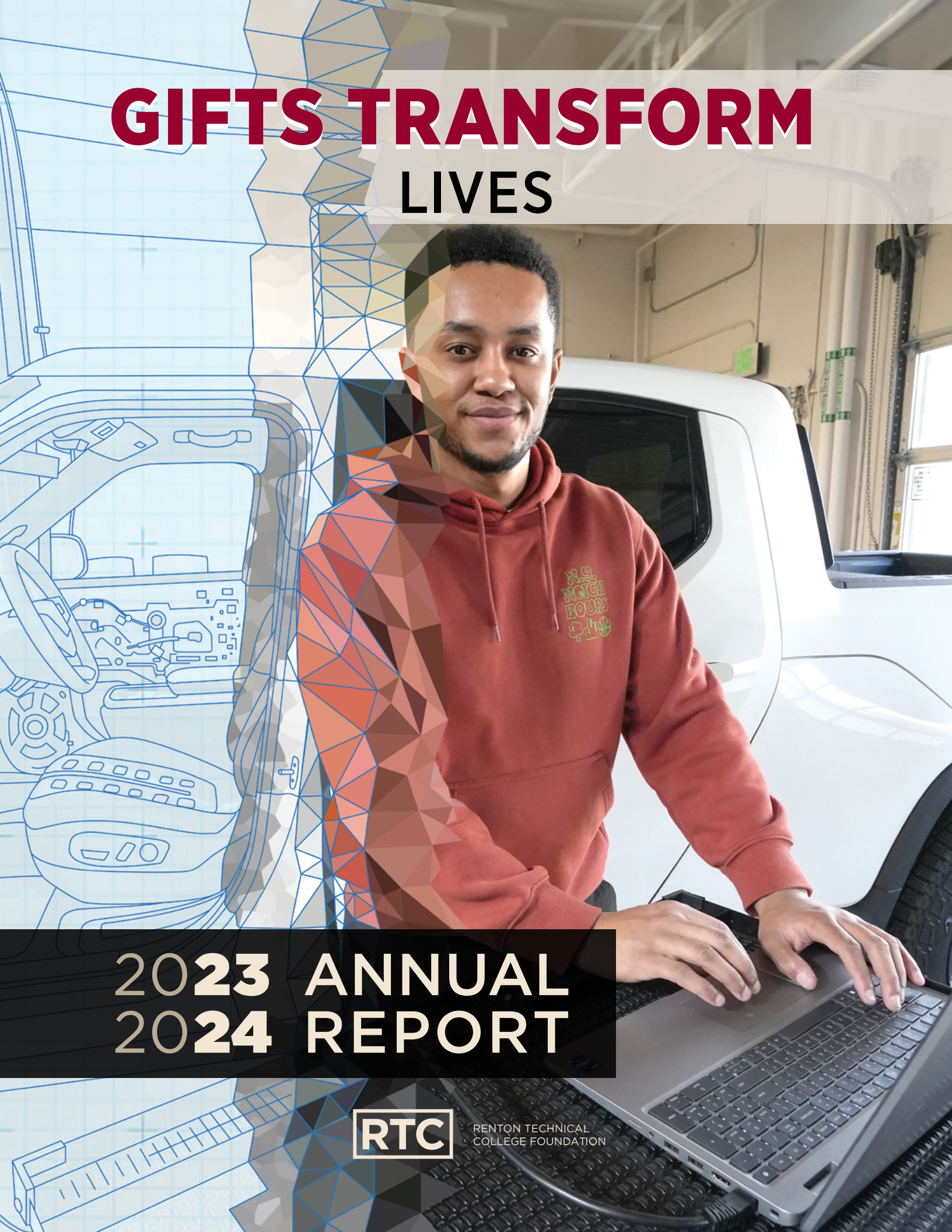


# GIFTS TRANSFORM LIVES



## 2023 ANNUAL 2024 REPORT



RENTON TECHNICAL  
COLLEGE FOUNDATION

# Message from the President



**Yoshiko Harden**

RTC President

As I start my third year as president at RTC, I'm so proud to be a part of this incredible community and the RTC Foundation. I am impressed with many aspects of this community, in particular, the levels of support and care for the students we serve. I thank you, our generous donors, for everything you do to help students find their place and

thrive, in alignment with our new mission statement:

**RTC empowers students to thrive in a changing world through a technical college education that centers equity.**

With our vision of Transformation Through Learning, the Be The Place Strategic Equity Plan is centered on equity and community, closing opportunity gaps, advancing student success, and building student opportunities. The plan defines the college's goal to be the place where students find their place. Racial equity is central to that plan, which is reflected in the college's new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion statement:

**Leading with racial equity, RTC pursues diversity, equity, and inclusion for all students, faculty, and staff. Through shared accountability,**

**we collectively work to identify and dismantle institutional barriers to create and sustain a thriving and just community.**

The first goal of the new SEP is: **Be The Place to Transform Student Success: Align and equip the college to strengthen collaboration with students to reach their goals in the workforce and the community.**

Your donations are vital in helping equip students with scholarships, grants, and mentorship to help them achieve their goals. As you know, when our students thrive, our communities thrive.

Thank you for your partnership.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yoshiko Harden'.

Dr. Yoshiko Harden

## From the Foundation President

When I think about RTC's new vision statement Transformation Through Learning, it is real for my family and why I have such a deep connection to Renton Technical College.

It was the campus environment at RTC that transformed my son Conner's life when he arrived without much direction or motivation for college. Once he encountered the passion for learning and an instructor who recognized his talents and desire to help people heal, school became a joy of discovery, a place of achievement and pride. He now works in the physical therapy field.

Lives are transformed at RTC, and my family knows that firsthand. This is true for countless students who bring their talents and aspirations to build a brighter future every day to campus, whether it's in their welding lab or surgical technician classroom.

Those stories of transformation made possible by your impact as donors to the RTC Foundation. Your faithful support continues to transform our community through the success of students.



**Lori Inman**

RTC Foundation President

# You provided over \$1 million in direct support to students – now that is transformational giving!

It is with immense gratitude that we commemorate hitting the \$1 million threshold that just a couple of years ago did not seem possible. Your exceptional giving made this possible and behind every scholarship, emergency grant, or support for books and tools are students developing their talents and defining career success. Your impact represents a 34% increase in annual donations over last year with 89% of all donations going to direct services.



# \$1,128,858

**\$1,007,960**

544 Scholarships and tuition grants with an 82% award rate

**\$78,598**

145 Book and equipment grants

**\$45,000**

150 Emergency grants

**Retention**

**71%**

Recipient retention rate 20 points above the national rate

**Students of Color**

**70%**

**Persistence Rate**

**92%**

Book & Equipment Grant recipients

Note: Persistence rate measures students who have either completed their program or are continuing their education. The retention rate measures a student's enrollment from quarter-to-quarter.

# Scholarship honors a young life of kindness and passion for cars



Kody Wiltse was known for his daily gestures of kindness and for his extraordinary mechanical talents and skills. For his family, co-workers, and friends, Kody was the most selfless person they have ever known. “He could fix anything and make it better,” shared his father, Keith, about Kody’s ability to work on cars and motorcycles. His mother, Mia, shared that he purchased his first car, a 1968 Dodge Power Wagon, at age 11 and a Plymouth Duster at age 14. “He was a great saver, and his abilities were uncanny, and awe-inspiring to those around him.”

Childhood friend Brody Steffey recalls working on cars with Kody growing up and sharing many memories in his dad’s shop. “We had talked about working at Discount

Tire together as kids and ended up being hired within a couple of weeks of each other,” Brody shared.

Roux Willmott, manager of the Renton Discount Tire and Kody’s supervisor for three years, said Kody was a great teacher and coach to the other automotive technicians. “His goal everyday was to provide top service to customers, top quality, and safety,” Roux said. “He made everyone around him better and never let anyone go backwards in what they delivered. He was an amazing individual.”

It was at the tire store across the street from the college that former Renton Technical College tutor and Computer Network Technology graduate Billy Ray learned how beloved Kody was and about the motorcycle accident that

had taken his life in August 2023. That’s when Billy reached out to the family. After touring RTC’s automotive program and learning more about scholarships through the RTC Foundation, Mia and Keith embraced the idea of setting up a memorial scholarship in Kody’s name. Now students like Randy Lee, a fall quarter recipient of the Kody Wiltse Memorial Scholarship, continue Kody’s legacy of excellence and dedication to the automotive trade.



**Randy Lee**

# Scholarships transform memorials into lasting student support



**Kody's scholarship funding is significant for me and my family to carry on and helps secure a better future for us."**

Randy lost his job in aerospace during the pandemic and came to RTC to reinvent himself and find a career path in the automotive industry. He was recently accepted into the Rivian Training Program at RTC and believes, "This unique program makes me a more competitive candidate in the current job market." Kody's parents see the scholarship as a life-affirming way to honor what he meant to the people who knew him. "Helping automotive students is part of Kody's legacy to inspire future generations of car enthusiasts," they shared. "And it reminds us to pursue our dreams with unwavering dedication and selflessness."



**I have always wanted to be where the action is and helping doctors save lives. I want to thank you so much for supporting me through this scholarship so that I can make the world better and achieve my dream to become a surgical technologist.**

## **Angela Cheung**

Over the past year, individuals and families have taken steps to create a legacy of love by setting up a memorial scholarship through the RTC Foundation. These include the Bonnie G. McLennaghan Memorial, James Robinson Memorial, the Kody Wiltse Memorial, May Family Memorial, and the Renton 21 Club's Jack Sparrow and Carl Witt Memorial Scholarships.

While words cannot capture the loss of a loved one, each quarter RTC students move forward with their lives because family members and friends created a living legacy through scholarships.

We have heard from family members and friends about the comfort and pride they have experienced knowing their loved one's name is associated with helping students succeed. It is a gesture that ensures a legacy through the educational achievements of others and contributes to the generational blessings a college degree brings to families in our community.

If you would like to learn more about memorial scholarships, contact **Carrie Shaw: [cshaw@rtc.edu](mailto:cshaw@rtc.edu)** or **(425) 235-2415**, or make a tax-deductible donation through the secure online donation portal at **[www.rtc.edu/foundation](http://www.rtc.edu/foundation)**.

# Students access earn-and-learn opportunities through ITW Hobart Service partnership



Making impactful investments in communities where ITW Hobart Service operates is front and center for the global company. As a leading provider and manufacturer of commercial kitchen equipment, Hobart's partnership to support RTC Culinary Arts students was natural. Now Hobart has expanded its commitment by sponsoring a fellowship that provides paid on-the-job training.

"We designed the ITW-Hobart Fellowship Program to align with shorter certificate training programs," said Scott Frey, Human Capital Development Leader. "Students in the Fellowship Program work as paid

**David Higgins next to Hobart equipment in RTC kitchen.**



**Students are positive and passionate about performing at a high level, finishing school, and getting settled into a successful career. The facilities are top-notch, with state-of-the-art equipment and teaching practices in place to help students succeed."**

— **Scott Frey**





### Students in RTC's Property Maintenance Program.

service technician interns while they are in school.

Tesfaye Hailu is one of those fellows. A student in RTC's Property Maintenance Program, he works as a service technician at Hobart's Seattle location. Tesfaye knew his job prospects were limited without additional training.

"I couldn't cover my tuition expenses and support my family. Having the ITW scholarship and working for Hobart

Service means I can still support my family and continue my studies without stress," shared Tesfaye. "It gives me a stepping stone to join the labor market."

"RTC is teaching important skills for career success," shared Scott. "We view our relationship as a true partnership where each party brings something valuable to the table to help facilitate the success of each student."

Hobart is a longtime sponsor of the RTC Foundation's Celebrity Chef Dinners. David Higgins, Senior Territory Operations Manager, has led the partnership and never misses a dinner event.

"The RTC Foundation partnership not only strengthens our connection with today's culinary experts but also introduces us to the future leaders of the industry," shared David. "By being part of this event, we're not just showcasing our company—we're demonstrating our commitment to the excellence and innovation that drives the entire food service industry forward."

When asked to name his favorite event, David shared that it was difficult to pick just one. "But I would have to say it was when I spoke to Chef Angie Mar and discovered that I currently live in the Seattle neighborhood where she grew up."

# Providence Swedish 2024 Generosity Award

## A transformative partnership: Interview with M. Trevor Bennett, Associate Vice President Acute Care Operations at Providence Swedish



from construction and toward the healthcare field. While a nationally recognized academic institution was an unlikely starting point for someone who barely graduated high school, community college proved to be a perfect match! This fit led me to pursue a career as an EMT while also laying the foundational stones of my career in healthcare and now executive.

The community college met me where I was, offering support, affordable costs, and a manageable class size that nurtured my academic capabilities.

**Share why Providence Swedish's values are central to your partnership with RTC.**

This personal journey not only reshaped my future but also deepened my appreciation for the mission and impact of institutions like RTC and their alignment with the healthcare industry's need.

We hold dear the values of compassion, justice, excellence, dignity, integrity, and safety. These mirror RTC's

core values of empowerment, equity, and community and foster a natural alignment between the two institutions.

Our collaborative efforts with RTC to support scholarships exemplify a shared commitment to uplifting and empowering individuals through education and health services. Every facet of our operations ensures that we not only deliver exceptional healthcare but also contribute positively to the community's welfare. RTC embodies these same principles, with a mission to provide accessible and quality education to every student, regardless of their starting point.

**Health sector workforce needs are growing, and some say at a crisis level. How are colleges like RTC helping you meet those growing needs?**

The role of colleges like RTC in meeting healthcare workforce demands cannot be overstated. These institutions are pivotal in providing the necessary training and education to a diverse group of students, many of whom enter under-resourced but emerge ready to tackle critical roles in healthcare.

**You often talk about the vital role community colleges play in healthcare. How do you define that role?**

My path from a high school student with a minimal GPA to a leader in the healthcare sector underscores the transformative power of education. My educational journey began at a community college just like Renton Technical College. It was the birth of my twins, who required NICU care, that pivoted my career away





### **Students in RTC's Surgical Technologist Program.**

It's not just the immediate job openings but the need to foster a sustainable healthcare ecosystem capable of addressing the challenges of tomorrow. By providing many entry points into the healthcare industry, RTC and similar institutions ensure a steady influx of qualified professionals ready to serve their communities.

#### **How do you see the future for investments in education and healthcare?**

The integration of education and healthcare services is fundamental to the

well-being of Washington's residents. Moving forward, it is imperative that we continue to invest in our community and technical colleges to expand their capacity to train future healthcare professionals.

I am a staunch advocate to continue and expand support of community colleges. Let us commit to a future where education empowers, healthcare heals, and communities thrive.

The Providence Swedish partnership now spans seven years and over \$94,000 in direct support to dozens of nursing and healthcare students. Providence Swedish has hired RTC graduates, provided clinical training, and even featured one of their RTC scholars, nursing student Tiffany Thrash, in television ads that aired in 2020 on KING 5. Former Providence Swedish leaders Sherry Williams and Pam Gallagher Felt, now an RTC Foundation Board member, initiated the partnership.



# 2024 Student Success Celebration – feel the music and the joy!



*Many thanks to our event sponsors!*

Presenting Sponsor



invitation homes™





# 2024 Celebrity Chef Dinner with Kristi Brown and wine pairing by Advanced Sommelier Jeff Lindsay-Thorsen



- 1 Chef Kristi applauds student Trevor Donahue who served as the evening's Commis.
- 2 Stephen Re and Sharonne Navas made exceptional contributions to students as first-time attendees.

- 3 Professional development at its best. Students received hands-on training from Chef Kristi.
- 4 RTC President, Dr. Yoshiko Harden thanks Chef Kristi for a fabulous evening and

- the many ways she inspired students.
- 5 Raise your spoons for students! Guests brought their superpowers of generosity and raised over \$70,000 for culinary students.



This year's dinner was one for the record books, both in funds raised for culinary students and the level of Seattle Soul spice presented in a fabulous five-course dinner for 48 guests by internationally acclaimed Chef Kristi Brown.



■ 3



■ 4



■ 7

- 6 Final bow by students and Chefs Tony Parker and David Wynne for making “miracles in the kitchen.
- 7 The event gives students the opportunity to prepare dishes under the mentorship

of the Celebrity Chef and her staff.

**Presenting Sponsor**



# Microsoft grant transforms student learning



developed RTC's Cybersecurity Program, shared how the grant "opened doors for students to engage in competitions and projects that build their portfolio for future job opportunities."

The Cypher Leap 2 Capture the Flag competition is a great example of students learning to "hack" and employ their security testing skills. "Knowing network infrastructure and security, and anticipating cyber threats, must be done in real time," Day said. "These competitions make it all real for students."

In the world of computer science, many students are drawn to the innovative and challenging sectors of cybersecurity and gaming. That is the foundation of a grant from Microsoft to bring real-world innovation to students in RTC's cybersecurity program.

"Since 2022, Microsoft Philanthropy has invested \$60,000 for the sole purpose of elevating the student experience," shared Ren Tarvin, RTC Cloud Network Technology instructor. "Having the latest in equipment and software has been a game changer for our students." Colleen Day, the faculty member who



# Scholarships secure future career in cybersecurity



## Adenike “Nike” Gbeminiyi

Learning and career exploration is a family affair for Adenike “Nike” Gbeminiyi, an honor student in RTC’s Cybersecurity Program and mother of two. “My husband came to RTC first to get his associate degree in business,” shared Nike., “He asked me if I wanted to change careers and that RTC was a great place to do that. Going back to school was a big step, but I saw it as an opportunity to invest in my future while raising my children.”

As a stay-at-home mom taking care of young children with health challenges, Nike knows firsthand the financial tradeoffs



**Students have the talent and the will; they just need the means to achieve their goals.**



that brings. Scholarships made it possible for Nike. She is the recipient of the Andee Jorgensen Scholarship for Student Success, American Association of University Women South King County Chapter, and the RTC Foundation scholarships.

Her gratitude is palpable. “For donors, you don’t know the magnitude of what you are doing by supporting scholarships. I didn’t know how to pay for school and there was so much stress and discouragement. You have made the journey more doable, and your gifts makes me want to do my best,” Nike shared.

# 2023-24 FINANCIAL REPORT

## Beginning Balance

Unrestricted: \$260,493  
Restricted: \$405,803  
Endowments: \$3,747,319

**Total: \$4,413,615**

## Total Revenue

Unrestricted: \$134,630  
Restricted: \$804,742  
Endowments: \$626,439

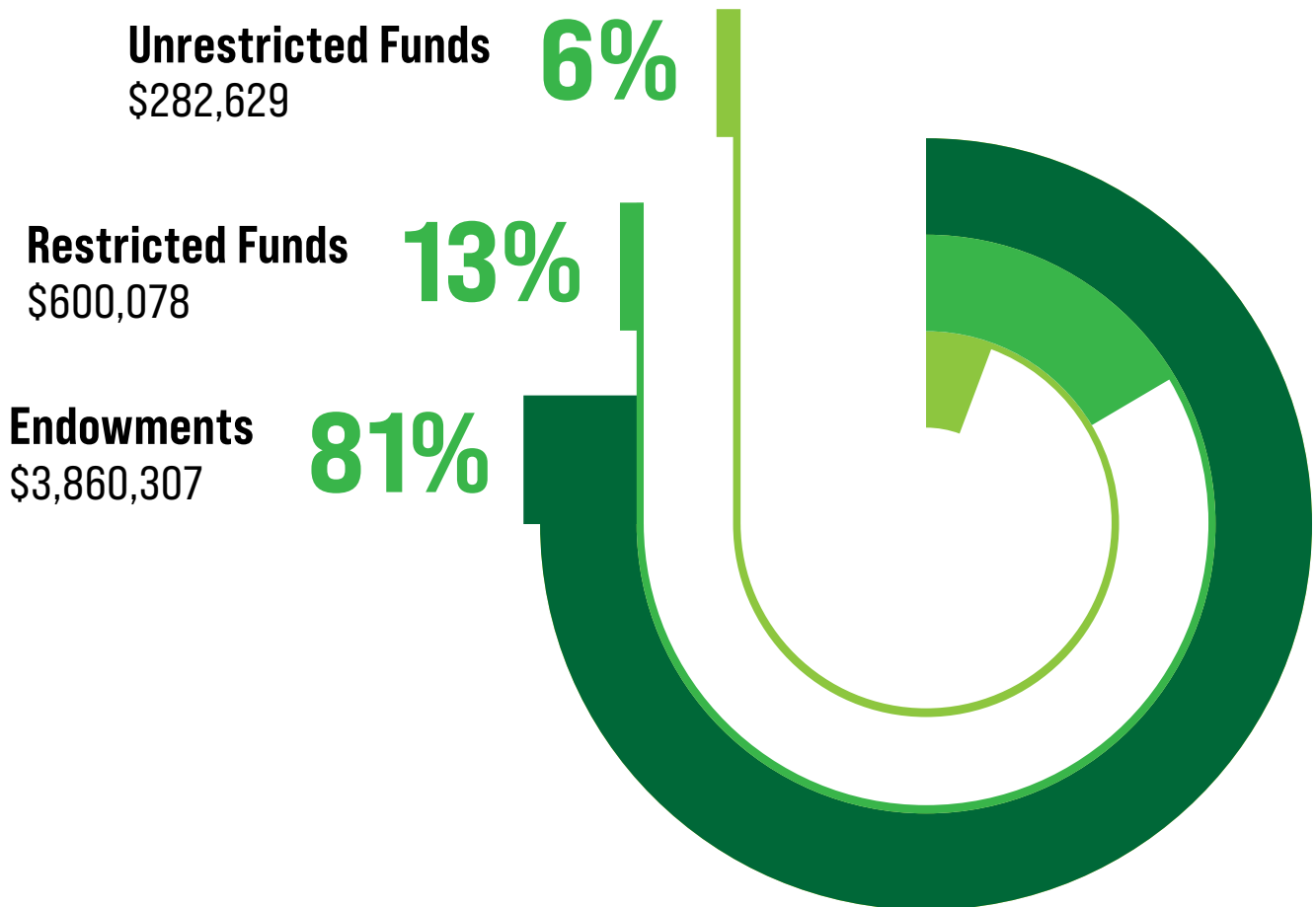
**Total: \$1,565,811**

## Total Expenses

Unrestricted: \$112,494  
Restricted: \$610,467  
Endowments: \$513,450

**Total: \$1,236,411**

## ENDING BALANCE \$4,743,014





# 2023-24 Foundation Board of Directors

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\* Posthumous

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Estate of Eva C. Gordon	Andee Jorgensen* &	Charles Pigott	The Norcliffe Foundation
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Delores Hayward	Annette & Cliff Long	Beth & Paul Picardo	Daniel Stull
Mary & Michael Heinisch	Denise Lopez-Barclay	Santiago Potenciano	Lou & George Tantzen
Janin Hendry	Kim & Floyd Lorenz	Julee & Jeff Pratt	Teal Family Gift Fund
Sarah & Ryan Hoaglin	Thomas Marsh	Tina Ragen	Tesla
Jonathan Holden	Christina Mautz	Susan Rather	Mike Timmons
Robert Holland	Brenda McDermott	William Reid	Connie Tran
Sherrie Holmes	Michael McKernan	Anne Repass	Joanne Treffrey
Rachel Hough	Mary & Steven	Eduardo Rodriguez	Deborah Tully
Allen Hsieh	Mindemann	Fatima Rodriguez	Anna & David Uryash
Kevin Iden	Amy Morrison	Gonzalez	Valley Medical Center
Iden's Dealer Services	Liz Murakami	Cheyenne Roduin	Matt Vielbig
Ebony Jackson	Becky Nickels	Leonard Rose	Walker's Renton Subaru
Morenika Jacobs	Liz & James Nolan	Gary Saleba	& Mazda
Maddie Johnson	Lyanne & Drew O'Connell	Debra Sanders	Faye Watanabe
Katherine Jordan	Tom O'Keefe	Lisa Sandoval	Kristina Wendlandt
Valerie Kaminski	Jason Oliver	Karen Say-Valadez	William H Gates III
Kendall Subaru of	Michael Orbino	David Schieber	Siliphone Xayamouangbo
Marysville	Terri & Jason Parker	Ted Schwarz	Kevin Yruretagoyena
Danny Klumper	Annette & Bob Parks	Shelby & Joe Scovel	Lisa Ziemer

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### FRIENDS OF RTC: Gifts of \$200 to \$499

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Edward Alford	Paula Boyum	Rebecca Chawgo	David Evans
Dylan Anderson	Jim Bricker*	Dennis Chin	Elaine & Bruce Fish
Mehrdad Azemun	Chris Brod	David Chivo	Tiffany Forbes
Patricia Baker-Sherman	Jerry Brown	Mark Clark	Myrna & Matthew
Heather Barstow	Erin Brumett	Amy Collinsworth	Fredrickson
Angela Bay	Linda Bui	Judy Craig	Kat Freeman
Jean-Francois Berche &	Brent Camann	Jasmine Daniels	Fundraising Standard
Sally Cohn	Mitzi Carletti	Bette Drescher	America George
Irene Botero	Rebecca Chase	Pete Ellis	Lisa & Craig Gillin

Michael Gintz	Carolee & Ralph Jones	Wendy Novak	Karen Strickland
Karen Granger	Roxane & Eric Jonson	Candice Nye	Cassandra & Andrew
Sean Greenlee	Eva Juarez	Alex & Isabel O'Neill	Stuard
Haggard Electric	Jon Jurich	Michael Pacholec	Elisa Stuart
Kaisa Hammonds	Nicholas Kawamoto	Marcie & Gary Palmer	Suzi Suelzle
McAulay & Bryan Haney	Gary Kessler	Ebony Pattenauide	Brad Thomas
Cheryl Hanson	Carolyn King	Kristin Patterson	Romy Tong
Jennifer Harden	Lynne King	Tru Petrilli	Lisa Torgersen
Sheelagh Harka	Kristine Kleinsmith &	Ramona Pitre-Collins	Jay Townsend
Jean Harris	Neil Lapinsky	Joy & James Poff	Duc Tran
Robert Harrison	Linda Kleppe-Olson	Renee Radcliff Sinclair	Tracey Turcotte
Cheryl Haskins	Gary Kohlwes	Peggy Reddy	John Ulitsch
Jennifer & Robert	Jessica Koshi-Lum	Shirley Reitz	Brian Van
Henning	Bradley Lee	Tanya Rettinger	Bob Van Keppel
Matthew Heyer	Denise Levine	Wil Samson	Chip Vincent
Joy & David Higgins	Kimberly Loreen	Scovel Family Fund	Vino's At the Landing
Sun Hongyan &	Ann Marie D. Louie	Tim Searing	Robert Watt
Liu Kelong	Doris Martinez	Vivian Shannon	Megan Watts
Benita Horn	Ronnie McGaha	Crista Shaw	Lorraine Weeks &
JR Hudspeth	Tera McMilon	Sallie Shortt and Jack	Edward Doyne
Michele Hunt	Kimberly McRae	Shultz	Tavia Williams
Heather & Richard	Sonja Mejlaender	Michele Slaughter	Howard Wolosky
Jackson	Ellen Miller-Wolfe	Kevin Smith	Carrie Youngblood
James & Sue Jacobson	Denise Mitchell	Patrick Smith	Di Zhang
Beverly Jensen	Katie & Richard Moore	Shannon Smith	
Kelly Jiang	Melinda Nichols	Tyrone Somerville	*deceased
Devlon Johnson	Northwest Education	Mark St. Peter	
Sharon & Dale Johnston	Access	Bree Stendal	

## In-Kind Gifts

America's Car Museum	Tim Cooper	Museum of Pop Culture	Tacoma Art Museum
Heather Barstow	Yoshiko Harden	National Nordic Museum	Kim Khanh Van
Theresa Beauchene	IAM District 751	Bonnie Nichols	Vino's At the Landing
Beneath the Streets	Lori Inman	Pamela Gallagher Felt	Kristina Wendlandt
Thuy-Van Campbell	Johnny's Fine Foods, Inc	Seattle Aquarium	Wing Luke Museum
Catalyst Presents LLC	Liz Murakami	Seattle Art Museum	
Brenda Collons	Museum of Glass	Carrie Shaw	

**RTC Foundation**  
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