

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Strengthening School.
Building Community.



Willow Glen Education Foundation



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am so grateful for our wonderful WGED community of students, families, teachers, volunteers, donors and partners. We had an amazing school year thanks to all of your contributions! Thank you for your generous donations of time and money that allowed us to continue supporting academic achievement, as well as social and cultural enrichment, for every student at Willow Glen Middle School and Willow Glen High School.

This year we marked a milestone with our successful 20th Anniversary Tasting & Auction fundraiser. Because of your vital support of this event and throughout the year, we were able to support classrooms with items such as science specimens and lab supplies, fund the printing of the schools' newspapers, host honors nights, provide five seniors with WGED Scholarships, give a dignified school experience to over 400 students in need through our Willow Glen Cares program, and so much more.

As we look to the upcoming school year, maintaining these important programs in the face of rising material costs requires our collective effort. We invite you to partner with us once again to provide our students with the well-rounded education they deserve. Thank you for your ongoing support!

With gratitude,

Michelle Pilling

President, Willow Glen Education Foundation





Willow Glen Education Foundation

The Willow Glen Education Foundation, affectionately shortened to WGED, is a nonprofit fueled by school families, alumni, and neighbors who believe in our public schools and our students.

We raise money for supplies, enrichment, and other experiences, and we host programs that support students at Willow Glen Middle School and Willow Glen High School.

Through our Willow Glen Cares program, we make sure students experiencing economic hardship can attend school with dignity and know they are a part of our community.





“WGEEd is an invaluable partner, supporting our students and teachers with programs, opportunities, and experiences that enrich learning during and beyond the school day. Their commitment strengthens our school community, and I am deeply grateful for the generosity and dedication of everyone who makes this support possible.”

— Lindsey Beall, WGMS Principal



“WGEEd’s impact can be seen in every corner of our school. They support hands-on learning and provide enrichment outside of the classroom. WGEEd consistently goes above and beyond for our students. They create opportunities and show students that our community believes in them and is willing to invest in their futures.”

— Ryan Jahrman, WGHS Principal

HOW WE ROLL



POWERED BY YOU

Your support fuels all of our programs and our grant process, through which teachers and staff submit funding requests that our board reviews and approves with principal sign-off.

There are no dues or fees to be a part of WGEEd. We're open to everyone who cares about Willow Glen students, and we're so grateful for your support!



RAMSTARTER

We kick off the school year with RamStarter, the easiest way to support Willow Glen students with a single donation. Donations are split among WGED, Willow Glen Cares, Willow Glen Performing Arts Boosters and Willow Glen Athletic Boosters.

In 2025, our community raised a total of more than \$83,000. But only about 5% of our school families participated. Imagine what we could do if more families joined in!

RamStarter 2026 kicks off in August. Go to RamStarter.org to donate, and spread the word!



TASTING & AUCTION

Each year, the Willow Glen community comes together for our biggest night of the year—our Tasting & Auction. Last held in November 2025 at the Willow Glen Branch Library, the event transformed a beloved neighborhood landmark into a lively celebration, with wine tasting stations, an outdoor beer garden, bites from local restaurants, and a silent auction packed with unique experiences and one-of-a-kind packages.

In 2025, we celebrated the event's 20th year, and it was our best yet! Thanks to our generous sponsors, attendees, and auction donors, we netted more than \$65,000.

The 2026-27 Tasting & Auction is coming Jan. 24, 2027. We'd love to see you there!



SCHOLARSHIPS

Every year, we're proud to send seniors off to their next adventure with a little extra support. We're so grateful for the incredible donors who make these scholarships possible!

Scholarship Celebrating Black and Latina/e/o/x Excellence

Established in 2021 by alumni of the WGHS classes of 1994–2001, this scholarship of at least \$1,000 honors well-rounded students with Black, African American, Afro-Latino, and/or Latina/e/o/x heritage who have shown excellence in academics, leadership, athletics, and/or community service.

This year's recipients are **Mederlin Coello** and **Jordan Xavier Vargas**.

Class of '53 Scholarship

The WGHS Class of 1953 established this scholarship decades ago, and it's still going strong. Awards ranging from \$400–\$2,000 go to seniors with demonstrated financial need who are heading to a four-year university, community college, or career technical training program. Special consideration goes to students pursuing nursing or healthcare fields.

This year's recipients are **Sara Benitez**, **Mederlin Coello**, **Alondra Hernandez Solis**, **Valeria Lopez**, **Samantha Nunes**, **Kimberly Quiroz Gonzalez**, **Diego Ramirez**, and **Isabel Vazquez Melendez**.

Steven English Memorial Scholarship

Established by the family and friends of former WGHS student Steven English, this \$2,000 scholarship honors seniors who have shown a commitment to community service. Students who have played organized field or ice hockey receive special consideration, a nod to what Steven loved.

This year's recipient is **Sienna Papaioannou**.

Guptill Family Community Service Scholarship

This \$1,500 scholarship recognizes a senior who has gone above and beyond in service, both at WGHS and in the wider community. Special consideration goes to students committed to social or racial justice.

This year's recipient is **Alondra Hernandez Solis**.

Willow Glen Education Foundation Community Service Scholarship

WGED's own scholarship, financed by your donations, gives multiple awards of at least \$1,000 each to outstanding seniors who have made meaningful contributions to their school and community.

This year's recipients are **June Teresa Jensen**, **Lily Missey**, **Sienna Papaioannou**, **Nicolas Traverso**, and **Damon Tuan**.

Art Meade Memorial Scholarship

Established by the friends and family of Art Meade, a beloved former WGHS educator, this scholarship of \$1,000–\$5,000 honors well-rounded seniors heading to San Jose State University, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, or Santa Clara University. It's a fitting legacy for someone who dedicated his life to Willow Glen students.

This year's recipients are **Diego Alvarez, Madison Lo-Nguyen, Lily Missey, and Nicolas Traverso.**

"Just Drew" Memorial Scholarships

WGHS student Drew Nixon loved music, his dog Tyus, tinkering, and friendship. In his memory, these \$10,000 scholarships go to students who are future makers of any kind (mechanic, engineer, architect, electrician, carpenter, etc.), musicians or individuals who exemplify kindness in their everyday lives.

This year's recipients are **Mason Labao, Melody Escalera Quintana, Adelaide Romano, and Jordan Xavier Vargas.**

Want to help send a graduate to college? Donations to our scholarship fund make these awards possible. Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference!

[**DONATE**](#)



OUR PROGRAMS

WGEd shows up all year long with programs and events that bring our school community together. Here are just some of the ways we make that happen.



Teacher Treats

We're all about cheering on our amazing teachers and staff! We believe in keeping their spirits high and their bellies happy, so they can deliver top-notch education to our kiddos. That's why once a month, with a sprinkle of volunteer magic and your generous donations, we roll out a smorgasbord of snacks!



Back-to-School

When teachers head back to school, we're there to welcome them. We kick off the year with a teacher breakfast and lunch, and we provide new teachers on the high school campus with a welcome basket full of supplies and goodies.



WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) Day

Over the summer, we help welcome incoming sixth graders to campus, where they're paired with eighth-grade mentors who help show them the ropes. This year's WEB Day is Thursday, July 30!



PSAT and SAT fuel

On test days, we provide snacks for students and breakfast for the proctors.



Icelandic Book Flood

In partnership with Hicklebee's, Willow Glen's amazing local bookstore, we co-hosted JÓLABÓKAFLÓÐIÐ, an Icelandic tradition that translates to "Christmas Book Flood," in the WGMS Library. Students gathered after school for hot cocoa, good company, and lots of reading.



Honors Night

Roughly 600 WGMS students earned a 3.5 GPA or above last fall, and your support helped us celebrate them with certificates and snacks!



Teacher Appreciation Week

We celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week with luncheons on both campuses, because a well-fed, appreciated teacher is a happy one.



Year-end ice cream social

Nothing says "Hello, summer!" quite like ice cream. Your support makes it possible for WGED students to enjoy this sweet, low-key celebration.



8th grade dance

We host an 8th grade dance each spring, complete with decorations, a DJ, and all the things a send-off to high school deserves.



Senior breakfast & 8th grade breakfast

Before the caps and gowns come out, we give seniors a chance to share breakfast, sign yearbooks, and soak it all in before the big day. New this year, we hosted a breakfast send-off for 8th graders, too!



Community events

WGED shows up for the broader community, too. This year we hosted a community event at Hapa's Brewing and organized a food truck festival on campus with games, live entertainment and more.



About **40%** of students at WGMS and WGHS are navigating financial hardship, and some are experiencing homelessness.

Willow Glen Cares, a part of WGE_d, works hard to make sure students can attend school with dignity, knowing they **belong**.



This year, Willow Glen Cares supported more than 400 students, the most ever. Your donations show these young people that their community sees them, believes in them, and knows their future is worth investing in.

Here's just some of what we made possible together this year:

SUPPLY ROOM

Open one week a month from September through May, the Supply Room serves an average of 130 students each month with shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, period products, laundry detergent, school supplies, and more — all at no cost to them. Each student has access to about \$100 worth of products every month.

CLOTHING

Through “The Shop,” students can select everyday clothing for free. Donated uniforms keep the WGMS uniform closet stocked, and pop-up events throughout the year provide special attire for Homecoming, Prom, 8th Grade Promotion, and Graduation.

“WGC has helped me have access to clothes, hygiene products, and cleaning products, making it less things my parents have to worry about paying and budgeting for.”

— WGHS Graduate, Class of 2026

HOLIDAY AND BIRTHDAY RECOGNITION

Thanksgiving meal bags, holiday gift bags with Rams logo gear, birthday cards, Valentine's Day snacks, and graduation gifts for seniors are all small gestures that have a big impact.

SPECIAL EXPERIENCES

You helped us provide yearbooks for seniors and 8th graders who need help affording one, as well as prom tickets for more than 40 juniors and seniors. We also put activity cards into the hands of high schoolers so they can attend home games with their friends for free.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

We covered 30 UC and CSU application fees for seniors this year, making sure that a student's financial situation is never the reason they don't apply.



400+

Students in economic need at Willow Glen High School and Middle School.

44

Prom tickets and flowers purchased for juniors and seniors.

30

UC/CSU college application fees paid for graduating seniors.

401

Holiday gift bags with a Rams hoodie and T-shirt given to students.

45

Days the Supply Room and The Shop, where students find new and gently used clothes, were open.

130+

Students who visit the Supply Room each month, on average.

125

Thanksgiving bags with a turkey or ham and a non-perishable items distributed to students.

\$100

Value of personal care items and school supplies available to students each month in the Supply Room.



Supply Room

Personal care items and school supplies



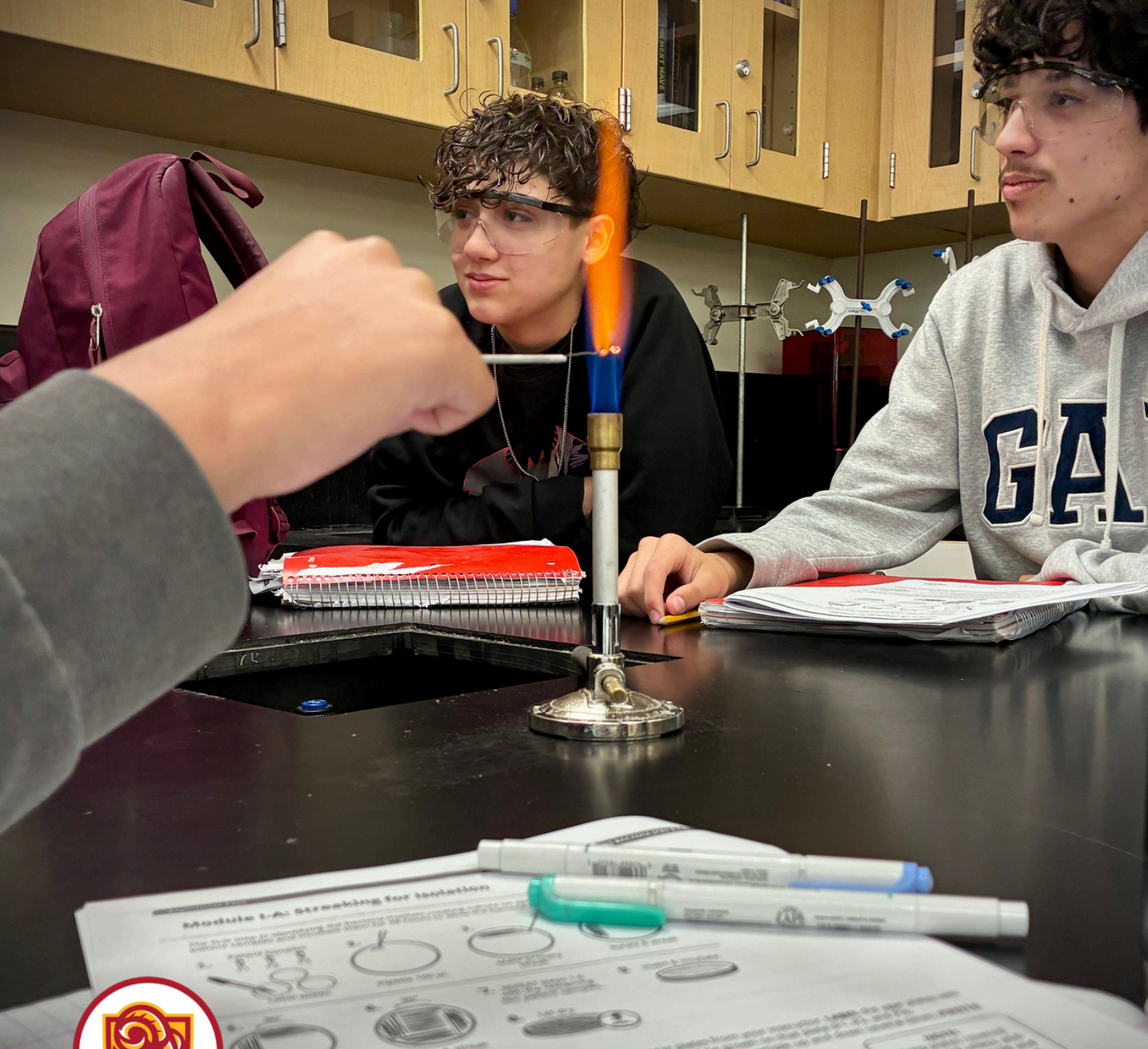
The Shop

Clothing & uniforms, dance attire



We're already gearing up for next year and would love your help! Our Back-to-School Boost fundraising drive is running through July, raising money to put essential school supplies and personal care items in the hands of every Willow Glen Cares student for 2026–27.

[DONATE](#)



YOUR DOLLARS ON CAMPUS

Teachers, counselors, and school leaders at Willow Glen Middle School and Willow Glen High School come to us with funding requests that go beyond what the district budget can cover. The following grants, made possible entirely by your support, represent the difference between a good education and a great one.



SCIENCE & STEM

- You helped purchase **supplies to build catapults, test roller coasters and more** this year, giving middle schoolers in Project Lead the Way the chance to experience science and engineering through hands-on learning.
- **Specimens for dissection labs** aren't covered by district funding, so WGEEd fills in the gap. There's no worksheet that replaces seeing how living systems actually work up close, and your support makes it happen.
- With **hands-on lab supplies and engaging digital tools** such as Gimkit and EdPuzzle, 7th grade students are discovering that science isn't just something you read about, it's something you do. You helped stock classrooms with supplies such as hot packs for exothermic reactions, wand magnets for bond labs, and even candy for chemistry.

MATH

- You stocked a classroom with **whiteboards, dry-erase markers, and other creative materials** that give students multiple ways to show what they've learned and easily fix mistakes, making lessons a little less stressful.
- In another classroom, you provided **subscriptions to National Geographic Kids, Sports Illustrated for Kids, and other magazines** to keep curious minds busy (and quiet!) while classmates finish their work.
- And you purchased an **iPad and Apple Pencil** to help a teacher demonstrate math problems on a projector while facing their students instead of turning their back to write on the board. That means more eye contact and a teacher who can read the room while they teach.

ENGLISH, READING & JOURNALISM

- You put a copy of **"The Ramble,"** a newspaper entirely written, photographed, edited and produced by students, into the hands of each middle schooler on campus.
- You also purchased **three new cameras** for the journalism elective so kids can learn more about visual storytelling.
- You bought **classroom copies of Carl Hiaasen's beloved novel "Hoot,"** a story about kids standing up for a colony of endangered owls, so students could explore an expository writing unit together.



ENGLISH, READING & JOURNALISM, CONTINUED

- For English learners, you provided **resources to strengthen reading comprehension and analytical writing**, including small prizes to encourage participation. These are the little things that create big shifts for students who are finding their footing in a new language.

COUNSELING & SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

- You provided **fidgets, games, and craft supplies** for student counseling sessions, and you funded a one-of-a-kind College and Career Escape Room where students puzzled their way through challenges designed to spark curiosity about life after middle school.
- You renewed the school's subscription to the **Everyday Speech program**, which helps students build skills for communication, self-regulation, and problem-solving.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- You replaced worn-out gear with a fresh supply of equipment all students on campus can use, including **ultra-light dodgeballs, volleyballs, badminton supplies, and an assortment of other sporting goods**, giving all eight PE teachers the tools they need to run engaging, inclusive classes.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

- To help the school's special education resource specialist stay present with her students, you purchased a dedicated **classroom printer** so she can create customized materials on the spot without trekking across campus for a shared printer.
- You also purchased **fidgets, small rewards, and motivational supplies** that help students stay calm, focused, and engaged.

STUDENT EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- Roughly 600 WGMS students achieved a 3.5 GPA or above last fall, and you hosted an **Honors Night complete with certificates and snacks** to recognize their hard work.
- In partnership with the WG Performing Arts Boosters, you sent nearly 50 student musicians from the jazz band and intermediate/symphonic band to a **regional festival**, where they performed before a panel of judges and earned written and verbal feedback alongside a formal award ceremony.



STUDENT EVENTS & ACTIVITIES, CONTINUED

- You hosted a **hot chocolate party** (complete with whipped cream, marshmallows, sprinkles and more) for the seven classrooms that showed significant growth in their winter NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) assessments.
- When the chess club became wildly popular, you helped its adviser keep up with demand by providing additional **chess sets, timers, and medals** for tournaments.
- You bought **Uno, Connect Four, Dungeons & Dragons materials and more** for two inclusive student clubs that are all about screen-free fun.

CAMPUS CULTURE & SCHOOL PRIDE

- To improve campus safety and make sure staff can quickly respond to any situation, you helped us purchase **two refurbished golf carts**.
- You put a **daily planner** in the hands of every incoming 6th grader and every Special Education student, a simple tool for building organizational habits that pay off for years.
- You also provided **Rams T-shirts** for incoming 6th graders to welcome them into the community.
- **The Ram Store**, where students can exchange tickets they've earned for positive behavior for prizes, was stocked with all sorts of Rams-logo gear, thanks to you.





SCIENCE

- In chemistry, you bought **new spectrophotometers** and moved decades-old models to storage. The new devices connect to student laptops and let them see lab results instantly on-screen, examine real-time graphs, and learn how to analyze like real scientists.
- Thanks to you, one of the self-sustaining vivariums in biology is now home to two brightly colored **poison dart frogs**. (Don't worry! Dart frogs only develop toxins when they eat certain ants and insects in the wild, so these amphibian friends are safe).
- You purchased **iPads for physics and engineering classes**, giving about 300 students across 10+ classes a modern tool to record lab data, measure time and distance, and conduct experiments with precision.
- You powered the Project Lead the Way biomedical and health science program, keeping the classroom stocked with **a wide range of lab supplies such as petri dishes, micropipettes, bacterial specimens, and more**. In the advanced courses, students practice blood draws on a venipuncture training arm and learn intubation techniques on an airway trainer, both provided with your donations, giving students a head start on healthcare certifications and post-secondary programs.
- Biology and AP Environmental Science students ran experiments using **live Lumbriculus worms, soil test kits, spring water, and disposable materials**—items that your donations purchase each academic year.
- And you bought the **eggs and other supplies for the classic "egg drop" project** for the engineering class, where students design creative contraptions and test them against the laws of gravity.



MATH

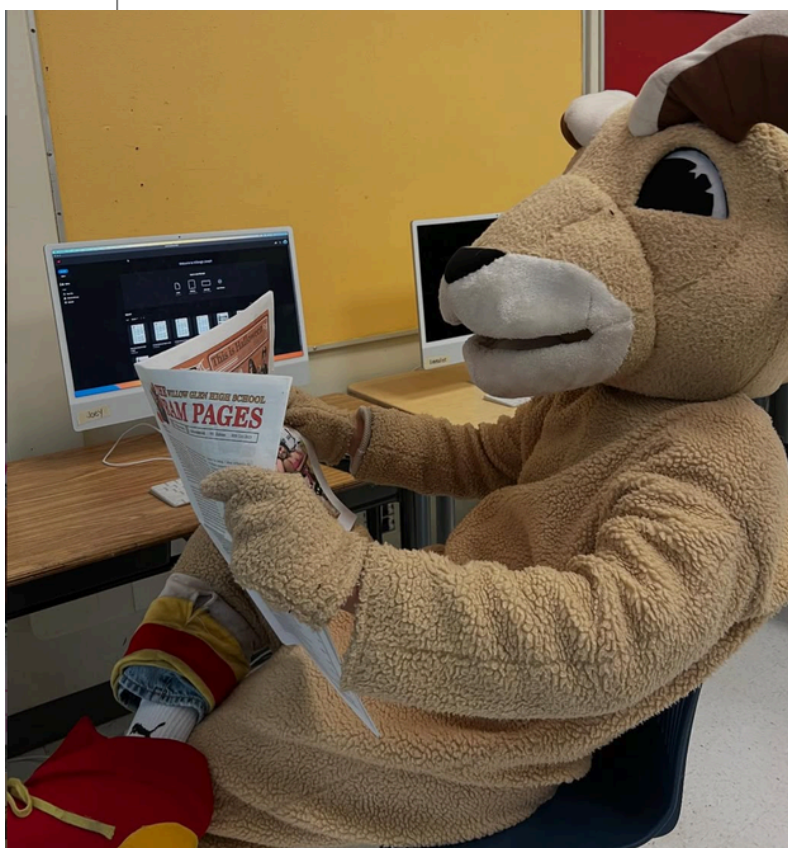
- You purchased **visual learning tools** such as sticky graph notepads, reusable whiteboard graphing sheets, and Venn diagram manipulatives to help make math active and visible.
- To give students the freedom to learn where they feel most focused, you created flexible learning spaces with **portable whiteboards, lap desks, clipboards, and floor cushions.**
- When juniors gathered for an SAT Prep Night organized by the Math Honor Society, your support covered the **pizza and veggies** that kept them fueled up and focused.

JOURNALISM

- You covered the costs of printing and distributing each edition of the **“The Ram Pages,”** putting 1,600 student-led newspapers into the hands of kids across campus.

FILM & VISUAL ARTS

- For film studies, you provided **iPads** to help students produce silent narratives, documentaries, and experimental music videos.
- You sent Advanced Photography students to the **San Jose Museum of Art for a guided tour** focused on photography as fine art.





COLLEGE ACCESS & CAREER READINESS

- Thanks to your support, more than 500 WGHS students spent a week exploring their futures during **College Week**, a school-wide celebration of higher education led by the Destination College Advising Corps. The week included a UC Santa Cruz Personal Insight Question workshop, a CSU application walkthrough, a community college transfer panel, college trivia, and a College Carnival.
- You made **Decision Day** one to remember! More than 200 seniors celebrated wherever they're headed next with pizza, activities, a photo booth with pennants from their chosen schools, raffle prizes, streamers, music, and appearances by local college mascots and San Jose State cheerleaders.
- English Learner students got a special celebration, thanks to you. Those who achieved reclassification marked the major academic milestone with **food, drinks, decorations, and more.**



STUDENT CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

- You backed the **Mock Trial team** by covering transportation to events and tournament entry fees, including the prestigious County Tournament, helping students master criminal trial structure and build skills in research, public speaking, and quick thinking.
- With your support, WGHS launched a **Speech and Debate Club** now registered with the National Speech and Debate Association.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- The high school's weightlifting benches received a much-needed refresh, thanks to you. The **reupholstered benches** look like new, bringing a sense of pride to a weight room that's seeing more traffic than ever.

TEACHER & STAFF SUPPORT

- You replaced the broken, grimy **microwaves** in the WGHS staff workroom with two shiny new ones, making lunch a whole lot more enjoyable for our amazing faculty and staff!



These pages include just some of the work you made possible! Thank you for investing in these students and the educators who show up for them every day.





WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

We are 100% powered by volunteers. Whether you have an hour a month or a whole lot more, there's a place for you here!



ATTEND A MEETING

WGED meetings are open to everyone and a great way to hear about the work we do. Join us in the high school library or hop on Google Meet from wherever you are. Meetings are held monthly throughout the school year. Check out our meeting dates for 2026-2027 below.

[SEE DATES](#)

DONATE

Of course, one of the most powerful ways to support Willow Glen students is to donate. Everything you've read about in this report happens because of donors like you. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!

[DONATE](#)

Does your employer match donations or volunteer hours? Many companies will double (or even triple!) your gift at no extra cost to you. Check with your HR department and make your donation or volunteer time go even further.

WGED is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Tax ID: 46-2106211. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Willow Glen Cares Supply Room

Help staff the monthly Supply Room for students in need. Spanish-speaking volunteers are especially needed!



WGC Homecoming and Prom pop-up shops

Organize racks and support students as they “shop” a selection of donated dresses, menswear, shoes, accessories and more.



Copy Cat program

Help WGMS teachers with copying and classroom prep.



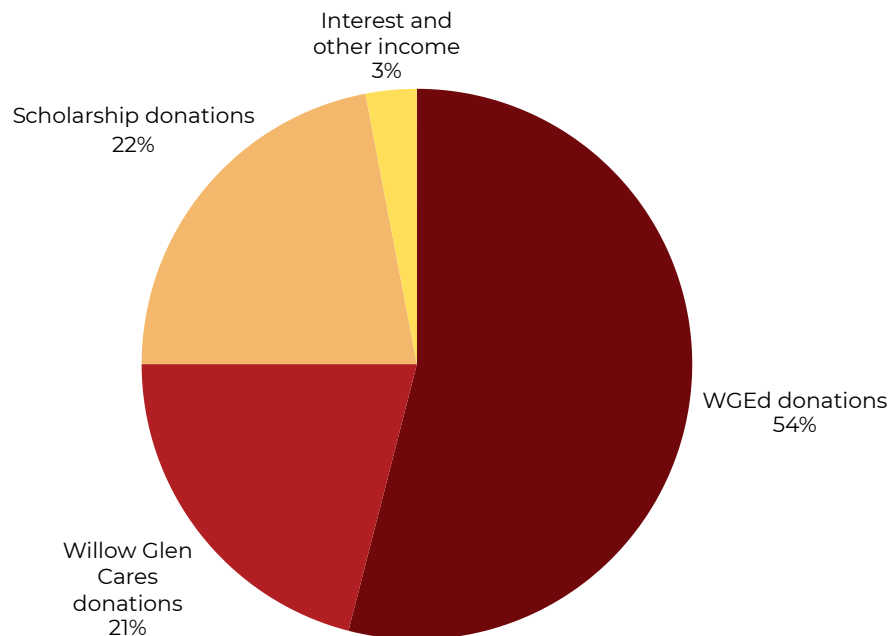
Student Store

Help sell snacks at the WGMS Student Store, where students can grab various items during their lunch.

Ready to volunteer? Learn more and fill out our interest form

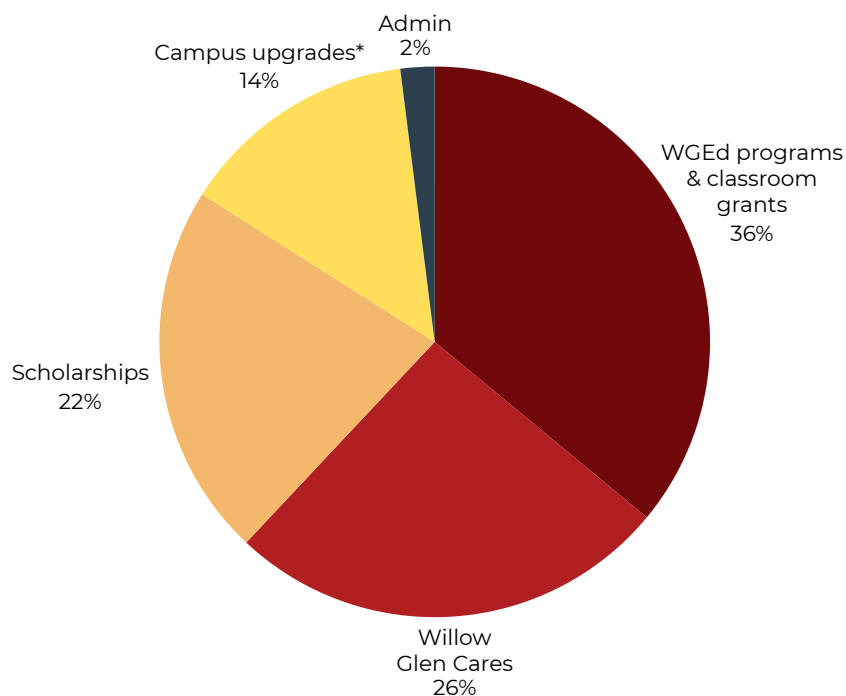
[GET STARTED](#)

Where our money came from July 2025- June 2026



Total net raised: \$370,000

How we spent it July 2025- June 2026



Total spent: \$370,000

***WGMS and WGHS are getting new digital marquee signs later this year, thanks to you and support from the Mickey Long Foundation!** The new full-color digital signs will display photos and videos to share announcements, promote upcoming events and so much more. Follow us on social media for updates!

*This category also includes two refurbished golf carts to support campus safety.

The Tasting & Auction is our biggest fundraising night of the year, and it only works because of these generous businesses and families. Thank you for making magic happen for Willow Glen students!

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THE RENDLEMANNING FUND

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SMALL WORLD FOUNDATION
RUDY & BEV STAEDLER



Join us for our 2026-27 Tasting & Auction on Sunday, Jan. 24, 2027.
Go to wgtasting.org to learn more!

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