

WHISKEYTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY - NEWSLETTER

WESCOMMUNITY.ORG



Keeping Environmental Education Alive in Shasta County

November 2022



Pictured L-R: Lynn Fritz, Josh Hoines, Nathan Fairchild, and Melinda Kashuba

AIR WAVES!

Hear a recording of the show "Whiskeytown Environmental School Rebuild" [here](#). This episode of "Enjoy Exceptional Living" is provided courtesy of Enjoy Magazine, KKRN 88.5 FM Community Radio, and Lynn E Fritz, Licensed Marriage Family Therapist. To learn more, visit <https://kkrn.org/shows/enjoy-exceptional-living>.

HELP US GROW BACK STRONGER

With strong support from our community, we aim to raise \$3,300,000.00 to return kids to WES by Fall 2023. Together we can strengthen our community by rebuilding WES to serve current and future generations of students. To make a gift and see full details about our plan to Grow Back Stronger, www.wescommunity.org

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORT WESC

Local (and national) organizations have stepped up in big ways to support the "Grow Back Stronger" Campaign. The WESC team is encouraged by gifts from these organizations who share our passion for returning to kids to WES by Fall 2023.

- National Park Foundation \$15,000
- NorCal Community Recovery Team \$1,985
- Community Disaster Relief Fund \$7,508
- Kool April Nites \$10,000
- Enterprise Holdings \$1,500
- California Women in Timber \$1,500



Northern Pygmy Owl photographed near WES
Jim Dowling

Do you know a business/foundation that might support "Grow Back Stronger"? Does your employer match charitable gifts from employees? Contact WESC President Melinda Kashuba at wescommunitypres@gmail.com for more information about how your business or foundation can support this community project!

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE NORTH STATE, GIVING TUESDAY

November 29th is Giving Tuesday. <https://www.northstategives.org/wescommunity> Each year Thanksgiving falls on a Thursday, followed by this nationally recognized day of giving back to the community. WESC is thankful to be a part of this signature community fundraising event organized by Community Foundation of the Northstate.

This year, our goal is to raise funds for the **"Bunkbed Challenge"**. Kool April Nites planted the seed for this challenge with their generous donation that can fund bunkbeds for 24 students. Would you like to take the challenge?

This online event takes place from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM PST. But, don't worry that you might miss the day. Starting November 15th, you can visit the website for two weeks of early giving. Call Kathy at 530-945-6585 to be a Giving Tuesday volunteer. Keep an eye out for updates on social media.



Rendering of bunk layout in new student sleeping cabins

A SNEAK PEEK AT NEW BUILDINGS

We couldn't be happier than to be working with Metals Direct, Inc. on building design and construction plans. Metals Direct, Inc. is a Redding-based business dedicated to providing attractive, economical, energy efficient, and fire-resistant steel buildings with metal roofing. The building shown includes four attached sleeping cabins and an attached bathhouse. Each cabin accommodates five bunkbeds, and two beds for counselors, for a total building capacity of 48. Together, the 4 buildings will sleep 160 students and 24 counselors. Additional capacity for teachers and staff is also planned.



Rendering of one of four potential student cabin complexes with attached bathhouse

AN EVENTFUL FALL

WESC hosted *four* kickoff fundraising events in September and October. Guests mingled at the beautiful Tuthill and Bush homes, and at the stately Shasta Land Trust headquarters on the banks of the Sacramento River. Many thanks to our gracious and generous hosts, Louise and Clark Tuthill, Judy and Dave Bush, as well as Paul Vienneau and the staff of Shasta Land Trust. During these events, guests learned about WESC history and rebuild plans, were inspired and motivated by community leaders and educators, and viewed the WESC capital campaign video. Since July, 65 individuals and businesses have committed to making significant gifts over the next three years to help bring kids back to WESC by Fall 2023. To all who made gifts, we are grateful beyond measure for the momentum you helped create!

Missed these events? Never fear! Plans are in the works for a large community event on May 6, 2023 at the Whiskeytown Environmental School. We would love to see you there, so stay tuned for details. In the meantime, get inspired by watching our four-minute capital campaign video created by local graphic artist and videographer, Jefferson Thomas, <https://vimeo.com/user182290205/grow-back-stronger-whiskeytown-environmental-school-campaign>



Board member Cassandra Simons greets visitors at the Tuthill home



Board members Francesca Huntsman and Ellen Petrick welcome guests to the Shasta Land Trust



Jim Dowling and Jeanette Hill visit at the Bush home



WESC building plan. Mark your calendar to attend a community kick-off event on campus May 6, 2023!

IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES



Michael John Kurth

Mike Kurth, avid WESC supporter, and beloved former principal of Pacheco Union Elementary School, passed away on August 8, 2022. At the request of his family, those who loved him donated generously to rebuild WESC. Mike clearly influenced many lives for the better, and we can't imagine a more meaningful way to honor and continue his legacy. Eleven donations were made in his name, totaling \$950. We are extremely grateful for these gifts which will benefit generations of children in ways that mattered deeply to Mike. Other generous memorial gifts made in 2022 include those honoring former WESC leaders and pioneers, Heide Hatcher and Martha Tinkler, as well as gifts honoring Evelyn (Mutzie) Suther, and Marvin Peterson.



WES: THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR

For over 20 years, 5th grade teacher Mike Fletcher had the privilege of bringing students to WES—until the 2018 Carr Fire devastated the WES campus and put an end to overnight experiences. His school, Sycamore Elementary, had many high-need students and the WES experience was critical to their social, emotional, physical, and academic growth.

“Some of my students lived in motels and had never been out in nature. They had not seen deer, mountain lions, or bear scat. For some kids, even the opportunity to have three healthy meals a day was significant, because they couldn’t get that at home,” said Mike. “A week at WES was the highlight of the whole year for some.”

One child comes to mind for Mike. “Peter (not his real name) was excited because this was his first time at any camp. He caught his first trout, and he saw his first deer. When I met his mother later at a parent-teacher conference, I learned his family did not have a home—they lived under the Clear Creek Bridge. The WES experience was pivotal for Peter and so many kids like him.”

Mike believes the Grow Back Stronger Campaign to bring students back to WES is important for the Shasta County community. “Why give? Because it will change a kid’s life,” says Mike.

HEAR MORE

Although this next story is not specifically about WES, it is another true story about the difference outdoor school can make in the life of a child, especially when that child is high-need, or without a home. The Moth is a nonprofit organization that celebrates the commonality and diversity of human experience through the art and craft of true, personal storytelling. [Watch](#) Vin Shambry tell his story, "Outdoor School", on stage in Seattle, Washington in this live performance recorded June 2, 2015. For more about the Moth, visit <https://themoth.org/radio-hour>



OUR MISSION

Whiskeytown Environmental School Community (WES Community) exists to support educational goals through immersive outdoor experiences for learners at Whiskeytown Environmental School (WES). WES Community contributes to the school’s mission through advocacy and relationship building with communities, businesses and public agencies to generate funds and further shared goals.

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Donate online, wescommunity.org or by check, WES Community, PO Box 3, Whiskeytown, CA 96095
- Shop Amazon Smile
- Facebook Birthday Fundraisers
- Benevity Corporate Matching program

CONTACT US:

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS & LIAISONS

- Melinda Kashuba - President
- Cassie Simons - Vice President
- Kathy Hill - Treasurer
- Francesca Huntsman- Secretary
- Ellen Petrick - Director at Large
- Nathan Fairchild - SCOE
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GROW BACK STRONGER - STUDENTS AT WES BY FALL OF 2023



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