



Help provide food, clothing, housing assistance and other basic needs to families this winter by making a year-end gift. Through the end of the year, your gift will be doubled, up to \$2,000, by Craig Stein Beverage. Give today at www.FoundationForVPS.org



Wrap-around services support a family during a tragedy

Providing wrap-around services for students and helping to bridge gaps due to poverty are an ongoing focus for the Foundation for VPS. In some cases, support helps families facing hardships due to unexpected circumstances. Sadly, this school year a VPS student died following a tragic accident. There was an immediate need to respond to support students and families across multiple schools and to rally resources to help the family navigate a very difficult time.

The family had already overcome multiple challenges stemming from illness with Covid and subsequent loss of employment. They were finally beginning to enjoy stable housing after securing new employment that would enable them to better support their large family.

When the accident occurred, the family's lives were once again in turmoil. For a period of time following the accident, the boy was on life support in the ICU and his family members needed to take time off work. Unfortunately, their jobs do not provide paid leave, resulting in lost wages. The newfound stability was in jeopardy.

The Foundation responded, partnering with multiple VPS departments and staff to identify needs of the youth and other family members directly impacted, and quickly and discreetly ensure they were met. Through the Foundation and other donors, the family's rent was paid, they were provided with gas cards, and help with cell phone bills so the hospital could have constant contact. They were also connected to resources in the community to support them.

Ensuring their housing was covered and all basic needs were met for the other children allowed the family to grieve together and process their loss in a culturally responsive way without fear of being unhoused in the near future-during the holidays and winter.

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Invest in kids by voting yes February 14

Vancouver kids and community need your support for the renewal education & operations levy on the February 2023 ballot. The levy is not a new tax, it would replace the existing education and operations levies that expire at the end of 2023. If approved, the renewal levy would be for four years from 2024 to 2027.

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Donors Making a Difference:



iQ Credit Union started much like the Foundation for VPS, with a teacher's shoebox and a handwritten ledger. Since 1940 they have grown to over 90,000 members at 16 branches. From the Foundation's beginning, iQ has been a dedicated partner promoting student advancement by investing in our mission of getting kids to school happy, healthy and ready to learn. In addition to donations to the Foundation, iQ raises money for other nonprofits that improve children's lives and works directly in schools to promote literacy and financial education. For the sixth year in a row, iQ Credit Union was a sponsor of the sponsoring the Foundation for VPS Staff Campaign, donating \$20,000 in matching funds.

**THANK YOU TO IQ AND ALL
VPS STAFF WHO SUPPORT
THE FOUNDATION THROUGH
THE ANNUAL STAFF CAMPAIGN!**

Couve Clover Run

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Find out how you can join the fun
AND help VPS students:

[https://foundationforvps.org/
couve-clover-run](https://foundationforvps.org/couve-clover-run)



Wrap-around services support a family cont...

Although most VPS families never experience this level of tragedy, there are many families that are barely holding on to sustainable housing. Less than 4 months into the school year we have already distributed more than half of the Foundation's budgeted funds for housing stability. Families are still struggling to recover from the effects of COVID. With the current housing crisis and increased costs of rent, food, gas, and other goods, many are in jeopardy of losing housing. When this is compounded by unexpected circumstances it can be debilitating for a family who may not have the resources or ability to advocate for themselves in a way that can ensure their family rebounds.

"Having money that is unrestricted helps us so much. It allows us to be flexible in how we support families, meeting them right where they are, thus making the largest impact possible," said Jenny Thompson, Foundation Executive Director. "The ability to leverage money and partner with other organizations ensures we are able to more readily meet the needs of each individual student and family based on their unique circumstances and barriers to access."

We all have a responsibility to support the health and well-being of the children and families in our communities. Despite challenges and uncertainty, our community consistently rallies together to address students' unmet basic needs and to enhance their educational experience with learning tools, enrichment programs, and mentoring opportunities.

VPS Replacement Levy cont...

All schools in the district benefit from this levy which makes up 12.5% of VPS' budget and helps to pay for staffing, basic programs and operations including: special education; classroom programs and programs of choice; additional teachers, nurses, counselors, mental health and general staff; safety and security staff; Family-Community Resource Centers; sports and extracurriculars like orchestra, band, choir and theater; maintenance and utilities for buildings and grounds; and more.

School districts rely on voter-approved local funding measures to cover costs that are unfunded, or underfunded, by the state. To learn more about how the district manages its budget, please visit the website <https://vansd.org/budget>. To learn more about the levy proposal and what it funds, please visit the website <https://vansd.org/levy>.

Approving the levy is vital to providing all students with a well-rounded education that also supports their safety and well-being. We hope you will follow the Foundation for VPS Board of Director's recommendation and give our kids some love with a Yes vote on February 14th!

Ways to engage:

Save the date: Annual Luncheon is May 4, 2023.

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