



MINDS MATTER
PORTLAND

2025 Summer Newsletter

Congratulations, Class of 2025!



Minds Matter Class of '25 at Minds Matter Portland Graduation Ceremony

We are thrilled to celebrate the outstanding achievements of the Class of 2025! This year's graduates are taking bold steps into the future, heading to an incredible range of universities across the country, including the University of Chicago, University of Portland, St. Olaf College, Oregon State University, Whitman College, Seattle University, Harvey Mudd College, University of Oregon, Pacific Lutheran University, Carleton College, Santa Clara University, Boston College, and Villanova University. Their journeys are just beginning, and we couldn't be more proud. Here's to new adventures, lifelong learning, and the bright futures that await!

Leadership Announcement

Welcoming Our New Executive Director

The Board of Directors is thrilled to announce that, after an extensive search, **Johnna Loreen** has been selected as the new **Executive Director of Minds Matter Portland**.

Johnna brings a strong background in fundraising, nonprofit leadership, college access, and board management, along with a special talent for motivating and coordinating both students and volunteers. What makes this appointment even more meaningful is that **Johnna is a proud Minds Matter Portland alum**, and graduated from our second-ever class in 2010.



Since completing the program, Johnna has gone on to earn degrees from **Macalester College and Harvard University**, and has spent her career working to expand educational opportunities for underserved communities.

“When I was 16, Minds Matter changed the course of my life,” says Johnna. “This organization gave me the tools and support to see a future I never imagined possible. It’s an incredible honor to return as Executive Director and lead the work that shaped my own journey. I’m excited to give back and grow our impact for the next generation of students.”

Johnna will officially begin her role in **mid-July**. We are also pleased to share that **Reed will remain with the organization as a part-time Finance Director**, helping support our continued growth and long-term sustainability.

Minds Matter 17th Annual Jazz Soiree Recap

We hosted our 17 annual Jazz Soiree Fundraiser on June 6th, with an incredible 141 attendees! Five students took the microphone to describe the value of their mentoring and tutoring relationships, plus the impact Minds Matter funded college summer programs have had on their academic trajectories. We also celebrated the successful first year of our second location in Hillsboro, which has us on track to increase the number of students served annually from 45 to 90 within the next three years.

We raised a record \$121K and are hoping we can still reach our audacious goal of \$150K to support our growth. Please help us get there with an [online donation](#) or by sending a check to Minds Matter Portland, PO Box 12089, Portland, OR 97212. You can also donate stock from brokerage or retirement accounts (through our [partners](#) at RBC).



Thank you to our entire community of supporters, and a special shoutout to our event sponsors LD Consulting and Perkins & Co for helping make this possible!

Exciting Campus Visits

Minds Matter students have been busy exploring local universities, with recent visits to Lewis & Clark College and Portland State University. They got an up-close look at campus life, met with current students, and experienced a true taste of Oregon weather, rain and all! Our students are embracing the rainy vibe as they prepare for their college journeys.

Juniors and seniors also traveled to Pacific Lutheran University for a full day of exploration. They toured the campus, watched volleyball and softball games, and met with an admissions officer. Since 2010, 41 Minds Matter graduates have gone on to attend PLU. During the visit, students enjoyed lunch in the dining hall with four current Minds Matter alums, getting firsthand insight into campus life and the college experience.



Minds Matter Students At Portland State University



Minds Matter Students At Lewis & Clark College



Minds Matter Students At Pacific Lutheran University

Career Conversations With Professionals



Our students also had the opportunity to participate in career informational interviews featuring professionals from a variety of fields. These conversations provided invaluable advice and inspiration, helping students gain insights into potential career paths and what it takes to succeed in different industries.

We Need More Volunteers!

We just accepted our new class of amazing Sophomores! They will start this fall, and need mentors and tutors to help them on their college journeys. Tell your friends, coworkers, or community members, we're still looking for dedicated volunteers to join our mission!

Want to learn more? Contact us to schedule a Lunch & Learn with your workplace or organization. It's a great way to connect, ask questions, and see how you can make a difference together.

Let's build a stronger future, one volunteer at a time.



Volunteer With Minds Matter Portland!

Minds Matter Portland is powered by passionate professionals from across the Portland area. Our mentors and tutors are essential to helping students achieve their dreams join our team of volunteers!



How You Can Help!

Math/Writing Tutor (NE Portland & Hillsboro site): Support students in writing, math, study skills, and homework help. Saturdays, 10 AM – 12 PM

Mentors (NE Portland & Hillsboro site): Guide students through summer program applications, career exploration, resume building, and interview prep. Saturdays, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Class Leads (NE Portland & Hillsboro site): Facilitate mentoring sessions and support students. Saturdays, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM



APPLY NOW!



Email us at:
volunteer@mindsmatterportland.org