Friends of Gibraltar

Number of employees: 1

Number of volunteers: 200+

What is your Mission Statement?
Since 1982, Friends of Gibraltar (FOG) has promoted the arts and provided unique experiential educational opportunities for all Gibraltar students. FOG's board is made up of parents, Gibraltar staff and community members. FOG finds meaningful ways to connect students with the community locally and globally through hands-on learning programs and projects for grades K-12.

What is the main source of your funding and what percent of your funding does that source provide?
The Hairpin 5K Run/Walk on July 4 in Fish Creek is our major source for funding our annual program budget. We have a couple other fundraisers for specific programs. We also have local businesses and organizations who sponsor and or donate to some of our programs. Gibraltar Area Schools contribute a portion to our programs as well. Donations makeup almost all of our funding.

What is the geographic scope of your services throughout Door County?
Gibraltar Area Schools and our partnering organizations – Sturgeon Bay to Ellison Bay.

Explanation of how you serve Door County including primary programs your organization offers to the community.
FOG serves Northern Door by connecting the school community to both the local, national and global communities by providing hands-on learning opportunities for all students in grades K-12, annually, at Gibraltar Area Schools. We bring people into the school from around the world from dance troupes, international choirs, professional theater to environmental and social education. FOG facilitates a wide range of programs and experiences including all subject areas and all of our programs are offered to all students in a grade level during the school day. This makes our program accessible to all students. FOG partners with many organizations in the community to provide unique learning experiences. We partner with the Door Community Auditorium to bring amazing performances from around the world that provide students with unique opportunities to learn about other cultures.

FOG organizes an extensive monthly outdoor education program from all students in grades 4K-12 with the Ridges Sanctuary and Doorway to Nature. The outdoor education program also models positive communication skills and stress reduction through connections with nature.

FOG brings students to the Clearing for poetry and painting to demonstrate how they can engage in lifelong learning after they graduate. We partner with the Door County Land Trust for an annual field trip focusing on wetlands in Door County. We coordinate and provide funding for student trips to Peninsula Players, Northern Sky Theater, and Third Avenue Playhouse. We organize cooking classes at local restaurants for high school students. We host creative workshops with local creative professionals in partnership with the Hardy Gallery for high school students. We partner with Door County Maritime Museum and the YMCA for students in grade 6 to build cardboard boats and paddle them in a regatta. We take students to Waseda Farms and local orchards to learn about food production.

FOG brings the entire grade 6 class on a four-day leadership learning retreat that includes working on problem-solving, teamwork, acceptance and natural sciences.

FOG coordinates programs that bring Door County school districts together around a common cause by curating Door County school districts art exhibit based on an annual theme in the Link Gallery of Children's Art in the Door Community Auditorium.

FOG creates a school newsletter that is published by the Peninsula Pulse three times per year and is distributed to every address in our district regardless of student enrollment as a way to connect the community and the school.

FOG provides an after school creative writing club in partnership with Write On, Door County for students in grade 5, and a high school art club in partnership with Peninsula School of Art.

FOG organizes a parent volunteer group to stock the staff lounge at school with snacks and we host a welcome back to school lunch for school staff that is donated from over 20 local restaurants to show support and appreciation for school staff.

FOG organizes and engages over 200 community volunteers annually in the school.

How would you define the impact your organization is making in Door County?
FOG impacts students, school staff and the community by providing a unique positive learning experience for students that allows them to shine in their unique way and to discover more about who they are.

FOG impacts students by providing cultural experiences that broaden their understanding of cultural diversity and their ability to see themselves in others by sharing an experience with them. This process creates empathy, tolerance, and acceptance.

FOG brings the community together for several fundraising events which gives people a positive social interaction as well as a good sense of pride for helping out.
FOG creates many of the things students and parents remember about school because our programming is based on experience, exploration and expanding horizons.

What is your annual budget?
FOG's annual program budget is $114,000.

If you were to receive a donation from 100+ WWC, how would that donation be used?
FOG would use the funds to assist with our annual program budget. We add new program ideas every year to address the current needs of Gibraltar students and staff. We feel strongly that continuing successful programs is also very important. Programs that have been fine-tuned over years of experience are often the best. All of our programs are new to the audiences they serve each year as the students keep advancing to the next grade level. Whether we provide a new experience or the same experience to a new group of students we have to raise the funds through donations to make it happen.