

Serendipity 2020 | 2021 Annual Report



r e s i l i e n c y

Maintaining our connections with our students, families, and mission during a year of distance.



Dear Friends and Supporters,

This annual report shares with our stakeholders our accomplishments in school year 2020-2021. Change, uncertainty, and anxiety, already too familiar to many students, became a more universal and shared experience. On a positive note, we demonstrated our resilience and tenacity. More than 80% of our students not only attended Comprehensive Distance Learning classes but engaged in them. The garden grew, and we enjoyed its produce through food share deliveries. We deepened our trust in others to be accessible and responsive, even if in different ways. We missed each other and were reminded of how easy it is to take being together for granted. We prepared, incorporating evolving information about how to protect our students and our staff once we could return.

On a concerning note, we lost ground academically, socially, and behaviorally. We will need time and intentional instruction, practice, and patience, to regain previous skills. We will do

...positive change is enhanced for troubled children only when community is experienced, only when trusting relationships are nurtured, and only when competence is achieved.

this by recommitting to the foundational beliefs of Re-Education. They teach that positive change is enhanced for troubled children only when community is experienced, only when trusting relationships are nurtured, and only when competence is achieved. We will support our students in these ways and are deeply grateful that our school was also supported. As you will read, our finances are strong due to the generosity of our donors and our eligibility for CARES Act dollars. Through their gifts, Serendipity's friends made sure mental health supports continued to be available and virtually adapted for students and families. We proudly share the results of these investments with you.

Warmly,

Belinda A. Marier

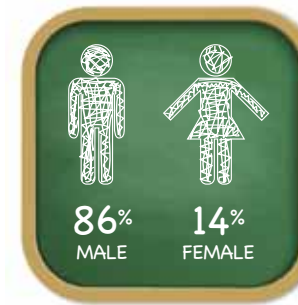
Belinda Marier
Executive Director

Serendipity served
20
school districts
during
2020-2021

NUMBER OF STUDENTS

- 1 Battle Ground
- 5 Beaverton
- 1 Bellingham
- 2 Camas
- 8 Canby
- 5 Centennial
- 1 Corbett
- 10 David Douglas
- 3 Gladstone
- 7 Gresham-Barlow
- 4 Lake Oswego
- 5 North Clackamas
- 7 Oregon City
- 4 Oregon Trail
- 10 Parkrose
- 11 Portland Public Schools
- 14 Reynolds
- 1 Silver Falls
- 5 Washougal
- 1 Woodland

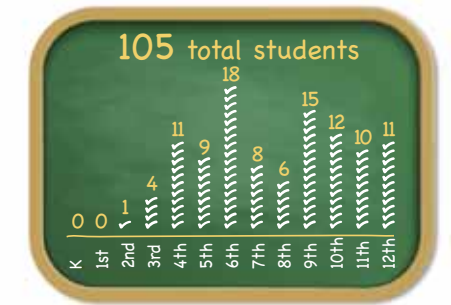
Student Demographics



SERENDIPITY STUDENTS BY GENDER



SERENDIPITY STUDENTS BY RACE



NUMBER OF SERENDIPITY STUDENTS PER GRADE

School Districts Refer Students to Serendipity because:

80%
Show Physical Aggression

66%
Show Verbal Aggression

53%
Have Multiple Failed School Placements

36%
Have Histories of Multiple Suspensions

29%
Show Self-Endangering Behaviors

22%
Recent Hospitalization or Discharge from Treatment

99%
Eligible for Special Ed Services
(Due to one or More Disabling Conditions)

72%
Histories of difficulties with peers

Leadership changes

Saying Goodbye, with gratitude for their dedication, to:

Belinda Marier, who served 21 years as Serendipity's Executive Director.
André Stewart, who served 10 years as Serendipity's Finance Manager.
Caron Kushner, who served 3 years as Serendipity's Development Director.

Saying Hello in 2021, with excitement at the skills and experience they bring, to:

Mark Takehara, Serendipity's new Executive Director, coming to us from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bend.
Siew Wong, Our new Finance Manager, with 20+ years' experience in operational & financial management.
Rachel Gitner, Serendipity's new Development Director, coming to us from the Legacy Foundations.



Belinda Marier



André Stewart



Caron Kushner



Mark Takehara



Siew Wong



Rachel Gitner

IMPACT REPORT 2020-2021

The ultimate goals of a therapeutic school are to foster the transformational and lasting changes that will allow our students to experience success in future settings, endeavors, and relationships. Towards that end, we are proud to report both the services delivered by our program and the successful achievements of our students during the 2020-2021 school year. These outcomes reflect the motivation of our students, the tenacity of our staff, and the investment of our donors. The care that was delivered in support of these outcomes would not have been possible without the generosity of friends who share our belief that all children deserve to reach their full potential.

Over the course of 2020-2021, Serendipity served **105 students** referred by **20 school districts**



Services were delivered September to April 2021 through
Comprehensive Distance Learning



In May, 80% of families opted to have their students return for a
hybrid-model
of both in-person instruction and distance learning.

What was delivered in support of Comprehensive Distance Learning

Directly due to the gifts of our donors, the following services and purchases were delivered:

70 laptops + 70 iPads

Technology for both students and staff members to enable remote learning and working. Several new platforms for delivering live instruction were obtained.

Over 300 food share

deliveries to Serendipity families.

Over 3,500 pounds

of produce harvested from our school garden.

537 home visits

to deliver art and school supplies, troubleshoot technology issues, or check on welfare.

To prepare the building for students' safe return, these projects were completed:

Installing wall mounted **temperature check stations**, approximately 40 **touchless hand sanitizer dispensers** and 20 **touchless faucets** throughout the building.

Installing **plexi-glass barriers** around high-traffic areas

Increasing outdoor air exchanges and replaced windows with openable models

Adding 25 HEPA air filters

Replacing **cleaning supplies** for all surfaces with **FDA-approved COVID-19 sanitizers and cleaners**



Installation of **additional washer/dryer** to regularly clean materials like blankets, pillows, and comfort items.

Removal of all student computers and computer desks, **maximizing floor space** for social distancing.

Rebuilding of wi-fi system so iPads and laptops could replace computers for instructional purposes.

Acquisition of 400 reusable face masks for staff and students.

Creating and posting **visuals** to help keep students, staff, and visitors informed of new **COVID-19 expectations** and routines.

What our students were able to achieve



Student Attendance

Attendance is showing up for school. During Comprehensive Distance Learning, this could be demonstrated in several ways — student attending live class sessions, student completing academic tasks, and/or student or family member communicating with a school team member about school.



Student Engagement

Engagement is showing up and completing assigned academic tasks, specifically in areas in which the student has been assigned Specially Designed Instruction due to skill deficits.

To help support students make the most meaningful gains possible, we prioritized tracking Specially Designed Instruction subjects.

Following the first month, **engagement was consistently above 70%, and topping 80% in December, February and June.** We are very proud of our students for this level of involvement and the tenacity that it represents. Our **teachers regularly worked long days, individually communicating with students and their family members, adapting assignments, and finding strategies to maintain interest and motivation.**

▶ Student Engagement



Student Learning

Academic progress is another indicator of engagement. Serendipity uses an assessment tool called i-Ready. It includes diagnostic evaluations in reading and math, which we administer three times during the school year to all students able to participate.

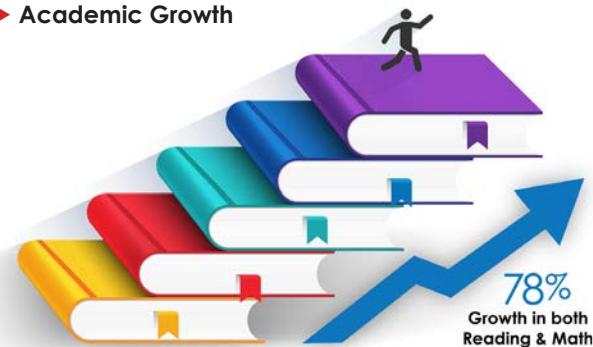
► Participation in Assessment

The increase in participation in the assessment process speaks to successful student engagement,

	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Increase
Reading	42%	67%	25%
Math	62%	76%	14%

as well as increased
comfort with
and access to
technology.

► **Academic Growth**



Of those students who completed both pre- and post-diagnostics, **78% demonstrated measurable growth in both Reading and Math.**

Student Behavioral Progress

Despite teaching remotely for most of 2020-2021, teachers continued to observe and track progress on the individually set behavioral objectives for their students. Summary data indicates the following **high rate of progress displayed by Serendipity students during a very challenging school year:**



101

Number of student
behavioral plans
tracked in
2020-2021

74.7%

Aggregate
percentage
of goals
met

440

Number of individual objectives tracked

4,923

Number of sessions
in which targeted
behavioral skills
were practiced

Graduation Rate

We had a very large graduating class for Serendipity, with 10 out of our 11 seniors meeting all requirements. **Our staff and families were particularly proud of the persistence involved in meeting all requirements during a pandemic.** The 11th student made a plan to complete their graduation requirements in 2021-2022.



100%
Scholarships

Four of the graduates applied to the Stephen Carter Scholarship fund. All four were funded, with **three receiving laptops to continue their education and one receiving tuition and textbook expenses for his first community college course.**



Thank You.

Serendipity would like to extend its gratitude to the following individual, foundation, and corporate donors whose generosity helped sustain Serendipity as a haven for healing and learning.



2020-2021 FOUR-PILLAR FUND DONORS

Individuals:

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Businesses/ Corporations:

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Hoover Family Foundation
The Oregon Community
Foundation
OCF Joseph E. Weston Public
Foundation
Reser Family Foundation
James & Shirley Rippey
Foundation

Organizations

IBEW Local No. 48
Oregon Dept. of Education
Farm to School Program
St. Joseph the Worker
Catholic Church

In Memoriam:

Jim & Linda Haney in memorial
of Nancy Vardanega



Believe in Me
The Future of Serendipity

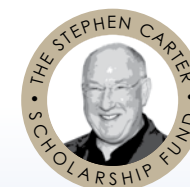
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Tom Trussell



2020-2021 STEPHEN CARTER SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

Karen & Cliff Deveney

Daniel Foote

Kelly Hayes



Spotlight on Serendipity's GSA.

This club is for middle school and high school students that are interested in learning and talking about topics and issues related to gender and sexuality, and being an ally to individuals that identify as part of the LGBTQ+ spectrum.

Their Mission: In this group, we believe each member of every school community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or expression. We believe that creating an atmosphere and school culture that welcomes everyone allows for a positive sense of self, which is the foundation of educational achievement and

personal growth. Since homophobia, transphobia, and derogatory language related to gender and sexuality identity undermine a healthy school climate, this group will work to educate teachers and students about the damaging effects these forces have on students and staff alike.

Activities in 2020-2021, during Comprehensive Distance Learning

- Offered weekly GSA meetings to encourage community engagement and support the students in using their voices to share information and to listen to staff and peers using weekly video conference calls.
- Completed a lesson on how to be better allies for each other, the school GSA group, and for marginalized groups and individuals.
- Participated in educational activities related to equity for LGBTQ+ in the school and in the US by watching news videos related to trans individuals' rights.

- Brainstormed activities to create a more inclusive learning environment at Serendipity.
- Completed a visibility lesson where they learned about LGBTQ+ celebrities and discussed how group members relate to these individuals or their personal narratives.
- Utilized learning games related to terminology and vocabulary to promote self-growth and education related to LGBTQ+ issues.
- Arranged and participated in selecting a Guest speaker and

- opened this experience up to the high school students and staff who were interested in hearing the voice of LGBTQ+ community member.
- Actively listened to the guest speaker's story, asked intentional questions, and responded to their story using the chat feature in the video conference call.
- Created a safe space for all the students that attended the meeting and modeled active listening and conversation skills for all student attendees.

"I love GSA. GSA allows me to feel like myself. It's a great get together and it is so loving and welcoming to everyone!"

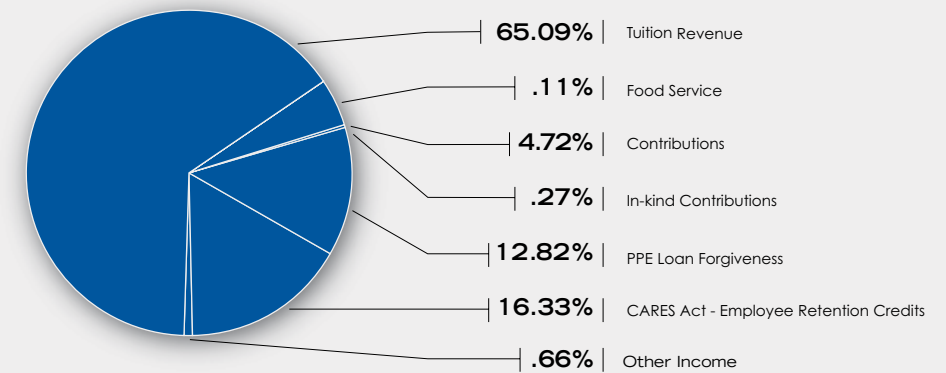
— Max, Upper School student



Serendipity Center – Fiscal year 2021 July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

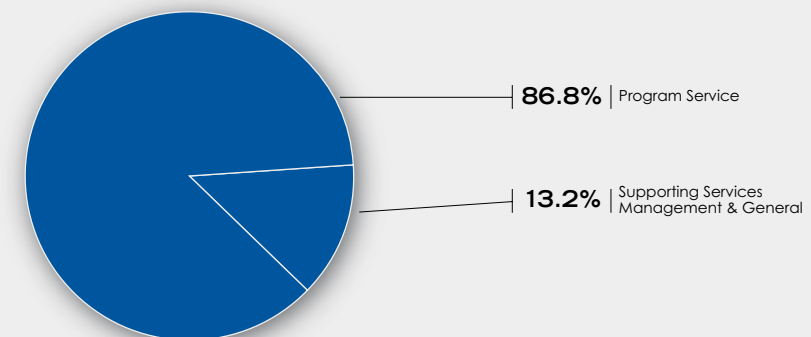
Consolidated Statement of Activities

Revenue and Support



Revenue and Support	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Tuition Revenue	\$5,404,263		\$5,404,263
Food Service	\$8,720		\$8,720
Contributions	\$158,527	\$233,726	\$392,253
In-kind Contributions	\$22,035		\$22,035
Special Events (net income)	—		—
Miscellaneous and other Income	\$54,406		\$54,406
PPE Loan Forgiveness	\$1,064,779		\$1,064,779
CARES Act Employee Retention Credits	\$1,355,317		\$1,355,317
Totals	\$8,068,047	\$233,726	\$8,301,773

Expenditures



Expenditures	Total
Program Services	\$6,141,804
Supporting Services - Management & General	\$934,106
Totals	\$7,075,910

Statement of Financial Position (Snapshot of June 30, 2021)

Assets		Liabilities and Net Assets	
Cash and Equivalents	\$2,278,768	Accounts Payable	\$118,291
Accounts Receivable	\$523,095	Accrued payroll, Taxes & Benefits Payable	\$380,438
Contributions Receivable	\$1,015,945	Long Term Debt	—
Prepaid Expenses	\$191,294	Deferred Revenue	—
Property Equipment - Net	\$2,798,381	Total Liabilities	\$498,729
		Unrestricted Net Assets	\$6,070,984
		Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$237,770
		Total Net Assets	\$6,308,754
Total Assets	\$6,807,483	Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$6,807,483

Serendipity's mission is to provide the best environment for students to heal and become educated, productive community members.

Serendipity's Vision

A world in which all children have a right to their education, and that education is provided to them in a manner that allows them to succeed. This includes opportunities for therapeutic approaches to education that match the students' needs. A world where these students' emotional and behavioral disabilities are acknowledged and understood, and the efforts to set them up to be positive members of society are universally appreciated.

Serendipity's Core Beliefs

Serendipity embraces the philosophy of Re-Education, meaning that we prioritize identifying and building upon strengths, cultivating new skills to address areas of challenge, and approaching this work in an environment of trust and positive recognition. Our work is based upon the following core beliefs:

TRUST is essential. **FEELINGS** should be nurtured. **GROUPS** are major sources of instruction. **COMMUNITY** must be experienced to be learned. **INTELLIGENCE** can be enhanced. **COMPETENCE** makes a difference, especially with schoolwork. **SELF-CONTROL** can be taught. **PHYSICAL EXPERIENCES** help us define ourselves. **NOW** is when life is to be lived. **TIME** is an ally in support of positive changes. **CEREMONY** and ritual give order, stability, and confidence. **JOY** should be built into each day.

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