

Campaign for Vernonia Schools Moving Forward

The fundraising campaign that is raising money to build the new Vernonia K-12 School Campus is moving forward and can point to several recent interesting success stories of funders who have stepped forward.

"The Vernonia School District and Catalyst Campaign have developed a robust multiyear campaign to raise funds through a combination of public and private sources," said John Donovan, of the Met Group, who are organizing the campaign in a recent interview. "In addition to the \$31.1 million raised to date (ahead of the campaign schedule/goal), we have nearly \$1 million in requests pending and more than \$10 million in the cultivation stage."

With an overall goal of raising \$42 million, Donovan explained that campaign has shifted to a two phase approach, targeting \$39.2 million to build the actual school building in the first phase, with planned September 2012 opening, and Phase II which would raise an additional \$2.8 million to construct

the Vernonia Rural Sustainability Center structure on a slightly delayed time frame.

"We have a strong campaign committee, and have created powerful momentum through fundraising success, public outreach and media coverage," added Donovan. "We are feeling very, very positively about how far we have come in all the different facets of resource development."

The campaign has targeted several areas of major funding sources including Community Donors, a Timber Industry campaign, Individual Major gifts, Corporate donors, Foundations, State and Federal government sources, and the Community Bond that was passed for \$13.6 million.

Donovan noted the Met Group has received help from several sources. "We have done this with a lot help from within the community as well as from the Oregon Solutions Steering Committee and our own Campaign Committee structure, which includes business lead-

ers from around the region," explained Donovan. "We are very fortunate to have such a great set of volunteer and institutional players who have put so much of their own time and effort.

Donovan highlighted several compelling stories of recent gifts the campaign has recently received, including:

- Joe and Bonnie McNutt have made a \$60,000 personal gift from their estate. Joe is a VHS alumnus.
- The Bighorn Logging Company has made both a capital campaign contribution of \$25,000 as well as a \$5,000 grant to support the natural resource curriculum program led by Principal Aaron Miller.
- The family of Ben Soejima has made a \$10,000 donation in his honor on his 88th birthday. Mr. Soejima and his two siblings graduated from Vernonia High school in the early 1940's. Being of Japanese descent, they were interned in a camp in Idaho during WWII. Mr. Soejima has very fond

memories of Vernonia and his classmates who did not turn their backs on his family during the war. When Mr. Soejima was told he was leaving for the camp, he was allowed to pack one bag, in it he carried high school memorabilia.

Mr. Soejima was a barber in Portland for over 40 years and during that time was known to donate to the Vernonia High School Athletic fund. On April 30, 2011 for his 88th birthday, Mr. Soejima's three daughters donated \$10,000 to the new school fund to name the Boys Coaching Office in his honor.

• The Wauna Federal Credit Union is working closely all its branches to raise funds this year toward a \$15,000 goal. Pam Weller, the branch manager from Vernonia's Wauna FCU branch, has been the champion behind this tremendous effort.

• Clear Channel will be running a PSA campaign on behalf of the project to raise awareness and support the community campaign effort this year.

Vernonia Receives 2011 Global Education Excellence Award

Vernonia High School received national recognition for excellence in global education by EF Foundation for Foreign Study, the leader in high school exchange. Awarded annually, The EF award is presented to high schools that demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to international understanding and global awareness. Vernonia High School was one of a select group of high schools recognized across the United States for the 2010-2011 school year.

This year VHS welcomed one exchange student through the EF program. Not only was the student accepted into school, she became an integral part of the school's academic and extracurricular life, involving the community-at-large in the exchange experience.

"Vernonia High School has shown an outstanding commitment to offering a global

education," said Dan Sodervall, president of the EF Foundation for Foreign Study. "By welcoming exchange students into the classrooms, Vernonia High School has created a new and unique learning opportunities not just for the exchange students, but for American students and faculty as well."

The award was presented to principal Nate Underwood on June 8, 2011. Local coordinator, Gail Moore, added, "We thank Vernonia High School for welcoming this year's student from Germany, Marina Mekidiche The Community

and visiting student shared an unforgettable experience thanks to the generosity of the high school's principal, teachers, students and families. Vernonia High School has welcomed EF students for five years and we hope to continue this relationship for many more years."

To learn more about getting involved with high school exchange in this community, please contact Gail Moore at 360-642-8600 or visit effoundation.org.



VHS Principal Nate Underwood and foreign exchange student Marina Mekidiche accept the Global Education Excellence award.

Everyone Wins With The Summer Meals Program!

Children continue to receive nutritious meals during long school vacations, when they do not have access to school lunch or breakfast.

Parents stretch food dollars and know that their children are receiving healthy meals in a supportive environment.

Employees have summer employment.

Communities provide safe places for children to go to be with other children and with supportive adults.

Free Breakfast and Lunch for youth!

Any questions please contact
Cathy Meyer (503) 522-5311 or (503) 429 8033

Summer Meals Program

June 20th through August 19th

Free

While learning does not end when school lets out, neither does the need for good nutrition. Sponsored by the USDA, the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is good, nutritious food that's "in" when school is "out."

Who Is Eligible?
All youth 18 years of age or younger who come to an approved open site or to an eligible enrolled site may receive meals.

People over age 18 who are enrolled in school programs for persons with disabilities may also receive meals.

Vernonia Middle School Cafeteria

Breakfast	Scheduled Activity	Lunch
8:30	9-11	11:30
Adults \$1.25		Adults \$2.00

All REGISTERED volunteers & staff are provided a meal on the day they participate

Jarman Farewell

The Vernonia School District, including students, coaches, teachers and even the School Board, said a sad farewell to Athletic Director Gordon Jarman. Jarman's position, victim of a tight budget, was cut for next year. Jarman, a fixture of the VHS and VMS sports scene will be sorely missed. Ernie Smith from the School Board was on hand to say good bye to someone many people involved with Vernonia schools consider a good friend.

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