

BEN B. CHENEY FOUNDATION

2025 Annual Report



Cheney Lumber Company Employees, 1947



BEN B. CHENEY FOUNDATION
Helping people and their communities

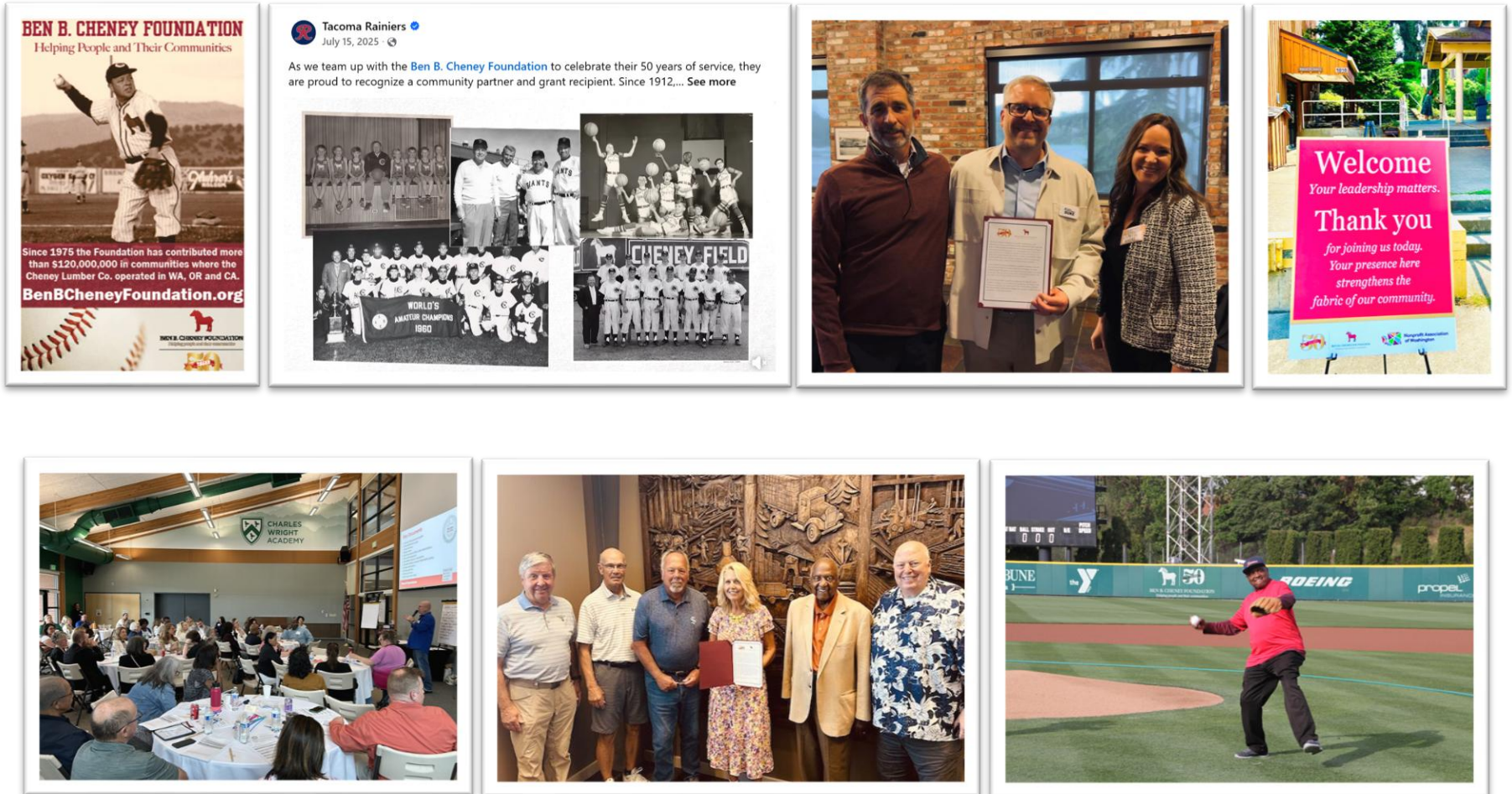
50
YEARS

2025 marked the 50th Year of the Ben B. Cheney Foundation. Since its inception, the Foundation, known to most as simply the Cheney Foundation, has existed to improve the quality of life in the communities where the lumber company operated. Many people know our founder, Ben Cheney, for his contribution to Pierce County through Cheney Stadium. Equally important but lesser known is that his dedication to sports, accompanied by his generous spirit, also caused him to sponsor countless youth sports teams and support a broad range of needs across the region.

The Ben B. Cheney Foundation truly considers its grantees to be community partners, recognizing that these individuals and teams tirelessly and enthusiastically use their time and talents to serve our community in the one of the Foundation's following giving areas: education, health care, youth, culture, civic, social services, or the elderly. For the past 50 years, these partners have helped improve the quality of life for countless people across our region. Like the men and women featured on the cover of this report, these are dedicated, hard-working, innovative, courageous, purpose-driven individuals and without them, the Foundation's work would not be possible.

You will notice that this year's cover does not feature Ben Cheney. That is because his legacy has never been about one individual. This Foundation exists because of Ben's vision and generosity, but it always has been, and will continue to be, about people working together to strengthen their communities. This year's cover honors the people, past and present, who have shared that commitment and help build vibrant communities across our region every day. We are incredibly proud of the work we have done together for the past 50 years. 2025 was a year of celebrating legacy, intention, and positioning ourselves, and our community, for the great work ahead.





In celebration of 50 years of giving, we invested in the people and organizations at the heart of our mission through free trainings, surprise grants, and special events that connected and strengthened communities across three states.

Fifty Years, and Still Learning

In 2025, the Ben B. Cheney Foundation celebrated 50 years of giving.

It was an extraordinary milestone, one that gave us the opportunity to look back at the thousands of grants, organizations, projects, and people that have shaped our work since 1975. And as we revisited that history, something stood out: many of the organizations the Foundation supported in its very first year remain our partners today.

Across Washington, Southern Oregon, and Northern California, we have the privilege of working alongside nonprofit leaders who know their communities deeply. They build places where people gather. They care for neighbors in difficult moments. They create opportunities for young people, strengthen local institutions, and imagine what their communities might become. Our role is to listen, to learn and, when we can, to help.

Since Ben B. Cheney established the Foundation 50 years ago, that spirit has continued to guide our work. Much has changed over the years, but one thing remains the same: strong communities are built by people willing to invest themselves in them.

This anniversary also gave us reason to look ahead. We don't know what challenges the next 50 years will bring. We do know that the best philanthropy is rooted in relationships, curiosity, humility, and a willingness to keep learning. As a result, we have excitedly established new, strong partnerships with groups that possess the hallmark of innovation.

To our nonprofit partners, past and present - thank you. Thank you for welcoming us into your organizations and communities, for trusting us with your ideas and challenges, and most importantly, for the work you do every day in the places you call home. Fifty years is worth celebrating. But more than that, it is a reminder of what can be built through decades of partnership. We are grateful for what came before us, proud to be part of this work today, and excited about what we will build together in the years ahead.

Erika Tucci



Erika Tucci,
Executive Director



Brad Cheney,
Board Chair

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. In the small logging communities of Washington, Oregon, and California many young people played on Cheney-sponsored teams. Over 5,000 youth developed their skills for various sports while participating under Cheney sponsorship.



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 needs, such as food, health care and shelter. Other grants have helped to enrich communities through the arts, athletics, and historical programs.

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](#).

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



2025 Annual Report

Our Giving



Partnered with 98 Organizations



\$3,800,023 Granted



32 Cheney High School Athletic Scholarships



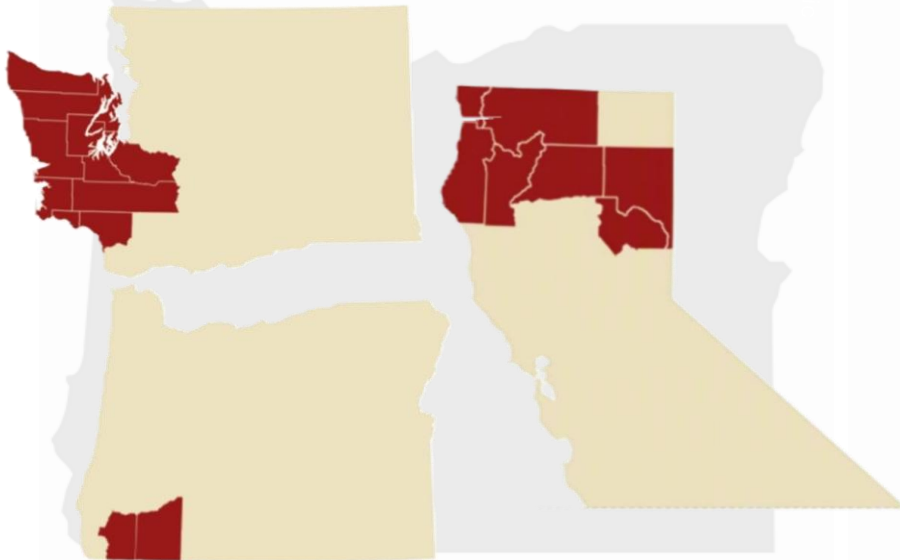
26 Communities Served in Washington, Oregon, and California



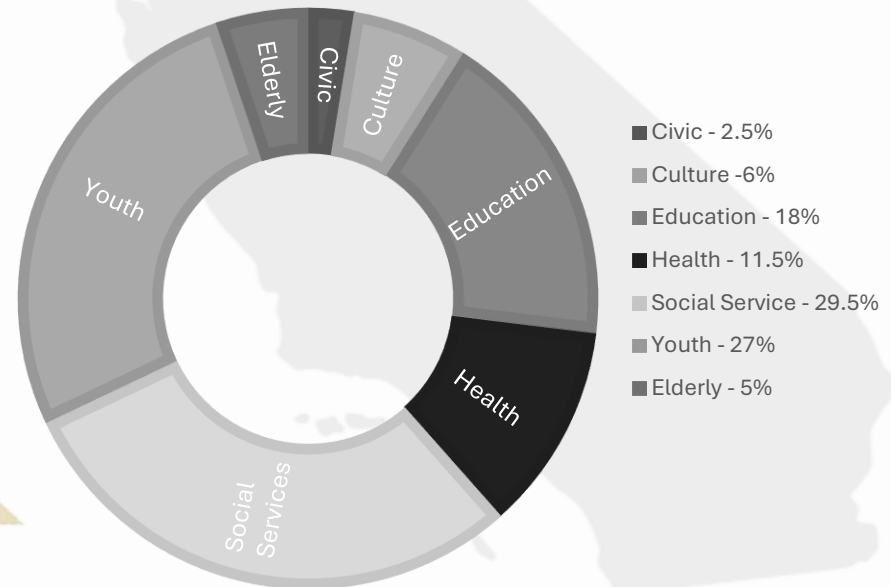
Board Directed & Matching Gifts: \$87,786

At the end of 2025, after 50 years of making grants, the Foundation has made approximately 6,629 grants to more than 1,572 different organizations for a total distribution of \$123,572,570.

Our Geographic Reach



2025 Program Areas



2025 SPECIAL GIVING

SURPRISE 50TH ANNIVERSARY GRANTS

As a meaningful way to celebrate 50 years of grantmaking, the Foundation Board celebrated select organizations across our giving region with surprise \$50,000 grants. Some grant recipients were selected because they have been trusted partners doing good work since the foundation's inception in 1975. Others were selected for their innovation and how they're paving the way forward for the next 50 years. These are the nonprofit sector leaders meeting immediate needs while forging a brighter future for their communities.



BEN B. CHENEY FOUNDATION

Helping people and their communities



50th Anniversary Grant Recipients:

Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA
Bryant Neighborhood Center, Tacoma, WA
Charles Wright Academy, University Place, WA
GoodRoots NW, Bonney Lake, WA
Great Northern Services, Weed, CA
Jefferson Community Foundation, Port Townsend, WA
Kitsap Humane Society, Silverdale, WA
La Clinica, Medford, OR
MultiCare, Tacoma, WA
Opportunities for Housing, Resources & Assistance, Ashland, OR
Pacific Lutheran University, Parkland, WA
South Bend School District, South Bend, WA
Tacoma Athletic Commission, Tacoma, WA
Tacoma Rescue Mission, Tacoma, WA
United Way of Jackson County, Medford, OR
YMCA, Tacoma, WA

YOUTH

\$993,263 IN GRANTS

Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA
Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA
Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA
Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA
Charles Wright Academy Tacoma, WA
Degrees of Change, Tacoma, WA
Greentrike, Tacoma, WA
Hilltop Artists, Tacoma, WA
Key Peninsula Preschool, Vaughn, WA
Multicultural Child & Family Hope Center, Tacoma, WA
Multi-Sport 360, Montesano
Pacific International League, Kent, WA
Salvation Army NW Divisional HQ, Seattle, WA
Scouting America, Pacific Harbors Council, Tacoma, WA
South Bend School Foundation, South Bend, WA
Special Olympics Washington, Seattle, WA
Tacoma Athletic Commission, Tacoma, WA
Tacoma Athletic Commission, Tacoma, WA
United Way of Pierce County
White Mountain Middle School, White City, OR
Woodworth Family Foundation, Tacoma, WA

Repainting of Schatz-Topping Exterior, \$43,000
2025 Legacy of Hope, \$3,000
Surprise 50th Anniversary Grant, \$50,000
#90forWillie Celebration, \$4,000
Bradshaw Chapel Renovation \$220,000
Investing in Technology, \$15,000
Water Playscapes Capital Project, \$150,000
Capacity Building, \$45,000
Improve Outdoor Learning Space, \$7,250
Cora Whitley Family Center, \$100,000
Pitching Machines and Weight Room Renovation, \$14,000
2025 Season Support, \$40,000
Radios for Camp Arnold, \$11,513
Camp Thunderbird Bunkhouse Renovation, \$150,000
Mike Morris Elementary Playground Equipment \$15,000
State Spring Games Opening Ceremonies, \$50,000
Surprise 50th Anniversary Grant, \$50,000
#90forWillie Celebration, \$4,000
#90forWillie Celebration, \$4,000
Wrestling Room Project, \$15,000
2025 Race for the Clubs, \$2,500



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CIVIC

\$55,200 IN GRANTS

Coastal Interpretive Center, Ocean Shores, WA
Pierce County Library Foundation, Tacoma, WA

Digital Sustainability Project, \$5,200
Sumner Library Spark! Capital Campaign, \$50,000



HEALTH

\$837,224 IN GRANTS

Arbor Health Foundation, Morton, WA
La Clinica, Medford, OR
Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children, Tacoma, WA
MultiCare Health Foundation, Tacoma, WA
MultiCare Health Foundation, Tacoma, WA
Providence Community Health Foundation, Medford, OR
St. Joseph Health, Eureka, CA
TRA Medical Imaging Foundation, Tacoma, WA
Y.M.C.A. of Pierce and Kitsap Counties, Tacoma, WA

Fire Safety System Upgrade, \$40,000
Surprise 50th Anniversary Grant, \$50,000
New Dental Chairs, \$49,224
Mary Bridge Hospital Campaign, \$475,000
Surprise 50th Anniversary Grant, \$50,000
Cardiology Clinic Equipment, \$45,000
Support Infant Health Through Technology, \$28,000
MobileMammo NW, \$50,000
Surprise 50th Anniversary Grant, \$50,000



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CULTURE

\$122,000 IN GRANTS

Columbia Theatre Assn. for the Performing Arts, Longview, WA
Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA
Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, WA
Tacoma Little Theatre & Drama League, Tacoma, WA
Western WA University Fdn., Poulsbo, WA

Centennial Capital Campaign, \$25,000
Furnace Liner Replacement, \$37,000
Community Gallery and Visual Storage Project, \$15,000
Flush Campaign, Theatre & Lobby Renovations, \$30,000
Pacific Octopus Habitat @ SEA Discovery Center, \$15,000

ELDERLY

\$41,000 IN GRANTS

Humboldt Senior Resource Center, Eureka, CA
Mustard Seed Project, Vaughn, WA
Mountain View Community Center, Edgewood, WA
Washington State Senior Games, Olympia, WA

Reducing Stigma and Isolation for Older Adults, \$15,000
Outdoor Landscaping and Amenities, \$15,000
MySenior Center, \$6,000
Washington State Senior Games 2025, \$5,000



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SOCIAL SERVICES

\$1,159,000 IN GRANTS

Bridge Meadows, Tacoma, WA
Bryant Neighborhood Center, Tacoma, WA
Compass House, Medford, OR
Easterseals Washington, Seattle, WA
GoodRoots Northwest, Buckley, WA
GoodRoots Northwest, Buckley, WA
Great Northern Services, Weed, CA
Habitat for Humanity of East Jefferson County, Port Townsend, WA
Jefferson Community Foundation, Port Townsend, WA
Kitsap Humane Society, Silverdale, WA
Lutheran Community Services Northwest, Tacoma, WA
Metropolitan Development Council, Tacoma, WA
Northwest Assn. for Blind Athletes, Vancouver, WA
NW Furniture Bank, Tacoma, WA
O.H.R.A., Ashland, OR
Pierce County Explorer Search & Rescue, Tacoma, WA
Rebuilding Hope! Sexual Assault Center for Pierce County, Tacoma, WA
Step by Step Family Support Center, Milton, WA
Tacoma Rescue Mission, Tacoma, WA
Tacoma Rescue Mission, Tacoma, WA
United Way of Jackson County, Medford, OR
United Way of Pierce County, Tacoma, WA
Y.W.C.A. Tacoma-Pierce County, Tacoma, WA

Bridge Meadows Tacoma, \$100,000
Surprise 50th Anniversary Grant, \$50,000
Improving Health Equity for Members, \$15,000
Camp Stand by Me Basketball Court Resurfacing, \$30,000
Warehouse Relocation Project, \$100,000
Surprise 50th Anniversary Grant, \$50,000
Surprise 50th Anniversary Grant, \$50,000
Annex Renovation, \$15,000
Surprise 50th Anniversary Grant, \$50,000
Surprise 50th Anniversary Grant, \$50,000
Aging Services Capital and Safety Need, \$31,500
HVAC Installation, \$40,000
Adaptive Equipment for Blind/Visually Impaired Athletes , \$12,500
New Delivery Truck \$50,000
Surprise 50th Anniversary Grant, \$50,000
Rescue Truck, \$20,000
Healing Headquarters Campaign, \$75,000
Early Learning Center, \$100,000
Shelter Expansion Project, \$15,000
Surprise 50th Anniversary Grant, \$50,000
Surprise 50th Anniversary Grant, \$50,000
Elevator Replacement & Safety Improvements, \$25,000
Shelter Refresh Campaign, \$45,000



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EDUCATION

\$360,550 IN GRANTS

Assoc. of Fundraising Professionals South Sound, Tacoma, WA	South Sound Philanthropy Conference, \$1,000
Charles Wright Academy, University Place, WA	Surprise 50 th Anniversary Grant, \$50,000
Candid, New York, NY	Connecting Nonprofits to Resources They Need to Thrive, \$2,000
Eagle Point School District, Eagle Point, OR	2025 Charley Givan Scholarships, \$15,000
Nonprofit Association of Oregon, Portland, OR	2025 NAO Conference, \$1,000
Nonprofit Association of Washington, Seattle, WA	2025 NAWA Conference, \$1,000
Nonprofit Association of Washington, Seattle, WA	50 th Anniversary Board Training Events, \$35,550
Pacific Lutheran University, Parkland, WA	Surprise 50 th Anniversary Grant, \$50,000
Pacific Lutheran University, Parkland, WA	Scholarships Grant, \$60,000
Palmer Scholars, Tacoma, WA	Improving Organizational Infrastructure, \$15,000
Seabury School, Tacoma, WA	Bus, \$15,000
South Bend School District, South Bend, WA	Surprise 50 th Anniversary Grant, \$50,000
Southern Oregon University Foundation, Ashland, OR	Softball Complex Upgrade, \$40,000
World Forestry Center, Portland, OR	Free Day Series \$25,000



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2025 SPECIAL GIVING

HOLIDAY GRANT PROGRAM

Each year since 1976, the Ben B. Cheney Foundation has made an end of the year donation to six food bank partners to help make the holidays brighter for individuals and families in our region. Each partner received \$7,500, and used the funds for dinners, gift cards, or 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, WA



WILLIE STEWART BIRTHDAY GRANTS

Longtime Tacoma resident Willie Stewart spent over 50 years with Tacoma Public Schools and continues to lift this community with his servant's heart. From youth sports to housing, education to various nonprofits, Willie's fingerprints are everywhere. In December of 2025, Willie turned 90 years old. To honor his birthday the Cheney Foundation participated in the [#90forWillie](#) celebration and invited the community to support the organizations that embody his lifelong commitment to service. The campaign encouraged the community to donate \$90 to one of the charities Willie selected for this celebration. The Ben B. Cheney Foundation matched the first 100 gifts of \$90 to each nonprofit, doubling the impact in Willie's name. Collective donations totaled more than \$90,000 in celebration of Willie!



#90forWillie Recipients: United Way of Pierce County. Palmer Scholars, Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound, Tacoma Athletic Commission,

BEN B. CHENEY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP

\$99,000 IN 2025 SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2025 the Ben B. Cheney Foundation provided 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.

In their own words:

Playing on a team taught me the importance of cooperation, empathy, and effective communication. I met people from diverse backgrounds, and we all worked towards a common goal.

Wrestling taught me that I don't need to be physically on the mat for the sport to remain a part of me. I stopped worrying about what others thought and focused on my mental health. I will always love wrestling; it gave me the confidence to handle anything life throws at me. Without it, I wouldn't be as empowered as I am today.

I give thanks to sports for being my biggest teacher, medicine, and motivator as I've gone from an elementary school kid to a college-ready senior.

Schools: Annie Wright, Bellarmine, Bethel, Bonney Lake, 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, South Bend, Spanaway, Stadium, Steilacoom, Sumner, Washington, White River



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THE LATEST

Whether we're out and about in the community, attending a ribbon cutting, or celebrating a community partner's success, we want to share these moments with you and shine a spotlight on the hard work and dedication of those making a true impact in the regions we serve. Find these stories and updates on our website by clicking [The Latest](#). Read about the groups making a difference in youth sports, healthcare, public safety, preserving history, and more.



Al Davies Boys & Girls Clubs Teen Center
Upgrade, Tacoma, WA



Tacoma Public Library Children's Area
Renovation, Tacoma, WA



GoodRoots Northwest Expands Locker
Network, East Pierce County, WA



Stryker Towers,
Fortuna, CA

Find more stories at BenBCheneyFoundation.org

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Ben B. Cheney Foundation

3110 Ruston Way, Ste. A

Tacoma, WA 98402-5308

253-572-2442

BenBCheneyFoundation.org