

ANNUAL REPORT

2025 - 2026



MISSION

The Central Oregon Avalanche Center **empowers the backcountry community** to make informed decisions by providing avalanche forecasting, observations, and education.

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LETTER FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

With such low tides conditions in Central Oregon this season you may have imagined COAC rolling out our mission accomplished banner. No snow, no avalanche danger, right? Not quite. Our mission is to: empower the backcountry community to make informed decisions by providing avalanche forecasting, observations, and education, but our vision is: a community that stays on top of the snow, and that requires the white fluffy stuff.

Despite too many warnings about non-snow hazards making the bottom line in our forecasts, the hardy folks who kept the stoke alive were rewarded, as usual, with some beautiful turns. That includes COAC's forecast team. Led by Gabe Coler, our team produced 150 forecasts for the Central Cascades zone and 30 forecasts for the Newberry zone. Overall the team spent more than 1,500 hours crafting these forecasts.

Mid-season we purchased two fully electric snowmobiles with grant support from the Oregon Clean Fuels Program and Pacific Power. These snowmobiles will silently whisk our forecasters into the backcountry for years to come and help us reduce operating costs.

In addition to forecasting, COAC hosted some great events this year. The 8th annual Bend Snow and Avalanche Workshop kicked the season off bringing avalanche experts from around the country to Bend. We held the 2nd annual Beacon and Eggs avalanche rescue training at Wangoa snow park, reviewing partner rescue skills with our forecast team. Monthly, Know Before You Go presentations around the region raised awareness of avalanche hazard. We owe a huge thank you to COAC board member Dan Stern for running the Powderhound film festival, raising funds for COAC and Oregon Adaptive Sports. Our Fresh-tracks membership party was another highlight of the season featuring pizza, drink, good company, and the dulcet tones of forecaster Jonas Tarlen and the Smoke Drifters.

While no avalanche accidents were reported within Central Oregon this season, our community still felt profound loss. COAC extends its deepest condolences to the families and friends of Christopher Thomason and Stratton Matteson, who lost their lives in separate avalanche accidents while traveling outside our region. They will be deeply missed, and we hold their memory close as we continue our work to keep backcountry travelers safe.

Over the last 16 years, COAC has grown from a simple website for sharing beta into a full-blown avalanche center—growth powered entirely by community support. COAC is a non-profit funded solely by memberships, donations, and sponsors. Relative to the snowpack, we had a good fundraising year, but still had to dip into reserves to cover the full cost of operations.

Our goals for the 26-27 season: continue providing high-quality avalanche forecasts, increase fundraising to cover operating costs, grow the backcountry community through education and events, and ensure COAC's long-term stability.

We'd like to give another huge thanks to all of our supporters. The days are already getting shorter and we can wait to see you in the backcountry next season.

Thank you,

Bryce Kellog
Board President

SEASON IN REVIEW

180

DAILY
AVALANCHE
FORECASTS

55K FORECAST
VIEWS

21

GENERAL
AVALANCHE
INFORMATION
STATEMENTS

29

PROFESSIONAL
OBSERVATIONS

159K

WEBPAGE VIEWS

9,393

SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS

73

PUBLIC
OBSERVATIONS



SNOWPACK & FORECAST HIGHLIGHTS

[ABOVE] Forecaster Ryan Marvin finds low snow at Broken Top on January 22.

Gabe Coler, Lead Forecaster

Anyone with a view outdoors could tell that the winter of 2025/26 wasn't the snowiest. The winter riding season was late to get started, our snowpack remained shallow, and the season ended earlier than usual. Good winter riding could still be found but it took a bit more thought and commitment to get to. Overall, the lack of snow accompanied by warm temperatures led to a reduction in avalanche activity. Our field team forecast 19 days of considerable hazard and 0 days of high hazard. (This is relatively few. During 2024/25 we forecast 50 days of considerable hazard.)

December was a tough month to be a skier or snowboarder in Central Oregon. We experienced several storms with plenty of moisture but the rain/snow line was much too high. Forecasters were working hard, and we were kept on our toes working out transportation to access the higher elevation snow. Sneakers, climbing boots, all manner of traction devices, and often mountain bikes were put to use along with our rock skis (mine hung in there until February when they finally kicked the bucket). Just before the Christmas holiday we finally had enough coverage to consistently go skiing.

The mountains continued to receive new snow into early January. This was followed by a prolonged drought. Often during these dry January's we develop persistent weak layers near the snow surface (think surface hoar, and near surface facets). These weak layers provide continued good riding on sheltered slopes. Last January started with similar conditions, but as the drought dragged on with relatively warm temperatures, this soft, weak snow became scarce. ➤

February brought the new snow everyone had been waiting for, and provided some of the best riding of the season! We saw the associated spike in avalanche activity with the new snow. As the new snow settled, forecasters were busy digging test profiles and trying to tell if we would have prolonged danger from the January weak layers. At Newberry Crater we were finding enough buried surface hoar and facets to warrant concern. We weren't seeing continued avalanches but we were finding sudden test results on buried weak layers. These conditions where avalanches are unlikely but could be large or very large are challenging for us to forecast. As is often the case, these weak layers were less prolific in the Cascades with only isolated results on test slopes.

As winter progressed, I couldn't help feeling a visceral sense of disappointment. Sure enough, snow continued in dribs and drabs but a real winter failed to materialize. Low elevation riding barely came in at all, and at higher elevations our snowpack remained shallow. By the end of April, it was unpleasant to access the high country via snowmobile, folks were biking down to South Sister and walking up the first few hundred feet to reach snow above Dutchman Flat.

Anyone that wanted to was able to ski or snowboard for most of the winter. I still found myself hooting and hollering through north facing glades. But my powder skis mostly sat in the corner, and I spent too many evenings looking at satellite images and weather maps that showed snow and cold air looping far to the north of us before plunging back into the Midwest. For the most part forecasting wasn't any easier. Leaving your house to do fieldwork with rock skis and a mountain bike gets old pretty quickly. Many evenings we were trying to anticipate snow levels, or message avalanche hazards that lied somewhere between Low and Moderate. Our forecast team spends as much time and energy in these scenarios as we do when danger is higher.



[ABOVE]
Forecaster Gabe Coler found a rider triggered D1.5 on Moon Mountain during our first good snowstorm on February 9.

[LEFT]
Forecaster Elliott Reed took showing evidence of reactive, faceted snow at Newberry Crater on February 15.

EDUCATION + OUTREACH

Education in Action

Education is a core part of COAC's mission. Forecasts provide critical information about current conditions, but education gives backcountry users the tools to interpret that information and apply it to their own decisions. Throughout the 2025-26 season, COAC offered opportunities to learn, practice, and connect through public presentations, workshops, hands-on training, and community events.

Events + Outreach

From people new to avalanche terrain to experienced backcountry travelers, COAC's education and outreach programs serve a broad range of the Central Oregon community. These programs create opportunities to learn from avalanche professionals, practice essential skills, ask questions, and connect with others who spend time in the mountains.

- **7 Know Before You Go presentations** brought foundational avalanche awareness to communities across Central Oregon.
- **139 attendees at BendSAW**, our annual Bend Snow and Avalanche Workshop, connecting the community with avalanche professionals and experts from across the country.
- **38 participants at Beacon and Eggs**, a hands-on avalanche rescue training focused on practicing partner rescue skills with COAC's forecast team.
- **66 attendees at Fresh Tracks**, bringing members and supporters together to celebrate the season and support COAC's work.
- **3 State of the Snowpack presentations**, a members-only meeting with lead forecaster Gabe Coler to dive deep into snow science topics.

Community Reach

COAC's education and outreach programs extend the impact of our forecasting and observations, helping backcountry users better understand avalanche conditions, practice essential skills, and make informed decisions in the field.

This work is powered by the people who give their time to COAC. In 2025-26, **volunteers contributed more than 1,000 hours—in support of forecasting, education, events, and operations.** Their time and expertise are an essential part of what makes COAC's work possible and helps us reach more people across Central Oregon.



[TOP] Eeva Latusuo speaks at the 8th Annual BendSAW at COCC.

[MIDDLE] Forecaster Alli Miles demonstrates avalanche rescue practices at Beacon and Eggs.

[BOTTOM] The Smoke Drifters play at Fresh Tracks membership party.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

A Decade of Growth, a Season of Resilience

Over the last decade, COAC has grown into a full-fledged avalanche center producing daily forecasts. Our revenue and expenses have grown in tandem. We've made big strides in supporting our forecast team — bringing them on as employees and providing snowmobiles to ease field access. COAC remains a lean organization, relying on our volunteer board for much of the behind-the-scenes work of running a nonprofit.

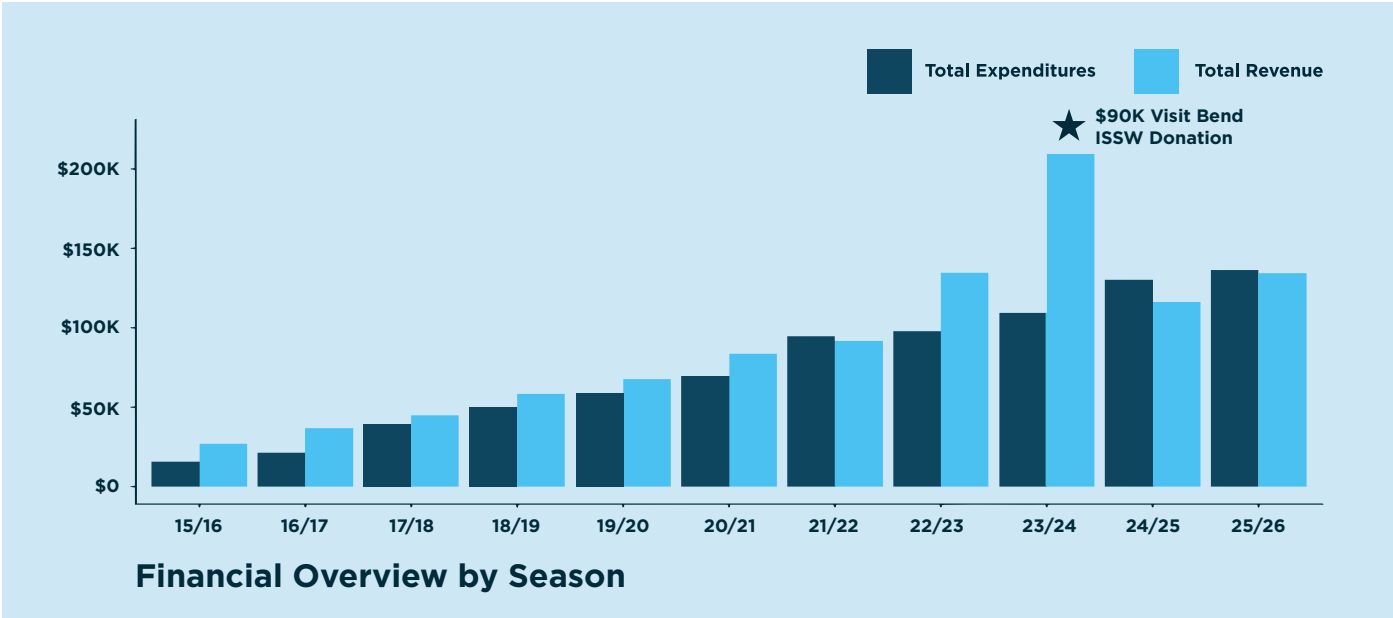
Despite the low snow, COAC's fundraising was reassuringly consistent this season. The cancellation of Vertfest, due to lack of snow on the course, was a significant blow to our bottom line. Over the last two seasons, we've run small deficits and relied on our cash reserves to cover expenses. Those reserves, built up over many years, remain healthy. Our goal for the coming season is to raise the funds needed to meet expenses and avoid dipping further into our reserves.

COAC Statement of Financial Position (as of July 13, 2026)

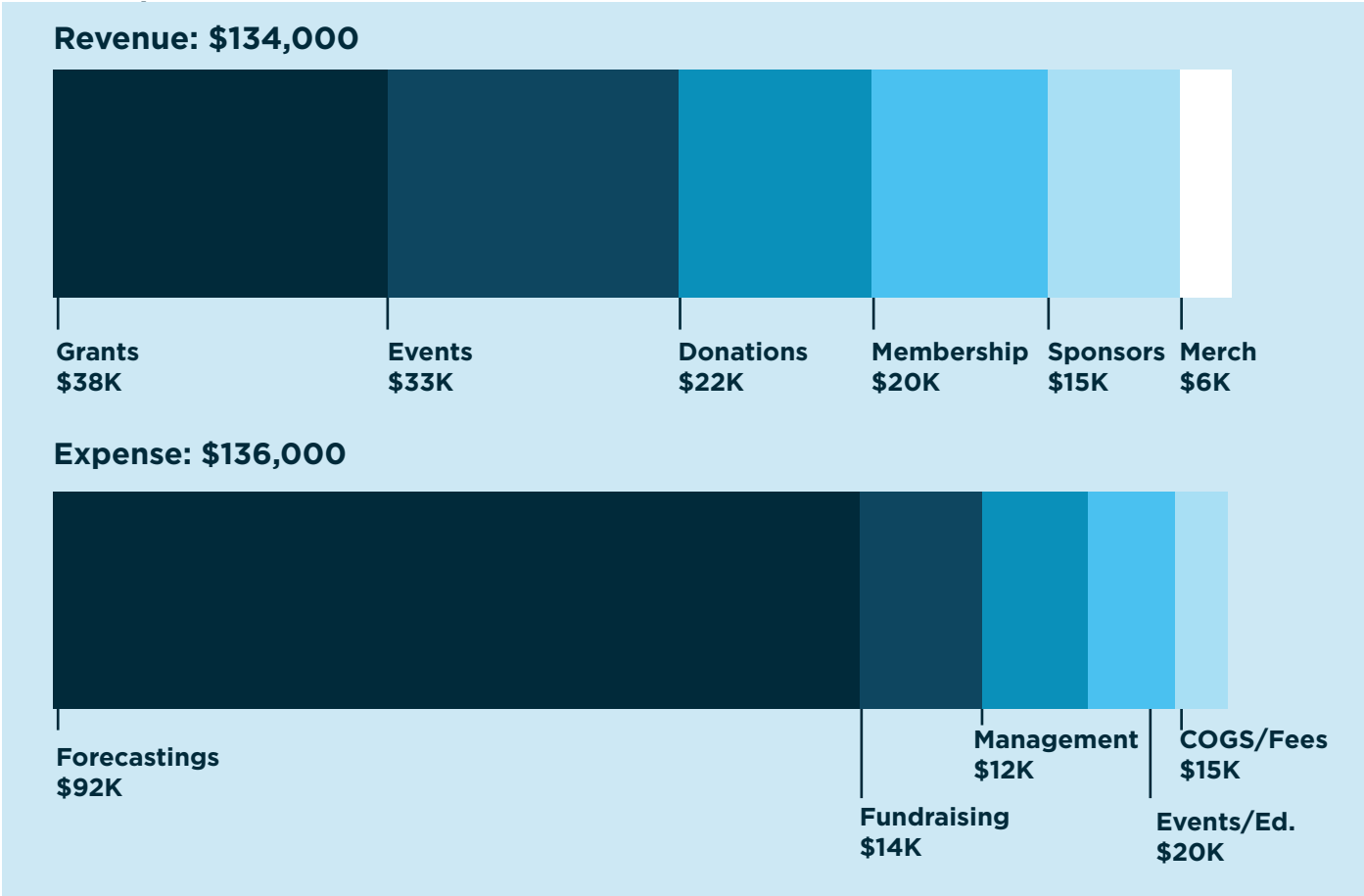
	24/25	25/26
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$159,591.56	\$112,198.07
Contributions Receivable		\$500
Prepaid Expenses		\$1,300
Inventory Asset	\$5,896.12	\$3,294.12
Equipment (weather stations/ snowmobiles)	\$22,611.97	\$65,633.97
Total Assets	\$188,099.65	\$182,926.16
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Total for Liabilities		
Net Assets		
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$15,000	\$10,000
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$171,955.26	\$172,926.16
Total Net Assets	\$186,995.26	\$182,089.86
Total for Liabilities and Net Assets	\$186,995.26	\$182,926.16

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT CONTINUED

COAC Revenue + Expenditures



2025/26 Financial Overview



LOOKING AHEAD

Building a stronger COAC

The 2025-26 season reinforced the importance of having a strong, sustainable avalanche center serving Central Oregon. In 2026-27, COAC will focus on strengthening the programs and infrastructure that support our core mission while continuing to grow the community around avalanche safety and education.

Priorities for 2026-27

- **Continue producing high-quality forecasts**
Maintain reliable, timely avalanche forecasts and observations while strengthening the systems, tools, and field operations that support our forecasting team.
- **Expand avalanche education**
Increase opportunities for the community to build avalanche awareness, decision-making, and rescue skills through presentations, events, and hands-on education.
- **Grow membership and observations**
Expand COAC's membership base to reflect forecast users. A larger, more engaged community helps strengthen both our financial sustainability and our understanding of local conditions.
- **Strengthen COAC's financial foundation**
Increase fundraising and community support with the goal of covering annual operating costs and ending the season with positive net revenue. Continued support from members, donors, sponsors, and partners is essential to maintaining COAC's long-term stability.
- **Celebrate the 9th annual BendSAW**
Bring the community together again for Bend's premier avalanche education event, connecting backcountry users with professionals, educators, and one another.
- **Increase awareness of COAC**
Reach more people who travel in Central Oregon's backcountry and make COAC's forecasting, observations, education, and other resources more visible and accessible.
- **Build organizational capacity**
Strengthen the board and volunteer structure to support COAC's growing programs and ensure the organization is positioned for long-term health and stability.

STAFF + BOARD

COAC's work would not be possible without the time, expertise, and commitment of our staff and Board of Directors. From producing forecasts and observations to supporting education, fundraising, events, and the day-to-day work of running a nonprofit, this team contributes countless hours to serving the Central Oregon backcountry community.

As we wrap up last season and start planning the next, we want to recognize three people who are moving on after years of dedicated service to our organization.

- **Lauren Altemari**, our Development Director, has kept our board in order for five years, and every event we've held has run smoothly because of her steady hand behind the scenes. We are deeply grateful for her leadership and attention to detail.
- **Trevor Miller**, one of our original board members and co-founder, has been with us since the beginning. His institutional knowledge and steady presence have shaped who we are today, and his contributions will be felt for years to come.
- **David Gaines** has kept the stoke alive, organizing Vertfest these past few years while also championing our scholarship program. His enthusiasm and commitment to opening doors for the next generation of riders have left a lasting mark on this community.

Thank you to everyone who continues to give their time, knowledge, and energy to COAC. Your work strengthens the organization and helps ensure that reliable avalanche information and education remain available to our community year after year.

Staff

Gabriel Coler — Lead Forecaster
Aaron Hartz — Forecaster
Alli Miles — Forecaster
Elliott Reed — Forecaster
Jonas Tarlen — Forecaster
Ryan Marvin — Forecaster
Carson Byrne — Observer
Emily Paulson — Membership & Marketing Coordinator

Board of Directors

Bryce Kellogg — President
Shane Roy — Vice President
Andrew Eaton — Secretary
Mark Ramina — Treasurer
Anthony Biolatto — Director
Dan Stern — Director
Donald Bowerman — Director
Jereme Monteau — Director
Kevin Grove — Director

THANK YOU SPONSORS + MEMBERS

COAC exists because of the community behind it. Our sponsors, donors, and members provide the financial support that makes forecasting, education, observations, and community programs possible.

Thank you for investing in COAC and in avalanche safety across Central Oregon. Every membership, donation, sponsorship, and in-kind contribution helps sustain the work and resources our community relies on throughout the season. We're grateful for your continued support and partnership.

Community Sponsors

\$10,000+



\$5,000-\$9,999



\$1,000-\$4,999



\$500-\$999



\$50-499



Members + Donors

+in memorium of Renee and Terry Skjersaa
*in memorium of Christopher Scott Thomason

\$1,000+

Cambia Health Solutions
(Cody Gillenwater)
Jacob Porter

Kevin Hopper
North Barn Charitable Fund
Robert & Bridget Ardissono

Wonderful Company

\$500+

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DAFgiving360*
Daniel von Allmen
Elwood Cahill*

Eric Valleton
Jeffery Heilman
Jeffery T Light
Jim Mead
National Financial Services LLC

Noah Harwood
Ochocho Snow Sports
UBS (Jim Mead)

\$250+ Ullr Snow God

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Bryce Kellogg
Carol J Glynn*
Charities Aid Foundation
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Cody Gillenwater
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Dixie Cook*

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Engel & Völkers Bend
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Jeffery Light
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Luke Wolfe
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Nate Murray

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Portland General Electric
Ray Velez
Rueben + Barbara Evans*
Samuel Elcik
Sarah Pennell*
Stephen Scott+
Stu & Hilary Garrett
United Way Central Oregon
Wanderlust

Members + Donors

+in memorium of Renee and Terry Skjersaa
*in memorium of Christopher Scott Thomason

\$100+ Snow Scientist

Aimee McRae	Claire Christensen	John Zulim	Paul Diegel
Alex Malozemoff	Clifford Agocs	Jonathan Wright	Paul Ganger
Amy Wu*	Dan Stern	Julie Araquistain*	PayPal Giving Fund
Andrew Eaton	David Butler	Julie Grimmett*	Portland General
Andrew Nilsen	David White	Julyn Andrews	Electric
Anthony Biolatto in Honor of Dan	Derek Ghan	Kent Daniela	Rebecca Bar
Austin Fox	Derek Glynn*	Kevin Grove	Reed Lehto
Barbara Girone	Drew Clendenen	Kevin Prince	Richard Bartkowiak
Barry Wicks	Drew Kelliher	Kirin Stryker	Robert Pfister
Basim Kadhim	Eric Decker	Lara D'Orvilliers	Rory Simpson
Bill Shimp	Eric Dorvilliers	Laura MacCarley	Ross Kellogg
Bjorn Kilburn	Erik Brown	Laurie van Bronkhorst*	Rueben & Barbara
Brandon Ziemba	Eva Dienel	Legacy Motorsportz*	Evans*
Brian Durbin	Gary Edwards*	Lindsay Lund	Russ Omizo
Brian Lorence	Gil Anspacher	Logan Shane	Ryan Comeau
Brian Mcnamara	Gina Muzzillo*	Maddee Rubenson	Ryan McCauley
Brittany Marshall	Gregory Miller	Marc Redman	Sarah Benrath
Bronwyn Fullagar	Harold DeShow	Mark Jackson	Stuart Habel
Bruce Moffatt	J Greenleaf	Mark Nordberg	Susan P Oncea*
Caleb Olis-Cartmell	Jaime Bohle	Mary Charno*	Thomas Mossinger
Caroline Poole	James Perry	Maryanne Reiter	Travis Newman
Charities Aid	James St Amant	Mason Lacy	Tyler Adams
Foundation America	Jared Green	Matt Davey	Tyler Hoyt
Cheryl Heinrichs	Jason Albert	Matt Whiteley	Tyler Lueck
Chris Niggel	Jason Boone	Matthew Fox	Vincent LaVecchia
Chrissy Gaul	Jay Dicharry	Matthew Taber	Viree Byrne*
Christa Nash-Webber	Jenna Bailey	Maureen Fennerty*	W James Jewitt
Christine Angelo	Jennie Bell-Wade	Mayer Howard	William Gattiker
Christopher Rhoads	Jim Niermann	Weinstein*	Yiorgos Makris
	John Vert	Patrick Fink	

Members + Donors

+in memorium of Renee and Terry Skjersaa
*in memorium of Christopher Scott Thomason

\$50

Adam J Payne	Dustin Gurley	Jon Tapper	Neil Geisler
Adam Richards	Ellie McNairy	Josh Gardner	Nicholas Murphy
Aiden Sim	Elliott Reed	Josh Garner	Nickolas Birdseye
Alan Appley	Ellsworth Faris	Josh Kunz	Pamela Powell*
Alison Lay Cranston	Emily Abrams	Joshua Bamberger	Patrick Coughill
Andrew Kicinski	Emily Bero	Joshua Phillips	Paul Diegel
Andrew Orlich	Emily Paulson	Julian Heller	Paul Maier
Andy Motley	Erich Krueck	Julie Durkheimer*	Peter Halmos
Angela Salido	Erik Olson	Kaia Enstrom	Raisa Budrevich
Becky Johnson	Erin Healy*	Kalon Forrest	Ray Balenson
Benjamin Watson	Erin Schneider	Katherine Lanfri	Rebecca Bar
Benjamin Wilde	Evan Warner	Kathy Merida*	Rebecca Freund
Beth Ann Orton	Gabriel Christian	Kelly Robbins	Regan Peterson
Blair Edmiston	Gabrielle Orsi	Kelsey Houghton	Rick Johnson
Bob Madden	George Hoch	Kenneth Knight	Ryan Altman
Bobby Lambrix	Giles Cranston	Kevin Jones	Samuel Adams
Brad Olsen	Greg Veith	Kevin Lorda	Sarah Burke
Brian	Gregory A Kallio	Kirin Stryker	Sarah Schoenhals
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Carol Kucel	Heather Sherfey*	Lana Bannow	Stacy Matsuda
Carson Byrne	Ian Laurenson	Lance Dyer	Steven Jenevein
Cary Liebl	J Greenleaf	Lara Bickel	Steven Miller
Casey Wiedmer	Jakob Hanson	Laurel Hunter	Stu & Hilary Garrett
Chad Alan Gilless	James Kinney	Luno	Stuart Habel
Charles Lee Courtney	James Moro	Lynn Green	Susan Kinney
Cherith Velez	James Orsi	Madeline Grubb	Sven Haarhoff
Chris Noe	Jamie Fugett	Mark Buckley	Tamara Donnelly Glass
Chris Winans	Jared Hilton	Mark Simila	Tim Williams
Christine Mellon	Jeff Straus	Mathew Snodgrass	Toby Maxwell
Christopher Yucho	Jeffrey Moss	Matt Hickok	Tod Feuerman
Colin Carr	Jen Kellogg	Matthew Clausen	Tom Sabiel*
Corey Roessler	Jen Luebke	Matthew Johnson	Tony Hansen
Cory Poulin	Jenny Long	Max King	Tyler Simons
Daniel Hall	Jeremy Fox	Maya Lisa Holzman	United Way Central
David Butler	Jeremy Robertson	Megan Bailey	Oregon
David Hill	Jessica Casey	Melissa Garcia	Warren Atkey
David Lenhart	Jim Wintermyre	Michael Boero	Wayne Morter
David McClintock	Joel Hammond	Mike Guerchon	Wesley Steen
David McMullin	John Jackson Alltucker	Mike Spellacy	Weylin Noldner
David Moore	John Loseth	Monty J Nelson	
David Wilson	John Oehler	Natasha Hernday	