



WELLSPRINGS ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL

Small School, Big Impact

Another year has come and gone at Wellsprings. Classrooms buzzed with curiosity as students wrote articles, interviews, short stories, and other delightful shenanigans for our student-produced newsletter, Wellsprings Way. They wrestled with big ideas, explored history, religion, government, and literature, and learned from some truly remarkable teachers—including Wellsprings founder **Helen Park**, whose classes reminded us why this little school with a big heart has been changing lives for three decades. Between classes, the outdoor classroom became a favorite gathering spot where students could eat lunch, swap stories, and watch bugs and squirrels emerge from the wetlands.

Our community also experienced the beautiful rhythm of welcoming and letting go. We happily welcomed back our Dean of Students, India, whose contagious smile was deeply missed while she was away welcoming her first child into the world.

At the same time, we said a heartfelt goodbye to an extraordinary staff member after more than ten years of service. Dawn's kindness, patience, and dedication have left an imprint on Wellsprings that will be felt for years to come. While her absence will certainly be noticed, we're excited to welcome new faces who will add their own stories, talents, and laughter to the Wellsprings community.

Some of the best learning happened with cold noses, sandy shoes, and dirt under our fingernails. Students experienced sledding, launching rockets, planting gardens, sharing meals, and making the annual trip to the Oregon coast. Before we knew it, thirteen unique, creative, and determined seniors had crossed the finish line. They arrived with questions, discovered new strengths, forged lasting friendships, and now head into the world carrying a little more confidence.

Lifelong Learning

At Wellsprings, education has never been about checking boxes. Our students spent the year rolling up their sleeves, asking big questions, and discovering that learning often looks a lot like doing. Career-minded students attended the Southern Oregon Trade Careers Expo, while a few continued their journey with the **HOPE Factory** program, earning welding, OSHA, and BOLI certifications as they trained alongside industry professionals. Others explored local government at Eugene City Hall, learned the realities of self-employment from our resident accountant, heard practical advice from a mechanic about buying a used car, and even compared grocery prices at WinCo to better understand the cost of everyday living. Meanwhile, science students dissolved eggshells with vinegar, proving that sometimes the messiest lessons are the ones that stick. Creativity and curiosity are always present in the school. Students baked bread that made the hallways smell amazing, designed

quilts and clothing in sewing, built a computer lab from the ground up in **Edit > Undo Tech**, hosted their own websites, launched into Speech and Debate, and continued strengthening both their voices and confidence through writing. They explored everything from *Educated* by **Tara Westover**, *Born a Crime* by **Trevor Noah**, and *The Murderbot Diaries* by **Martha Wells** to works by **Ray Bradbury**, **Andy Weir**, **David Sedaris**, and **Jordan Peele**, tackling topics that ranged from artificial intelligence and free will to identity, resilience, humor, and cultural perspective. In **Power of Sound**, students didn't just master songs by **Stevie Wonder**, **The Beatles**, **Eric Clapton**, **The Eagles**, and others—they learned the patience, discipline, and collaboration that music quietly teaches.

Wellsprings students thought deeply about the world around them. Through classes like **World Religions**, **The U.S. Constitution**, **Popular Culture and Civic Imagination**, **Making History**, and **Advocacy and Oratory**, they

explored history, government, media, ethics, and the enduring question of how people can create positive change in their communities. One of our favorite moments came near the end of the Constitution class when students were asked, "Are you planning to vote when you turn 18?" Every hand in the room shot into the air. We couldn't have asked for a better reminder that education is about preparing students to participate thoughtfully, confidently, and compassionately in the world beyond Wellsprings.



Community & Events

At Wellsprings, community isn't something that happens occasionally, it is something we build together all year long. Families gathered for our Family Nights, students explored the pumpkin patch at **Johnson Vegetable Farm**, and our annual Trunk or Treat brought the community together for an evening of costumes, laughter, and just the right amount of spooky madness. Thanks to our teachers, staff, Board members, and volunteers, the event featured everything from mad scientists and butterflies to a ninja, a wizard, a ghost, and even The Cat in the Hat.

Some of our favorite traditions continued to grow. Our annual Small Joys gathering, led by our resident Elf Dawn, once again filled the school with generosity, laughter, and a little friendly bargaining. Thanks to the many donors and shoppers who helped make it

happen, students received gift bags filled with everything from socks and scarves to books, games, blankets, and some delightfully unexpected "treasures". During **Community Building Day**, students stepped outside campus to serve others through **Food for Lane County Youth Farm**, **Little Free Libraries**, and community cleanup projects. Their efforts made an impact—and even inspired some students to pursue future opportunities with Food for Lane County.

As the year wound down, students gathered photos and stories for the yearbook and danced the night away at the student-planned dances where students transformed the space into a flower-filled celebration complete with karaoke and snacks. The annual coast trip brought the combination of sand, sea air, and laughter, while seniors marked their accomplishments with a special dinner at **Fuji Japanese Steak House**. On the final day of school, students gathered at

Richardson Park for games, food, yearbook signing, and one of our most treasured traditions—the presentation of the Rock Awards, painted rocks created specifically for each graduate as a colorful reminder that every student leaves a lasting mark on the Wellsprings community.



Annual Report

Success isn't measured solely by the net reserve—or loss—shown on a financial statement. While a slow start to the school year delayed our ability to replace our aging buses, and limited funding continues to delay growth and extra adventures, those numbers tell only part of the story.

When we look at the students who showed up each day, pitched in with school projects, supported their community, and overcame personal challenges, it is impossible to call this year unsuccessful. Thanks to the generosity of our grantors and donors, students enjoyed new Chromebooks, a one-of-a-kind outdoor classroom, meaningful field trips, and—most importantly—a caring, supportive, and devoted teaching staff. Our educators not only taught the fundamentals but also expanded students' minds and talents through classes that are uniquely Wellsprings. Enrollment remained below our goal for much of the year, making it necessary to use funds that had been set aside for new transportation. Thankfully, by the final term

enrollment had grown into the 50s, and interest from prospective families remained strong, giving us great optimism for a solid start to the 2026–27 school year. Welcoming new team members alongside returning familiar faces brings fresh perspectives, new ideas, and renewed energy to our community. With a capacity-building plan in place, the dedication of our resilient staff, the continued support grant partners, and generous donors like you, Wellsprings

is well positioned to flourish in the year ahead. Maybe even get that long awaited new transportation! If you are able, please consider becoming a monthly sponsor. Your ongoing support helps ensure that Wellsprings can continue providing life-changing opportunities for every student who walks through our doors.

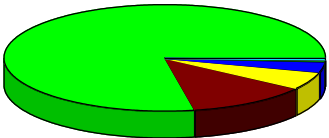
Demographics:

Ethnicity	# of Students	%
Alaska Native- Eskimo	1	1.54%
Asian	1	1.54%
Bi-Racial	4	6.15%
Black	2	3.08%
Hispanic/Latino	6	9.23%
Native American	5	7.69%
White	46	70.77%
TOTAL SERVED	65	100.00%

Identify As	# of Students	%
Female	25	38.46%
Male	35	53.85%
Neutral/Transgender	5	7.69%
TOTAL SERVED	65	100.00%

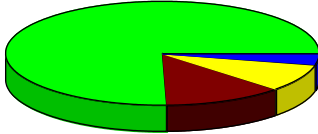
Special Needs	# of Students	%
IEP	27	41.54%

Income Summary July 2025 – June 2026



Tuition-Referral	78.09%
Contribution	12.41
Grants	5.50
Tuition-Private	3.30
Rental Income	0.51
Interest & Reimbursement	0.14
In-Kind Donations	0.05
Total	\$821,917.94

Expense Summary July 2025 – June 2026



Personnel Expenses	75.56%
Programs	12.43
Operations	8.61
Overhead Expense	3.40
Total	\$812,984.02



Special Sponsors

This year brought some incredible reminders that Wellsprings is surrounded by people who believe in the power of our mission. We were thrilled to give a tour to the generous individual who invested in our future by providing a mortgage loan that gave the school room to breathe, reset, and look ahead with renewed confidence. We are also deeply grateful to the **James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation** for their continued trust and generosity through a two-year, \$80,000 grant supporting our dedicated Science

and Social Studies teachers. Their investment helps ensure that students continue to have access to engaging, meaningful, and high-quality learning experiences. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the **Chambers Family Foundation** for their \$5,000 contribution to replace our aging Chromebooks providing students with reliable technology. And finally, many thanks to **green UP!** and **BRING** for illuminating the way to a brighter, safer campus by providing a rebate and grant assistance for new solar lighting.



One of the greatest strengths of Wellsprings has always been the community that surrounds us. Our annual **Community Dinner** once again reminded us of what can happen when people come together with generous hearts and willing hands. From traditional Thanksgiving favorites to vegan and gluten-free options, everyone had a place at the table. Our staff, board, volunteers, and extended community continue to show up in ways big and small, creating a warm and welcoming environment that makes Wellsprings feel like home.



*Students are known.
Students are challenged.
Students are surrounded
by people who believe in
them.*

A very special
Thank you
to all of our donors

Our Board

Lisette Ewing
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You are appreciated