
Heatherington Foundation awards \$615,000 to Gladstone schools

The Heatherington Foundation for Innovation and Education in Health Care has stepped up to expand the Gladstone School District's long-term work to mitigate the health, social-emotional, and academic impacts of childhood trauma thanks to a \$575,000 grant, the largest in the district's history. A second grant of \$40,000 will address two immediate needs: nutrition support and technology.

"This is the largest grant our district has ever received, and it could not have come at a better time," said Superintendent Bob Stewart. "The quarantine has impacted children through isolation, anxiety, and financial hardship. These grants will enable us to take both immediate and long-term steps to address their health, academic, social-emotional, and nutritional needs."

Since 2011, the Gladstone School District has implemented ground breaking programs to address the long-term impact childhood trauma has on physical, behavioral, and social-emotional health.

Based on data from the 2018 Oregon Wellness Survey of eighth grade students, a significant number have experienced ACEs. This includes 38.6% who experienced parental divorce or separation, 32.9% who have lived with someone who is depressed or mentally ill, and 30.3% who have lived with a problem drinker. Other ACEs include domestic violence, abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, living with an addict, or parental death or incarceration.

The more toxic stress children experience, the more likely they are to demonstrate emotional dysregulation, difficulty focusing, impulsivity, or extreme passivity that interferes with their ability to learn.

The district will use the \$40,000 grant to address immediate needs, providing computers and technology access for academic instruction. Students learned new technology skills during distance learning, and having more computers will provide the flexibility to use those skills both in school classrooms or for home learning depending on the need.

In addition, the district will be able to expand its nutrition programs to meet the growing needs of students, families, and the community as a whole.

Nearly half a million dollars will support Gladstone's Culture of Care initiative, designed to address the long-term impacts of childhood trauma on students and their education.

The school district's systemic approach focuses on teaching emotional resilience, providing caring mentors, and creating a safe and predictable learning environment. Extra-curricular activities are another component, providing adult role models, a positive peer group, skill building, and a positive connection to school.

"FamilyCare Health and The Foundation have long been impressed with the unique ways Gladstone schools support their students," said Jeff Heatherington, President of the Heatherington Foundation.

"This work is on the cutting edge of creating a healthy classroom environment to facilitate student education," he added. "We believe that this program can be expanded for the benefit of many other school districts and we have a long term commitment to the district as a recognized leader in this area."

"The benefits of this investment will increase exponentially as we share with districts across Oregon the best practices we've developed through workshops, tours, and collaboration," said Stewart. "We have already seen the impact of these programs on student behavior and academic success, and I'm excited at this opportunity to bring that to more children moving forward."

PHOTO: Jeff Heatherington, President of the Heatherington Foundation of Innovation and Education in Health Care, Inc.

Chromebook Turn-in

Families who borrowed Chromebook computers for distance learning should return them June 8-11 at John Wetten Elementary. All you need to bring is the Chromebook and its cord.

You may return Chromebooks for your friend or neighbor so long as the student name for each device is provided.

Drop-off times for all grade levels are as follows:

- **Monday, June 8:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Tuesday, June 9:** 9 a.m. to noon
- **Wednesday, June 10:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Thursday, June 11:** 9 a.m. to noon

Please park your car and walk to the front of the school, maintaining social distancing. Masks are strongly encouraged.

Some John Wetten classes have activities planned for Monday or Tuesday, so please check with your teacher before turning in your device.

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Summer Programs

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, there are some impacts to summer programs.

Summer Food Program: Free meals for any child 18 and under will continue. Distribution is 9 to 11 a.m. each Wednesday at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families [18905 Portland Ave.] through August 12. This is a drive-through pickup process. Each child will receive 5 breakfasts and 5 lunches.

Gladstone Food Pantry: The Gladstone Food Pantry will continue to distribute free groceries and fresh produce to people of all ages with drive-through pickup on Nelson Lane. Food pickup is 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. every Thursday.

Extended Day Summer Child Care: This program has been cancelled.

Gladstone Community Schools Summer Program: All summer camps and classes have been cancelled.

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Calendar

June 6: Furlough Day [no instruction]

June 8: 6 p.m. GHS Senior Honors Car Parade

All are welcome to cheer for our graduating seniors in the Class of 2020. The car parade will start at 6 p.m. on June 8 in the Gladstone High School parking lot, heading south on Portland Avenue then east on Gloucester before turning south on Harvard and east on Fairfield. From there, cars will drive south on Cornell, west on Exeter, north on Portland Ave., left on Abernethy, east on Glen Echo, and south on Portland Avenue, ending at Gladstone High.

All participants are reminded to maintain careful social distancing throughout the event. Masks encouraged.

June 10: Free Meals for Kids

Every Wednesday from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families. Receive 5 free breakfasts & 5 free lunches per child age 18 and under. Drive-through pickup.

June 11: Gladstone Food Pantry free grocery distribution

Every Thursday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Nelson Lane. All are welcome. Drive-through pickup.

June 11: Graduation for the GHS Class of 2020 [ticket holders only]