

And How Does It Work?

Mission

The mission of We R Community, a new program of The Public Education Foundation (PEF), is to provide teens an opportunity for service-learning through philanthropy and volunteering. Teens discover that they can make a positive difference in their community by being involved. This program will introduce students to the importance of leadership, service, philanthropy and the nonprofit sector.

What is We R Community?

We R Community was pioneered by the El Pomar Foundation of Colorado. In 1997 The PGE Foundation in Portland, Oregon began We R Community. Since its inception, over 5000 students have been involved at an average of 25 schools per year and is now a model program with more than \$1 million distributed to Oregon nonprofit organizations. The Public Education Foundation is adopting the program with the belief that public education should provide students with the opportunity to engage in service learning.

What is The Public Education Foundation?

The mission of The Public Education Foundation is to mobilize community and global resources to support and impact public education through initiatives, programs, and promising practices designed to improve student performance and advance quality educational opportunities for all children.

Our solutions to the challenges of educating a growing and diverse Southern Nevada population are impacting schools and the school district at multiple levels from grassroots classroom participation to systemic reform. Our initiatives and programs empower teachers and students, reduce bureaucracy, ensure accountability, leverage resources, and deliver results.

How does We R Community work?

Students are engaged in both philanthropy and volunteering. One or more sponsors provide a class or group of students with \$5,000 for grant-making. The funding is to be used for programs that inspire change and encourage potential in either education, promotion of healthy families, access to the arts, or environmental enhancement. During a school year, the class operates a student mini-foundation by creating a mission statement, researching nonprofit organizations, reviewing grant applications, making grants and generally incorporating this in to their classroom learning. The program culminates in a grant award celebration where students hand checks to their own selection of nonprofit programs. Students must volunteer 2-4 hours each month. They also often fundraise for additional grant-making.

