

FACING CRISIS:
**MEETING
OPPORTUNITY**

IMPACT REPORT 2021

GRANITE EDUCATION FOUNDATION



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CRISIS:

DANGER & OPPORTUNITY

The 2020–2021 school year was, at its most fundamental, a prolonged crisis. But as John F. Kennedy reminded us in 1959, “when written in Chinese, the word ‘crisis’ is composed of two characters — one represents danger, and the other represents opportunity.”

DANGER

For the duration of the school year, Granite School District was confronted by the ongoing threat of the COVID–19 pandemic. Schools faced unforeseen closures, and students were forced to come to terms with face masks and social distancing. Understandably, parents were nervous, and educators were burdened with new, often overwhelming, responsibilities.

Simultaneously, we faced extreme political discord, the persistent struggle of increased poverty and food insecurity, and the stark realization of racial and cultural inequity.

OPPORTUNITY

But even as the world dimmed, there remained hope — the hope of an outstretched hand and the hope that together we are something greater than the sum of our parts. It was a hope that people remain inherently good and that a selfless act of charity can lay a foundation of strength and inspiration for a brighter tomorrow.

It was with this mindset that, despite the hardships we all faced, Granite Education Foundation stepped up to meet the unprecedented need.

As demand increased from hungry students and their families, we efficiently scaled our programs and introduced creative new solutions (see [Rolling Pantries article \(Trina Cotterman\), page 5](#)). And with assistance from our donors and community partners, we doubled our distribution capability (see [Foundation 4 Life, page 9](#)).

When written in Chinese, the word crisis is composed of two characters — one represents danger, and the other represents opportunity.
— John F. Kennedy

This growth, under such difficult circumstances, was highlighted by a “freshening” of our core brand, along with a renewed commitment to our mission and organizational values.

The new school year brings with it a sense of optimism. Together, we have faced crisis; now together, we will build success.

Because together we are strong. Together we are Granite.

ADAPTING DURING A PANDEMIC

When the COVID-19 pandemic came to Salt Lake City toward the end of the 2020 school year, demand for healthy meals increased by roughly 300%. For the Foundation, food distribution became critical. But partnering with restaurants and local food service companies, along with volunteers who gave more than 1,000 hours of service, we provided an average of 4,389 meals every day that schools were closed.

When school reconvened in the fall, we faced new challenges. With drinking fountains shut off to slow the transmission of the virus, students had a new need — clean drinking water. Generous donors in the community stepped up and provided more than 57,000 reusable water bottles and well over 100,000 face masks to Granite students in need.

Granite Education Foundation also adapted the manner in which we hosted special events. Our 2020 and 2021 Excel Awards were presented with virtual programs that allowed more guests to participate than ever before. And while Santa Claus was unable to visit schools in-person, he graciously shared stories and his personal holiday message through online videos. While we are anxious to get back to meeting together face-to-face, we recognize the power of technology and vow to further utilize online tools to make our resources available to an even wider audience than ever before.



CHALLENGES BRING NEW OPPORTUNITIES & GROWTH



Dear Friends,

Granite Education Foundation is a proud fixture of the Utah nonprofit community. Since 1988, the Foundation has been a committed and passionate advocate of Granite School District's students, families, and teachers. We exist to reduce learning barriers for students (primarily those that emerge from poverty), and to enhance the overall capacity of instructors and administrators — in ways that complement but are beyond the District's academic-focused objectives.

Throughout the 2020–2021 school year, we continued to evolve, adapt, and grow. The pandemic provided many challenges, but I am proud to report that we proved flexible in our service delivery, and the support we were able to provide to students and their families in need is remarkable. With YOUR help, we provided tens of thousands of meals to hungry families; with YOUR help, we fulfilled nearly 125,000 student aid requests (basic clothing, shoes, and hygiene kits); and with YOUR help, we honored 10 extraordinary educators with the prestigious Excel Award.

We also took the time to look inward — to consider who we are and how we can live up to the lofty goals outlined in our mission and vision. The faces within the Foundation may change, but our commitment remains constant.

I would like to personally thank Randy Woodbury for his years of service as Chair of the Granite Education Foundation Board of Directors. He has been, and will continue to be, an unwavering advocate for the Foundation and those the Foundation serves, and as the Foundation's new Board Chair, I promise to sustain his incredible legacy.

Now, with the 2021–2022 school year underway, we all vow, board and staff alike, to continue the critical work of serving the Granite community. Granite Education Foundation is stalwart, steady, and strong. It is a steadfast resource to those with limited means and a constant supporter of educators across Granite School District. We will remain flexible and creative as we continue to innovate and grow. And we will work tirelessly to help provide equitable opportunities for all Granite students to reach life's full potential.

But we can never do this alone. The support YOU provide to the Foundation makes a critical difference. Thank you to our partners, board members, donors, volunteers, and staff for ensuring these efforts will continue for many years to come.

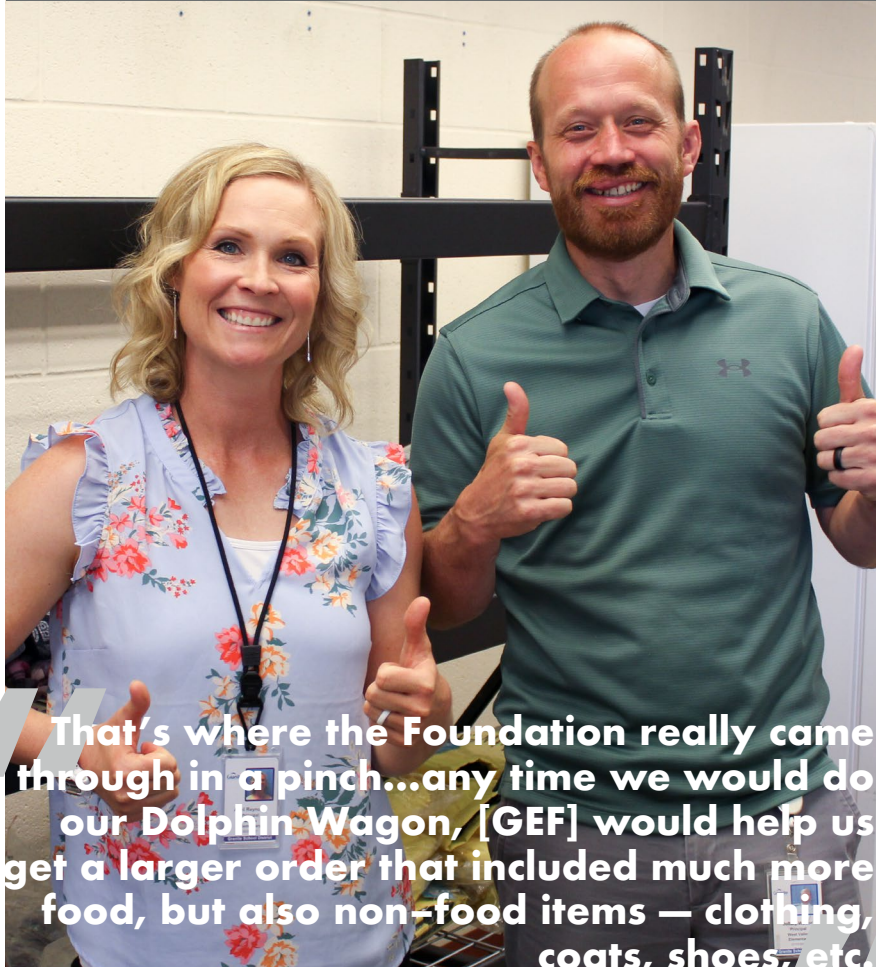
With gratitude,


CARRIE JOHNSON
Board Chair

GRANITE STORIES

JEFF WALTON & APRIL REYNOLDS

Principal & Vice Principal, West Valley Elementary



That's where the Foundation really came through in a pinch...any time we would do our Dolphin Wagon, [GEF] would help us get a larger order that included much more food, but also non-food items — clothing, coats, shoes, etc.

When COVID-19 came to the Salt Lake Valley, the need for charitable assistance went up by more than 300% across the District. Simultaneously, school administrators were forced to work with more restrictions — masks, social distancing, parent anxiety, and more — than ever before. Despite this (or rather because of it), Jeff Walton and April Reynolds of West Valley Elementary undertook a unique and creative solution: they went mobile.

The “Dolphin Wagon” took to the streets to distribute critical food, clothing, sleeping bags, etc. to those in dire need within the community. The wagon’s first trip helped roughly 30 individuals; then, each month thereafter, the news started to spread, and the demand increased. Soon, they were delivering meals, basic clothing, and supplies to over 300 people on every monthly trip. Faculty and staff also felt the excitement and stepped up to help their principal and assistant principal make a difference. What was once just a single vehicle filled with food soon became a literal train of cars and trucks.

Even then, the growth continued. The school was soon hosting charitable distribution events in their gymnasium, and Mr. Walton & Ms. Reynolds even created their own in-school miniature food pantry to help sustain what could be provided.

Now, roughly one year after the Dolphin Wagon first launched, West Valley Elementary is officially getting a permanent Granite Education Foundation in-school pantry. Ms. Reynolds has moved to Magna Elementary as their new principal this year, and she vows that a similar “Bulldog Express” will begin making the rounds there as well.

GRANITE STORIES

TRINA COTTERMAN

DSI/Alta/Gemstone Alternative School



A couple of hungry kiddos wanted to steal food from the pantry. They really wanted the items. Hearing this, I had to ask them, 'why would you steal from yourself? This food is here for you!'

The need for healthy meals among food-insecure students is very real. For Trina Cotterman, Restorative Justice Advocate at DSI/Alta/Gemstone alternative school, this represented a major challenge, as well as a surprising opportunity.

Knowing that Granite Education Foundation provides food assistance, Ms. Cotterman reached out to Kim Oborn, the Foundation Food Program Coordinator. Kim had an innovative solution: a rolling food pantry. New this year, Rolling Pantries are mobile cages that are filled with food kits — Dinner in a Bag kits, Student Weekend Kits, and Snack Packs. When the cage is depleted each month, a new, freshly stocked pantry is delivered in its place.

The Rolling Pantry immediately became a focal point of Ms. Cotterman's outreach to the community. Students were excited to have access to this type of assistance and to be able, in many cases, to even help provide for their families. And in addition to providing much-needed food, Ms. Cotterman continually works to preserve students' dignity. Students are empowered and encouraged to respond in kind.

"This has been wonderful," said Ms. Cotterman. "Our students appreciate this resource, and they recognize that it is coming from somewhere else. They want to show their gratitude and to give back, so they asked to volunteer and to assemble food kits for others. It has been a very positive program for us all around — we are all so grateful for the Granite Education Foundation!"

If you would like to get involved, visit granitekids.org to find a list of volunteer opportunities. Or you can assemble kits on your own and deliver them to the Granite Education Foundation Donation & Distribution Center.

GOODBYE & HELLO:

A NEW SUPERINTENDENT

CONGRATULATIONS AND FAREWELL, DR. MARTIN BATES

This winter, after 11 years, Granite School District superintendent, Dr. Martin Bates, announced his retirement. Dr. Bates worked in education for over 33 years and said that, “there is no greater profession than our education profession, and I have been blessed to serve in it.”

Dr. Bates has been a true partner of Granite Education Foundation. Each year, he has accompanied Foundation staff and board members to announce the winners of the Excel Award, and he has lauded praise on the Foundation for its marvelous accomplishments on behalf of the District: “While the school district can do many, many things for children and their families, there are also things that we cannot do because it’s beyond the scope of our mission,” said Dr. Bates. “What a wonderful thing it is to have the Granite Education Foundation, with a long history of caring for children and families, that can plug those holes, that can do those things that the District [is not in a position to] do.”

We thank Dr. Bates for his devotion to education, and we wish him the best in his well-earned retirement.



WELCOME, DR. NYE

Granite Education Foundation is very pleased to welcome Dr. Richard Nye to Granite School District. As our new superintendent, we know of Dr. Nye’s well-documented expertise and his love of children and education.

Dr. Nye’s passion extends to the mission of Granite Education Foundation as well — his commitment to removing barriers to education is well-known within the school foundation community. We are thrilled to have him as an active partner, with whom we can provide for the needs of our students, thereby helping to ensure that every child has the opportunity to reach life’s full potential.

Congratulations, Dr. Nye, and welcome aboard!

NOTE FROM JANIS VAUSE, OGDEN SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Granite School District is so fortunate to have Dr. Nye. He is the real deal, the complete package. Dr. Nye is a numbers man who loves analysis and data; he also has good common sense (a needed quality), and most importantly, a huge empathetic heart. He simply loves people, particularly youth, and has dedicated his life to making sure they get everything that public education can offer.

I have always felt so proud to be a part of Dr. Nye's team. He is a man of his word with impeccable integrity and an impressive work ethic. He does the right things for the right reasons, not only on a professional level but on a personal level as well. He "lives" what he believes in.

Dr. Nye will be greatly missed in our district, and he will be greatly missed on a personal level by me. However, I am excited for Granite School District students to benefit from the groundwork he will put in place so they can become successful individuals in life.

Thank you, Rich, for your outstanding leadership and service, and on behalf of the Ogden School Foundation, we wish you the very best in all your future endeavors.

— Janis B. Vause
Executive Director, Ogden School Foundation



2021 BY THE NUMBERS

90 SCHOOLS

64,000 STUDENTS

MORE THAN

50%

OF STUDENTS LIVE AT OR BELOW POVERTY

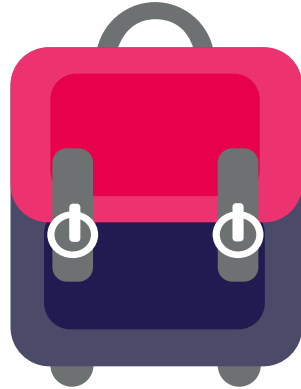
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STUDENTS ARE FOOD INSECURE

70% 100+

OF UTAH'S REFUGEE POPULATION

LANGUAGES & DIALECTS SPOKEN



18,042

BACKPACKS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED
(VALUING \$468,096)



42,284

WATER BOTTLES GIVEN
(VALUING \$42,284)



7,811

CLOTHING REQUESTS FILLED
(VALUING \$165,695)



1,355

PAIRS OF SHOES GIVEN TO STUDENTS
(VALUING \$33,875)

124,417

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT AID REQUESTS COMPLETED
(VALUING \$1,153,206)



95,020

MASKS GIVEN TO STUDENTS
(VALUING \$47,510)

DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

FOUNDATION 4 LIFE

Partnerships are critical to the success and well-being of Granite Education Foundation, and we are fortunate to have some of the most dedicated, consistent, and generous corporate partners imaginable. Not only did our sponsors support our COVID-19 relief efforts with financial contributions and donations of food and clothing, we were essentially able to double our distribution capability with a brand-new refrigerated truck, thanks to the Foundation 4 Life.

“We are so thrilled today to be able to make this huge donation to Granite Education Foundation,” said Danny Lee, 4 Life President & CEO. “[This] is going to double their efforts in getting food to needy children in Granite School District.”

“4 Life is always looking for opportunities to give back right here in our own community. And when we found Granite Education Foundation, the partnership just clicked together, and we’ve been able to help so many children,” said Jenna Lisonbee, 4 Life Service Ambassador. “Many of our 4 Life employees — their children, their families and neighbors also attend schools in this district. We know the great need, and it is such an honor for us to step up here in our own backyard and give back to these children and make the future bright again for them.”



BRAND REFRESH: ADDING COLOR

// True life is lived when tiny changes occur. //

— Leo Tolstoy

An effective brand is a mark of trust. And while the established look and feel of Granite Education Foundation has effectively communicated our mission for many years, 2020–2021 gave us an opportunity to augment our brand with new richness and a more lively tone.

We are grateful to all the teachers, administrators, board members, donors, and public stakeholders who shared their opinions. Your insights and feedback have allowed us to refresh the existing Granite Education Foundation brand and to add color and better represent the diversity of Granite School District. Thank you.

The following elements are the cornerstones of the Granite Education Foundation brand. They are illustrated within the four cells of our logo:



NEXT LEVEL LEARNING

Partnering with the community to enrich student learning, we leverage our most important investment — the educational and personal success of our kids.

Next Level Learning opportunities have the potential to be the great equalizer in education. Granite Education Foundation believes that opportunities such as these are important elements to the academic experience and to a successful adulthood. We strive to provide opportunities for students to recognize their potential through varied experiences. We believe that high-quality learning opportunities are for everyone — and the benefits they create are critical to our future economy.



RISING ACHIEVERS

Helping students thrive in their personal, educational, and career planning.

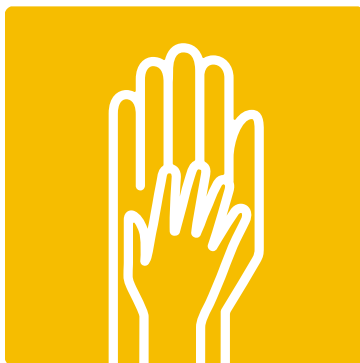
In an increasingly competitive professional environment, it is critical that students are prepared to economically sustain themselves when their high school education is complete. Granite Education Foundation is committed to support students in finding personal purpose, potential, and a pathway to their future.

EDUCATOR & STAFF SUPPORT

Teachers are our nation builders — the strength of every profession in our country grows out of the knowledge and skills that teachers help to instill in our children.

As a community, we must do much, much more to fully appreciate and support their work.

With the transition to more rigorous achievement standards and better student assessments, a focus on data to drive instruction, and the use of technology to personalize learning, teachers are carrying an incredible amount of responsibility with little recognition and support.



STRONG & STABLE FAMILIES

Research has shown that children, especially those at risk, are most successful when efforts are designed to engage and support the family's ability to provide a safe and stable environment for their children. Granite Education Foundation is committed to support our community's efforts to increase protective factors and support whole child development so students attend school 'ready to learn'.

By addressing basic and emergency needs, supporting efforts to end intergenerational poverty and collaborating with GSD community centers; our goal is for all students to come to school 'ready to learn'.

RECOGNIZING EDUCATION EXCELLENCE: **EXCEL & TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

Granite Education Foundation's Excel Awards are a prestigious honor given to ten educators in Granite School District. Students, parents, administrators, and colleagues nominate educators that exemplify the values of Granite School District. These individuals are then put through a rigorous review and observation process by experienced education specialists and community business representatives who ultimately identify nine teachers and one administrator as Excel Award recipients.

This year's winners, as well as their schools, are listed below:

REBECCA B. MONSON,
ADMINISTRATOR — Thomas W. Bacchus Elementary

ALBERT FERRARONS FONT — West Lake Junior High

JENNETTE FORDHAM — Woodstock Elementary

JENNIFER BOND-FOULKE — William Penn Elementary

TAYLER T. KHATER — Skyline High

MICHAEL C. KRANISKI — Olympus High

SAMUEL K. NOYCE — Thomas Jefferson Junior High

CYNTHIA PEARSON — Howard R. Driggs Elementary

AMY M. ROPER — Bennion Elementary

RACHEL SORENSEN — West Valley Elementary



TEACHER OF THE YEAR – ALBERT FERRARONS FONT

On May 5, Granite Education Foundation was pleased to help announce Granite School District’s Teacher of the Year, Albert Ferrarons Font. As a 2021 Excel Award winner, Señor Ferrarons already stood out for his remarkable work, and we are thrilled that he is recognized as Granite School District’s Teacher of the Year. Congratulations, Señor Ferrarons!

PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

The starting point of learning is curiosity. To me, being a teacher is not so much about teaching a specific content, but about awakening students’ curiosity towards knowledge and its learning process. As educators, we aim to guide our students in becoming independent lifelong learners, curious to explore and understand how life and our world works. In order to do so, our most exciting challenge is meeting our students’ diversity.

I recently heard that education is about finding what’s right in each student and helping them build their lives around that. That’s what diversity means to me—being able to find the good in each student, in each cultural background, in each personal situation, in each relationship and interaction—in order to help them overcome the difficulties and empower their strengths.

Is there a more enriching profession in the world than being a teacher?

– Albert Ferrarons Font
Maestro de Español de Doble Inmersión
Spanish Dual Immersion Teacher
Westlake STEM Jr. High



THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 EXCEL SPONSORS!

TITLE SPONSOR



NOBILIS SPONSORS



EXCELLERE SPONSORS



VICTOREM SPONSORS



MISSION & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Governed by a volunteer board of directors, these individuals give of their time in assuring that the organization fulfills its mission.

MISSION

Granite Education Foundation exists to reduce learning barriers so students have equitable access to educational opportunities, and to enhance the capacity of instructors and administrators — in ways that complement and are beyond the District's academic-focused objectives.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carrie Johnson — Board Chair
CompHealth — Vice President
Learning & Development

Anthony Bennett
Barrett Business Services — Business
Development Manager

Aubriana Martindale
Smith's Food & Drug — Division Corporate
Affairs Manager

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Richard Madsen II
Ray Quinney & Nebeker P.C. —
Attorney, Shareholder

Robynn Eccles
Eccles Group — Founder & Realtor

Ryan Wells
Granite School District — Teacher of
the Year

Sean Marchant
US Novelty — Sales Manager

Steven Raguskus
Grifols — Operations Leadership
Training Manager

Terri Heyduk
St. James Episcopal Church — Retired

Tina West
Granite School District — School
Accountability Director

Travis Draper
Max Connect Marketing — Partne

GRANITE EDUCATION FOUNDATION



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or volunteer visit
granitekids.org