

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

SISTERS

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Growing Funds for Growing Futures

## GRADUATE RESOURCE ORGANIZATION



### MISSION STATEMENT:

To help Sisters High School graduates achieve their educational aspirations, inspiring them to *give back* by *becoming more*.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Few communities in our nation benefit from an organization such as Sisters GRO, yet in the Sisters Community anything is possible because so many citizens support the efforts and aspirations of our youth. As co-founder and out-going Chair, I am proud to report that Sisters GRO Board witnessed incredible results in the advancement of our mission this past fiscal year.

Eight new scholarships were established in 2017: Dentists of Sisters, Enterprising Spirit, Intel Retirees, KLM, Outlaw Health Professionals, Sisters Community Church, Sisters Confucius Chinese Classroom, and Sisters Quilt Show Scholarships. Thanks to the generosity of these new scholarship donors and those citizens supporting pre-existing scholarships, a total of 105 scholarship awards amounting to over \$200,000 were presented at Senior Celebration in May. These awards will provide needed support to 54 SHS graduates continuing their education this fall.

The Roundhouse Foundation has entrusted Sisters GRO with management of its Enrichment Experience Scholarships since 2014, having awarded \$30,000 thus far. We are delighted to administer this scholarship as it aligns with our mission to encourage students to envision and plan their future paths. Originally these "enrichment experience" scholarship opportunities were offered to all students (grades 9-12) enrolled at Sisters High School. Since 2014, The Roundhouse Foundation has expanded the availability of these awards to Sisters Middle School students and beginning this year will include Sisters Elementary School students. Details of The Roundhouse Foundation Enrichment Experience Scholarships, along with approximately 90 total Sisters GRO administered scholarships offered to Sisters students can be found on our website at SistersGRO.org.

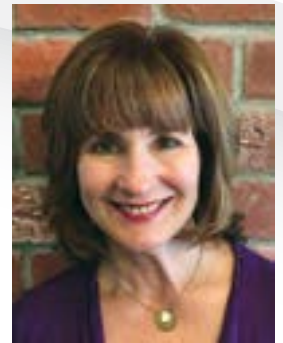
With the unparalleled generosity of this community combined with support of dedicated and insightful Sisters GRO Board and committee members, and a host of steadfast ASPIRE mentors, we can continue to successfully advance the goal of opening doors of possibilities for all SHS graduates. If you would be interested in joining our cause, contact us at [info@SistersGRO.org](mailto:info@SistersGRO.org). We particularly could use public relations, bookkeeping and legal expertise going forward so we would appreciate hearing from you.

With great optimism I enthusiastically pass the helm of Sisters GRO leadership this September to incoming chair, Tim Ross. As an Intel retiree with an impressive set of management skills, an ASPIRE volunteer mentor with a heart for assisting students with facilitating their future dreams and aspirations, and with his interest and dedication to Sisters GRO, he will undoubtedly steer our organization on a course directed at accomplishing its mission. I look forward to serving with Tim and each of the dedicated Board directors during this important transition year.

Sincerely,

*Karen*

Karen Hensley



Karen Hensley

### 2017 SISTERS GRO BOARD

**Tim Ross** *Chair*

**Pam Olivier** *Vice Chair*

**Karen Hensley** *Treasurer & Co-Founder*

**Ann Thompson** *Secretary & Co-Founder*

**Russ Hamm** *Board Director*

**Lori Larson** *Board Director*

**Susan Parker** *Board Director*

**Joe Hosang** *SHS Principal*

**Rick Kroytz** *SHS ASPIRE Site Coordinator*

**Charlie Kanzig** *SHS Counselor*



## GRO HISTORY

Sisters GRO was founded as a 501(c)(3) organization in 2008 to offer assistance and administrative support in the scholarship process to Sisters High School graduates. There has been a long history of support for higher education in the Sisters community, but prior to 2008, no central non-profit entity to collect, disburse and account for scholarship funds. GRO has worked with the school district and donors to develop an online standard application process as well as a donor and student/parent website for scholarship information.

We have established the Endowment for Dreams fund with the Oregon Community Foundation; developed a fair, streamlined scholarship application process meeting IRS requirements; and worked with donors to establish lasting relationships to help them support our graduates in pursuing whatever path they choose post-high school: two-and-four years college scholarships, Career Technical Education, “real-life” job internships, military and other areas of endeavor. We are the only non-profit in the community focused solely on the development of financial support for Sisters High School graduates in these areas.

GRO now works with 52 donors to offer 92 local individual scholarships available to SHS graduates.

Since our inception, we have awarded scholarship funds of \$824,500 to 285 graduating students. We are proud of our community, our donors, our schools and our students; with your help, we hope to continue to support and broaden their horizons for years to come.

Sisters GRO has always had strong ties to the ASPIRE program (Access to Student Assistance Programs in Reach of Everyone). Many of our founding members have a history as ASPIRE mentors. ASPIRE is an Oregon State resource that matches adult volunteer mentors with high school students to develop a plan to meet their goals beyond high school. We continue to work closely with ASPIRE in developing ways to better serve our graduates in pursuing their goals. In 2017, ASPIRE assisted approximately 175 junior and senior students, with outreach to many freshman students as well, with almost 40 volunteers.

In 2013, GRO began a collaboration with The Roundhouse Foundation, whereby they furnish funds for Enrichment Experiences, and GRO manages the process and distribution of funds. This began with grants for Sisters High School students and has grown, through the generosity of Roundhouse, to include Sisters Middle School and Sisters Elementary School.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Sisters GRO financial statements for the past 3 years are available [here](#).

