**Donor Spotlight: Beth and Scott Cummings**

**How did you come to live in Park City?**

We fell in love with Park City after visiting for the Olympics.  We were living in Hermosa Beach, CA and feeling suffocated by the big city and decided that we didn’t want to raise our kids there.  We both came from smaller towns with four seasons (Wheaton, IL - Scott, Flagstaff, AZ - Beth).  So, we said, “let’s try a summer in park City”.  The next thing we knew, our Hermosa house sold immediately and the “trial” period became a permanent move.  We pulled into Park City the day before school started, the day after our oldest son’s 5th birthday and it was pouring rain.  We were in a bit of shock, but now seven years later we are so glad we made the move.

**How many children do you have in the District?**

1 - 2nd grade (McPolin)

2 - 5th grade (McPolin)

3 - 6th grade (Ecker)

**Why did you choose Park City Public Schools?**

We grew up going to public schools so it is what we know.  We also heard that public schools in Park City are really great.  It just seemed like the natural thing to do.

**How did you learn about PCEF?**

Beth became involved in PTO at McPolin and worked closely with PCEF to win/earn money for our sweet school.  We also learned about PCEF before we even moved here because we saw posters for Running with Ed all over town.  In Hermosa, Scott and I ran with a club called “Club Ed” (coach Ed).

**What is your favorite PCEF program?**

The Ed Foundation does so much to support programs to enrich the learning experiences of all the students. I love the elementary PACE (Program for Academic Challenge and Enrichment) especially as it gives kids a chance to go further in subjects at which they excel.  Before the PACE elementary program was started, the few gifted and talented (or enrichment) teachers were spread thin among the schools in the district.  If we didn’t have PACE, we would really struggle with keeping our kids engaged in certain subjects at school and keep them enjoying school.

Giving in general is great, but being able to direct to the things that mean something to us personally is even better.  We feel blessed we are able to offer these opportunities to our kids, and some of our recent directed donations include:

* Coding—so important to get our kids started as early as possible, in a fun way, with all things STEM.
* EVA (Elementary Visual Art) —giving the kids a creative outlet is so important.  Funding EVA to help develop these skills and interests is great for them at a young age.
* Mindfulness—we have to think differently about what our children face as they grow up today.  They will need skills and tools that we didn’t necessarily need in our generation.

**What inspires you to give to PCEF?**

**Beth:** I love that my kids get to participate in so many amazing activities.  When I saw my daughter and her classmates “coding” with Robots and enjoying it so much, I was in awe (coming from a mom with a computer degree).  It is amazing, what these kids get to do compared to when we were in elementary school.

**Scott:** We have always enjoyed donating.  One way we have looked at it is our taxes (state income and property) here in Utah are so much lower here than where we moved from years ago.  I think this is probably true for many of the families in our community.  So personally, even in years where our income has fluctuated, we have tried to increase our giving to PCEF…in part because our taxes are low.

What has changed for me over the years was learning more about all the money Park City’s taxes provide *Utah’s* education system, but given the rules about how dollars get distributed back into the districts, we still lack in so many areas.  Over the years it has driven our family to give more to do our part to ensure our children have the opportunities—like the ones mentioned above to which we personally direct our donations.