



Our Impact

Local Scholarship Program *Scholarships Change Lives*



This year, SEF awarded a record number of scholarships to graduating seniors.

- Grand Total: \$360,450 (includes \$76,000 awarded directly by SEF)
- Applicants: 275 students
- Awards by school: SHS \$159,200, GPHS \$157,250, AIM \$44,000
- Award totals: 292 (SHS 120, GPHS 138, AIM 34)
- Added nine new scholarships!



Classroom Grants

Inspiring Innovation in Classrooms

“SEF has always been supportive of teachers. They allow us to think out of the box to meet students' needs.”

SEF funded 123 grants totaling \$100,000 to support innovative learning. From author visits and robotics clubs, to sensory paths and wobble stools, these grants put creativity into action across every grade.

- 135 grant requests from teachers/staff
123 funded, 110 fully (82%)
- 4 innovative grants: \$8,413
- 103 classroom grants: \$73,523
- 3 essential needs grants: \$2,225
- 13 experiential grants: \$13,930, for
science kits, travel to conferences, a
global community night, pottery
lessons, and more
- 1 corporate grant from Kusler's
Compounding Pharmacy: \$1,884



Our Impact

Trades Program

Opening Doors to Trades Careers

Launched in 2024, the SEF Trades Fund helps graduating seniors pursue careers in the trades. This year's four recipients are preparing for careers in barbering, electrical work, culinary arts, and esthetics.



Lainey Lewis - AIM High School

Chosen Program: Culinary Arts through Edmonds Community College

Amount Awarded: \$450 for a chef's uniform and the program's required cooking kit



Gabriel Cortez - Snohomish High School

Chosen Program: Washington State Barber License

Amount Awarded: \$2,500 for a booth rental, equipment, and supplies for his required 1,000 hours of internship at Fade Lounge in Snohomish



Riley Price - Snohomish High School

Chosen Program: Electrician, specifically E2 high voltage technician

Amount Awarded: \$1,300 for tools and supplies for an internship with Structured Communications

Summer Morkus - AIM High School

Chosen Program: Esthetician

Amount Awarded: \$2,300 for a kit of tools required by Aveda Arts Institute in Seattle

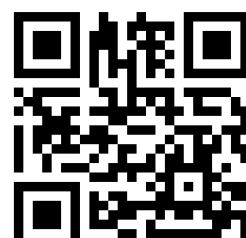
“

I want to pursue my passion of cutting hair. I use hair cutting as a way to have meaning. I've been blessed to be in a shop working as an apprentice. My dream is to open a barbershop in the future.

-Gabriel Cortez

”

Scan the QR code to learn more about SEF's Trades Initiative:



Our Impact

Summer Academy & Credit Recovery *Learning Beyond the School Year*



SEF granted the Snohomish School District over \$78,000. For summer 2025, that money meant:

- Supporting the Elementary Summer Academy for students needing a boost with basic reading, writing and math skills.
- Continuing summer literacy programs, including keeping elementary libraries open for students and families to spend time reading together.
- Enhancing summer learning for the district middle and high school students, with extra opportunities in the summer to earn credits needed toward graduation.

"In partnership with the Snohomish schools, the Foundation strengthens learning by supporting innovation and access for students across the district."
- Kent Kultgen, Superintendent



Hansen Shoe Fund & Essential Needs Support *Meeting Needs So Students Can Focus on Learning*

- SEF dispersed \$7,602 student's essential needs
- SEF purchased 113 pairs of shoes for students in need

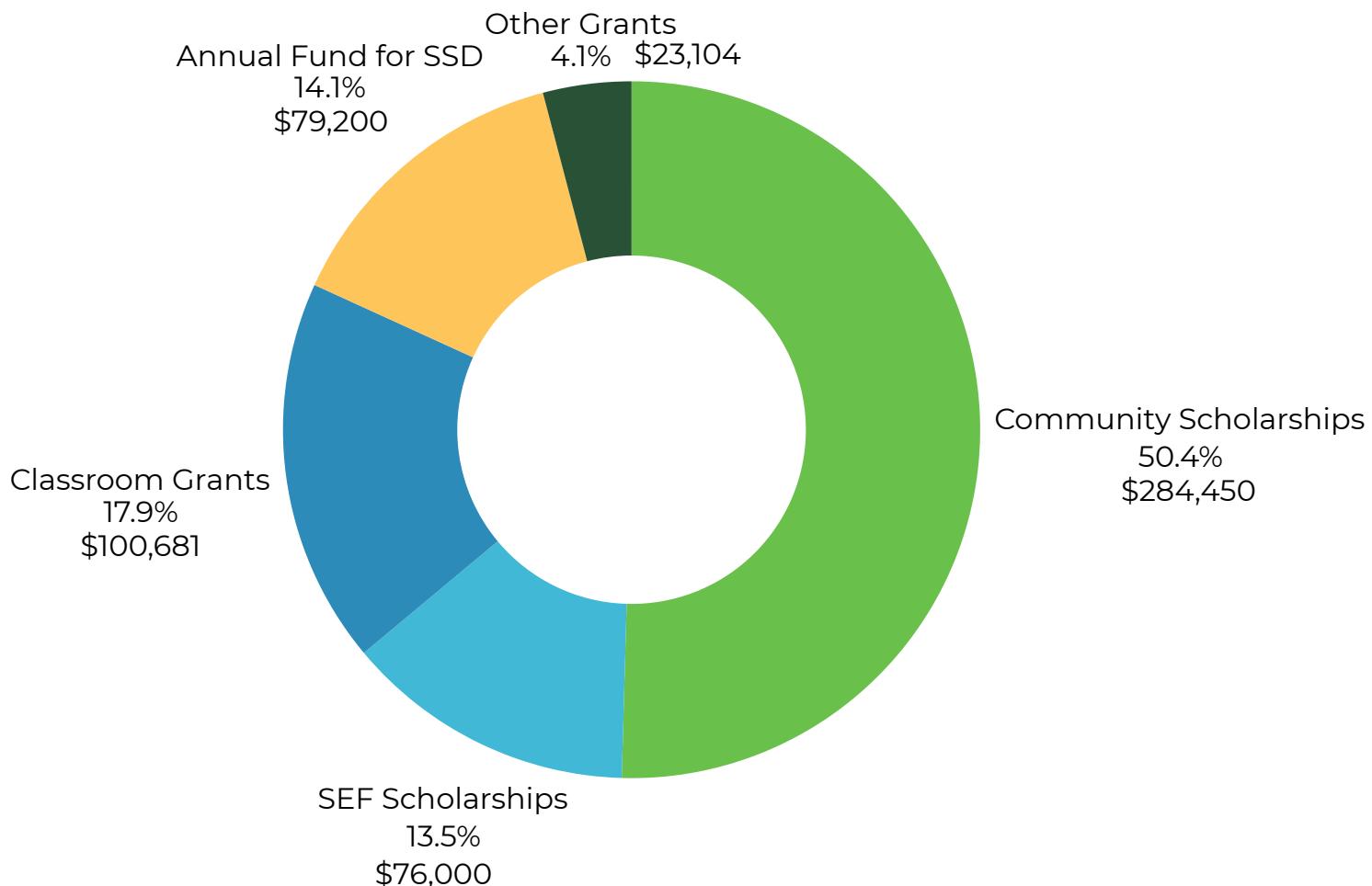
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Financials

The Snohomish Education Foundation changed their fiscal year in 2024 and these numbers reflect the full year from July 1st, 2024 to June 30th, 2025.

Program Dollars Awarded 2024-2025 Fiscal Year



Total Contributions &
Grants: **\$774,040**

Total Program &
Operating Expenses: **\$689,447**

Community Events

From our Annual Auction and Community Impact Breakfast to scholarship award nights and summer tabling at community festivals and markets, SEF connects people who care about students with opportunities to make a difference.



Our intern, Mugdha Bhatnagar & board member Dana Schrader at the Kla Ha Ya Days Kids Fair



Guests bidding at last year's auction



2025 Nonprofit of the Year from the Snohomish Chamber, voted on by the community



Our Community Impact Breakfast



Board member Barbara Nowak speaking at the event



Board members Emily Guildner & Dawn Ipsen at the Farmer's Market



SHS Scholarship Awards Night



AIM Scholarship Awards Night



GPHS Scholarship Awards Night



We're grateful for our Annual Sponsors!

"We believe strong communities are built by investing in their youngest members. That's why we're proud to support the Snohomish Education Foundation, whose work touches countless children and families in meaningful ways. From helping keep the school libraries open during the summer to supporting the summer school program and their newest Trades Initiative program that will help students that have just graduated find their own path into the future. The Foundation creates opportunities that spark learning, joy, and hope—making a lasting difference in our community."

- Cathy Reines, President & CEO, Koz Development



Thank You!

Support our work with a one-time donation, or become a sustaining donor with a monthly contribution towards the students and teachers of Snohomish!

Visit snoed.org/donate or scan the QR code below to donate.



Contact Us



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