



GOLDEN VALLEY  
CHARTER SCHOOLS

TK-8 Tuition-Free Public Waldorf Schools



2017 Annual Report

Serving the greater Sacramento area since 1999

*Since Golden Valley Charter Schools inception, its mission has been to **prepare its students to consciously engage with the evolving world by inspiring a lifelong passion for learning.***



# A Message from the Director

I would like to thank all of you for your gracious welcome as the Executive Director for the 2016/2017 school year. So much of this year was about establishing our new identity with two schools. We also explored where we come together as one and where we diversify, develop, and experiment with new ways to approach Waldorf education in the public sector.

GVCS is a mature organization that can build a sustainable future by looking beyond their current five-year charter periods. While we build for expansion, we also honor the smallest and simplest moments of wonder; such as the handshake between the child and their teacher each morning. This small gesture represents a strong sense of gratitude and commitment.

Now that Golden Valley operates as a charter management organization, (CMO), we realize that it takes about a million dollars to operate. Most of the expenses are salaries, employees and consultants, that support the work of the schools. Additionally, the CMO expends funds to cover professional development, insurance, rentals, legal costs, marketing, and organizational memberships. The CMO also handles payroll, HR, accounting, student attendance, all state, and federal reporting, enrollment, outreach, and technology. The CMO is the primary contact for the San Juan Unified School District, professional vendors, and mentors. This includes services through special education. When the school sites are short staffed, the CMO has stepped in, such as the Executive Director serving as the River School Principal for six months. Once the year is complete, the costs of the CMO are applied to the school budgets per average daily attendance.

Please accept this annual report as our handshake with you, our supporters, that we represent transparency and accountability that is worthy of your continued support. You have our gratitude and commitment of preparing our students for a lifelong passion for learning.

Sincerely,  
Caleb J. Buckley, EdD.  
Executive Director



May Day Auction

## Leadership Team



**Caleb Buckley**  
Executive Director



**Susan Gutierrez**  
Director, Education Support  
& Special Education



**John Baker**  
Orchard School Principal



**Barbara Ames**  
River School  
Vice Principal

# Our School Communities



It was just before the turn of the last century that a small group of teachers and homeschooling parents had a dream for their children and for all families living in the greater Sacramento area.

## **Their dream was to open a public charter Waldorf school.**

As a result of countless hours of thoughtful planning and downright hard work, they made this dream a reality. During the 1998-1999 school year, Citrus Heights Charter School opened its doors to 45 students in Kindergarten through fifth grade providing families from all socioeconomic backgrounds access to an education previously available only at expensive private schools. By the next school year, the community voted to change the name to Golden Valley Charter School.

The school continued to thrive and grow until eventually in 2015, Golden Valley Charter School became a Charter Management Organization (CMO) overseeing two schools and becoming Golden Valley Charter Schools for Educational Renewal.

The two schools supported by the umbrella of the CMO were renamed to:

## **Golden Valley River School and Golden Valley Orchard School.**

With each change, our community has succeeded by working together with creativity and compassion to make the most of any situation. Our resilience stems from our clarity of purpose – to prepare our students for a lifetime of learning.

Our community continues to be committed to the values of Waldorf education and to growing our organization in a thoughtful way. We look forward to many more years serving the children and families in the greater Sacramento area.

# Board of Trustees

The stewardship of Golden Valley Charter Schools is held by the Board of Trustees. The Board is comprised of faculty and volunteer parents representing both River and Orchard schools. The governance of the schools includes: setting the overall direction for the schools through the establishment of our strategic plan, mission goals, approval of policies, budget and personnel matters, and custodianship of the charters. Regular Board meeting dates, times and locations are posted on the school calendars, typically monthly. All Board meetings are open to the public. Golden Valley community members are encouraged to attend and have a voice in the governance of our schools.

Sincerely,

John Hanafee  
Chair, 2016-17 Board of Trustees  
[bot@gvcharter.org](mailto:bot@gvcharter.org)

## Our Vision

We are a leading network of Waldorf inspired public charter schools

## Our Core Values

Developmentally  
Appropriate Learning  
Respectful Relationships  
Joyful Service  
Cultivating Excellence  
Resilience

## 2016-17 Board Members

Becky Page, Board Member, Faculty  
Zachary Phillips, Board Member, Faculty  
Sarah Sullivan, Board Member, Faculty  
Ryan Sutton, Board Member, Faculty  
John Hanafee, Chair, Parent  
Allyson Jakubicka, Vice-Chair, Parent  
Joanne Ahola, Board Member, Parent  
Jodi Begley, Board Member, Parent  
G'anna Burke, Board Member, Parent





The 2016-2017 school year was a time of growth for Orchard School, with the teachers taking on more leadership roles working alongside Mr. Baker to insure the continued development of our programs.

We were most pleased that our charter renewal was approved by the San Juan Unified School District on December 15. We delighted in the beauty of what we chose to bring to the community, and our professional growth as teachers took center-stage.

We inaugurated the Eagle's Chase fundraiser on our campus, a much beloved event for the students and a very successful fundraiser for the Golden Valley Educational Foundation.

The Holiday season provided us a chance to do something new and we brought to the community a week of wonderful events; Bowls for Peace was a potluck and bowl exchange which culminated in a candle spiral with singing outdoors, our Children's Store for the students gave the children a chance to "purchase" lovely hand-made gifts for their families, and we had a fantastic holiday sing-along.

The Orchard School faculty received professional development in math by attending Making Math Real classes to learn ways to better teach multiplication facts, fractions, and the basic operations. Our school values the relationship between the teachers and the subject specialists. We devoted time every month collaborating on ways to better reach the students and to develop a more cohesive and consistent approach.



Bowls for Peace



Candle Spiral



Making Math Real Workshop

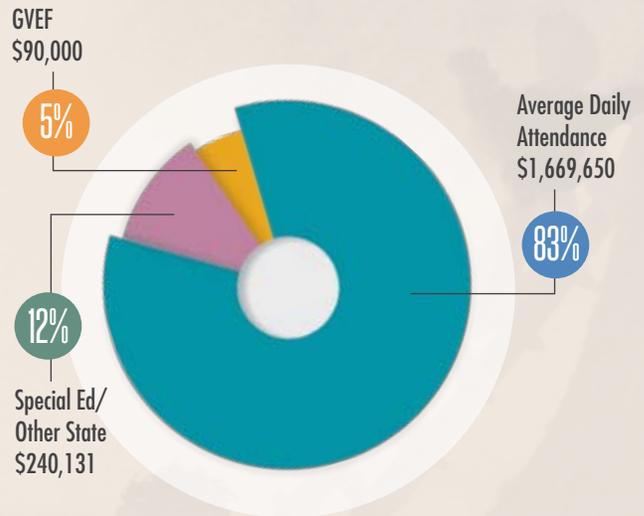
# Finances

The Orchard School received a full 5 year charter renewal after its initial 2 year opening agreement. Being a new school, it continues to grow until it will be a full TK-8 in the 2018/19 school year. Our financial models for both schools are similar, however, the Orchard School is building their reserve more slowly and will have a reserve of \$210,000 this year. The focus on Orchard has been to create a sustainable budget that can provide for surpluses until the school has a larger cash reserve. Orchard parents and faculty have worked to create unique events and innovative programs. Faculty at Orchard used the remaining balance of their startup funds for teachers to participate in a math curriculum training and the result in our Local Plan shows an increase in math test scores.

## Revenue

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Average Daily Attendance (ADA) | \$1,669,650 |
| Special Ed/Other State         | \$240,131   |
| GVEF                           | \$90,000    |

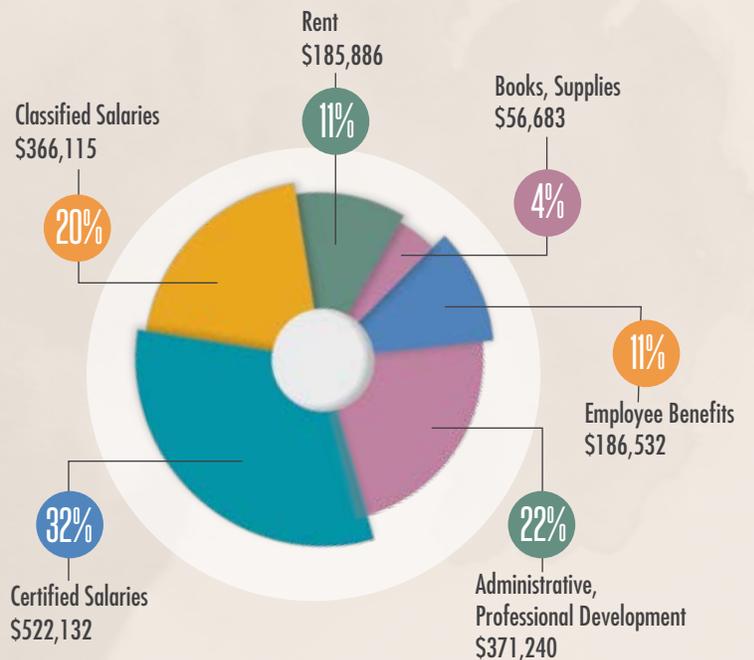
**Total \$1,999,781**



## Expenses

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Certificated Salaries             | \$522,132 |
| Professional Development          | \$371,240 |
| Classified Salaries               | \$336,115 |
| Administrative, Employee Benefits | \$186,532 |
| Rent                              | \$185,886 |
| Books & Supplies                  | \$56,683  |

**Total \$1,658,588**





GOLDEN VALLEY RIVER SCHOOL

The 2016-2017 school year at Golden Valley River School was a year of transition and evolution. We had the very first dual tracked 8th grades. This doubled the joy and reverence during events like the 8th grade track meet, 8th grade trip, the annual maypole dance, and graduation.

Lisa Moraga became the second teacher in Golden Valley history to complete grades 1 through 8 with the same class. It was a remarkable journey to witness and we are thrilled to see her loop back with a new first grade class for the 2017-2018 school year.

In addition, through the generosity of the Annual Giving Campaign, our own A.J. Lacoste graduated from his program at Rudolf Steiner College and is now a certified Waldorf teacher. Congratulations!

We were thankful for the leadership of Dr. Buckley stepping in as the principal for six months. It was an opportunity for veteran teachers to take on a more active leadership role at our school, ultimately making us a stronger and more cohesive group. At year's end, River School was thrilled to learn that Barbara Ames will transition into the administrative role of Vice Principal for 2017-2018 school year as well as finish her own journey with her 8th grade class. We greatly value her leadership and collegiality and look forward to working with her in her new role.



May Day



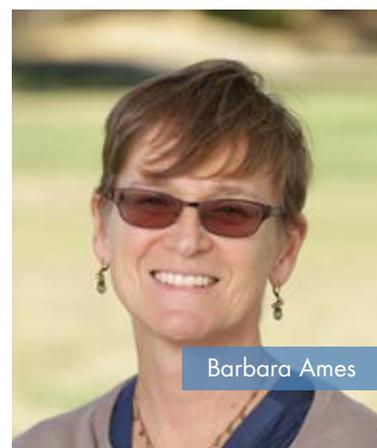
A.J. Lacoste



Spirit Day



Lisa Moraga



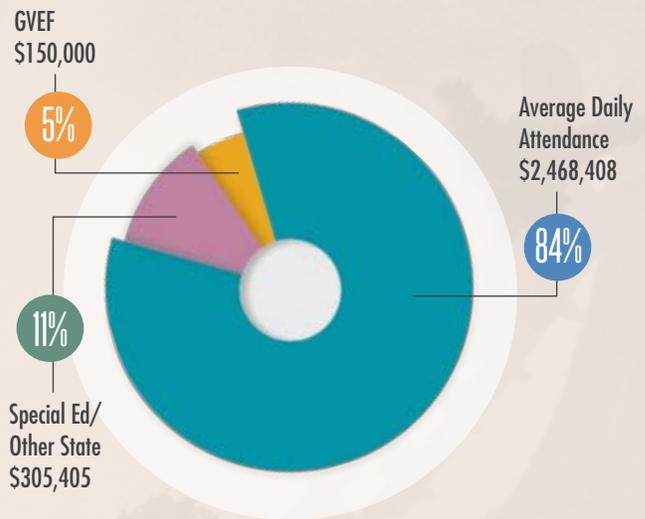
Barbara Ames

# Finances

The River School, like most schools, spends a majority of its funds on salaries and benefits. \$56,000 were spent on consumable supplies for students such as main lesson books and paints. Because the River School is the original Golden Valley Charter School, it holds a \$1.1 million reserve at the end of 2016/17 that creates stability in cash flow when state payments lag behind. On the income side, River School received 85% of its money from average daily attendance (ADA) and the rest from special education, small state reimbursements, and from donations from families like yours. Under careful stewardship since 1999, River is poised to be a leader in facility growth, program development, and teacher renewal for years to come.

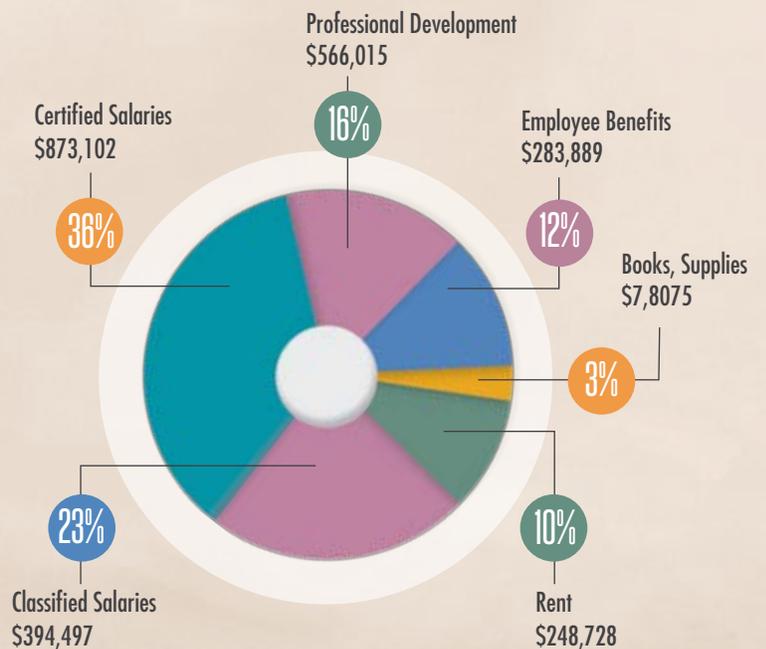
## Revenue

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Average Daily Attendance (ADA) | \$2,468,408        |
| Special Ed/Other State         | \$305,405          |
| GVEF                           | \$150,000          |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>\$2,923,813</b> |



## Expenses

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Certificated Salaries                              | \$873,102         |
| Classified Salaries                                | \$394,497         |
| Employee Benefits                                  | \$283,889         |
| Administration, Services, Professional Development | \$566,015         |
| Rent & Repairs                                     | \$248,728         |
| Books, Supplies                                    | \$7,8075          |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>\$2,44,306</b> |



On behalf  
of the

# Golden Valley Educational Foundation (GVEF),

I would like to express our gratitude to each and every family of the Golden Valley Charter Schools (GVCS) community. I am truly thankful that our family has the opportunity to be part of this educational model. Prior to coming to GVCS I witnessed my daughter experience two years of schooling that was less than inspirational while my wife and I found it difficult to engage with the school. Today, both of my daughters attend GVCS and our family feels that we are more involved in our kids' education

due to the culture of Golden Valley. GVEF is part of that culture and greatly appreciates the contributions made by the schools' families, faculty, and staff in a multitude of ways. The GVEF members are honored to be able to contribute what we can in efforts to support extracurricular activities for our students, ongoing trainings for our teachers, and support physical improvements at our two schools. Meanwhile, the Annual Giving Campaign provides the vast majority of GVEF funds and we greatly appreciate the collective effort that goes into ensuring those resources.

## 2017 GVEF Members

Chris Aguirre, *President*  
 Monica Eisel, *Vice-President*  
 Lee Scott, *Treasurer*  
 Lisa Menconi, *Director of AGC*  
 Michelle Guinan, *Secretary*  
 Annie Bosque, *Faculty Liaison*  
 Michelle Campbell, *Board Member*  
 Lacey Coleman, *Board Member*  
 Berry Crawford, *Board Member*  
 Tracey Ikemire, *Board Member*  
 Johnathan Locy, *Board member*  
 Sarah Sullivan, *Faculty Liaison*

GVEF strives to have an even greater impact in our community and would like for more people to learn about how our schools are cultivating the region's next generation of leaders, innovators, and contributors. We encourage you to share this annual report with family members, friends, and others in your network that may want to learn and support creative, interactive education.

Thank you,  
 Chris Aguirre, President, GVEF  
[gvef@gvcharter.org](mailto:gvef@gvcharter.org)





Eagle Chase fun run raises funds for GVCS



GVEF presents a check to Caleb Buckley for GVCS

## Finances

Golden Valley Educational Foundation is entirely staffed by a dedicated group of parent volunteers. Through special events like the auction and Eagle Chase, the foundation has raised funds for class field trip accounts and educational programs. The success of the foundation has largely been attributed to the monthly contributions from parents. Volunteers staff a table at registration day and funds are withdrawn automatically from parent accounts, once they sign up. In 2016/17 GVCS spent \$320,000 on specialty programs such as handwork, gardening, music, Spanish, games, computers, etc. none of which would have been possible without the donations of parents.



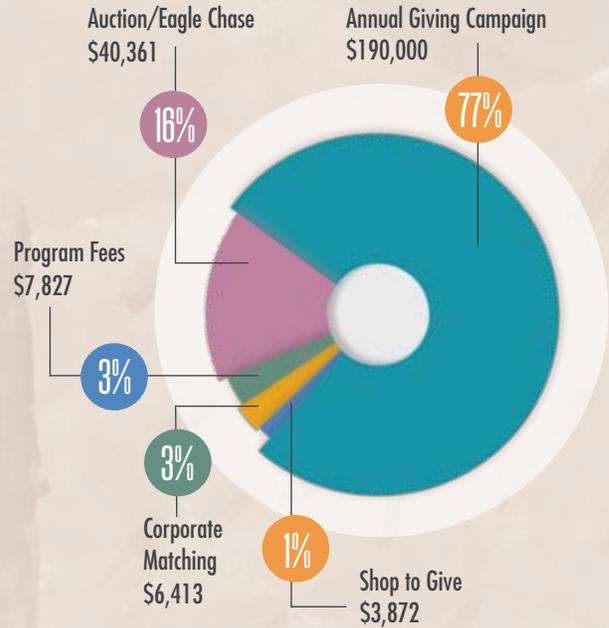
Monica Eisel shows off an auction item

### GVEF Revenue

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Annual Giving Campaign | \$190,000 |
| Auction/Eagle Chase    | \$40,361  |
| Program Fees           | \$7,827   |
| Corporate Matching     | \$6,413   |
| Shop to Give           | \$3,872   |

**GVEF Gross Funds Raised: \$248,473**

Grant to GVCS: \$240,000



# Important Dates 2017-2018

**Nov 14-17:** Parent Teacher Conferences

**Nov 20-24:** Thanksgiving Break

**Nov 28:** Week of Giving Kickoff

**Dec 25-Jan 5:** Holiday Break

**Jan 15:** Martin Luther King Day/No School

**Feb 19-23:** President's Day/Winter Break

**March 12:** Staff Development/No School

**March 13-15:** Parent Teacher Conferences

**March 26-April 2:** Spring Break

**May 5:** May Day Festival

**May 28:** Memorial Day/No School

**June 8:** Last Day of School



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