

# WHISKEYTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY - NEWSLETTER

WESCOMMUNITY.ORG



Keeping Environmental Education Alive in Shasta County

July 2022



## WES COMMUNITY LAUNCHES \$3,000,000 "GROW BACK STRONGER" CAMPAIGN

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"We are thrilled to announce we have launched a campaign to return children to overnight educational programs at WES as early as Fall 2023," says Campaign Chair and WESC Board Chair Melinda Kashuba, PhD. "The 2018 Carr Fire devastated Whiskeytown Environmental School, and children have not attended overnight school programs since then—up to 4,000 children each year are missing out on the WES experience!"

The \$3,000,000 Grow Back Stronger Campaign will replace burned cabins and unusable buildings with modular structures to enable students to begin returning to WES for educational programming. WES provides an essential opportunity for children in Shasta County to experience the outdoors (for many, it's their first time away from home) and engage in social, emotional, and academic learning that cannot happen in the classroom.

The "Grow Back Stronger" Campaign will bring students back to the outdoors to hike, stargaze, learn, and grow together. For more information about "Grow Back Stronger" or to make a gift visit [www.wescommunity.org](http://www.wescommunity.org)



## GRANTS AWARDED

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### National Park Foundation

WES Community is excited to announce that it has been selected as a recipient of the Strong Parks, Strong Communities (SPSC) Capacity grant from the National Park Foundation! The **\$15,000** grant will significantly support WES Community's "Grow Back Stronger" Campaign and the goal to bring students back to nature's classroom at the WES site. The SPSC Capacity Grant Program supports park partners in their collaborative efforts that align with the mission of National Park Foundation.

The National Park Foundation (NPF), founded by Lady Bird Johnson in 1967, is the official charity of the National Park Service and its national park sites. The NPF works to protect wildlife and park lands, preserve history and culture, educate and engage youth and connect people everywhere to the wonder of the parks. Thank you NPF for recognizing the importance of returning students to WES as soon as possible!



## Community Foundation of the North State

Whiskeytown Environmental School Community is delighted to announce a seed money gift of **\$217,756** from the Community Disaster Relief Fund of Community Foundation of the North State. We are humbled and honored by this major gift which provides great momentum to our \$3,000,000 "Grow Back Stronger" campaign.

R - L Kathy Hill, Cassie Simons, Kerri Caranci, Francesca Huntsman, Megan Conn, Melinda Kashuba

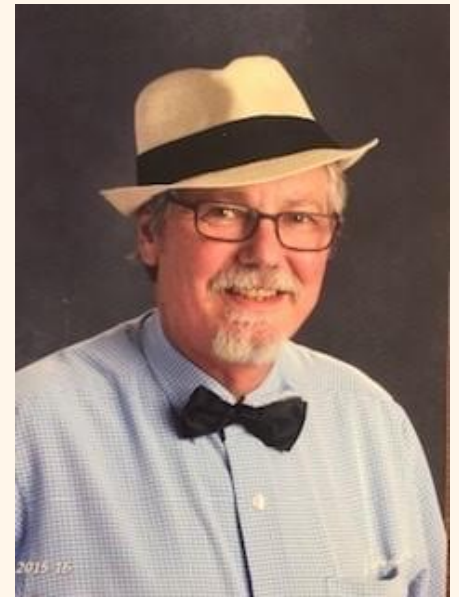
The campaign aims to bring children back to the week-long outdoor science residential program for fifth and sixth graders as early as Fall 2023. This generous gift represents the remaining balance from the Community Disaster Relief Fund that was established following the Carr Fire. Thank you, Community Foundation of the Northstate for helping us recover from Carr Fire damage.

## THE IMPACTS OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION

*WES Inspired Me to Become A Science Educator* by John Cooper, Science Educator, WES Camper, and Counselor

"At Shasta High School in the 1970's the E-Ticket Summer School class was Mr. Doug Gordon's counselor training class. It involved classroom orientation on how to be an effective NEED/WES cabin counselor, and a backpack trip up Horsetail Canyon. I was lucky enough to be selected as a counselor, and loved leading students (many of whom had little to no experience with the great outdoors). I learned so much about teaching and about myself, and these experiences heightened my love of the outdoors and understanding of nature.

I went on to become a high school Biology & Earth Science teacher in the Sacramento area for 30 years, teaching students about native species, environmental awareness, and more, just as I was taught. I hope WES continues to execute the important mission of bringing the lessons of the outdoors to students by bringing the students to the outdoors."



## WILDLIFE RETURNS TO WHISKEYTOWN



Pileated Woodpecker and Red Fox, Jim Dowling Photo

## RETIRED EDUCATOR GLORIA PEDRETTI, TOUTS BENEFITS OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION

"Teacher, come now! We need help—quick!" Retired 5th grade teacher Gloria Pedretti laughs when she recalls the night 2 boys knocked on her cabin door to request help during their overnight stay at an outdoor education camp. "I ran to help, expecting to see an animal in their cabin, and what I found was a big bug. These boys were taller than I was, and they needed help with a bug!"

Gloria is a Shasta County native—she grew up here and returned to the area upon retirement from 38 years of teaching 5th grade in San Jose. She brought her students each year to an outdoor school near San Jose, but she loves the mission of Whiskeytown Environmental School (WES) and was devastated to learn about the destruction wrought by the Carr Fire in 2018.

"I saw on the news that WES had closed its overnight camp, and I wanted to help. I'm giving to support this campaign because every child deserves the opportunity to go to an outdoor school like WES. I grew up in the North State and live here now, and this is a wonderful thing to support. It's important for our community," she says.

Gloria saw first-hand the social-emotional benefits and life skills children receive when they are at an outdoor educational school. She recalls kids encouraging each other on hikes, collaborating on projects, and learning to be independent while away from home.

"If you give to support this campaign, it will make children so happy," says Gloria. "Students can learn more about where they live, the environment, and themselves. Whatever we can do to make kids' lives better is so important!"

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### WES Community at the Redding Health Expo

WES Community hosted a booth at the Annual Redding Health Expo on Saturday, June 4th. This Dignity Health sponsored event offered an in-person experience for the public to meet organizations in the Northstate that represent a focus on fitness, health, nutrition, and medicine.



Bee Nest Building

WES Community Board Members engaged with enthusiastic WES fans of all ages, many who shared stories and memories of WES Camp while learning about the future plans for the site. Children had the opportunity to build and take home a nest for the solitary wasp, a gentle stingless bee that helps pollinate gardens. Community members were very excited to learn more about the continual progress of the planned rebuild of Whiskeytown Environmental School.

## OUR CONSIDERATE DONORS APRIL TO JUNE 2022

- Ken Edwards -In Memory of Martha Tinkler
- Larry & Judy Johnson
- Gloria Pedretti
- Nolan Randall
- Kelly Salter
- Linda Salter
- Dan Scollon
- Benevity Corporate Matching Donation Program
- Community Foundation of the North State
- Facebook Fundraisers
- Girls on the Run - Manzanita School
- National Park Foundation
- Women In Timber-Shasta Cascade Chapter



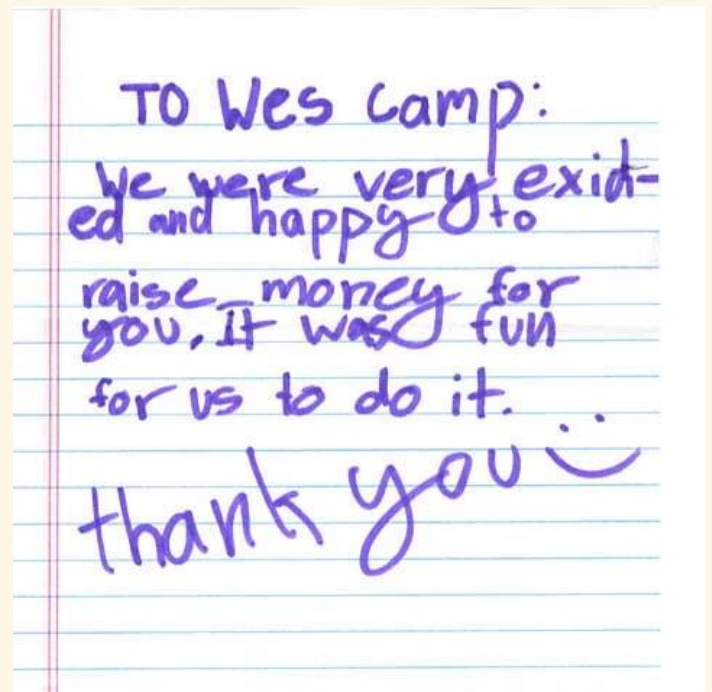
Jim Dowling Photo

## LOUD AND CLEAR FROM THE STUDENTS

The Manzanita School Girls on the Run donated \$140 towards the "Grow Back Stronger" campaign to rebuild of Whiskeytown Environmental School. The girls brainstormed and decided on bake sales as their fundraising tool stating, "We got a lot of customers!"

Girls on the Run is an after-school program designed to inspire girls of all abilities to recognize and embrace their inner strength. Lessons emphasize the important connection between physical and emotional health. At the end of the program, girls complete a 5K run.

Our community's children are stepping up with their allowances and telling us they want to return to Whiskeytown Environmental School. Thank you for your donation, Manzanita School Girls on the Run and advisor Sara Sundquist.



## JOIN THE BOARD

WES Community Board of Directors is actively seeking new members. If you enjoy supporting the return of outdoor education and would like to help us work on our projects and programs, then perhaps serving on our Board is for you! If you have an interest in serving on our Board of Directors, please contact us by phone, 530.440.5584 or by email, wescommunityinfo@gmail.com

### 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

### 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  
Tyler Compton - NPS  
Tammy Reynolds - FOW, Inc.

### GROW BACK STRONGER - STUDENTS AT WES BY FALL OF 2023

### CONTACT US:

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