

SERENDIPITY CENTER

Oregon's only private
Special Education School
of Excellence

FOUR PILLAR FUND
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN
2020 - 2021

Serendipity responds to Covid-19 with our Resiliency Response Approach

Serendipity opened its virtual doors for the 2020-2021 school year with a thoughtful, and customized approach for our students. We call it our Resiliency Response Approach.

We are continuing to adapt our exceptional Four Pillar model of education, mental health, transition readiness, and wellness using virtual participation with an emphasis on literacy and engagement. We have decided to deliver an enhanced program of mental health treatment in response to critical needs now, and when we return to school.

"Responding to students' increased needs for skilled and individualized mental health supports is our most critical priority."

Belinda Marier, Executive Director

Why Serendipity is increasing our mental health support capacity

Here are some of the challenges our students and families are facing:

- Due to the nature of the virus and abruptness in the way that school ended, our students were left without the predictability, structure, and organization they came to depend on for emotional regulation.
- We see evidence that trust has been diminished and replaced with the narrative that adults do not show up for them when they need it the most.
- Students have experienced a sense of social isolation, anxiety, and depression.
- Many have been influenced by the stresses of their families including unemployment, food scarcity, isolation, and in some cases, the demands of supporting multiple special needs children navigate distance learning.

How Serendipity is providing an enhanced approach to mental health treatment

- Serendipity is seeking to add a new Resource Specialist position to provide a complete one-stop family support system that provides help with securing food, rent, home visits for counseling, and coaching, utilities and, internet access.
- Our new Resource Specialist will allow our masters level clinicians and our psychiatrist who have already established strong working relationships with families, to increase their capacity for individual and family coaching, crisis response, and coordinating care with other mental health providers.
- Our full-time licensed art therapist is providing both individual art therapy and classroom therapeutic art classes. Once we return to school she will specialize in individual clients.
- We have moved a senior Special Education Coordinator into the role of Tier III Coordinator. This role is essential to ensure that every effort is extended to avoid children falling through the cracks.
- Serendipity is acquiring new research-based curriculum for Social and Emotional Learning sessions on:
 - Trauma-informed cognitive behavioral treatment strategies
 - Dialectical Behavior Treatment for emotional regulation
 - Mindfulness techniques
 - Coping skill development

How Serendipity will build on our Resiliency Response Approach when school reopens

"Our students will not return in the same shape or with the same needs as when they walked out on March 13, and we must be ready."

Belinda Marier, Executive Director

When we can safely reopen our school, we predict that some of our students will have experienced substantial regression in connecting with others, and will require increase individual, and family counseling. Teachers and staff will support our students with a mindful, tailored, and restorative practices approach.

We also anticipate the increased need for school districts to be able to place their students within a therapeutic school - Serendipity will be staffed, ready and prepared to deliver the Four Pillar model to new students.

Serendipity re-opening school plan includes:

1. Campus changes to support reopening include: remodel of student bathroom with new washer and dryer, installing 40 new wall sanitizer dispensers, and new cleaning and sanitizing supplies.
2. Retaining all staff to be ready to deliver exceptional therapeutic education to new students.
3. Extensive professional development for all teachers and staff on trauma informed care.
4. Fully training our Behavioral Intervention Team on Restorative Practices.
5. Focus on promoting the following Re-Education Principles:
 - Trust is essential
 - Ceremony and ritual establish order
 - Competence makes a difference
6. Producing a series of short videos to help prepare students, particularly those with language processing challenges to return to our building because we know that transitions are hard for our students. The videos will highlight getting off the bus, getting your temperature taken, walking using social distance markers, and eating breakfast in your classroom. All big changes for our new, and returning students.



Our 2020 – 2021
Four Pillar Fund
Campaign Goal
is \$336,000

Please help us meet our most critical priority – enhancing our mental health support capacity. And continue to support our Four Pillar model of education, mental health, transition, and wellness.

YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS:

- Masters level clinicians, and our psychiatrist to be available as needed for individual, and family coaching and crisis response.
- Individual art therapy and classroom therapeutic art classes
- Resource Specialist
- New Social and Emotional Learning curriculum
- New roof and heater for garden greenhouse to continue to grow Winter vegetables to support food shares
- Hygiene Kits for students and families including: soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, comb & brush
- Essential Clothing Items for students and families: socks, undergarments, warm gloves and knit hats, hoodies and warm coats

All gifts to The Four Pillar Fund are unrestricted and will be spent to meet the needs of our students across the Four Pillars model.

All donations \$1,000 and over receive the following recognition:

- Featured in newsletters and web materials
- Clickable links on web materials
- Featured during our March 2021 School Spirit fundraising drive

Visit us online to donate at
serendipitycenter.org

OR mail us a check at:

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