



**Barb Richey**  
CCS Foundation Board President

## GREETINGS FROM THE FOUNDATION

We are delighted to present the CCS Foundation's annual report and showcase some of the ways you have made a difference in the lives of our students and programs over the past year. We exist solely because of the generosity of donors and supporters like you, and we are proud that with your help, we awarded over half a million dollars to approximately 500 students this year! To truly understand what that means in the lives of the students who received an award, we encourage you to read the stories of some of the students we've helped in the following pages.

From the student who was separating toilet paper into two rolls in order to make it go farther, to the student who nearly dropped out of school because they did not have a way to get to class, we provide the necessary funds and resources that keep our students in school. Foundation scholarships and emergency assistance, generously supported by you, make success attainable for our students. This, in turn, makes them productive, contributing members of our local communities and economies.

As state budget cuts continue to have a larger and more profound impact on our colleges, outside funding sources become even more critical. Recently, the Foundation was asked for emergency support for a program that provides food to some of our neediest students, because the funding used previously had been cut. This left our students at risk of going hungry, impacting both their education and the lives of their families. So while we are pleased with our recent accomplishments, the need continues to grow.

We are honored by your enthusiastic participation in our annual fundraising events, your gifts made in honor or memory of others, your payroll deduction gifts, your inclusion of the Foundation in your estate plans, and all the other ways that you support our mission. During the last year, the Foundation raised more than \$1 million in charitable gifts, grants and other fundraising activities. Your gifts are helping empower not just individual students, but our entire community.

With your sustained support, we can ensure that the Foundation and the colleges continue to make a difference in the lives of all of our students. We are grateful for your previous support of the Foundation, and now we are asking you to join us in this new year to ensure that the Foundation can continue to meet the needs of our students and the colleges. A student who is given the opportunity to achieve their potential will never forget that their success is possible because a donor like you believed in their dreams.

*"It may seem like a little thing to most, but it's huge to me."*  
— Vernicia, Scholarship Recipient



**Tony Higley**  
CCS Foundation Executive Director

## REMEMBERING DR. ELIZABETH WELTY

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Elizabeth "Lib" Welty in September. Dr. Welty was a longtime supporter of the CCS Foundation and a true believer in the power of education to change lives. Originally from Pennsylvania, Dr. Welty graduated from Cornell Medical School and first practiced medicine in New York and Philadelphia. She and her late husband Robert moved to Spokane in 1949 and were longtime patrons of the local arts and education communities.

In 2008, Dr. Welty established the Welty Endowment for Systemic Program and Professional Development at the CCS Foundation as a tool to create and enhance educational change at the systemic level. She was committed to helping the colleges grow and improve, and the Foundation has since awarded six \$50,000 grants areas across the colleges that will have a lasting impact on the educational opportunities available to students.



Photo by Rick Singer Photography

In addition to higher education, Dr. Welty was active in arts and health care organizations throughout the region. She wanted to help enhance the quality of life here in Spokane and generously gave of her time and energy to various non-profit organizations, including the Symphony, public radio, and the MAC. She was recognized by the YWCA of Spokane with the Woman of Achievement Award, and in 2015 was named to the Spokane Citizens Hall of Fame.

Dr. Welty will be very missed, not just for her generous, giving spirit, but for her never-ending enthusiasm, humor and desire to help make the world a better place. The Foundation is honored to have shared part of her life's journey and will continue to uphold her legacy.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2016-17 OFFICERS

- Barb Richey, President**
- Rob Dietz, Vice President**
- Christopher Greene, Secretary**
- Eric Cremers, Treasurer**
- Scott Ewing, Immediate Past President**

### MEMBERS

- Jim Bockemuehl**  
Wealth Management Advisor  
Bishopp, Bockemuehl & Associates
- Dave Bosch**  
Financial Services Director  
Northwest Farmer-Stockman, Inc.
- Catherine Brazil**  
Director of Government & Community Relations  
University of Washington
- Eric Cremers**  
President & Chief Operating Officer  
Potlatch Corporation
- Brad Desormeau**  
Financial Advisor  
UBS Financial
- Rob Dietz**  
Senior Vice President Commercial Loans  
Banner Bank
- Greg Embrey**  
Principal  
Witherspoon Kelley P.S.
- Scott Ewing**  
Community Volunteer
- Kathy George**  
SCC Faculty Representative  
Adult Basic Education Instructor
- Christopher Greene**  
Associate Corporate Counsel  
Washington Trust Bank
- Gordon Hester**  
Vice President  
Kiernle & Hagood Company
- Sean Hoagland**  
Director, Compensation & Benefits  
Potlatch Corporation
- Jeff Kavadias**  
President & Owner  
Jeff Kavadias CPA PC
- Betsy Lawrence**  
SCC Faculty Representative  
English & Foreign Languages Instructor
- Polly McMahon**  
SFCC Faculty Representative  
Social Services & Gerontology Program Manager
- Dan Olson**  
Community Volunteer
- Jim Perez (Sabbatical)**  
Community Volunteer
- Barb Richey**  
Vice President of Marketing  
STCU
- Gary Schroeder**  
President & Owner  
Schroeder Business Coaching, Inc.
- Sara Sexton-Johnson**  
Executive Director, CCS Workforce,  
Continuing Education & Corporate Training
- Bill Storms**  
Owner  
7Storms Advertising
- Colin Thompson**  
CFO  
Power City Electric
- Steve Trabun**  
Regional Business Manager  
Avista Utilities
- Todd Woodard**  
Director, Marketing/Public Affairs  
Spokane International Airport

## EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

- Jan Wigen**  
Trustee  
Community Colleges of Spokane
- Michael Wilson - Alternate**  
Trustee  
Community Colleges of Spokane

## FOUNDATION STAFF

- Geneva Ayers**  
Secretary  
509-434-5127  
geneva.ayers@ccs.spokane.edu
- Krista Caro**  
Events Coordinator  
509-434-5069  
krista.caro@ccs.spokane.edu
- Tony Higley**  
Executive Director  
509-434-5125  
tony.higley@ccs.spokane.edu
- Kristen Landrus**  
Major Gifts Director  
509-434-5246  
kristen.landrus@ccs.spokane.edu
- Jean McNeilly**  
Foundation Accountant  
509-434-5208  
jean.mcneilly@ccs.spokane.edu
- Jen Westra**  
Communications & Outreach Coordinator  
509-434-5064  
jen.westra@ccs.spokane.edu
- Valerie Wilson**  
Administrative Assistant  
509-434-5123  
valerie.wilson@ccs.spokane.edu
- Jesse Zumbro**  
Scholarship Manager  
509-434-5128  
jesse.zumbro@ccs.spokane.edu

## SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL EVENTS



Sip, Swirl & Savor  
April 22, 2017



Bigfoot Golf Classic  
June 9, 2017



**Community Colleges of Spokane Foundation**

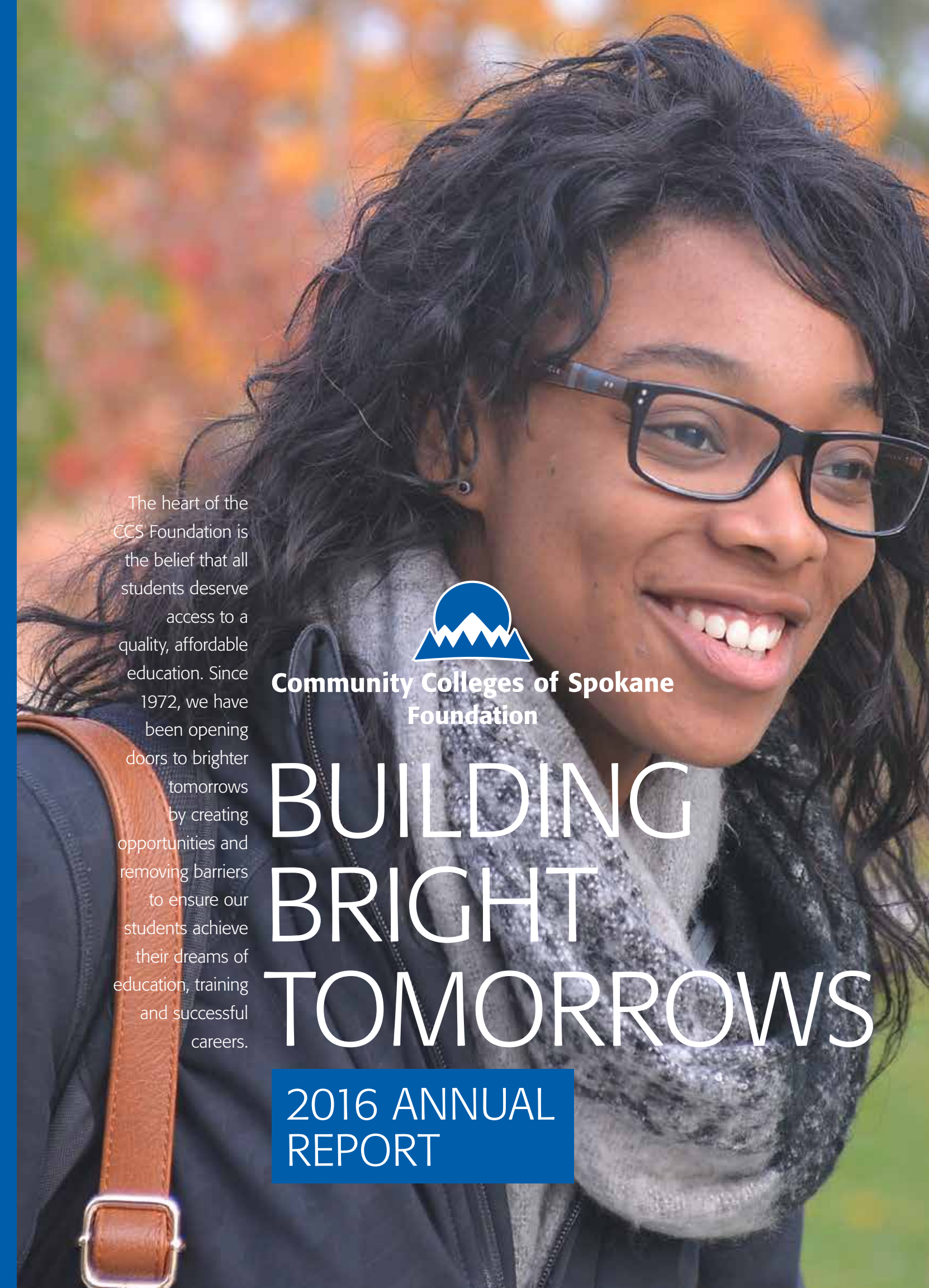
*Building Bright Tomorrows for Our Students and Our Community*

509-434-5123 • [www.ccsfoundation.org](http://www.ccsfoundation.org)

501 N Riverpoint Blvd #203, Spokane WA 99202-1659

Community Colleges of Spokane does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation or age in its programs, activities or employment. Please direct all inquiries regarding compliance with access, equal opportunity and/or grievances to Chief Administration Office, CCS, 501 N Riverpoint Blvd, PO Box 6000, MS1004, Spokane WA 99217-6000 or call 509-434-5037. SCC TTY 533-8610 / VP 866-948-2811, SFCC TTY 533-3838 / VP 509-315-2310. Marketing and Public Relations November 2016

- Community Colleges of Spokane Foundation
- ccsfoundation
- FoundationCCS



The heart of the CCS Foundation is the belief that all students deserve access to a quality, affordable education. Since 1972, we have been opening doors to brighter tomorrows by creating opportunities and removing barriers to ensure our students achieve their dreams of education, training and successful careers.



**Community Colleges of Spokane  
Foundation**

# BUILDING BRIGHT TOMORROWS

2016 ANNUAL  
REPORT

# CHANGING LIVES FOR THE BETTER



**CHRIS**

Chris is a disabled veteran living on disability payments of \$133/month. **At this time last year, he was homeless, living in his truck in the Walmart parking lot with his cat and dog.** Through the help of the Homeless Veterans program, he got connected with resources at SFCC to go back to school. To do homework, he used free Wi-Fi in the McDonald's parking lot, and he showered at the school during the week.

Chris received the Touch the Future Scholarship, which provides full tuition and books to our most deserving students. His first quarter was a struggle, but with the help of the SFCC Veterans Resource Center and the Foundation, he was able to get stable housing and food stamps. By his second quarter, he was getting a 4.0 in all his classes.

Chris says that school is what keeps him going in life. He is getting ready to graduate this spring and then will enroll in the Bachelor's of Applied Management program at SFCC with the eventual goal of completing his Master's degree at Whitworth. His journey is truly an example of never giving up, despite seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

**SUPPORT A STUDENT LIKE CHRIS WITH A \$5,000 GIFT, WHICH PROVIDES TUITION AND FEES FOR ONE YEAR**



**JANA**

Jana is about to graduate from the Automotive Technology program at SCC, but her journey to a degree was not an easy one. **A single mom of 6 children, Jana was homeless for three years due to an abusive relationship.** After successfully completing a rehab program and getting her life back on track, Jana realized that her lifelong love of cars could be her opportunity to provide a secure future for herself and her family.

After finally finding safe, stable housing in Spokane, Jana began classes at SCC and truly blossomed. She has maintained a 3.3 GPA and is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Unfortunately, last summer quarter, Jana was not eligible for Pell Grant funding, and she had exhausted her student loans. Thanks to a Foundation scholarship, however, she was able to stay in school and get one step closer to graduation.

Jana is pursuing a variety of career options, including enrolling in the Avista Entrepreneurship Program at SCC so that she can open her own business. She wants to give back some of the gifts

she has been given and provide services to low-income families, while also offering employment opportunities to at-risk youth. She is proud that she is setting an example for her kids to keep going no matter what barriers you encounter. While every day is still a challenge, Jana is determined to keep trying and not let anything get in her way.

**SUPPORT A STUDENT LIKE JANA WITH A \$1,500 GIFT, WHICH PROVIDES TUITION AND FEES FOR ONE QUARTER**



**SOREN (RANA)**

Soren (Rana) has always been passionate about music. At an early age, he taught himself to play the piano and has been playing and composing ever since. **He never thought he would be able to afford to go to college, though, not only because his family couldn't afford it, but because he has a near-total hearing disability.**

Because of his disability, Soren qualified for services through the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation that would help pay for classes in nursing. When the instructor of his elective music class heard him play, though, she saw his true gift and encouraged him to follow his dream and become a music major. Unfortunately, shortly after starting on this path Soren's hearing aids were stolen, which nearly forced to drop out of school because he could not afford to replace them. Luckily, this same instructor connected him with the Foundation, and we were able to get him new hearing aids so that he could continue his education. Since then, Soren has graduated from SFCC with his Associate's of Fine Arts degree and completed a Bachelor's degree in Music from Gonzaga. He is currently pursuing a Master's degree at EWU and hopes to continue on from there

to finish his Doctorate. Thanks to our generous donors, the Foundation was able to provide Soren the resources he needed to follow his passion.

**SUPPORT A STUDENT LIKE SOREN (RANA) WITH A \$500 GIFT, WHICH PROVIDES NECESSARY RESOURCES LIKE HEARING AIDS**



**RODNEY**

**Due to difficult family circumstances, Rodney, a student at Rogers High School, was forced to drop out of school and found himself homeless at the age of 16.** His older sister took him in and gave him a place to stay, and together, they set about getting Rodney enrolled in GED classes at SCC. However, registering for GED tests requires picture ID, which Rodney didn't have. His estrangement from his parents left him unable to obtain his birth certificate or social security card.

Fortunately, counselors at the Adult Education Center (AEC) at SCC heard about Rodney's situation and stepped in to help. They contacted the Foundation asking for emergency funding to request an official copy of his birth certificate, which he couldn't afford on his own. They discovered that transcripts from District 81 could also be considered in Rodney's quest to obtain ID, but obtaining them required another fee that Rodney couldn't pay. The Foundation was again able to help, and finally, with the continued advocacy of his AEC counselors, Rodney was able to get his photo ID.

After surviving the gauntlet of just being able to register for GED tests and receiving a final Foundation scholarship to cover the costs of those tests, Rodney has taken full advantage of his classes at the AEC and is working incredibly hard to reach his goal. So far, he has taken and passed three of the GED tests and will take his fourth and final test this week to receive his GED. Rodney's counselors are incredibly proud of his progress and know that he is on the path to a successful future.

**SUPPORT A STUDENT LIKE RODNEY WITH A \$250 GIFT, WHICH PROVIDES GED TESTING FEES**



**ANGEL**

Angel had been a commercial truck driver in California for 26 years when he went through an unexpected and devastating layoff. In Angel's own words, the layoff "hurt my heart, my mind, my soul, my will." After being unable to locate other employment, he and his wife moved to Spokane where his wife was able to find a job. Unfortunately, because Angel never finished school and did not have a GED, he was ineligible for Washington state driving requirements and was unable to continue his career.

Thanks to help from the workforce program at SCC, Angel was able to enroll in Adult Basic Education classes and began working his way towards a GED. **He says that his teachers helped heal his heart and gave him a second chance at life.** When his eyeglasses were accidentally broken, though, he could not afford to replace them, since he is not currently working. Without them, he was not able to see his study materials, let alone the GED testing materials.

Luckily, his instructors sent him to the Foundation, and we were able to help Angel purchase a new pair of glasses. Since then, he has continued to make great progress towards his GED and says that his goal is to make the Foundation and our donors proud. Once he passes his GED, Angel is hoping to enroll in the baking program at SCC and is excited to find a new career that will make up for the heartbreak of having to start over from scratch. Sometimes something as simple as a pair of glasses can be the difference between a student dropping out or staying in school and finding the path to a new future.

**SUPPORT A STUDENT LIKE ANGEL WITH A \$100 GIFT, WHICH PROVIDES THE LIFE-CHANGING GIFT OF NEW GLASSES**



**DIXIE**

Just this fall, SCC opened a GED program at the Cheney Library in partnership with the Spokane County Library District. After seeing a flyer for the program, Dixie was excited about the chance to finally further her education as a step towards someday becoming a nurse. School was always a challenge for Dixie, because she has an immune deficiency and gets sick easily, so the new Cheney GED program seemed like a perfect fit. However, her family lives in Sprague and couldn't afford the gas for her to get to class in Cheney.

Luckily, one of her instructors saw Dixie's potential and enthusiasm, and in addition to setting her up with work she could do from home, reached out to the Foundation for help. We were able to provide Dixie a gas card, and now she is able to get to class and is progressing quickly towards her GED! Dixie says that she wouldn't have been able to stay in school without the gas card and is so grateful that others believe in her dream: **"No one has actually cared this much about helping me pursue my dreams before. It means a lot."**

**SUPPORT A STUDENT LIKE DIXIE WITH A \$50 GIFT, WHICH PROVIDES A GAS CARD OR BUS PASS FOR A MONTH**

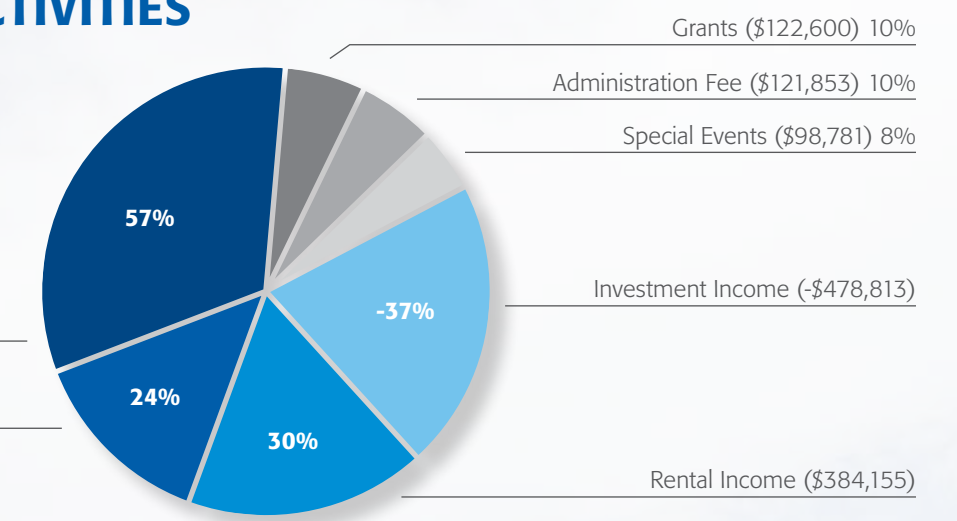
## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

JULY 1, 2015 THROUGH JULY 30, 2016

### TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS & SUPPORTS \$1,278,269

Cash Contributions (\$726,454)

Noncash Contributions (\$303,239)



## FULFILLING OUR MISSION

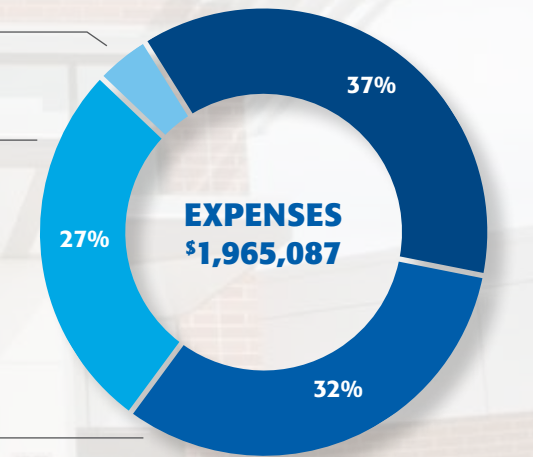
**\$0.99 of every dollar donated goes directly to student scholarships and program support.**

General & Administrative (\$735,428)

Fundraising Expenses (\$74,037) (4%)

Scholarships (\$531,821)

Additional Program Support to the Colleges (\$623,801)



## FOUNDATION GETS A NEW & IMPROVED WEBSITE

The Foundation has a new website! We are thrilled that after months of planning, research, design and editing, our new site has launched. Take a look and let us know what you think; we'd love to hear your feedback! Read stories from our scholarship recipients, learn about the programs we support, and even buy your tickets for SipSwirl&Savor! If you have ideas or suggestions for how the website could be even better, please let us know so that we can continue to develop and grow the site to make it more useful and relevant to you. [ccsfoundation.org](http://ccsfoundation.org)



## VALLEY CHAMBER SCHOLARSHIP

We're pleased to announce a new partnership with the Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce to support students seeking careers in the skilled trades. With an aging workforce and a growing industrial base, there is high demand for these positions, and thanks to the generous support of numerous Spokane Valley Chamber members and the Spokane Valley Chamber Foundation, this new scholarship fund will support Spokane Valley high school students who are enrolling at CCS in a skilled trade program. This new partnership will remove the financial barriers that limit some students' ability to attend college, while increasing enrollment in programs that supply a vital component of our local workforce. We're excited to launch this program in the coming year and help students obtain the skills they need to enter the workforce and find living wage jobs that fuel the backbone of our local economy.