



Serendipity
Center
TEACH NURTURE EMPOWER

Annual Report 2024-25



Dear Friends and Supporters of Serendipity,

This time last year, I wrote to you about our process of rebuilding from the challenging years post-pandemic, and about our core belief that **time is an ally** in support of positive changes for both our kids and our agency.

I am so pleased to report on the amazing progress we were able to accomplish this past year. Together, Serendipity's Leadership, members of staff, and the Board of Directors developed a three-year Strategic Plan to guide us swiftly back on track, targeting areas of staff development and retention, reinvigoration of our therapeutic model, financial sustainability, campus improvements, and community outreach. We hope you enjoy reading about the progress we have made towards our strategic goals.

Through consistent effort and resilience in the face of challenging circumstances, we have come a long way in a short amount of time.

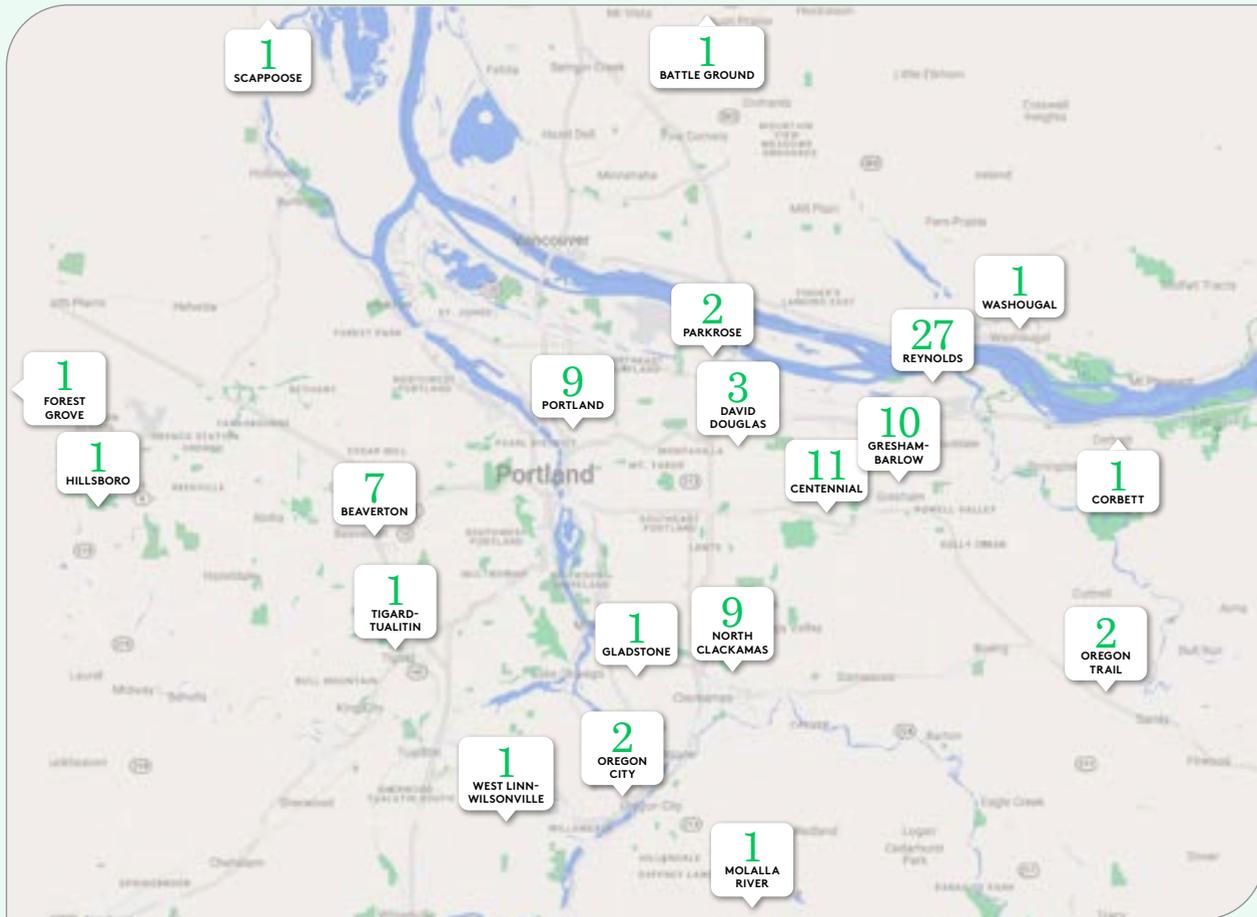
As I start my second year as executive director and my 13th year here at Serendipity, I am inspired by the parallel journeys of our students and our agency. That, despite post-pandemic challenges, consistent efforts and small, purposeful steps can produce significant change.

Thank you so much for being part of our story, for supporting our mission and Serendipity's students. Together, we will continue to build on Serendipity's strong legacy as we teach, empower, and nurture the students entrusted to our care.

In service,

Matthew Berryessa
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SERENDIPITY CENTER

Serendipity served **20 school districts** and **92 students** in 2024-2025



STUDENT AND STAFF DEMOGRAPHICS

Serendipity Students by identified gender: **88%** Male Students, **12%** Female Students

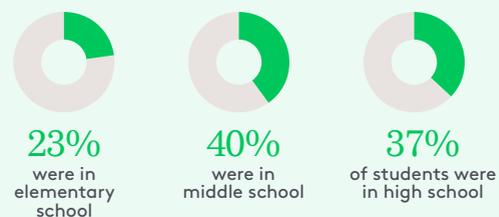
Serendipity Students by Identified Race/Ethnicity*
 73 unknown or declined to state
 9 Caucasian
 3 multiracial
 4 Hispanic or Latino
 3 American Indian or Alaskan Native

Serendipity Staff by Identified Race/Ethnicity*
 78 Caucasian
 13 multiracial
 9 Black or African American
 5 Hispanic or Latino
 5 declined to state
 1 Asian

NUMBER OF SERENDIPITY STUDENTS PER GRADE



SERENDIPITY BY GRADE LEVEL



STUDENTS ARE REFERRED TO SERENDIPITY BECAUSE:



ACADEMIC GRADE LEVELS

On average, our students started at Serendipity performing: **3 grade levels** below in reading

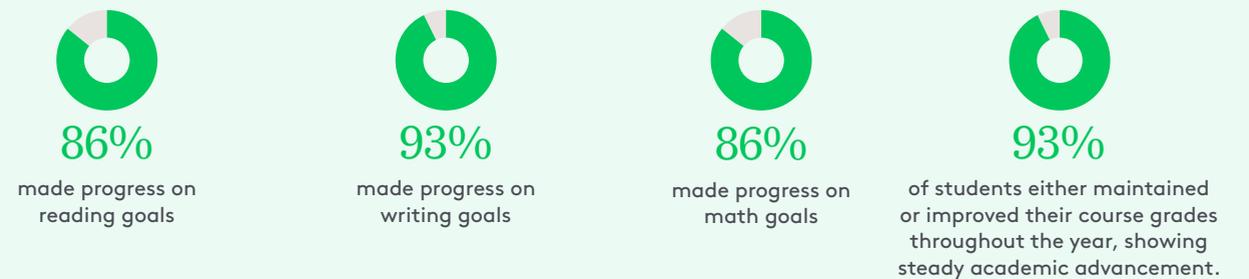
Class sizes ranged from **5 to 10 students**. We have a low student-to-staff ratio with licensed staff providing support both inside and outside the classroom.

Progress

At Serendipity, we help students make meaningful progress towards their academic and behavioral goals. Beyond academics, our well-trained and experienced staff supports students in reaching behavioral milestones, such as maintaining safe behaviors and improving self-regulation. Through a combination of individualized coaching, therapeutic supports, and a nurturing environment, we help every student build the skills they need to achieve success both in the classroom and beyond. Here's how our students performed this year:

ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Over the course of the school year,

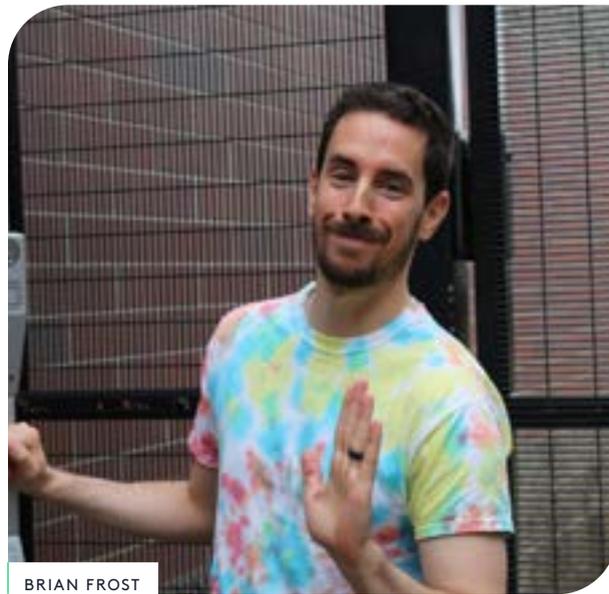


LENGTH OF STAY

At Serendipity, students come and go throughout the year. There is no pre-determined length of stay. On average students are enrolled for approximately 2.1 years, though the duration varies widely depending on individual needs. Students make progress at their own pace, and Serendipity carefully monitors each student's growth. Students may transition back to their school district when they have acquired skills they'll need to thrive and continue to grow in a new setting.

Our New Strategic Plan: Building the Future of Serendipity

This year marked the launch of our new 2025-2027 Strategic Plan, designed to strengthen our foundation and create a trauma-informed campus that meets the needs of our community. Here's a look at what we've already accomplished:



BRIAN FROST

GOAL 1

Investing in Our People.

Reduce staff turnover by 30%.

- ✓ Hired our first Training and Development Specialist, Brian Frost, to lead staff onboarding and training.
- ✓ Created new staff onboarding schedules and professional development pathways.
- ✓ Improved staffing ratios from 3:10 in our Upper School to 4:10 to ensure safer, more supportive classrooms.



SUPPORTIVE CLASSROOMS

GOAL 2

Strengthening Our Business Model.

Eliminate operational losses by 2026.

- ✓ Exceeded our fundraising goal — thanks to generous people like you!
- ✓ Opened an 11th classroom in Spring 2025, expanding our ability to serve more students.
- ✓ Ended the 2024-25 school year with some funds in the bank to reinvest in our program.



THE OREGONIAN'S 2025 SEASON OF SHARING

GOAL 3

Optimizing Our Campus Environment.

Break ground on a campus expansion by 2026

- ✓ Completed key safety projects, including new fencing and walls to create developmentally appropriate spaces.
- ✓ Began planning for a major campus expansion, with construction expected to start in Summer of 2026.



ARTISTIC RENDERS OF OUR CAMPUS EXPANSION

GOAL 4

Advancing Our Therapeutic Model.

Refine our unified, school-wide therapeutic approach.

- ✓ Launched the Ukeru system in April 2025, a trauma-informed approach proven to reduce restraint and seclusion and increase safety for students and staff.



UKERU SYSTEM BLOCKING EQUIPMENT

GOAL 5

Building Community & Advocacy.

Amplify our voice and grow advocacy.

- ✓ Serendipity was featured in The Oregonian's Season of Sharing.
- ✓ Joined Our Children Oregon and the Oregon System of Care Advisory Council to advocate for alternative schools and the families we serve.
- ✓ Partnered with Xenium HR for a podcast on healing-centered leadership.
- ✓ We welcomed five amazing new board members! Welcome Jetamio Kennedy, Alladin Ukiwe, Evan Kass, Christopher Scott, and Jacob Hartough!



TRANSFORM YOUR WORKPLACE A CONVERSATION WITH MATTY BERRYESSA

OUR NEW BOARDMEMBERS



JETAMIO KENNEDY

ALLADIN UKIWE

EVAN KASS

CHRISTOPHER SCOTT

JACOB HARTOUGH

Spotlight: Healing Through Art

At Serendipity, art therapy is more than an activity — it's a powerful way for students to process complex emotions and communicate when verbal processing is a significant challenge.

STUDENT STORIES

Tom*'s Journey

When Tom first came to Serendipity at age 8, he struggled to feel safe and regulated. Over time, he gained skills and asked to try art therapy. Initially Tom was withdrawn, but with support from his art therapist, he began to express himself through LEGO builds, pixel art, and eventually drawings about his feelings. Expressing his feelings led to communicating about his needs before they became too overwhelming. By the time he graduated art therapy, he was ready to return to public school. He chose the cardinal to represent his progress at Serendipity — “because they're proud birds and I'm very proud of myself.”

*Names have been changed to protect student families



“They're proud birds and I'm very proud of myself.”

- TOM



From Our Team

CASE MANAGEMENT

Our team supported students with intensive case management, ensuring families and care providers were connected with the right resources.

GROUP ART THERAPY

Intern-led groups focused on fiber arts, mindfulness, and social-emotional learning, offering students safe ways to build friendships and practice empathy.

TRANSITIONS

Staff walked closely alongside students preparing for graduation, helping them build skills for success beyond Serendipity. Congratulations to Austin, our 2025 Graduate!



Looking Ahead

The road ahead is filled with possibility. With your partnership, we will:

- Break ground on our campus expansion.
- Continue refining our therapeutic model.
- Increase the instructional capacity of our staff.
- Build stronger community partnerships and advocacy efforts.
- Together, we are creating a brighter future for students who deserve healing, growth, and hope.

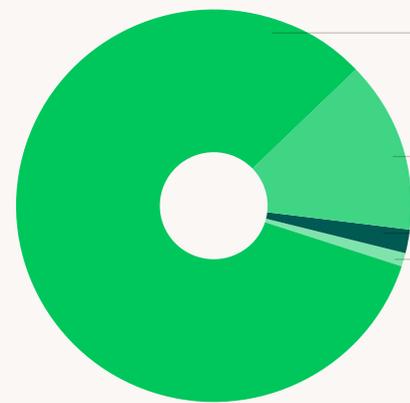


Serendipity Center – Fiscal year 2025

JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenue and Support



83%
Tuition Revenue

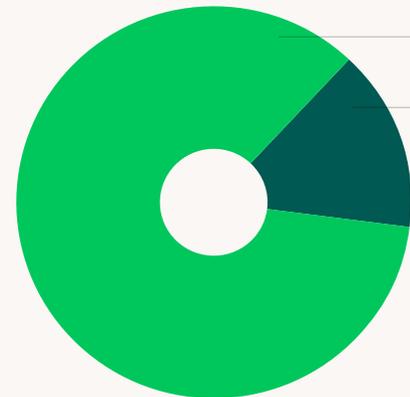
14%
Contributions

1%
Other Income

2%
Special Events

Revenue and Support	Total
Tuition Revenue	\$6,034,601
Contributions	\$1,043,005
Special Events (net income)	\$134,463
Other Revenue	\$100,706
Totals	\$7,312,775

Expenditures



85%
Program Services

15%
Supporting Services – Management & General

Expenditures	Total
Program Services	\$6,222,008
Supporting Services – Management & General	\$1,061,801
Totals	\$7,283,809

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (SNAPSHOT OF JUNE 30, 2025)

Assets		Liabilities	
Cash and Equivalents	\$1,855,604	Accounts Payable	\$52,502
Accounts receivable	\$396,711	Accruals	\$342,604
Other Current Assets	\$160,357	<i>Current Liabilities</i>	<i>\$395,106</i>
<i>Current Assets</i>	<i>\$2,412,672</i>	Other Liabilities	\$292,797
Property & Equipment (Net)	\$2,499,383	Total Liabilities	\$687,903
Other Assets	\$287,672	Total Net Assets	\$4,511,824
Total Assets	\$5,173,003	Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$5,199,727

OTHER NEWS



Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Growing Minds Garden!

What started as a plot of grass is now a thriving agricultural and learning destination.

2014	2017	2020	2022	2023	2025
We converted Serendipity's half-acre of land into an urban farm and garden. 50 pounds of produce was harvested.	Generous donors helped us build our greenhouse. We grow all of our organic produce from seed.	Taylor Crevola joined the Garden team, bringing new educational programming and the Choice Board to the Garden.	A generous grant allowed us to install a new rain catchment system.	Our first JVC Americorps volunteer, Sara O'Toole, completed her service year.	2,500 pounds of produce was harvested. Serendipity's Wellness Program is a synergistic partnership between our garden, school nutrition, and culinary arts programs. Students participate in every aspect of growing, preparing, and cooking food.

Welcome, Sara!

In the Spring of 2025, we welcomed our new Principal, Sara McCutchen! Sara has been an educator all her life, and most recently at the Oregon Child Development Coalition as a Professional Development Coordinator after her family relocated to Portland from Texas. Sara's vision is to prepare students to become responsible and productive citizens who have strong critical thinking, communication, and collaboration skills. We are inspired by Sara's leadership and are fortunate to have her with us!



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



Serendipity Center staff, February 21, 2025



**Serendipity
Center**
TEACH NURTURE EMPOWER

REACH OUT

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This Annual Report is sponsored by Miller Nash Graham & Dunn LLP, our trusted partner and an annual supporter since the early 1980's.