



Annual Report 2013

THE CREATING LANDSCAPES LEARNING CENTER, INC.



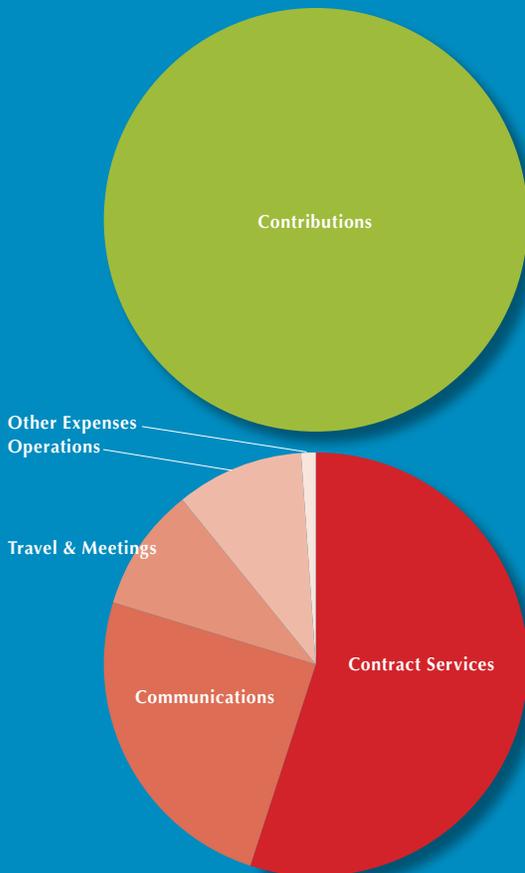
# Annual Report 2013

JULY 1, 2012 – JUNE 30, 2013

IMAGINE

## DONATIONS to the CORPORATION

Hugh D. & June M. Hanes  
 Robert L. Hyatt Family Fund  
 J. Edward Johnson  
 David C. Miller & Charlotte Wellman  
 Eleanor Weisman & Jay Hanes  
 Jonathan Miller Design  
 Kathy Roos



**This second annual report** from the Creating Landscapes Learning Center, Inc. tells the stories of our non-profit corporation's learning venues located in Meadville, Pennsylvania: Creating Landscapes for Families and The Learning Center K-6 Independent School.

*Almost eighty years ago, John Dewey, America's well-known and respected educator, wrote:*

*The new vision does not arise out of nothing, but emerges through seeing, in terms of possibilities, that is, of imagination, old things in new relations serving a new end which the new end aids in creating.*

*John Dewey, A Common Faith, 1934, pg. 48*

**Our two venue stories tell of a new vision.** They arise from a twenty-two-year history of exploration that preceded formation of CLLC Inc. during which the *creating landscapes idea of learning* was finding form on the Allegheny College campus. There programs were evolving that invited community members to experience intergenerational learning that was particularly defined by quality, simplicity, originality, integrity, justice and fun ([www.creatinglandscapes.org](http://www.creatinglandscapes.org)).

### During those two decades four major lessons were learned:

- Capacity for aesthetic experience is a human endowment.
- Democracy and excellence are compatible.
- Finding the courage to challenge traditional answers is as important as forming significant questions.
- Successful endeavor relies heavily on carefully choosing collaborators and learning to leverage resources.

These lessons now inform our Corporation's ongoing commitment to furthering educational justice and social justice. We understand our working goals of knowledge, creativity, and freedom serve our families well.

We gratefully acknowledge your support...

*Janyce J. Hyatt*  
 Chairperson, CLLC Inc.  
 December 2013

CORPORATE REVENUE	Amount
Contributions	\$2,740.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,740.00</b>

CORPORATE EXPENSES	Amount	Notes
Contract Services	\$850.00	Website Design
Communications	379.37	Publications
Travel & Meetings	147.00	
Other Expenses	147.00	Memberships & Dues
Operations	16.80	Printing/Copying
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,540.17</b>	



## CREATING LANDSCAPES *for* FAMILIES

# JOY

Creating Landscapes for Families was inspired in 2009 when a handful of local families noticed the joy their children expressed while experiencing the **creating landscapes idea of learning** during the summer program at Allegheny College. Moms, dads, grandmas wanted “that kind of fun” in their lives! They wanted to experience joy as individuals, as families, and as a community. So our first year was as simple and beautiful as that! A few hours a week—having fun together! We made art, music, and dance while forging bonds of trust and interdependence. Individuals tried new things and shared with others the things they already knew. Our time together was filled with rich experiences—each born from a *grassroots and democratic* standpoint and each nurtured with an awareness of beauty and hope—the place where joy begins.

Since 2009, those *Founding Families* have gracefully led Creating Landscapes for Families through countless transitions into an educational program for entire families that is yearlong, well-attended, constantly evolving, and consistently tailored to season, participants, and need. Grades have improved, gardens have grown, adult educational goals have been reached, jobs have been found, and joy has been known. With confidence to reach out, imagine, and make their voices heard, families have broadened our base of involvement and knowledge by engaging in partnerships with community organizers, artists, educators, social activists, people of faith, and many others. Parent representatives from Creating Landscapes for Families currently sit on committees in the social service world—offering thoughtful suggestions geared toward improving our local system of care. Over the years, confidence in their own creative power has inspired families to dream and take action to shape their own futures, the future of Creating Landscapes for Families, and the future of our local community.

As we head into our fifth year, we know there is more to do. So in the spirit with which we began, our “Families Council” sat down and took a good long look at *who we are*, *what we stand for*, and *what’s next*. My hope is that upon reading their reflections and plans, you will feel the *common sense grit* and *gentle strength* of those who work together and **share the leadership** of Creating Landscapes for Families. *Ownership rather than membership* is our foundation and driving force. JOY remains our guiding light.

Joyce M. Klasen

*Creating Landscapes for Families, Education Director*



Photos on this page by Joyce Klasen



## CREATING LANDSCAPES for FAMILIES — FAMILIES COUNCIL



### CREATING LANDSCAPES for FAMILIES

#### COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Ackerman Farm – Bob & Michelle Ackerman  
 Allegheny College – Mentors and Volunteers  
 from Several Campus Organizations  
 Arts Erie  
 C.H.A.P.S.  
 College / Schools Collaborative  
 Crawford Area Transportation Authority –  
 CATA  
 Crawford County Human Services  
 Crawford County Juvenile Probation  
 Crawford Heritage Foundation  
 Domino Pizza  
 Eleanor Weisman and the Allegheny College  
 Dance Studies Program  
 Beth Etter, Anthony Warner, and the John  
 Holter Ensemble  
 Meadville Council on the Arts  
 PNC Foundation  
 Parkhurst Dining of Allegheny College  
 Pettis Road Greenhouse  
 Robert L. Hyatt Memorial Fund  
 Thurston House  
 Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville –  
 Carmen Emerson, minister  
 Walmart  
 Harry C. Winslow Foundation

### Reflections and plans . . .

*. . . as we “honor our strong roots, share our seeds,  
 and grow well beside others.”*

### Who We Are and What We Stand For

- We are Families with strong values. We support and understand one another. We do all we can for our kids and our neighbors’ kids.
- When we know a problem exists, we don’t “sweep it under the rug.” We find the positive in it. We decide what we can do to move ahead. If that doesn’t work, we try something else.
- We work together toward common goals—everyone does his/her part. We appreciate each other’s work.
- We are good to one another and can be honest with each other—no one is afraid to share ideas, ask for help, or make a mistake. Everyone is important.

### What’s Next

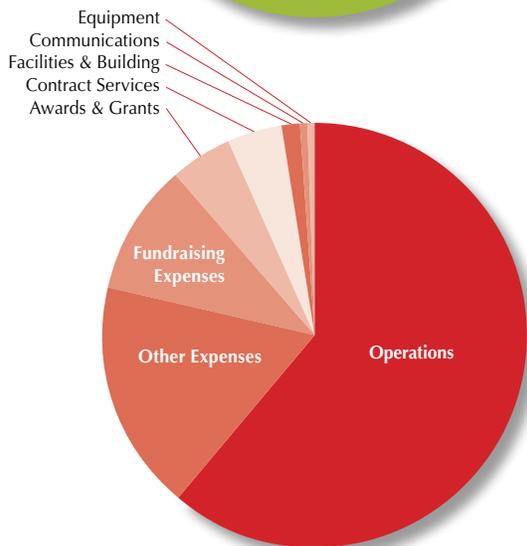
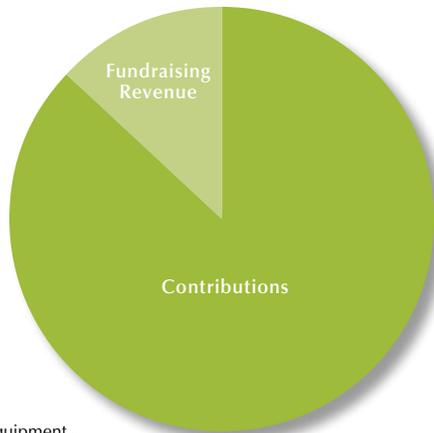
- It is important for us to continue providing positive role models for our children through our partnerships with Allegheny College, the UU Church community, and other community partners.
- We are committed to working even more closely with Social Service Agencies in order to educate and support one another. It is a reciprocal relationship.
- Let’s move forward with thoughts of moving our community garden to a place closer to where we live... an opportunity to enhance the beauty of our immediate surroundings as well as to involve more families and provide “a place to go” at any time of day.
- Involving more families in our work is important—a goal of at least five more families is set for this year.

*Carol Barnes, Tammy Collins,  
 Cheryl Dooley, Cheryl Johnson,  
 Melony McCoy and Rosemary Richardson*

## CREATING LANDSCAPES for FAMILIES

### OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Bob & Michelle Ackerman  
 Evan Andrae  
 Tracy Auell  
 Donna Baker  
 Miriam Bowman  
 Cynthia Burton  
 Amelia Carr  
 Richard & Corinne Chafey  
 Tamara Clark  
 Mark & Hannah Cosdon  
 Jim & Carmen Emerson  
 Elizabeth Etter  
 Debbie Fisher  
 Pete & Debbie Gifford  
 The Gifford Family  
 John & Elizabeth Holter  
 Janyce Hyatt  
 John Hyatt  
 Lizzie Hyatt  
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 Erin Klasen  
 Robert C. Klasen  
 Sarah Knight  
 Deb & Chelsea Lehman  
 Craig Lewis & Julie Klasen  
 Milosh B. & M. Quimby Mamula  
 David Miller & Charlotte Wellman  
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 Mary Lynn Peters  
 Ahasanur Rahman  
 Gus Rylander  
 Ryan Schoenberger  
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 Nancy J. Sheridan  
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 Donna Triggiani  
 Jan VanTuil  
 Anthony Warner  
 DP Warner  
 Eleanor Weisman & Jay Hanes  
 Janet Wells  
 Linda Wetsell  
 Mela Calomino-Zinz & Patrick Zinz



<b>FAMILIES REVENUE</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Contributions	\$21,324.81	Donations, Grants, Restricted & In-Kind Donations
Fundraising Revenue	3,100.28	Spaghetti & Harvest Dinners, Vegetable Sales
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$24,425.09</b>	
<b>FAMILIES EXPENSES</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Awards & Grants	\$1,000.00	Matching Funds Payments
Communications	114.61	Postage, Publications, Other
Contract Services	830.00	Accounting Fees
Equipment	80.99	Maintenance/Repairs, Furniture & Equipment
Facilities & Building	261.48	Garden Supplies
Fundraising Expenses	2,014.70	Documentation, Harvest Dinner Supplies, Potluck Supplies, Spaghetti Dinner Supplies, Other Fundraiser Supplies, Sweet Potatoes & Squash
Operations	12,321.04	Educational Materials, Insurance/Liability, Garden Supplies, After School Snacks & Supplies, Families Meals Supplies, Transportation to Garden, Facilitator, Printing/Copying, Supplies
Other Expenses	3,508.67	Other Costs, Summer Landscapes
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$20,131.49</b>	

**ALSO**, throughout the year, more than \$2500 was received in free will cash donations offered at various celebrations (spaghetti dinner, harvest festival, Holter concert). We thank all those who quietly, anonymously, and generously "filled our jar"—your support sustains us and your spirit inspires us.

We also thank all those who purchased our handmade scarves, frozen fresh vegetables, notecards, and calendars. As much as we appreciate the funds, we appreciate even more your willingness to honor the work of "our own two hands."



## THE CREATING LANDSCAPES LEARNING CENTER K-6 INDEPENDENT SCHOOL



Photos on these pages by Dan Winston

The Creating Landscapes Learning Center is committed to:

- The Creative Process
- Exploration
- Fostering Curiosity
- The Individuality of the Child
- Collaboration, Communication and Community

The creative students at the Learning Center had a very busy second year. They trekked through the wetlands, explored local agriculture, held an election, built a city, and traveled to the moon. They were thrilled to share a spaghetti dinner and spend the night together in the self-created Learning Center City. But, perhaps the most rewarding experience was when the students' stories were brought to the big screen to a packed house at the Vukovich Center for Communication Arts on the Allegheny College campus. These interdisciplinary themes inspired by the students' natural curiosity were a great example of our philosophy in action. The joy of learning evident on the students' faces assured the families and staff that the Learning Center continues to fulfill its mission.

As we completed our second year and are moving into our third, the Learning Center is experiencing tremendous growth. We have moved to a beautiful, spacious location and are one of three educational programs that share space at the old East End Elementary School building. We now have thirty-six smiling faces coming through our doors each morning greeting our staff, which has grown to four. Our three multi-age classrooms are filled with lively discussion and aesthetic expression.

With all of our new families, our focus now becomes maintaining our wonderful sense of community. If there is one thing we have learned, it is our families that make this school special. The Learning Center is a collaboration among educators, students, and parents. Parents work with teachers to share their gifts and talents in the classroom. Students have learned about baking bread, have practiced yoga, and have learned Chinese characters through these rich collaborations. Our families enthusiastically participate in monthly school meetings, family outings, and field trips. We enjoy sharing our traditions and creating new memories as The Learning Center continues to grow. It is with a great sense of pride that we are able to work together to offer a nurturing environment where children from our local community can be excited about learning and excel in the creative problem solving process!

*Dana Hunter Yeager*

*The Learning Center K-6 Independent School  
Education Director*

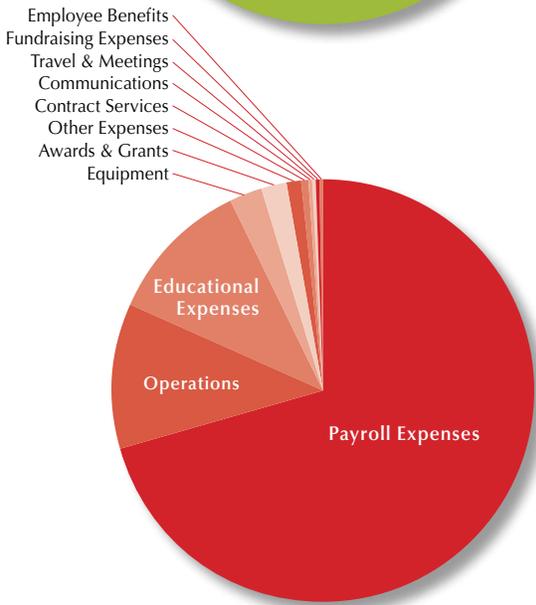
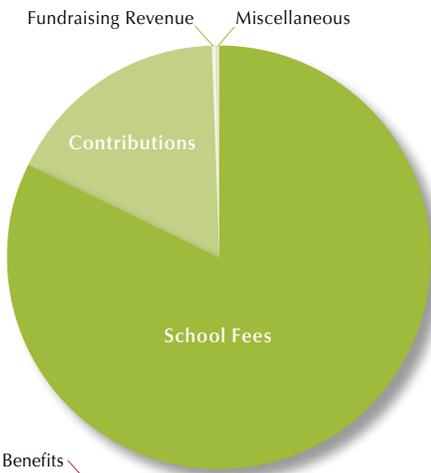
# DONATIONS TO K-6 INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Acutec  
Ainsworth Pet Nutrition  
Allegheny College  
Arts Erie  
Art's Grocery  
Confections of a Cake Lover  
Creative Crust  
Hagen Business Machines  
Hank's Frozen Custard  
Robert L. Hyatt Family Fund  
Intellectual Property Services Inc.  
Iroquois Boating and Fishing Club  
Magic Steve Bennett  
Marquette Savings Bank  
Northwest Rural Electric  
Northwest Savings Bank  
ON Inc.  
Pampered Palate  
Ralston's Hardware  
Tachoir Auto Body Inc.  
Travaglini Enterprises  
Venango Valley Inn & Golf Course

## CONTRIBUTORS

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Joe Baker  
H. F. Bayless  
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Beverly Boyd  
James C. Bulman  
Richard S. Curry  
Gregory D. Davis  
Linda C. DeMeritt  
Michael & Regina Dolsen  
Darryl S. Dorr  
Curtis & Sally Frank  
Neil & Stacy Gerber  
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Don Goldstein  
Kathleen M. Greeley  
Mark R. Haemer  
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Donald Harward  
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Jeffrey Holabaugh  
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Krysti & Ryan Nageotte  
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John Christopher Soff  
Laura A. Starr  
Matthew Starr  
Rochelle A. Stratton  
Tom Swift  
Kenneth A. Unice  
Col. Donald Vazquez  
Robert & Janet Waid  
Eleanor Weisman  
E. Max Weiss  
Linda Wetsell  
John Wiltrout  
Carrie Woge  
Mark Yeager  
Scott Yeager



SCHOOL REVENUE	Amount	Notes
Contributions	\$16,536.93	Donations, Grants, Restricted & In-Kind Donations
Fundraising Revenue	115.00	
Miscellaneous	149.70	
School Fees	78,735.64	Tuition, fees, scholarships
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$95,537.27</b>	

SCHOOL EXPENSES	Amount	Notes
Awards & Grants	\$1,500.00	Matching Funds Payments
Business Expense	251.40	Advertising, Registration Fees
Communications	350.86	Postage
Contract Services	955.00	Accounting Fees, Substitute Teachers
Educational Expenses	8,856.51	Educational Materials, Books, After School Snacks & Supplies, Field Trips, Teachers' Resources, Art Materials
Employee Benefits	69.00	
Equipment	2,088.94	Furniture & Equipment
Fundraising Expenses	88.72	Fundraiser Supplies
Operations	8,791.57	Supplies, Rent, Printing/Copying, Telecommunications, Telephone, Insurance/Liability, Other
Other Expenses	192.72	Other Costs
Payroll Expenses	56,201.65	Salaries & Taxes
Travel & Meetings	222.06	Travel
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$79,568.43</b>	



In September 2013 members of the **CLC** INC. Board of Directors reflected on the corporation's second year. Following affirmation of the corporate mission to facilitate educational goals of the two learning venues, the review focused on progress made toward achieving the four corporate goals established in 2012.

**Those goals and their resolutions to date include:**

- **Increasing financial support in order to:**  
acquire larger space for the school  
provide access to Landscapes resources for families by increasing access to scholarships
- **Expanding leadership beyond our present board of directors:**  
revised by-laws placed development of venue plans in the hands of venue leaders and their councils
- **Consolidating structural and governance overlap:**  
revised by-laws included committee consolidation and restructuring
- **Presenting Landscapes story to a larger audience:**  
Jan Hyatt and Eleanor Weisman presented the Landscapes Idea at the **Imagining America Conference** in New York City in October 2012.

Jan, Eleanor, and a team from the Learning Venues presented at the **Transforming Education** symposium at Allegheny College in March 2013.

Jan and Eleanor collaborated with Allegheny colleague and Associate Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience Jeffrey Hollerman Ph.D. in the preparation of an article intended for publication in the *Journal of Aesthetic Education* with a working title: *The Creating Landscapes Idea: A Process of Questioning, Collaborating, and Leveraging Resources.*

**Strategies for moving forward** were focused around a single question: Where do we want to be in three years? While the need for ongoing financial stability and visibility remains constant, the board also acknowledges the critical role played by successful community partnerships.

The successful initial years of Creating Landscapes for Families and the Learning Center K-6 School depended in large part on collaborative partnerships with Ackerman Farm, Allegheny College, Christ Episcopal Church, Crawford Central School District, and the Unitarian Universalist Church. These collaborations allowed us to demonstrate the powerful roles families play in their sons' and daughters' social/academic development. The strength of our initiative lies in this belief.

Regarding future progress, the board has established an Ad Hoc Partnership Committee to strengthen existing collaborations and to seek out additional community partners.

Our quest to further educational justice and social justice in our learning places continues. To support Creating Landscapes Learning Center Educational Programs please use the enclosed envelope to send your tax-deductible contribution.

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K-6 Independent School  
Founder and Venue Director



Photo above and on cover by Dan Winston