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QUEEN'S QUARTERLY

The official newsletter of Chess for Success



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A SUPER SUCCESS FOR OUR FIRST YEAR IN GIVE!GUIDE

As many of you may have noticed Chess for Success was proud to have participated in Willamette Week's Give!Guide for the first time this winter!
We were excited for this opportunity not only to grow our year end campaign but also to connect further with the Portland nonprofit community, and to grow our reach to new audiences.

Overall it was a great success! We not only raised our original goal, but we achieved an increased goal of $60,000! We also began a few awesome partnerships (Kindred Breads and Lazy Days Brewing) and had 58 new donors! We're thrilled with all of the goals we achieved and are looking forward to the opportunity to do it again this year!



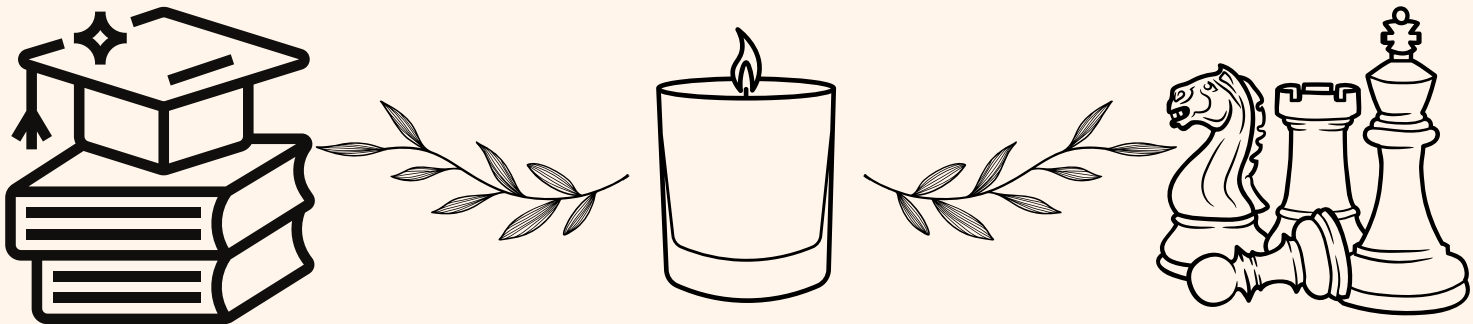
Anne, our Development Specialist, picking up our check!

Thank you Denis Dooley for your $1,000 donation in the memory of Don Baumhardt

Don was orphaned as an infant, but went on to get degrees in Psychology and English Literature. He found his calling as a literature teacher and then went on to teach English as a Second Language for universities around the world, including in Kuwait, South Korea and Saudi Arabia. While working around the world, Don never forgot his roots as an orphan and sponsored many through the "Save the Children" charity over the years.

Don's interests included tea, jazz, great literature, and chess. After Don decided to retire, he moved in with his SE Portland friends Martha Ragland and Collier Brown. As a devout practitioner of Buddhist meditation, Don settled on moving to Thailand. In Thailand, he continued to teach the children of his neighbors. One of the many children he helped teach chess to, Argia, wrote this in remembrance: "**Don, our chess teacher, our book giver, our poetry reader. We're sorry you're not with us anymore. Thank you for all you did for us!**"

Don never did make it back to Portland to deal with his belongings before passing away. As Don had no heirs and left no will, Martha gave his chess board to Denis. After having a look, I realized several of the items had collector value and I told Martha I couldn't just accept them. However, she was unwilling to let me pay her the amount of money I felt the items were worth and suggested a donation to charity. After learning more about Don's career in education, I suggested Chess for Success was an ideal option and Martha agreed. We both felt that Don would have approved!



GIRLS PLAY CHESS RECAP

On February 1st, Chess for Success held our annual Vangie Shaw Memorial Girls Play Chess Tournament. Not only was it a fantastic event filled with brilliant chess moves and big smiles, but it also featured some exciting new developments!

This year, we made the intentional decision to designate the Girls Play Chess tournament as a state-qualifying event. This choice aligns with the very reason we created the tournament in the first place—chess has traditionally been a male-dominated activity, and we're committed to changing that. While more of our clubs now include female players, they still make up a minority—last year, only 35% of our club participants identified as female. That's why we believe it's essential to uplift these players, ensuring they feel a sense of belonging and have access to the same opportunities as their peers. Making the Girls Play Chess tournament a state qualifier is a meaningful step toward recognizing their value and providing more pathways for growth.





We also had a special literary connection at this year's event. A few months ago, author Kyla Zhao reached out to us about her book, May the Best Player Win, which tells the story of her experiences as a girl in chess—struggling with confidence and finding a sense of belonging. After reading the book, Anne and Patty found it deeply relatable and inspiring. They both felt that if they had read it when they were younger, it could have helped them feel less alone and more confident in pursuing their goals, despite external discouragement.

Inspired by the book's message, we were thrilled to secure discounted copies to give to the first 45 participants at the Girls Play Chess tournament. We hope it serves as a source of encouragement for our players, reinforcing that they belong in chess—and anywhere else they set their minds to!

Game Changer 2025 Recap

On Thursday, April 10th, we held our annual fundraising event, Game Changer, at the beautiful Laurelhurst Club—and what an amazing evening it was! It's rare that we get to gather our entire community—staff, board members, coaches, and supporters—all in one place, and we're so grateful to everyone who joined us.

The night was full of connection and celebration: we shared a bit about our DBT approach, told stories, played some chess, and most importantly, got to know you, our incredible supporters.

Thanks to your generosity, we surpassed our fundraising goal by nearly $10,000!



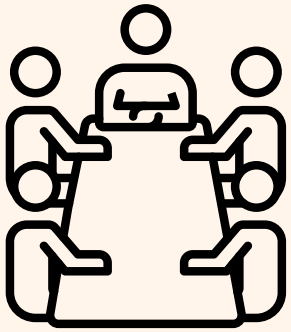
Coach Dylan showing his skills, in our simultaneous chess exhibition!

A special shout-out to our top donors of the evening—Becky and Ron Eiseman, Melanie Nelson, Phillip Margolin, Pat Ritz, and Charlie and Shawn Engelberg—as well as our generous corporate sponsor, The Standard!

BOARD UPDATES

We're excited to announce several new board members:

Anne Ndunda (Community Vision)
Andrew White (DBT Institute)
Kasey Sanchez (Oregon Business Academy)



We have several more board members who are ready to transition out so we are looking for a few more! If you're interested in joining our board please feel free to reach out to Eric, our Executive Director via epolgar@chessforsuccess.org