



GOLDEN VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

TK-8 Tuition-Free Public Waldorf Schools

2023 Annual Report

Serving Sacramento County Area Since 1999

A letter from our Executive Director

The 2022-23 school year was punctuated by large state programs adopted by Golden Valley. Our Eagle's Nest afterschool and before school program expanded to include enrichment opportunities in arts, foreign language, gardening, sports, drama, music, and more. All extended learning programs were offered for free and stayed open until 6pm. Golden Valley also began offering two free meals each day at both sites. This took enormous planning, training, and coordination. Thirdly, the school offered a free summer program for the month of June until 6pm and several free enrichment days during the school year. These three programs – meals, aftercare, and summer program, all free, greatly expanded the benefits to Golden Valley families. The average savings to each family that participated was \$8,300.

While our event fundraising such as fireworks sales and Eagle Chase jog-a-thon raised record amounts of money, our annual pledged funds were low. Community support allowed the school to commit to hiring new staff and opening a "Renewal Room/Mindfulness Room" that is staffed at each school. Sometimes, over 30 kids per day need a time to recharge and reset before returning to class. 2022-23 we were able to provide more resources for the emotional health and wellbeing of our students.

I hope you will continue to fund and volunteer to support the mission and vision of Golden Valley. This annual report is our accountability to you on how the school allocates your time and energy. Welcome to the many Grandparents who may be receiving this for the first time after attending our inaugural Grandparents' Day.

Sincerely,

Caleb Buckley, EdD
Executive Director



Our Vision

Expanding access for children and families to a community of public Waldorf Schools

Our Core Values



Our Mission

We nurture a passion for learning through head, heart and hands experiences which prepare students to engage in a dynamic world

Our Golden Valley Leadership Team



Caleb Buckley, EdD
Executive Director



Jennifer Hoover
Accountability & Compliance
Manager



Becky Page
Orchard School Principal



Ryan Sutton
River School Principal



2022 -2023 GVCS Board of Trustees



Our schools are governed collaboratively by our Board of Trustees, which is made up of parents and community members, in addition to a faculty delegate from each school. The Board of Trustees is the legal and fiscal body of our school organization, responsible for ensuring that the school's policies are consistent with the Mission, Vision, and Values of the organization, approving budgets, and for overseeing the Executive Director. Board of Trustees meetings are open to the public, and parents are encouraged to attend.

Board of Trustees Members





"I was blessed with being introduced to Golden Valley Charter Schools when my granddaughter, Izzy, was entering kindergarten. I found out then that I could walk with the class every week and get to know the teachers as well as the adorable kids in her class. That was in 2013, and I have been walking with one of my 3 grandchildren ever since. I have been in kindergarten 3 more times as well as 1st thru 5th grades. I have been able to go on field trips to plays, the botanical gardens, Mt. Lassen and Fort Ross during these years. These were things I didn't have the opportunity to do when my boys were growing up because I was working full time! I never dreamed that these opportunities would be open to me at my age, but I am so glad that I have been able to do these with my grandkids and all of the kids in their classes. I will miss these opportunities when the last 2 have graduated!"

— Marsha von Dessonneck, River School Grandmother



Golden Valley Orchard School

Orchard School thrived in the 2022-2023 school year, embracing Waldorf principles, seasonal festivals, and community-building. Events like Courage Day, Winter Gathering/Bowls for Peace, May Festival, and the revived Multi-Cultural Festival, Journey Around the World, enriched the school experience, celebrating diversity and fostering global awareness.

New programs, including the Extended Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP), Universal Meal Program, and the Mindfulness Room, showcased a commitment to holistic education and student well-being. ELOP offered before and after-school enrichment, featuring activities like gardening that not only enhanced academics but also beautified the school. The Universal Meal Program ensured all students had access to nutritious meals, promoting a healthy and inclusive atmosphere.

The collaborative effort of faculty and parents implementing the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system underscored the commitment to a positive and unified community. Orchard School's dedication to growth and development, academically and emotionally, was evident through various initiatives, creating a vibrant and nurturing environment where students thrived.

[Orchard School Website](#)



Teacher of the year

Congratulations to Brianne Hidden for receiving the Orangevale View's Best of Orangevale 2022 award for the People's Choice best teacher of the year.



Winter Gathering

The caring parent volunteers in Parent Circle create this event to be community-centered, promoting reverence, unity, sharing in comfort with a sense of togetherness.



Linda Calfee Retirement

We bid farewell to a beloved member of our educational family our dedicated Education Support Teacher. For an impressive 17 years



Journey Around the World

This culturally rich celebration brings together students, parents, and the wider community. Each classroom is a gateway to a different cultural experience, curated and presented by parents who generously share their heritage.



Golden Valley River School

The 2022-23 school year witnessed positive developments and resilience at River School as it successfully navigated the post-pandemic landscape. The unwavering dedication of the long-time faculty, staff, and families, coupled with the commitment of the new leadership under Mr. Sutton, was truly commendable. The establishment of the Renewal Room, spearheaded by Sarah Miller, exemplified a thoughtful response to the emotional well-being of students, providing a dedicated space for support and rejuvenation. The revival of regular events, volunteerism, and increased parent engagement signaled a renaissance of the vibrant campus life that has always been integral to the River School experience. The intentional focus on the garden as a central hub for educational enhancement classes introduced an extra layer of learning and growth to the school environment. Witnessing a commitment to continuous improvement and a prioritization of the well-being of the school community was not only heartening but also underscored a forward-looking approach. The demonstrated respect and care for all, including short-term staff like the retired head custodian, reflected the inclusive and supportive culture that River School has long fostered. Undoubtedly, this unity and sense of community will remain a perpetual source of strength as the school continues its journey forward.

River School Website



May Festival

Our River School Lemon Blossom Kindergarten Teacher, Mrs. Pagan, took a moment during the May Festival to connect with her first Lemon Blossom Kindergarten Students. She was so proud to see them all dance around the May Pole as their last 8th grade dance together.



Courage Day

On the last Friday in September, the second and sixth grades staged "Sir George and the Dragon" for Courage Day. Under the guidance of their handwork teacher, the sixth graders skillfully crafted the dragon, which is eventually tamed in the end.



Festival of Light

This fall event united the community from the past and present. The festival honored various traditions of light, symbolized by a radiant tree of light and an elegantly curated ofrenda table. It marked this special time of year by illuminating our community with shared joy and connections in the midst of darkness.



Renewal Room

The Renewal Room provides children with a dedicated space for play, problem-solving, and self-regulation. Often referred to as the Peace Room, it offers calm and comfortable environment, allowing students to reset and regulate.



2022 - 23 GVCS DEI Committee



The Golden Valley Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee continues to advocate, educate and foster inclusiveness in our community.

The Committee's work is inspired by community input through the annual survey process as well as the rich conversations we have at our meetings, to which we welcome all community members. Its work includes:

- supporting the organizers of DEI-related events like the Journey Around the World Festival;
- providing conscientious review of school processes and materials to present opportunities and recommendations to school leadership;
- coordinating contributions to school newsletters.

The Committee worked with the Central Office to revamp and add new resources to the schools' DEI web page, which you are invited to explore.

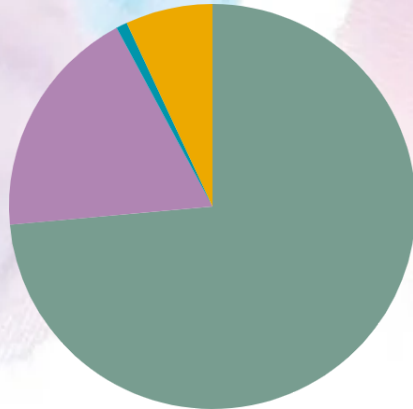
It includes details for and a link to the Committee's monthly meetings – please consider attending!

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Members



Revenue

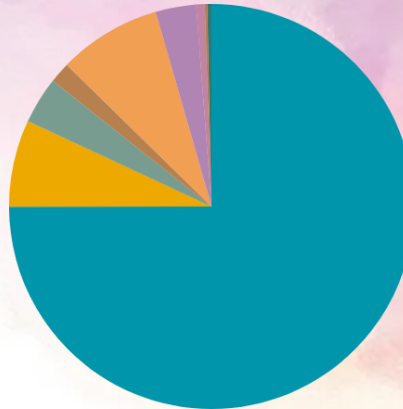
Total Revenue: \$6,591,854



- State revenue/attendance - \$4,849,380
- Other state grants - \$1,227,473
- Federal/special ed. - \$57,989
- Local Revenue – field trips, annual fund, eagle chase, etc - \$456,975

Expenses

Total Expenses: \$7,638,498



- Salaries: \$5,727,100
- Business Services: \$530,548
- Misc. services: \$285,471
- Professional development/teacher training: \$127,944
- Rent: \$628,568
- Student supplies: \$246,852
- Field trips: \$51,237
- Memberships: \$15,780
- Other: \$24,998

Golden Valley Charter Schools Financials

In the 2022-23 school year, GVCS made large investments in our free after school enrichment programs and our free meal service. We created another cohort for teacher training and spent \$127,944 on teacher education. Our students receive art supplies and materials throughout the year for a total of \$246,852 or roughly \$400 per student enrolled. Students took \$51,237 in field trips across 16 classrooms. Like most non-profits and schools, our biggest expenses were salaries and benefits. Most of our revenue came from student attendance. Parents contributed over \$456,975 throughout the year through our educational foundation and annual fund drive. Noteworthy in our expense column is a total rent payment of \$628,568 to the school district for both of our campuses. School districts do not pay rent because their campuses were already built by tax payers bonds years ago, so that \$628,568 comes out of our operating budget. This year was a deficit year in order to create all of these new programs and trainings, and the 2023-24 year will be a balanced budget year.

GVCS Financial Information



Annual Giving Campaign

Golden Valley Charter Schools is a tuition-free Public Waldorf School with two schools in Greater Sacramento. We are open to all TK - 8th grade students and are extremely thankful for the financial contributions which help in achieving our vision of expanding access for children and families to a community of public Waldorf Schools. In the past year, the generous contributions from our dedicated community, including the Annual Giving Campaign, have been instrumental in enhancing the educational experience at Golden Valley. Financial support has enabled us to invest in high-quality art supplies, offer a diverse array of specialty classes such as handwork, fine arts, and games, and provide our teachers with enriching Waldorf training.

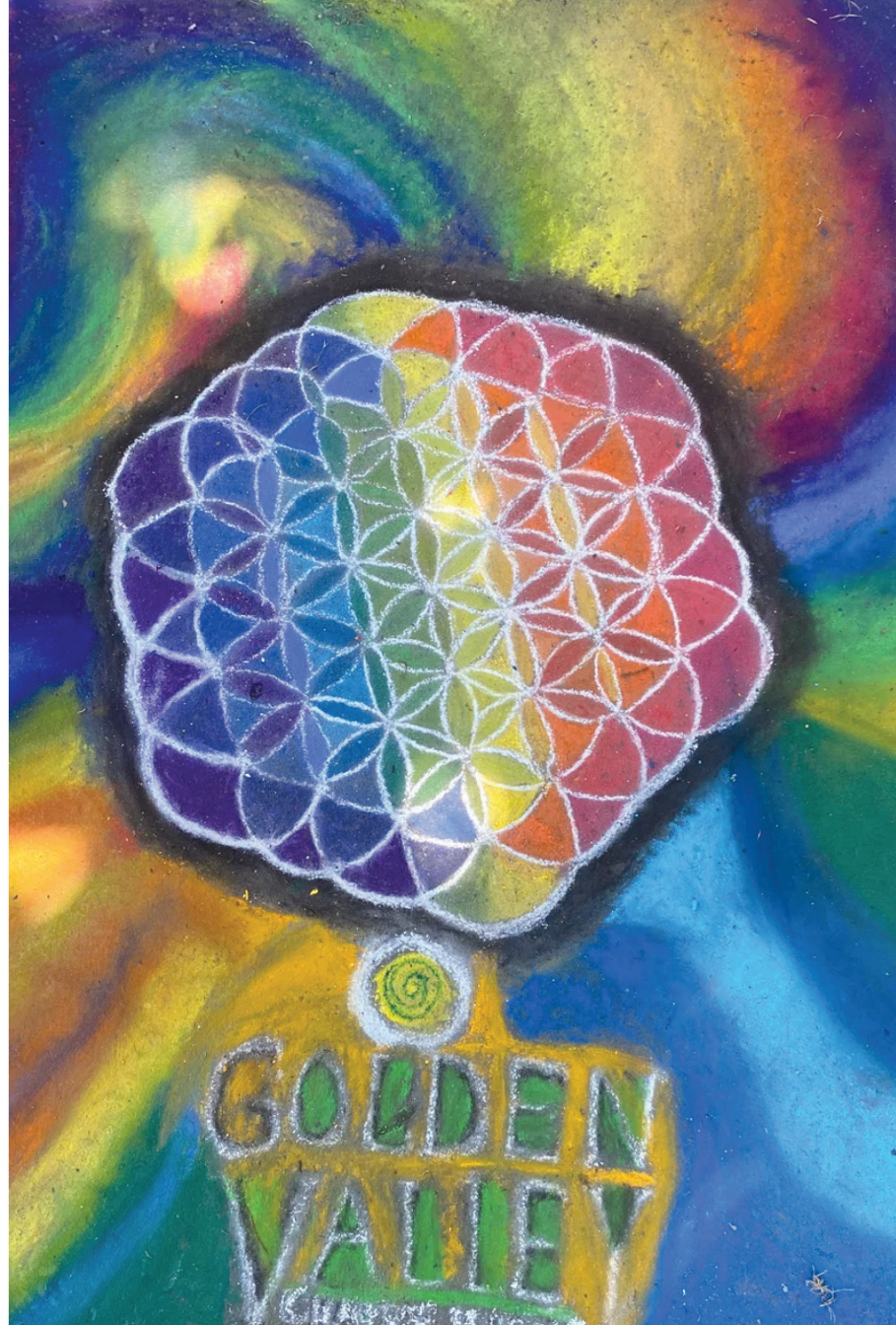
We extend a warm and sincere thank you to each donor who participated in the Annual Giving Campaign. Your belief in the transformative power of education and your commitment to our mission have truly made a difference. It is because of your generosity that we can continue to create an environment where students flourish and reach their highest potential.

The Annual Giving Campaign Raised

\$126,042

from Orchard and River School families.

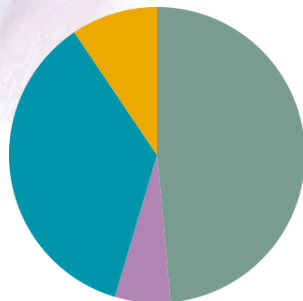
Donate Today





Finances 2022 - 23

Revenue \$121,093
Grant to GVCS \$89,206



- Eagle chase - \$58,764
- Art Auction - \$7,357
- Fireworks booth - \$43,538
- Other - \$11,434



Eagle Chase Fundraiser

In 2022 GVEF revamped the Chase from the ground up and introduced online management tools for parents. For its 12th year, this student-driven fundraiser raised a record-shattering \$58,764 for our schools, which was a 54% increase over last year! Donations came in from places FAR away geographically — Washington, Oklahoma, & Maine to name a few — which speaks to the breadth & power of our connections. Despite many hurdles, over 55 parent volunteers helped make this event the largest single fundraiser in our schools' history. The Eagle Chase is 49% of funds raised!



Art Auction

This was our first in-person auction event post-pandemic and the community was ready for it. Our Parent Circle volunteers gathered donations for silent auction offerings while the classes crafted one-of-a-kind art pieces. For the first time, GVEF offered raffle ticket sales online for families that couldn't attend on the day. GVCS Executive Director, Caleb Buckley, stepped in as our schools' auctioneer. All totaled, we raised a respectable \$7,357 from both campuses. The art auction is 7% of funds raised. Next year, we have plans to parlay this success into our first off-campus Auction Gala event.



Fireworks Booth

In its third straight year, this summer fundraiser is a shining star for the Golden Valley Educational Foundation (GVEF). For seven days we are given unparalleled public outreach to raise funds and to promote our schools' Waldorf roots in the process. Through fireworks sales we raised \$43,538 for our schools, which closely tracks last year's record performance. The fireworks booth is 36% of funds raised.

GVEF Members & Contact



Annual Giving Campaign Donor Wall

Together, we are not just funding an institution; we are building a community—a community that values developmentally appropriate education as a cornerstone, fosters creativity as a catalyst for growth, and prepares students to actively contribute to a vibrant and healthy society. Thank you for being an integral part of Golden Valley Charter Schools.

Adam Errington
Adam Landry
Adam Looper
Adam Lovern
Adam Perales
Adriane Corbett
Alfred Lacoste
Alisha Freedle
Allison Muzzalupo
Allyson Jakubicka
Amanda Crane
Amanda McCredie
Amanda Westbrook
Amber Cobb
Amber Emery
Amiee Hodgkinson
Andrea Hayworth
Andrea Lagomarsino
Andrea Miller
Andrea Rogozinski
Angela Kump
Angelica Avalos
Ann Platz
Annemarie Fallai
Aric & Sandra Toon
Ashleigh Stone
Benjamin Rodriguez
Brad Von Dessonneck
Brandy Roberts
Breanna Galbraith
Brian Mintun
Briana D'Agostini Cheek
Briar Corder
Brittany Kilby
Bryan Ahola
Caitlin Baldwin
Calvin Perry
Camille Jarboe
Carin Agiman
Carlita Lopez
Carmen Howland
Carmen Vecchitto
Carolina Benati Atwood
Casey Hopp
Cassie Harner
Charlotte Gibbs
Cheryl Watt

Chris Peck
Christine Bernardo
Claudia Maniscalco
Clayton Milburn
Craft & everything else
Cristiane Pilger
Cynthia Aldinger
Daniel Cobb
Danielle Jones
Danielle Roach
Darryl Cragun Design
Services
Desirae an Ben Watson
Diana La Point
Digi Sandusky
Elaine Atwell
Elisa Casale
Elizabeth Hosey
Elizabeth Paplanus
Emily Brayton
Emily Phillips
Erika Hopper
Erin Callaway
Erin Glines-Foorman
Fredella Stewart
G'anna Burke Emotional
Wellness
Garrett Werner
Genevieve Buckley
Geoff & Marilyn Godfrey
Glenn Kremer
Go Moto
Greg & Bridgette Cowat
Gustavo Escalante
Hadasha Benoit
Heather Fernandes
Heather Miles
Hilary Pollock
Israel Cepeda
Jacqueline Robinson
Jamie Brinkley
Jamie Rives
Janel Rigsby
Janice Oliver-Itaci
Jason Gasser
Jason Jude
Jaspreet Boyal

Jennifer & Blair Morrison
Jennifer Geyer
Jennifer Green
Jennifer Kesler
Jennifer Pratt
Jennifer Williams
Jenny Wroblicky
Jessica Bagley
Jessica Wren
Jessica Zwane
Jim Stephens II
Joanne Madams
John Willson
Johnathan Anderson
Johnathan Wally
Jonathan Newnam
Jonathan Schulz
Josh Langbehn
Joyce Roderick
Julie Gugerty
Justine Cucciare
Justine Fling
Karen Miles
Karen Miller
Karissa Soma
Katharine Gerski-Keller
Katherine Jacobus
Kathryn Sauls
Katja Chisholm
Katrina Knittle
Katrina Miller
Kayla Driscoll
Kelly Younger
Kia Maddox
Kimberly Blakley
Kirsten Asher
Kirsten Flores
Kristen Biernat
Kristine LiVecchi
Kristofer Adams
Kymerlee Baginski
Lange Blakeslee
Laura Zanone
Lauren Edvalson
Laurie Gregg
Leslie Loy
Linda & Jay Tinsman

Linda Mariano
Linda Stechman
Lindsey Oester
Lisa Otto
Lisa Randall
Lorena Neira De Jividen
Lori Brentt
Lynn Mann
Maria Darden
Marie Mckeeth
Marsha von Dessonneck
Marya Sohota
Matthew Hawkins
Matthew Sturdevant
Max Foorman
Meagan Kilpatrick
Megan Mardones
Megan Rougier
Melinda Owens
Melissa Keaney
Melissa Strand
Meridith Willson
Michael Mercado
Michelle Mann
Michelle Peters
Mike Haynes
Mike Lyttge
Mike McGuffin
Monica Coupe
Monica Jones
Monika Hornyak
Namat Hosseinion
Nancy Eglott
Natalie Marion
Nathaniel Perez
Ngoc Nham & Jared
Nelson
Nicholas Talbert & Kerry
O'Keefe
Nicole Kahl-Purcell
Nicole Kennedy-Raymes
Olga Sokovets
Olivia Souders
Opeyemi Ayeni
Oritsematosan Tuoyo
Pedro Alanis Orozco
Pepper Fong

Radstina Petkova
Rebecca Aldinger
Rebecca Bach
Rebecca Hanson
Rebecca Love
Rebecca Russo
Rie Kosugi
Robert Laughter
Rocko Shorrock
Ryan Miller
Sandra Rapp
Sarah Chase
Sarah Schutter
Sasha Lussier
Satiya Welch
Sean Westbrook
Sharon Howes
Shauna Anderson
Sherrilyn Westbrook
Sommer Thomas
Spent Flora
Stephanie Parmely
Stephanie Tadlock
Stephen Quadro
Susan Bagley
Taryn Mcknight
Tatyana Tirda
Taylor Desilva
Theresa Anderson
Thomas Purcell
Trenise Madriz
Tricia Maughan
Troy Weber
Ursula Walker
Valerie Ruhl
Vanessa Brown
Varsha Prasad
Veronica Gordon
Victoria de Leon
Walter Rogers
William Thomas
Yukiko Arimura
Zachary Phillips
Zenith Gonzalez



Link to in-depth annual report



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CHARTER SCHOOLS

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