

BEN B. CHENEY FOUNDATION

2023 Annual Report



BEN B. CHENEY FOUNDATION
Helping people and their communities



Dear Friends and Partners,

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude and pride for the remarkable achievements and milestones reached by the Ben B. Cheney Foundation. The year 2023 holds special significance as we mark a transition in leadership and honor the enduring legacy of Brad Cheney, our esteemed Board Chair and outgoing Executive Director.

Brad Cheney, son of our founder Ben B. Cheney, has been a steadfast leader and a visionary in furthering his father's mission for more than two decades. Since agreeing to the role of Executive Director in 2002, Brad's dedication and passion have guided the Foundation in making a profound impact on the communities in three states where Cheney Lumber Mills once operated. Under his leadership, the Foundation has awarded more than 3,000 grants to 917 unique partner agencies, totaling more than \$65,522,000 invested in the communities we serve. These grants have supported a wide array of initiatives, from educational programs and healthcare services to supporting basic needs and youth sporting activities.

Brad's influence extends beyond the grants themselves. He has been an active and integral member of our community, serving on numerous boards and leading significant fundraising campaigns that have brought vital projects to fruition. His commitment to service and his ability to inspire others have left an indelible mark on all who have had the privilege of working with him.

As Brad steps into retirement, we celebrate his incredible contributions and the solid foundation he has built for the future. His leadership has been characterized by unwavering integrity, a deep sense of purpose, and a genuine care for the well-being of others. Brad's legacy is one of generosity, collaboration, and lasting positive change.

It is with great honor and a deep sense of responsibility that I, Erika Tucci, step into the role of Executive Director. I am committed to upholding the values and vision that have guided the Foundation since its inception. Together with our dedicated board, including Brad who will continue to serve as Board Chair, we will strive to build upon the successes of the past and to keep supporting initiatives that enhance the quality of life in our communities.

As we look forward to the future, we remain dedicated to fostering partnerships and supporting projects that align with our mission. We are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and are confident that, with your continued partnership, we will achieve even greater good together. Thank you for your trust, partnership, and shared commitment to making a difference. Together, we honor the past, celebrate the present, and embrace the future with optimism and determination.

With gratitude,



Erika Tucci
Executive Director



Brad Cheney
Board Chair

Ben B. Cheney lived life fully and richly, devoting himself to his work, his family and his community.

Our Founder

Ben B. Cheney of South Bend, Washington, formed the Cheney Lumber Company in 1936 and was involved with the lumber industry until his death in 1971. A tireless businessman and innovator, he is credited with standardizing the length of building studs at eight feet, a concept that reduced discarded and wasted wood.



Ben Cheney's passion was athletics, especially the game of baseball. He helped to bring a Pacific Coast League franchise to Tacoma and contributed to the construction of Tacoma's ballpark, Cheney Stadium. He was also a stockholder of the San Francisco Giants and served on its board of directors.

Ben Cheney's love of sports was not confined to his own interests. In the small logging communities of Washington, Oregon, and California many young people played on Cheney-sponsored teams. Over 5,000 youngsters developed their skills while participating under Cheney sponsorship. Today many of these participants still retain the enthusiasm, self-discipline, and team spirit that come from athletic involvement.

The Ben B. Cheney Foundation

Ben Cheney showed his love of life best by establishing the Cheney Foundation in 1955. Long after his death in 1971, the Cheney Foundation continues to honor his enthusiasm for life by supporting a broad range of needs through its philanthropic efforts in the communities where the Cheney Lumber Company was once active.

The Foundation also honors Ben Cheney's innovative and thrifty spirit by never forgetting that the purpose of every grant is helping people. The Foundation has provided grants to help with basic survival needs, such as food, health care and shelter. Other grants have helped to enrich communities through the arts, athletics and historical programs.

Ben Cheney lived life fully and richly. The Ben B. Cheney Foundation strives to carry on his hopes and dreams for the people and communities that he knew and loved. Learn more about Mr. Cheney through this 20 minute video, [A Dream Shared](#).

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Our Emblem

The red Belgium stud horse has represented the Ben B. Cheney Foundation since its formal inception in 1975. The Foundation was funded by proceeds derived from the Cheney Lumber Company with whom the logo originated. In the early years of the lumber industry, Belgium stud horses were used as an essential part of harvesting timber from the mass forests of the pacific Northwest. Known to be strong and gentle beasts, they willingly hauled huge timber out of the forest.

The Cheney lumber Company was a producer of 2x4s known as studs. Cheney studs had a solid reputation for quality, excellence and longevity. In 2023, we continued to focus on a wide variety of needs and causes serving those communities where the Cheney Lumber Company once operated.

The Belgium stud horse is our compass. Like this grand animal, our partners exhibit many of its characteristics: gentle, placid, willing to work, lively, tough, brave and sensible. Our communities are better and more resilient for their work and service.



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June 15, 1957 13



a good straight wall starts with CHENEY STUDS

... so be sure this registered trademark* is on every stud you buy.

RED END WAX SEALED	
ANTI-STAIN TREATED	WCLB GRADE MARKED
PRECISION TRIMMED	ATTRACTIVE YARD PILES
EASED EDGES	PREMIUM QUALITY

specify *  CHENEY STUDS ... standard of quality for dependable dealers

* TRADEMARK REGISTERED U. S. PATENT OFFICE
exclusive representative

BURNS LUMBER CO.
WEBster 3-5861
624 No. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles 36

CHENEY STUDS
Originators of the eight foot stud

1957 Cheney Lumber Advertisement



Partnered with 114 Organizations



\$3,085,062 Granted



33 High School Athletic Scholarships Offered



35 Cities and Towns Served in Washington, Oregon and California



Board Directed & Matching Gifts: \$56,984

At the end of 2023, after 48 years of making grants, the Foundation has made approximately 6,330 grants to more than 1,520 different organizations, for a total distribution of \$116,362,553.



Program Areas

- Charity - 4%
- Civic - 16%
- Culture - 7%
- Education - 24%
- Health - 23%
- Social Service - 9%
- Youth - 16%
- Elderly - 2%

YOUTH

\$385,578 IN GRANTS

Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA
Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA
Charles Wright Academy, Tacoma, WA
Chehalis Foundation, Chehalis, WA
Coffee Oasis, Tacoma, WA
Fred Oldfield Western Heritage, Puyallup, WA
Friends of the Children, Tacoma, WA
Greater Metro Parks Foundation, Tacoma, WA
Junior Achievement of Washington, Auburn, WA
Kiwanis Club of South Bend, South Bend, WA
Lower Columbia College, Longview, WA
Pacific International League, Kent, WA
Tacoma Community Boat Builders, Tacoma, WA
The Whole Horse Place, Port Orchard, WA
TRAILS Outdoor School, Ashland, OR
Y.M.C.A. of Pierce & Kitsap Counties

Al Davies Club Roof Repair, \$35,000
2024 Legacy of Hope Sponsorship, \$3,000
Baseball Field Improvements, \$15,000
W.F. West Field Infrastructure & Turf Project, \$30,000
Tacoma Campus Apartment Building Rehabilitation, \$75,000
Dance Floor for Classes, \$8,000
Foster Care Prevention & Intervention Program Growth, \$25,000
Whole Child Save Zones, \$40,000
Programs Grant, \$25,000
Summer Camps (2023 & 2024), \$15,000
Heerensberger Field Turf Project, \$30,000
2023 Season Support, \$30,000
Capacity Building Project, \$10,000
Grain Storage, \$4,578
School Playground, \$10,000
Kids Night 2023, \$30,000



CULTURE

\$205,000 IN GRANTS

Lakewold Gardens, Lakewood, WA
Foss Waterway Seaport, Tacoma, WA
Symphony Tacoma, Tacoma, WA
Asia Pacific Cultural Center, Tacoma, WA

Growing for All Campaign, \$25,000
Restroom Renovation, \$40,000
2023-24 & 2024-25 Symphony Seasons, \$40,000
APCC Building Project, \$100,000

ELDERLY

\$70,000 IN GRANTS

Washington State Senior Games, Olympia, WA
Southern Oregon Friends of Hospice, Medford, OR
Rebuilding Hope Together South Sound, Tacoma, WA
Franke Tobey Jones, Tacoma, WA

Washington State Senior Games, \$5,000
Celia's House HVAC System, \$40,000
Safe at Home Repair & Modifications, \$15,000
Ruston Senior Center Computer Grant, \$10,000



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HEALTH

\$695,000 IN GRANTS

Community Health Care, Tacoma, WA
California CareForce, Roseville, CA
La Clinica, Medford, OR
Listen & Talk, Kirkland, WA
The Benji Project, Port Townsend, WA
St. Joseph Health Northern California LLC, Eureka, CA
MultiCare Health Foundations, Tacoma, WA

Puyallup Health Center, \$75,000
Humbolt County Free Healthcare Clinic, \$10,000
Acute Care Clinic Expansion, \$50,000
Services for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Children in Pierce Co., \$20,000
Expanding Capacity for Mental Health Programming for Youth, \$10,000
Stryker Surgical Towers & Cameras, \$30,000
Mary Bridge Children's Hospital Capital Campaign, \$500,000

CHARITY

\$45,000 IN GRANTS

Urban Grace, Tacoma, WA
Salvation Army, NW Divisional Headquarters, Aberdeen, WA
Serenity House of Clallam County, Port Angeles, WA

Community Breakfast Program, \$10,000
Grays Harbor Food Bank, \$25,000
Shelter Sidewalk & Ramp, \$10,000



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CIVIC

\$495,500 IN GRANTS

Central Park Lions Club Foundation, Aberdeen, WA	Playground Improvements Project, \$15,000
Pierce County Amateur Radio Communication Services, Tacoma, WA	Short-wave Radio Go Kits, \$4,000
Candid, New York, NY	Connecting Nonprofits to Resources they Need to Thrive, \$1,500
Safe Streets, Tacoma, WA	Increasing Community Engagement for Safe Streets, \$10,000
Center for Dialog & Resolution, Tacoma, WA	The Space Between: Equity & Access Initiative, \$75,000
Longview Library Foundation, Longview, WA	Longview Public Library Bookmobile, \$10,000
Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County, Silverdale, WA	Place for Peace Capital Expansion, \$35,000
Tacoma Public Library Foundation, Tacoma, WA	Main Branch Remodel- Children's Learning Area, \$10,000
Historic Town of Wilkeson, Wilkeson, WA	The Wilkeson Community Hub, \$10,000
Tacoma Neighborhoods Together, Puyallup, WA	Tacoma Santa Parade, \$5,000
One Roof Foundation, Seattle, WA	NHL Legacy Project: Multi-sport Court, \$20,000
Y.M.C.A. of Pierce & Kitsap Counties, Tacoma, WA	Morgan Family Y.M.C.A. Rebuild, \$200,000
University Place Parks & Recreation Foundation, University Place, WA	Inclusive Playground, \$100,000



SOCIAL SERVICES

\$253,000 IN GRANTS



Morningside, Olympia, WA	Pierce County Building Renovation, \$15,000
Ashley House, Federal Way, WA	Medical/Wheelchair Van, \$10,000
Turning Pointe Survivor Advocacy Center, Shelton, WA	Communal Kitchen Remodel, \$15,000
Multicultural Child & Family Hope Center, Tacoma, WA	Cora Whitley Family Center Securitization Support, \$40,000
Redwood Parks Conservancy, Crescent City, CA	Greater Outdoors Access & Learning Program, \$15,000
Association of Fundraising Professionals/South Sound, Tacoma, WA	South Sound Philanthropy Summit, \$500
Set Free Services, Medford, OR	Serving the Needy, \$7,500
Comprehensive Life Resources, Tacoma, WA	Integrated Care Center, \$75,000
North Mason Regional Fire Authority, Belfair, WA	Mobile Integrated Health Program Unit & Equipment, \$25,000
OHRA Helps, Ashland, OR	OHRA Center Renovations, \$25,000
Willapa Community Development Association, Raymond, WA	Veteran Housing & Resource Center, \$25,000



EDUCATION

\$740,000 IN GRANTS

Civics Learning Project, Portland, OR
Eagle Point School District, Eagle Point, OR
Bellarmine Preparatory School, Tacoma, WA
University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA
Annie Wright School, Tacoma, WA
Grays Harbor Historical Seaport, Aberdeen, WA
Centralia College Foundation, Centralia, WA
South Bend School District, South Bend, WA
Greentrike, Tacoma, WA
Lighthouse Christian School, Gig Harbor, WA
Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA

Oregon Civics Reach Initiative: Expansion, \$10,000
2023 Charley Givan Scholarships, \$15,000
Weber Hall Renovations, \$100,000
Synthetic Baseball Infield, \$300,000
Arts Hub & Middle School Renovation, \$100,000
Winter Maintenance of Lady Washington, \$15,000
Centralia College Athletic Complex, \$35,000
Fitness Project, South Bend Jr. High School, \$40,000
Out Of School Time Initiative, \$40,000
Maximizing Our Potential, Phase 1, \$25,000
2023 Cheney Merit Scholarships, \$60,000



BEN B. CHENEY

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP

\$96,000 IN 2023 SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year the Ben B. Cheney Foundation provides a High School Athletic Scholarship to each of the 32 High Schools in Pierce County plus one Scholarship for a student from South Bend, WA, where Ben Cheney attended High School.

From past recipients:

I just wanted to reach out and thank the foundation for supporting my first year of college... I had an amazing year at Loyola University of Chicago finishing with a 4.0 through both semesters, and finding communities on campus including the Club Women's Ultimate Frisbee team and the Gannon Scholars Women's Leadership program. The scholarship took a lot of weight off my shoulders, allowing me to worry less about financials and focus on student life.

I am incredibly grateful to the Ben B Cheney Foundation for providing financial assistance to help me pursue my educational aspirations. Your support has not only lightened the financial burden of college but has also been a tremendous motivation and encouragement for me. Your confidence in me is truly humbling, and I am determined to make the most of this opportunity. I am excited to embark on this new chapter of my life at Pacific University. I assure you that I will work diligently to excel academically and contribute positively to my college community. I am determined to make the most of this scholarship and honor your investment in my education. I will make it a priority to keep you updated on my progress. Thank you once again for your support.

Schools: Annie Wright, Bellarmine, Bethel, Cascade Christian, Chief Leschi, Charles Wright, Clover Park, Curtis, Eatonville, Emerald Ridge, Fife, Foss, Franklin Pierce, Gig Harbor, Graham-Kapowsin, Lakes, Life Christian, Lincoln, Mt. Tahoma, Orting, Peninsula, Puyallup, Rogers, Silas, Sound Christian Academy, South Bend, Spanaway, Stadium, Steilacoom, Sumner, Washington, White River



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2023 HOLIDAY GRANT PROGRAM

Each year since 1976, the Ben B. Cheney Foundation has made an end of the year donation to a handful of food banks in an effort to make the holidays brighter for individuals and families in our region. It is one of the two programs initiated by the Foundation in our first year of formal operations. Originally, three organizations received a gift of \$1,500 each. Since then, the number has risen to six partners receiving \$7,500 each. Today the food bank partners use the funds for dinners, and a variety of food items used by our diverse Pierce County population.



Holiday Grant Partners:
Nourish Tacoma, WA
Tacoma Rescue Mission, Tacoma, WA
Salvation Army Puyallup Valley Corps, Puyallup, WA
Salvation Army Tacoma Corps, Tacoma, WA
Emergency Food Network, Lakewood, WA
Gig Harbor Peninsula FISH, Gig Harbor



THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

(CLICK PHOTOS FOR FULL STORY)

At the Ben B. Cheney Foundation, we are grateful for the hard work and dedication of the nonprofit and other charitable organizations making true impact in our communities. They are the ones serving tirelessly and championing various and important causes. Please take a moment to read about these groups making a difference in youth sports, health care, public safety, preserving history and more.



Turf infields installed at two ballfields in Kelso, WA



New warehouse for Emergency Food Network in Tacoma, WA



Dance floor for community arts center in Puyallup, WA

Find more stories at BenBCheneyFoundation.org



Schoolyard upgrades in Tacoma, WA



Custom van for nursing care facility for children in Tacoma, WA



Grain storage for horse rescue nonprofit in Port Orchard, WA



“Go Kit” emergency radios for Pierce County



Lady Washington (replica tall ship) retrofit, Puget Sound



Historical Carriage House renovation, Tacoma, WA

Find more stories at BenBCheneyFoundation.org



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