

PGE Foundation Impact Report 2020



2020 was a year like no other

A global pandemic. Unprecedented wildfires here in Oregon. And a clear calling to address racial inequity in our communities. Difficult challenges to say the least and ones we are still facing today.

2020 was also a year like no other for the PGE Foundation. Our founding board chair, Gwyneth Gamble Booth, officially stepped down after 24 years at the helm. During her extraordinary time at the foundation, over \$25 million was invested in the community. She set the bar high!

As we look forward, there's been much to learn from 2020. It has reinforced the importance of collaboration, how we work together to be flexible and responsive, and how we rise up together to help our neighbors during these difficult times.

Our community partners spent the year on the front lines, tirelessly addressing hunger, homelessness, racial inequity and economic insecurity through an uncertain time. For our part, the PGE Foundation gave nearly \$1.7 million this past year alone — 50% more than the previous year! We've been part of amazing stories that capture the human spirit and a passion for giving. We are eager to share some of them in this report and hope you'll be as inspired by them as I am.

“ A global pandemic. Unprecedented wildfires here in Oregon. And a clear calling to address racial inequity in our communities. ”

Gwyneth's leadership through decades of expanding impact, has helped pave the way and I look forward to following in her footsteps to meet the diverse needs of Oregonians and collaborate with community and other philanthropic organizations to best serve all of our neighbors.

Thank you for entrusting me with my new role as PGE Foundation chair. I'm humbled and excited to be part of strengthening our communities in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Peggy Y. Fowler

Peggy Fowler



Peggy Fowler
PGE Foundation Chair

Cover photo: PGE Project Zero, Cohort 2020,
Talk and Tour with Blueprint Foundation

Creating a better path forward

Last fall, the PGE Foundation partnered to fund a new social impact program empowering the next generation of Oregonians to create cleaner, greener, more equitable communities. The program, named PGE Project Zero, invests heavily in green job opportunities for young adults disconnected from work and school and greenspace development in communities disproportionately feeling the impacts of climate change.

We're proud to say, the project is already producing great outcomes. Seven young adults recently completed an intensive six-month internship with community environmental groups and are ready to launch the next chapter of their careers.

"PGE has given us interns a great opportunity to become contributing members of our community. It's refreshing to have a company give people of color an opportunity at diversifying a traditionally white workplace," said Adam Baek, PGE Project Zero Works intern.

“Our youth hunger for knowledge about our changing climate and purposeful ways to make a difference.”

Dave Robertson, PGE Vice President of Public Affairs and Vice Chair of the PGE Foundation

PROJECT ZERO is a registered trademark of International Designs Corporation



Top: PGE Project Zero interns, Luuwit View Park;
Bottom: Project Zero Impact Day, Nadaka Park with Friends of Trees



Top: Oregon Worker Relief Fund family;
Bottom: OnTrack! OHSU classroom visit, early 2020

Facing the challenges of 2020 head on

It's amazing how difficult times can often bring out the best in people and organizations. This past year was no exception as the PGE Foundation and our partners found new ways to serve Indigenous communities and immigrant communities hit hard with the challenges created by the pandemic, racial inequities and the wildfires.

"Many Oregon families faced the dueling economic and social challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and wildfires," said Gregg Arntson, executive director of the PGE Foundation. "Through that difficult time, the PGE Foundation walked alongside our longtime community partners as they assisted families in need of access to housing, food, mental health services and other critical support."

Along with New Seasons Market and other funders, we provided additional funds to the Oregon Worker Relief Fund (OWRF) as COVID-19 cases spiked in immigrant communities experiencing barriers to accessing federal assistance. About one in eight workers in Oregon is an immigrant, making up a sizable share of the state's labor force. In fact, many of those receiving relief through the OWRF are among the state's essential workers in agriculture, food service, janitorial industry, construction and childcare.

Another group hit hard in 2020 was the Indigenous population of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. The unprecedented wildfires disrupted the Tribes' ongoing efforts to restore access to clean water. The Foundation contributed to The Chúush Fund to support their efforts to restore this vital resource that so many of us take for granted.

During troubled times, the arts are even more important

During a crisis, funding of arts and culture is often the first thing to be cut. Well, not on our watch. Given the challenges of COVID-19, we believe investing in arts and culture is more important than ever — providing \$235,000 to support our nonprofit partners and encouraging recipients to use the funds how they deemed most valuable as they adapted to these difficult times.

Many of our arts and culture organizations, including World Stage Theatre (WST), did just that by going virtual in 2020. The WST typically works with thousands of youth through workshops, live performances, after-school programs, camps and classroom settings. All of these increase students' understanding of African American history as well as theater, language arts and history in general. This past year, they moved all their programs online, creating virtual experiences to inform, educate and entertain their audiences.

After a performance by the WST, one teacher noted: "My students returned to school and had a pretty intense discussion about the local and national systems of oppression and the micro-aggressions they witness and commit daily. For the kids of color, they spoke of feeling represented in ways that they previously have not experienced in theater. They felt seen. I cannot thank you enough for this."

The PGE Foundation is proud to partner with the arts community and we will continue supporting efforts to address racial inequity and educate young people about Black history.



World Stage Theatre, August Wilson Monologue Contest, early 2020

“For the kids of color, they spoke of feeling represented in ways that they previously have not experienced in theater. They felt seen. I cannot thank you enough for this.”



Outgrowing Hunger member with radishes

Bhutanese, Burmese, African, Latino and Slavic, helping them preserve their cultural identity of passing a healthy, whole-food based, traditional diet and active lifestyle to their children. All while creating and improving self-reliance and self-sufficiency in meeting their fresh, healthy food needs.

Of all the things on our plate, food should be first

The hunger rate in Oregon is at the worst point in a century, with one quarter of Oregonians worrying about how they'll feed their families. Paying for food or paying the rent is not a choice any family should have to make.

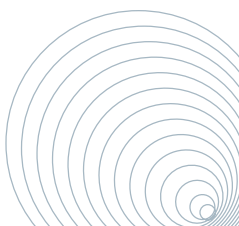
The PGE Foundation responded with \$325,000 in grants to the Oregon Food Bank, Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon and the Marion Polk Food Share. We also gave focused grants to support organizations working on the front lines of the pandemic response, as they help families overcome barriers and improve their quality of life. This includes Outgrowing Hunger.

Outgrowing Hunger, serves 450 immigrant and refugee families a year, including



Outgrowing Hunger members tending their garden

“Paying for food or paying the rent is not a choice any family should have to make.”

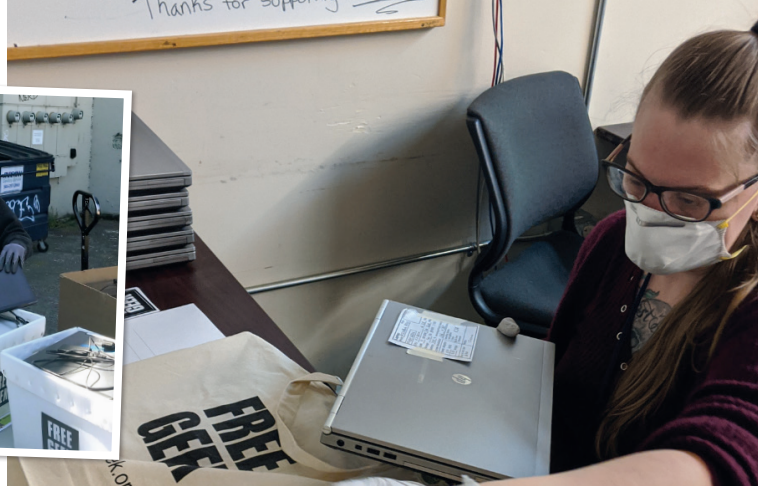


Making distance learning accessible for all

As families, students and teachers prepared for distanced learning last year, one fact came to the surface: Tens of thousands of students across Oregon did not have the technology to access online learning, connect with teachers, socialize with friends and more.

Enter Free Geek, a new PGE Foundation grantee. They organized TechNOW, a statewide campaign to collect unwanted personal laptops, tablets and cellphones. Once refurbished, they provided them to students across the state to help bridge this digital divide.

A good education is something we all benefit from and our community responded to keep students connected and engaged.



Free Geek volunteers sorting and packing up donated refurbished tech for distribution

“ A good education is something we all benefit from and our community responded to keep students connected and engaged. ”

By the numbers

\$1,686,375 grants to 119 organizations

More than **half a million dollars** in grants responding to COVID-19 and wildfire relief

49% of COVID-19 recovery grants supporting rural communities

32% of COVID-19 recovery grants supporting BIPOC communities

85% of Project Zero interns were BIPOC young adults

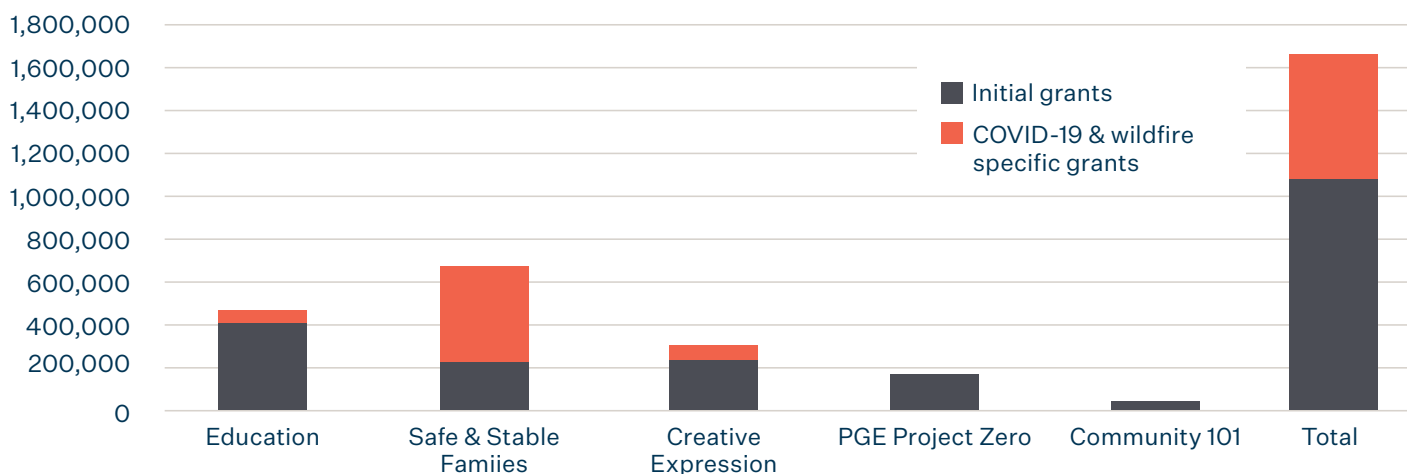
70% of Project Zero interns completed a six-month green jobs internship program

50% of Project Zero interns, who began the program, are pursuing job opportunities with Destination Employers

78% of Safe & Stable Families grant dollars support prevention programs

\$35,770 to Community 101, a student grant-making program created by the PGE Foundation and administered by Oregon Community Foundation

Grants by focus areas





Grants

SAFE & STABLE FAMILIES

\$50,000+

Marion Polk Food Share
Oregon Food Bank
Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon

\$25,000+

Bienestar
Central City Concern
Human Solutions

\$10,000+

Adelante Mujeres
Camp Fire Columbia
Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare
JOIN
Metropolitan Family Service
MountainStar Family Relief Nursery
Neighborhood House
Northwest Housing Alternatives
Salem Harvest
Trillium Family Services, Inc.
Virginia Garcia Memorial Foundation & Health Center

\$5,000+

Black Parent Initiative
Bradley Angle
Friends of Zenger Farm
Growing Gardens
Outgrowing Hunger
William Temple House

CREATIVE EXPRESSION

\$20,000+

Oregon Ballet Theatre
Oregon Symphony

Portland Art Museum and NW Film Center
Portland Center Stage
Portland Opera Association
Regional Arts & Culture Council

\$10,000+

Caldera
Literary Arts, Inc.
Metropolitan Youth Symphony
Oregon Children's Theatre Company
Oregon Historical Society
Portland Playhouse

\$5,000+

Arts Council of Pendleton
Confluence
Miracle Theatre Group
NAYA Family Center
Salem Art Association
WorldOregon
World Stage Theatre
Young Audiences of Oregon

EDUCATION

\$25,000+

All Hands Raised
College Possible
Oregon Alliance of Independent Colleges & Universities
Oregon Business Council Charitable Institute
Oregon State University Foundation
Portland Community College Foundation
Portland State University Foundation

\$15,000+

Friends of the Children Portland

Impact NW
On Track! OHSU
Oregon Tech Foundation
Stand for Children Leadership Center

\$10,000+

Airway Science for Kids
Beaverton Education Foundation
Camp Elso
Chicktech
Dress for Success of Oregon
Friends of Saturday Academy
Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest
Open School
Oregon MESA
Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center
REAP, Inc.
University of Oregon Foundation

\$5,000+

Portland YouthBuilders

COMMUNITY 101

\$35,770

PGE PROJECT ZERO

\$175,000

COVID - 19 RECOVERY FUND AND WILDFIRE RELIEF

Artists Rep
Bag & Baggage
Boys & Girls Clubs of Salem, Marion and Polk Counties
Broadway Rose Theatre
Cascade School of Music
Chemeketa Community College - Student Relief Fund

Clackamas Community College - Student Relief Fund
Columbia County Child Abuse Program
Constructing Hope Pre-Apprenticeship Program
Ethos Music Center
Free Geek
Friends of the Children - Central Oregon
Heart of Oregon Corps Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization
Mt. Hood Community College - Student Relief Fund
Oregon East Symphony
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Humanities
Oregon Worker Relief Fund
Portland Community College - Student Relief Fund
Proud Ground
Reach Community Development
Red Cross Cascades Region
Sisters Folk Festival
The Chúush Fund: Water for Warm Springs
The Red Door Project
Transition Projects
United Way of Columbia-Willamette Wildfire Response and Recovery Fund
United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley Wildfire Relief Fund
Volunteers of America Oregon Whitebird
Write Around Portland
Yamhill Enrichment Society
Youth Music Project

About the Foundation

The PGE Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Portland General Electric. Founded in 1997, the foundation was created through an endowment with the expressed purpose of improving the quality of life for Oregonians. Since its inception, more than \$25,000,000 has been awarded to community organizations across the state.

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