



Education
for all who aspire.

Opportunity
for all who strive.

FROM
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the Marathon Scholars 2013 Annual Report to Donors! This year was one of incredible growth, transition and, frankly, self-exploration for Marathon. Did you notice our new logo and name?

We are so excited about this! The new image is the culmination of a year in which we spent a great deal of time asking ourselves serious questions about what we do, how we do it and how we can do better. We wanted to deeply consider how we do our very best to connect people with our work and know that our program is making the most powerful impact it can on the children and the community we serve. Many of you have been an integral part of this process. Thank you. We learned a great deal and continue to learn and through the process have experienced incredible success in 2013. It is my pleasure to share with you some of our greatest accomplishments and highlights of the year.

Thank you!

You made them happen!

Emma Gray
Executive Director



Executive Director, Emma Gray and her Scholar Daniel at his first Portland Timbers match.



"Why college? Because I won't become just another statistic making people think kids like me can't go to college and succeed."

—ADAN, Marathon Scholar Age 16



Stephanie has been matched with Dan and Amanda since 2003. She currently attends Portland Community College.

MEET A MATCH

"I remember meeting Stephanie in 4th grade seeing her just light up with this opportunity. I hope we will stay connected with her wherever she is and that we can provide that support for her in any challenging times in the next journey of her life."

—AMANDA BLAUFUS, Marathon Partner & Founder

"Sometimes I feel like if it weren't for Marathon I might not even be in school right now. And school is going really good. I'm there and I'm doing it and it feels good to get good grades and know that I can get good grades. It just feels good to really have those extra people in your life that are there behind you 100%."

—STEPHANIE, Marathon Scholar Age 21

"The thing about Stephanie is she is resilient. Amanda and I are so proud to be associated with this poised, smart, self-assured young woman. One of my greatest hopes is for her to have an education that affords her alternatives and opportunities in life."

—DAN BLAUFUS, Marathon Partner & Founder



WHY MARATHON

The work of Marathon Scholars has never been more vital or relevant. Research continues to show unequivocally that more jobs in the future will require a post secondary education and that individuals with a postsecondary degree are significantly more likely to earn more over their lifetimes, be healthier, be less likely to need government assistance and be more engaged citizens. **Education continues to be the very strongest force to break the cycle of generational poverty.** It has become crystal clear that the only way to increase our nation's college attainment rates—and a healthy economy demands that we do—is to address the reality that college access and completion are dramatically lower for economically disadvantaged students and those from underrepresented populations. These students are not less deserving, less capable, less intelligent or less motivated. But they are less able to connect the resources, knowledge and inspiration to access the higher education options many of their peers take for granted. That's where Marathon comes in. We find it completely unacceptable that nationwide, only 10% of low-income students will achieve a 4-year degree. Marathon connects with kids early, in the 4th grade, to get them on the path to success. Marathon Scholars know from the start that over the next 12 years, they will have access to:

- College awareness and enrichment activities
- One-on-one support of a caring Marathon Partner to mentor them
- A \$12,000 scholarship waiting for them when they get to college!



The Marathon program is helping kids in our community beat the odds.



COLLEGE VISITS GIVE SCHOLARS VISION

If no one in your family has ever been to college and your peer group doesn't prioritize higher education, it can be really hard to visualize how going to college might truly look and feel—and how it can change your life! In 2013 Marathon Scholars got the chance to see their possible future with visits to local colleges every other month! Thanks to a generous grant from the Windemere Foundation every Scholar had the opportunity to visit a college. Nearly every Scholar signed up for at least one visit and Scholars in 5th grade all the way to High School seniors attended. Marathon Scholars visited Pacific University, University of Portland, University of Oregon, Linfield, Lewis & Clark, and Portland State University. Research has shown that even stepping foot on a college campus can increase the odds of a child attending. If the excitement and reactions of our Scholars are any indication, we are seeing that research in action.

A FOCUS ON RELATIONSHIPS EMPOWER YOUTH—AND ADULTS

The path to college for a 4th grade student is long. It's a marathon, not a sprint! At Marathon Scholars, we have found that the strength of the relationship between a Scholar and their Partner shows the strongest positive outcomes. However, a number of our matches were struggling to stay connected over the long term. That is why, in 2013, we partnered with Oregon Mentors to develop strategies and implement practices that help our Partners and Scholars connect with each other in meaningful ways that achieve our mission. The results have been stunning. Relationships are getting off on the right foot, and relationships that were faltering are back on track. Incredible support from Oregon Mentors along with generous grants from the James and Marion Miller Foundation, the PGE Foundation and the Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust have allowed us to increase match meetings, check in with our matches more often and begin developing a robust library of materials, trainings and resources that truly support our matches the way they deserve.



Marney and Mackenzie recharging their match.

SCHOLARS START THEIR MARATHON In 2013, Marathon welcomed 17 brand new Scholars and began serving them with enrichment activities and support services. We also began the process of finding each of the children in this new group an adult Partner to serve as their mentor and cheerleader as they work towards achieving their education dreams.

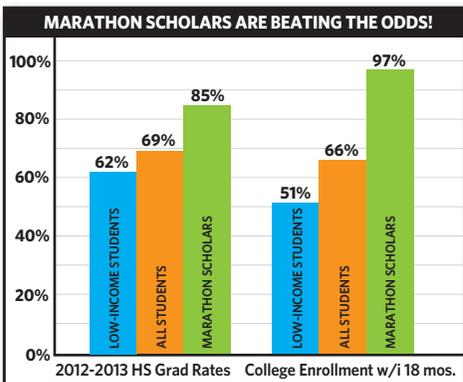


5th grade Scholars visit Pacific University.

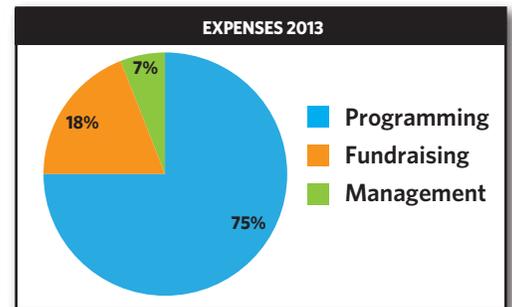
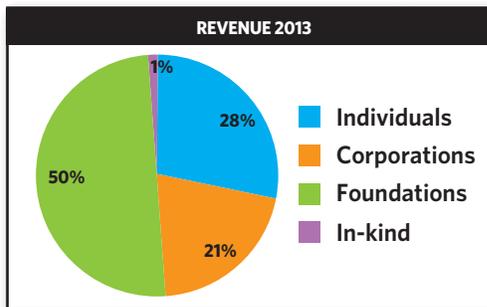


MARATHON SCHOLARS HEAD TO COLLEGE

In 2013, we were exceptionally proud to report that, once again, our Scholars are headed to college at a rate far higher than their peers! Scholars in 2013 enrolled at the University of Oregon, Portland State University, the University of Washington, Western Oregon University and Clark College. These Scholars join the 30 college aged Scholars attending colleges and universities across the country! Marathon also continued to award scholarships to Scholars. In 2013, Marathon Scholars received over \$50,000 in college scholarships!



—2013 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT—



ASSETS

Cash: \$171,072
 Scholarship Fund Investments: \$642,334
 Scholarship Pledges Receivable: \$527,847
 Fixed Assets: \$595
TOTAL ASSETS: \$1,341,848

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted Assets: \$171,072
 Restricted Assets: \$1,174,834

2013 HIGHLIGHTS

- Donations from individual donors increased over 300%
- Revenue from private foundations increased 150%

Financials reflect fiscal year ending 12/31/13



Marathon summer college fair.

YOU CAN HELP MARATHON GROW!

BECOME A MARATHON MENTOR - Change a child's life in 2 hours a month.

SPONSOR A MARATHON SCHOLARSHIP - Your investment of \$100 a month or one-time donation to our scholarship fund tells a 4th grader that their future is bright.

INCREASE YOUR GIVING - Your financial gift to the general fund provides direct service and support to our Scholars and keeps their relationships with their mentors strong and powerful.

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR - Your \$12-per-month donation funds the enrichment and support of a Scholar **all year long.**

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER - It's an inspiration almost every day!

Visit marathonscholars.org



marathon
SCHOLARS



2013 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nelson Farris, *Chair*
Andrew Kilshaw, *Vice-Chair*
Becky Horvat, *Treasurer*
Karen Waibel, *Secretary*
Joe Campbell
Jeff Cronn
Leah Cronn
Rolf Ellingson
Margo Fowler
Jim Lilienthal
Rich Lishewski
Leslie Lundberg
Art McCallum
Erica Meyers
Steve Primack
Jeff Snell
Susie Turk



STAFF

Emma Gray
Executive Director

Anjuli "AJ" Crocker
Program Coordinator



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

facebook.com/marathonscholars



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!

[@MarathonScholar](https://twitter.com/MarathonScholar)



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

[@MarathonScholars](https://www.instagram.com/MarathonScholars)



marathon
SCHOLARS

610 SW Alder Street, Suite 921

Portland, OR 97205

503.235.2500

info@marathonscholars.org

www.marathonscholars.org