



Annual Report 2012

THE CREATING LANDSCAPES LEARNING CENTER INC.





## THE CREATING LANDSCAPES LEARNING CENTER INC.

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CLLC Inc. – K-6 School, Education Director



Photo by Dan Winston



# Annual Report 2012

JULY 1, 2011 – JUNE 30, 2012

## WHAT IS CREATING LANDSCAPES?

Creating Landscapes is a group of inter-related educational programs designed to enlarge an individual's ability to make informed choices, experience good health and integrate thinking with feeling. Our guiding principle is **QUALITY: the degree of excellence to which a thing aspires.**

## WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

Creating Landscapes began as a three-week summer program in 1990 on the Allegheny College campus in Meadville, Pennsylvania, when a dancer, a musician, a writer and an Allegheny student were wondering about the lost songs, dances, stories and curiosity of early childhood. They created a pilot program to figure out how to reclaim those dimensions of a child's natural endowment and in so doing discovered the engaging power of **serious play.**

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Together the children and their artist/teachers discovered ways to construct educational programs in the arts and sciences that move beyond traditional distinctions and separations to find the science in the art and the art in the science. They created curriculum and teaching practices that encourage interconnections: mind and body, feeling and reason, theory and practice, expression and reflection. And they learned to recognize and cultivate quality!

**Over the past 23 years,** our distinctive student-centered approach to arts-infused learning and teaching evolved into seven very different but inter-related educational programs. All the while, our commitment to meaningful, joyful and expressive learning did not waver. All are guided by a single question that has three parts:

- What have you discovered?
- What does it mean?
- Why does it matter?

**CREATING LANDSCAPES AT ALLEGHENY COLLEGE—CLAC** is home to four of our programs, including the original summer program.

- **SUMMER LANDSCAPES** – since 1990
- **AESTHETIC EDUCATION for EDUCATORS** – since 1990
- **THE GIFTED/TALENTED COLLABORATION** with area school districts – since 1999
- **THE ADULT LEARNING FORCE** – since 2011



Photo by Stacy McIntyre

However, this ANNUAL REPORT will tell the story of

## THE CREATING LANDSCAPES LEARNING CENTER INCORPORATED – CLC<sup>INC.</sup>

which guides and provides organizational, financial, and legal support for these three programs that take place in the Meadville community:

### CREATING LANDSCAPES for FAMILIES (2009)

is the program where individuals learn to take time to nurture networks of relationships. Its creation provides opportunity for local families to participate in the kinds of shared experiences that have the potential to help people identify their needs, sense their value and take action to create meaningful change. This grassroots organizational structure is about ownership rather than membership.

### THE COMMUNITY GARDEN at ACKERMAN FARM (2010)

encourages families to become thoughtful stewards of the natural world, to experience commitment and community, and to learn why healthy food and healthy communities matter.

### THE LEARNING CENTER: K-4 INDEPENDENT SCHOOL (2011)

offers two non-traditional multi-age classrooms where a diverse community of students, parents and teachers discover together. Education happens within interdisciplinary thematic units. We recognize the natural curiosity and desire of children to read, problem solve and make sense of the world by expressing themselves through a variety of art forms.

During this first year CLC<sup>INC.</sup> achieved three major goals:

- earned Pennsylvania authorization to form an independent elementary school
- gained 501c3 status as an accredited non-profit entity
- built a web site: <http://creatinglandscapes.org>

With this report we also intend to show how our evolving goal of recognizing and inspiring quality is being fulfilled in our learning, our interactions, and our evolving sense of justice.

Additionally, we gratefully acknowledge our contributors!

Janyce J. Hyatt

CEO Creating Landscapes Learning Center Inc. – July 2012

### CORPORATE EXPENSES

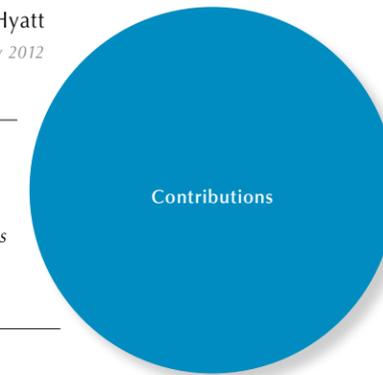
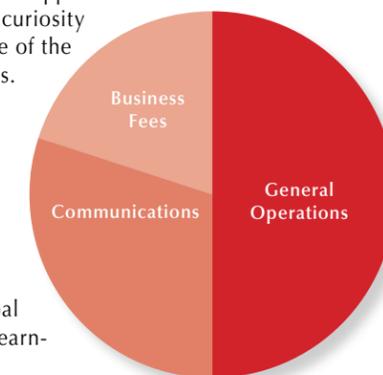
(July 2011–June 2012)	Total amount	Notes
General Operations	\$2,509.89	Printing/copying, supplies, insurance
Communications	1,500.00	Website, printing
Business Fees	1,016.20	Advertising, registration fees
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,026.09</b>	

### CORPORATE REVENUE

(July 2011–June 2012)	Total amount
Contributions	\$6,339.55
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$6,339.55</b>



Photo by Dan Winston



## GIFTS to the CORPORATION Through June 30, 2012

- Robert L. Hyatt Family Fund
- Janyce J. Hyatt
- J. Edward Johnson
- Erin M. Sweeney
- George J. Vukmer
- Eleanor Weisman & Jay Hanes
- Jonathan Miller Design



Photo by Stacy McIntyre

## CREATING LANDSCAPES *for* FAMILIES



Bringing families together in the community to focus on positive possibilities.

*“The dandelion puts down strong roots, grows best beside others, and then gently shares its seeds so that more may grow.”*

*A thought from our Founding Families*

*A seven-year-old girl stands up from her place at the table where plates and silverware softly clink. And with a voice that is beautiful and strong — a voice that comes straight from the heart — she says, “I tied my shoes all by myself today.” Applause fills the room and the glow of the candles on the tables pales in comparison to the glow on the faces of the little girl, her mother, her grandmother and the 40 or so others who have become the little girl’s extended family.*

This is a scene from one of the twice weekly gatherings held by Creating Landscapes for Families — a place that belongs to everyone, a place where you claim your right to nourish and be nourished, a place that helps us survive difficult times and a place to share the deepest and simplest joys.

### Start with the People Involved

Informed by the principles of grassroots democracy, communal creativity, and wise use of available resources, Creating Landscapes for Families is in its fourth year of a process in which neighbors have come to know one another more deeply. They have gotten to know each other in the multiple roles they play — as neighbors, parents, and partners — and have nurtured this growth of a new kind of extended family based not on blood relations but on growing friendship, mutual aid, and intergenerational support. Beginning at the earliest stages of shared envisioning, they have worked together to design a program

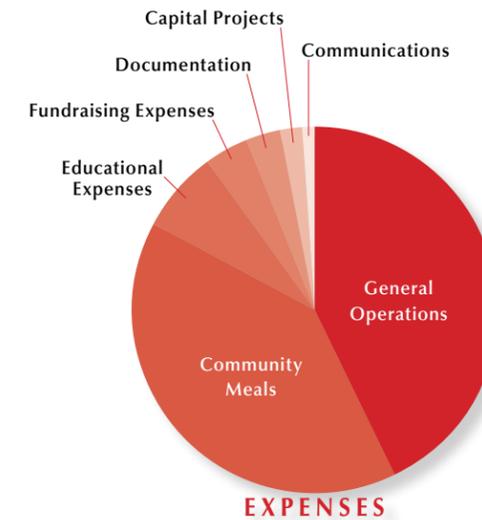
that satisfies the needs of the users. Twice a week, families meet at the Unitarian Universalist Parish House *in the heart of town* right after school. Students are mentored on their homework with Allegheny College student volunteers and “Learning Force” senior citizens while parents meet in the kitchen and talk about their lives as they prepare a wholesome meal for the *whole family*. After dinner, workshops, lectures and information exchanges raise awareness, deepen understanding and can lead to a stronger society in which all individuals find their niche.

### Ask, “What’s Next and Who is Missing?”

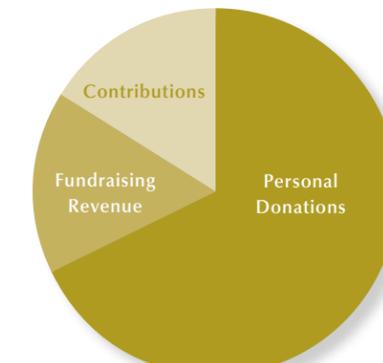
Our table has proven itself to be a place for anyone interested in building community — neighborhood residents, community organizers, artists, social and environmental activists, people of faith, educators, students and many others. Built from the bottom up, we continue to broaden the base of neighborhood involvement and plan to do so for a long, long time.

Joyce Klasen

*Creating Landscapes for Families, Program Director*



EXPENSES



REVENUE

### FAMILIES EXPENSES

(July 2011-June 2012)	Total amount	Notes
General Operations	\$2574.21	Insurance, after school supplies and snacks, other costs, families’ party supplies
Community Meals	2360.54	Family-style meals
Educational Expenses	443.41	CL misc. supplies
Fundraising Expenses	267.14	3rd annual spaghetti dinner
Documentation	174.78	
Capital Projects	109.05	Church inspection for space use
Communications	36.11	Office supplies (thank you’s, postage, printing)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5965.24</b>	

### FAMILIES REVENUE

(July 2011-June 2012)	Total amount	Notes
Personal Donations	\$4336.17	Includes salary donation, reimbursement from Allegheny College, other direct public support
Fundraising Revenue	1005.69	3rd annual spaghetti dinner
Contributions	\$997.49	Business/Organization
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6339.35</b>	

**FAMILIES COMMUNITY PARTNERS**  
 Allegheny College, ACCEL office,  
 Financial Aid, Financial Services, Print  
 Shop, College / School Collaborative  
 AmeriCorps VISTA Project of NWPA  
 CATA Bus Transportation  
 Cochranon Fire Department  
 Crawford Central School District and  
 Board Members  
 Crawford County Human Services  
 Crawford Heritage Foundation  
 Giant Eagle  
 Housing Authority of Meadville  
 MASH Family and  
 Consumer Science Department  
 Meadville Council on the Arts  
 MLK Mentoring Program  
 Parkhurst Dining Service  
 PNC Community Development  
 PNC Growing Up Great  
 Thurston House  
 Tops Friendly Market  
 Unitarian Universalist Church  
 Unkle John’s Posse

**CONTRIBUTORS**  
 Allegheny College student volunteers  
 and Bonner scholars  
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 Judy Arnold  
 Debbie Ashbaugh  
 Laura Banos  
 Carol Barnes  
 Miriam Bowman  
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 Emily Burnett  
 Mela Calomino-Zinz  
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 Jeff Chorney  
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 Erin Sweeney  
 Donna Triggiani  
 Tammy & Eric Warner  
 Eleanor Weisman  
 Pam Williamson  
 Sue Wycoff



## THE COMMUNITY GARDEN at ACKERMAN FARM



Approaching sustainability by teaching the ways of nature to children

According to 2010 census data, 30% of children enrolled in the Crawford Central School District live in poverty, and 46% qualify for free breakfast and lunches every day. These numbers clearly demonstrate that many children and their families in our community face a high level of socio-economic stress and have a need for low-cost, healthy food options, especially during the summer months when school is out. The Creating Landscapes for Families: Community Garden at the Ackerman Farm strives to meet the nutritional and social needs of underserved students and parents in the greater Meadville area. Our mission is to educate students and parents about the importance of healthy food while empowering them through planting, harvesting, cooking and preserving their own produce.

In May 2010, our garden started as a beautiful field of rocky soil on a gravel road. Perched on a hill under the wide-open sky, this field was the perfect place to grow a garden — a place for children and adults to work and learn joyfully together. At this place, our families, many of whom live in poverty and whose lives are quite often filled with turmoil and a sense of despair, learned to expect predictability, choice and positive interaction. For many children who live in small public housing units without outdoor space to explore and play, the garden was their first encounter with open space, worms, rich dirt, weeds and thriving plants.

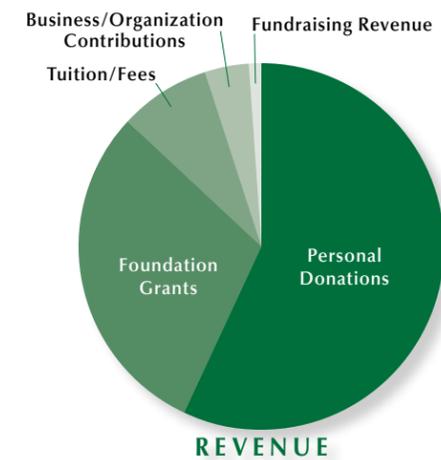
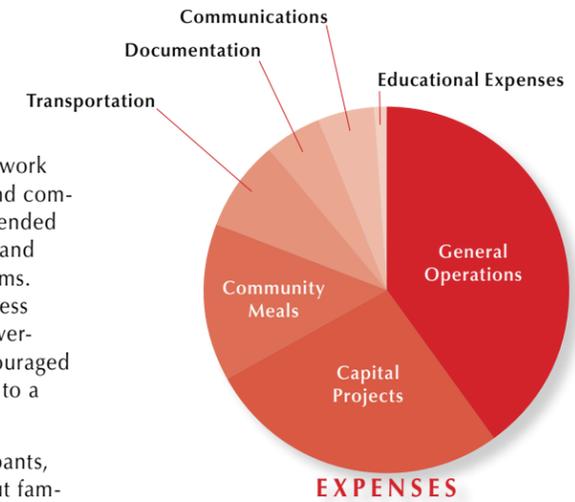
During our first season, the garden product — fresh vegetables on the tables of those who could not have afforded or considered them otherwise — made a significant positive impact on the lives and thought processes of our gardeners. Children chose to eat vegetables. Families chose a healthier way of preparing meals. And we moved into a second season.

We saw a significant change in our families. They began considering the impact fresh vegetables could have on their friends and neighbors as they shared our bountiful harvest with one another. And yet, we have found the most significant impact of this project in the garden process. Families have shifted their focus from their personal changes and gains to recognition of the greater

sense of community and social support network that they have built. Families, volunteers and community members found friendships and extended family while they conversed over the rows and shared sadness, happiness, hopes and dreams. Together, we have discovered that the success of our garden lies in empowerment: empowerment of participants as each person is encouraged to discover individual ways of contributing to a larger vision.

Grounded by the choices of our participants, the garden has enlivened our thinking about family, education, community and preserving the world around us. Our garden provides ownership of a small parcel of land to cultivate and to cherish. It has taught us that our teaching in the setting of an organic outdoor classroom can change what parents pack in lunch boxes or children choose from a cafeteria menu. It has taught us that neither home nor school nor community alone can make meaningful change — the interaction of all three is required.

Erin Sweeney  
AmeriCorps VISTA member



### GARDEN EXPENSES

(July 2011–June 2012)	Total amount	Notes
General Operations	\$3,471.15	Seeds, seedlings, containers, first aid, building hardware, paint and stain, fuel for truck, repellants, garden tools, fertilizer, insurance, maintenance, mulch, black plastic row covers, other costs, outhouse supplies, office supplies
Capital Projects	2,333.94	Drip irrigation, tool shed, compost toilet, Helping Hands fund, Rotary seeds
Community Meals	1223.51	Harvest dinner, potlucks, garden snacks
Transportation	680.00	Van transportation to the garden
Documentation	488.46	Documentation costs
Communications	417.38	Printing, postage, mailing service, copying
Educational Expenses	73.67	Garden educational expenses
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$8,688.11</b>	

### GARDEN REVENUE

(July 2011–June 2012)	Total amount	Notes
Personal Donations	\$5,192.07	Personal donations, Helping Hands fund, Garden Manager funding
Foundation Grants	2,704.00	Rotary grant, Crawford Heritage Foundation, Harry Winslow
Tuition/Fees	750.00	Family participation payments
Business/Organization Contributions	371.05	Donations from organizations
Fundraising Revenue	56.59	Donations from Second Saturday
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$9,073.71</b>	

- #### GARDEN COMMUNITY PARTNERS
- Allegheny College, ACCEL office, Financial Aid, Financial Services, Print Shop
  - AmeriCorps VISTA Project of NWPA
  - CATA Bus Transportation
  - College / School Collaborative
  - Crawford Central School District and Board Members
  - Crawford County Human Services
  - Crawford Heritage Foundation
  - Giant Eagle
  - Home Depot
  - Housing Authority of Meadville
  - John's Bait Shop
  - Juvenile Probation Office
  - Mannino Italian Garden
  - Martin's Mulch
  - MASH Family and Consumer Science Department
  - Meadville Farm and Garden
  - Meadville Market House
  - Miller's Greenhouse
  - MLK Mentoring Program
  - Parkhurst Dining Service
  - Pettis Road Greenhouse
  - PNC Community Development
  - Restoration Herbs
  - Robert L. Hyatt Memorial Scholarship Fund
  - Thurston House
  - Unitarian Universalist Church
  - Vernon Central Fire Dept.
  - Vorisek Backyard Bee Farm, LLC

- #### GARDEN DONORS
- Cynthia Burton
  - Amelia Carr & Pete LeBar
  - Alec & Brenda Chien and Family
  - Tamara & Hugh Clark
  - Julie Clements
  - Tammy & Chris Collins
  - Hannah & Mark Cosdon
  - Bill Darrin
  - Tim Davis
  - Dr. Armendia Dixon
  - Cheryl & Jane Dooley/Warner
  - TJ Eatmon & Jame Johnson
  - Rev. Carmen Emerson & Jim Emerson
  - Donnie & Connie Fabela & Brando Fabela
  - Amara Geffen, Jed & Satchi Miller
  - Tom Getz
  - Debbie & Pete Gifford
  - Shea Grimaldi
  - Jan Hyatt
  - John & Jill Hyatt
  - Cheryl Johnson
  - Anne Jones
  - Joyce & Robert Klasek
  - Pat Lace
  - Deb & Chelsea Lehman
  - Derek Li
  - Terry Lobdel
  - Danuta Majchrowicz and Bary Bonnell
  - Stephanie Martin
  - Mary Lynn & Reid Mauri
  - Pamela & Bernard Maxon Sweeney
  - Marion & Richard Maxon
  - Rita Mayo
  - Shameka & Sadeed McClendon
  - Melony & Rondale McCoy
  - Stacy McIntyre
  - Bertha Mesarch
  - Jessica Minsterman
  - Kelly & Rich Monseglio
  - Stephanie Morack
  - Angel Munson
  - Jennifer & Joe Munson
  - Barb Newcamp & the Stabile Family
  - Erin O'Day-Frye & John Frye
  - Elizabeth Ozorak
  - Marla & Drake Parker
  - Charyn Parsons
  - Karen Peterson
  - Sophie & Tom Reynolds
  - Cynthia Rhoads
  - Rosemary & Chris Richardson
  - Whisper & Willow Romeo
  - Gus Rylander
  - Lisbet Searle-White
  - Scott Steiner
  - Erin Sweeney
  - Daniel Trypus
  - Caryl Waggett and Steve Utz
  - Sue Wycoff



## THE CREATING LANDSCAPES LEARNING CENTER



An independent elementary school dedicated to fostering natural curiosity, individuality, academic achievement and creative expression

**In August 2011** The Creating Landscapes Learning Center Elementary School opened its big red doors to the laughter and inquisitiveness of 14 Meadville children. Because student imaginations and questions guide our theme-based curriculum, they express ownership of their learning and of their school. Our highly motivated teachers are inspired by the smiling faces, bright eyes, and enthusiasm of our students, who are gifted with encouraging and supportive families. For all these reasons we are able to announce with pride that as we complete our very successful first year, each of our students is finishing at or above grade level!

Dana Yeager  
Education Director

### From a Grandparent:

*Thank you for the outstanding learning environment you have created for my grandson. He has been an enthusiastic student whose progress I find impressive. If only all classrooms could be as successful as yours.*

—Mary Winiarski

### From a parent:

*We are impressed, amazed, and truly thankful for what you have done and are doing and that we can be a part of the Learning Center.*

—Jeffrey Walters

### From a student:

*I'm always learning. Everywhere I go it's all around me.*

—Audry, age 5

### THE LEARNING CENTER: K-4 INDEPENDENT SCHOOL (2011)

Offers two non-traditional multi-age classrooms where a diverse community of students, parents and teachers discover together. Education happens within interdisciplinary thematic units. Curriculum is informed by the natural curiosity and desire of children to read, problem solve and make sense of their world; expression is through a variety of art forms.

Photo by Amber VanDusen

## THE LEARNING CENTER SONG

(LC Awesome Anthem)

By The Learning Center Students

### CHORUS

Our school is called the Learning Center  
We learn without our socks  
Reading, Math, Writing, Theme,  
The Learning Center rocks!

Learning Center kids are awesome,  
We learn by having fun  
If there were a Fun Award,  
Our school would have won!

### CHORUS

We've made many friends this year,  
But not just here at school  
Every place we've gone so far  
We think is very cool.

### Like...

Pumpkin farm  
Diamond Park  
Chestnut Street  
Creative Crust  
Pizza places  
Post Office  
Newspaper  
Conservancy  
Markethouse  
Academy  
And...  
Children's Museum in Pittsburgh!

### CHORUS

### INSTRUMENTAL

Learning Center kids are awesome,  
We learn by having fun  
We learn in exciting ways  
Before each day is done!

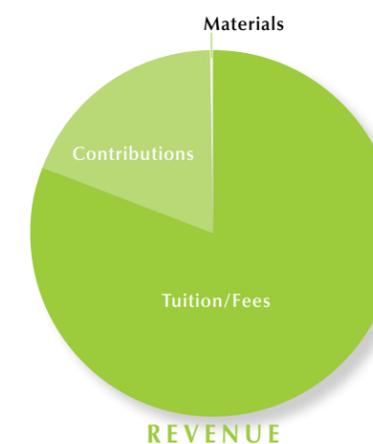
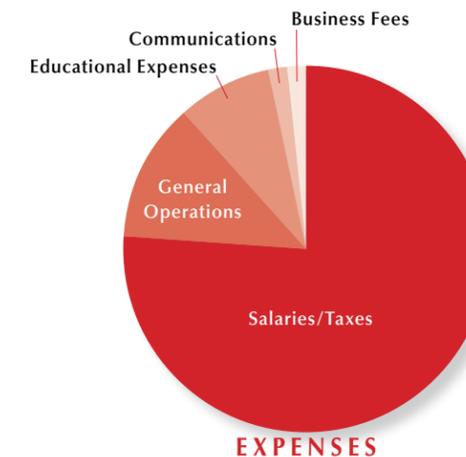
### CHORUS

### SCHOOL EXPENSES

(July 2011–June 2012)	Total amount	Notes
Salaries/Taxes	\$40,319.13	Payroll expenses, taxes and salaries
General Operations	6,575.24	Equipment, rent, parking, utilities, insurance, travel expenses, other costs
Educational Expenses	4,301.49	Supplies, books, reference, subscriptions, contract services
Communications	916.28	Postage, printing, telephone, telecommunications
Business Fees	836.40	Advertising, business registration fees
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$52,948.54</b>	

### SCHOOL REVENUE

(July 2011–June 2012)	Total amount	Notes
Tuition/Fees	\$54,752.00	Tuition, fees, scholarships
Contributions	12,674.00	
Materials	140.00	Gym materials
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$67,566.00</b>	



## DONATIONS TO K-4 INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Ainsworth Pet Nutrition  
Community Foundation of Western PA  
Robert Hyatt Family Fund  
Intellectual Property Services Inc.  
ON, Inc.  
Pioneer Medical Associates, PC  
Tachoir Auto Body  
Travaglini Enterprises

### CONTRIBUTORS

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James Bulman  
William Charlton  
Dorrie Daniels  
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Michael Dolson  
Lee & Kimberly Faulkner  
Amara Geffen  
Mark Haemer  
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Jeffrey Holabaugh  
Sandra & Jack Hunter  
Susannah Hyatt  
Maureen Kitty  
Charles Lawrence  
Thomas & Carrie Linz  
Arthur Lodge  
Douglas Lodge  
Patricia McElhaney  
Rachel Meerson  
Michael & Sarah Mehler  
Raymond Mehler  
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Michael & Wendy Mosbacher  
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Mark Phelan  
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Kenneth Unice  
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Debra Watson  
Joshua White  
Mary Winiarski  
Mary Beth & Brian Yeager  
Patrick Yeager  
Katherine Zolman



In August 2012 members of the CLC<sup>INC.</sup> Board of Directors reflected on our corporation's inaugural year. While corporate goals of school certification, non-profit status, and website presence were achieved, the group also recognized that fiscal year 2012–2013 would bring new challenges and that these would include:

- broadening access for those with great potential but few opportunities by connecting partnerships into a sustainable network
- increasing revenue for the corporation, space for learning programs, and compensation for teachers
- expanding circles of leadership beyond our present board of directors while consolidating structural overlap
- finding ways to compellingly tell and document the stories of our school, our garden and our efforts of grassroots community building and empowerment

Meeting these newly identified challenges will allow us to explore options for

- developing a Children's House to prepare pre-school students for Landscapes Learning
- developing a third multi-age classroom for fifth and sixth grade Learning Center students
- bringing the serious play of technology into Landscapes Learning experiences
- moving forward with plans for a windmill and a greenhouse at the garden
- finding innovative ways to reach a broader range of middle and high school students with a variety of social services
- addressing the mismatch between available jobs in the community and demonstrated skills of our work force
- fostering collaboration between Allegheny College students and members of the community to further develop a culture of mutual service learning

In our first year we discovered (as this report demonstrates) the Meadville community will support our quest for quality in non-traditional educational programming. That means we have an opportunity to reset our goals to include these new challenges for the coming year. What matters is together we are able to demonstrate that here in Northwestern Pennsylvania, there is potential for democracy and excellence to be compatible.

Our evidence is on two fronts. More members of our community, regardless of socio-economic status, are taking advantage of opportunities to experience our educational venues, and leadership for community building and empowerment programs has emerged from within.

Our quests are to further social justice in learning places and to reshape social and academic structures that determine what we mean by education.

To support Creating Landscapes Learning Center Educational Programs please use the enclosed envelope to send a tax-deductible contribution.