



The Moment When Walking Becomes Dancing

IN OUR THIRD YEAR, we have continued our mission to bring our students, members and participants closer to the juncture of knowing and sensing. Specifically, we achieved the move of our Learning Center into a larger space, we achieved the move of our Families' garden into a landmark city plot, we increased our Learning Center enrollment and scholarship fund, we strengthened key partnerships, we launched another after school arts enrichment program and we continue to bear witness to students, members and participants demonstrating increased growth and empowerment. These accomplishments are affirmation that at Creating Landscapes, on any day, at any moment, a walk could become a dance.

Looking ahead, the Creating Landscapes Learning Corporation's board of directors resolved to commit to the following endeavors for our fourth year:

Work to give more definition to the role of our cherished partners, definition that clarifies our responsibilities to one another;

Revisit the role and substance of venue plans and introduce the concept of venue action plans and monthly venue reports in an effort to:

- Clarify each venue's short-term and long-term goals,
- Regularly ensure that those goals are in unity with the corporate mission, and
- Increase our capacity for undertaking responsible assessment with regard to sustainability.

The need for ongoing strengthening of our financial foundation and opportunities for increasing our community presence persist. However, our 2014 endeavors support our moving out of our infancy and into a framework that will allow us to preserve and honor the distinction, the resources and the relationships we build and acquire. Flourishing partnerships combined with an ever-vigilant commitment to our greater mission are what our quest relies on now.

As we walk forward on our quest, we hold tight to the tenderness and tenacity, the uncertainty and anticipation that our sons, daughters, friends and neighbors demonstrate through investment in our venues. It is only through an exchange rich with these qualities that achieving a landscape for transformation, responsibility, empathy, empowerment, accountability and fairness is possible. It is this kind of exchange that gives birth to the moment when walking becomes dancing.

The exchange is ongoing.

To participate in the exchange, please use the enclosed envelope to send your tax deductible contribution.

THANK YOU!

Elizabeth Spadafore, Esquire
Vice Chair



Photo above and on cover by Emily Cicoca

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Annual Report 2014

THE CREATING LANDSCAPES LEARNING CENTER, INC.



Annual Report 2014



CREATING LANDSCAPES LEARNING CENTER, INC. — Where curious students and creative teachers learn together



OURS IS THE TASK of re-thinking educational practice. In particular, our work is distinguished by aesthetic learning. Aesthetic learning encourages students to engage and understand through the senses and emotions as well as the critical mind. Like Maxine Greene (1917-2014), whose 1977 text *Landscapes of Learning* continues to inspire our work, we believe that creative thinking and robust imagining are the keys not just to an individual's lifelong learning, but also to the flourishing of a democratic society.

Our non-sectarian [Creating Landscapes Learning Center, Inc.](#) currently comprises two intergenerational learning venues.

Creating Landscapes for Families is the learning venue where individuals learn to take time to nurture networks of relationships. Its creation provides opportunities 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.

The Learning Center: K-6 School, a state-licensed, independent elementary school, offers two non-traditional multi-age classrooms and a kindergarten. A diverse school community provides interdisciplinary thematic units and an exploration of creative processes particular to hands-on learning.

As we approach our fourth year we clearly understand our success depends on sharing resources with collaborative partners—because without execution, vision is just hallucination. Partnerships with Allegheny College, the Crawford Central School District, the Unitarian Universalist Church and so many members of the greater Meadville community create conditions for:

- Enhancing transformative learning
- Encouraging communal responsibility and social empathy
- Fostering individual empowerment, mutual accountability, and fairness.

The story of our corporation's ongoing evolution as well as the evolution of our learning venues continues in this, our third annual report.

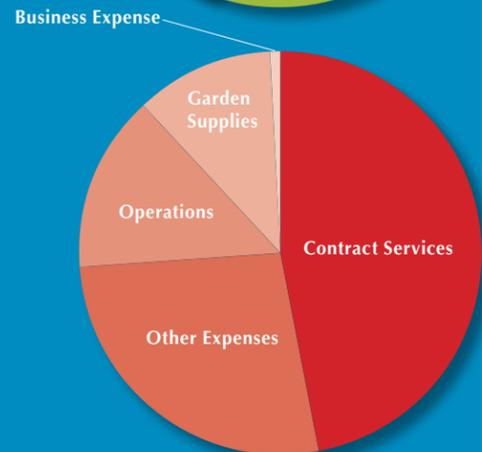
Janyce J. Hyatt, *Chair*
November 2014

Photos on these pages by Dan Winston and Joyce Klasen

| CORPORATE REVENUE | Amount | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Balance from 2013 | \$2,782.58 | |
| Contributions | 2,214.00 | |
| TOTAL | \$4,996.58 | |
| CORPORATE EXPENSES | Amount | Notes |
| Business Expense | \$15.00 | Registration Fee |
| Contract Services | 1,226.25 | Website Design |
| Garden Supplies | 290.00 | |
| Operations | 373.74 | Annual Report |
| Other Expenses | 700.76 | Insurance, Misc. Costs |
| TOTAL | \$2,605.75 | |

CONTRIBUTORS to the CORPORATION

Hugh D. & June M. Hanes
Robert L. Hyatt Family Fund
J. Edward Johnson
Jonathan Miller Design
Kathy Roos
Lou & Mary Wagner
Eleanor Weisman & Jay Hanes





CREATING LANDSCAPES for FAMILIES

Choosing a Moment...

AT ITS HEART, Creating Landscapes for Families is—and always has been—all about ownership rather than membership. True to that spirit, our work this past year was filled with moments that brought families together to create and manage our school year program and our summer garden. The beauty of those moments is that they were each guided by honest reflection; tender consideration of all voices at the table; and common sense grit. While families are content to hold on to what's working, they are not afraid to change what needs to be changed. This past year, our 6th year together, was filled with many significant moments including:

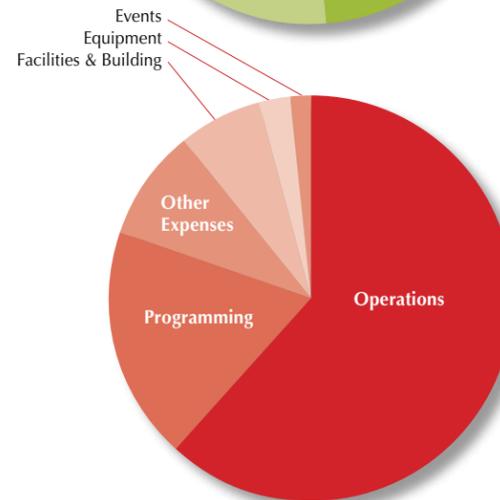
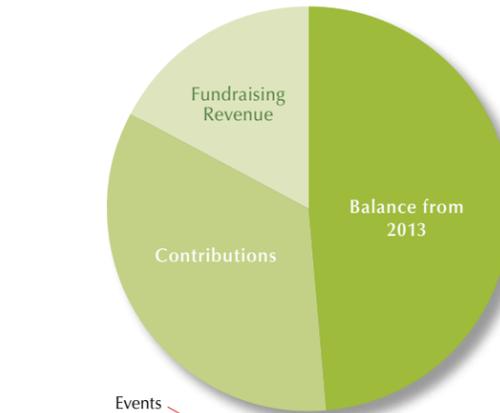
- Successful fundraising
- Improved grades as a result of the after school program
- Many meals for so many mouths
- Meaningful collaborations with Allegheny students and the UU Church
- Participation in the design of local community services

But there is one moment in time that defines our commitment to that balance of tenderness and tenacity. It was when the families created a force that changed the face of their own urban landscape. And so the moment...

Families decided that it was time to move their community garden from the outskirts of town right into their own neighborhood. They found a city lot that had been vacant for five years and they imagined a garden. They imagined pathways leading into and through—curved pathways that would invite neighbors to “come on in” and pick a vegetable or two or just sit on benches for a while enjoying the artful serenity that can be found in a garden. So...confident in their own creative power to reach out, imagine, and make their voices heard, families gracefully took political action. They approached City Council and asked for permission to take this dusty city lot and transform it into a place where families and neighbors could pull together—together bringing beauty and bountiful harvest into the backyard of local families. In that moment—thanks to “grassroots democracy in action”—change in law happened and the FIRST community garden on a vacant City of Meadville lot was established! And in that moment, the families of Creating Landscapes for Families knew they had been part of something big. **THIS** is the moment of which we are most proud.

We don't know what next year may bring but we DO know that we can approach what lies ahead with tenderness and tenacity and that we can be the force that changes the face of our own future and the face of our community. We look forward to all of next year's moments...

Joyce M. Klasen
Education Director



| FAMILIES REVENUE | Amount | Notes |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--|
| Balance from 2013 | \$9,607.79 | |
| Contributions | 6,726.56 | Donations, Grants, Restricted & In-Kind Donations |
| Fundraising Revenue | 3,370.60 | Spaghetti & Harvest Dinners, Vegetable Sales |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$19,704.95 | |
| FAMILIES EXPENSES | Amount | Notes |
| Equipment | \$315.88 | Maintenance/Repairs, Equipment |
| Events | 195.83 | Fundraising |
| Facilities & Building | 823.40 | Garden Supplies, Rent, Parking, Utilities |
| Operations | 7,701.21 | Transportation to Garden, Printing/Copying, Honorariums, Supplies |
| Other Expenses | 1,111.02 | Insurance, Educational Scholarships, Misc. |
| Programming | 2,299.24 | Garden Supplies, Family Meal Supplies, Activity Costs, After School Snacks |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$12,446.58 | |



Photos on these pages by Joyce Klasen



2013–14 Contributors to Families

- Allegheny College/ Crawford Central Schools Collaborative Grant
- Allegheny College Dance and Movement Studies
- Allegheny College Ministerial Fund
- Babe Shelby Landscaping
- Yolanda Barco Oncology Center
- CHAPS
- Bernadene R. & John Cooley Fund (Crawford Heritage Foundation)
- Crawford County Human Services
- Crawford County Juvenile Probation
- John Holter Ensemble
- David Kunz and Second District Elementary Class
- Meadville Garden Club
- Meadville Market House
- Mowris Tree Service
- Parkhurst Dining of Allegheny College
- PNC Bank
- Powell Sanitation
- Titusville Toys
- Unitarian Universalist Church Giving Fund

- Ann Areson
- Tracy Auell
- Joseph Barnhart
- Cynthia Burton
- Mela Calomino
- Ronda Calomino
- Tamara Clark
- Jim & Carmen Emerson
- Beth Etter
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- Peter & Deborah Gifford Family
- Paul Gosnell & Sue Sloss
- John Holter
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- Shannon Ongley
- Maria Roxberry and Children
- Lisbet Searle-White
- Anthony Warner
- Eleanor Weisman & Jay Hanes
- Linda Wetsell
- Mary Lib Whitney
- Susan Wycoff

And the countless others who contributed anonymously—your gift made all the difference!



THE LEARNING CENTER: K-6 INDEPENDENT SCHOOL



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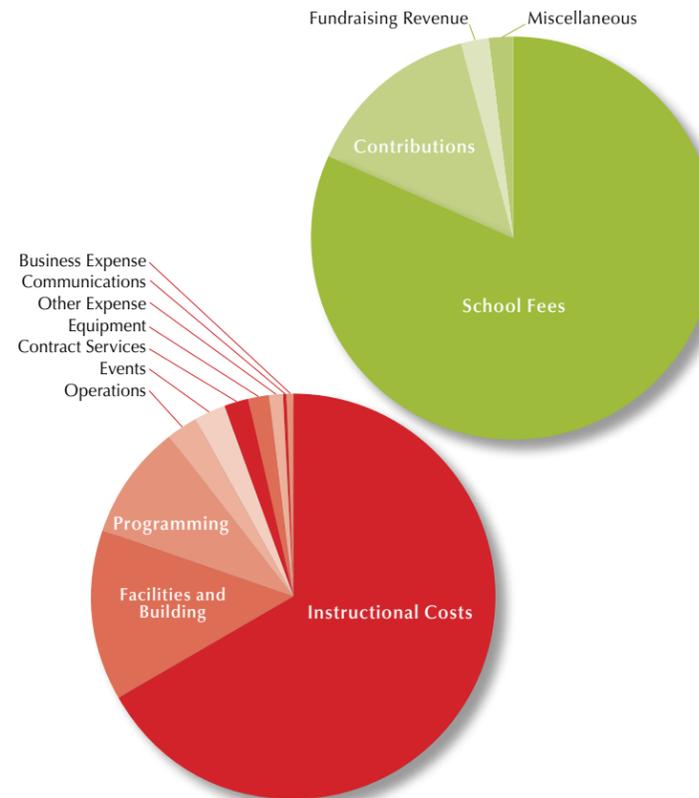
Where the life we learn with merges with the life we live

THE LEARNING CENTER—our school's name says it all. As the director I reflect upon what makes our school, now beginning its fourth year, so very special. I notice it each morning as I come through our doors. I feel the energy, hear the laughter and see the joyful smiles on all those faces. I realize that what makes our school special is just this—our students, teachers, parents, grandparents, community members have come together to create an environment rich with the possibilities for learning. A safe and exciting place where our curiosity can lead us into the unknown and where we have the opportunity and pleasure of learning from each other.

Our community of teachers, families and friends come together to engage our students in the ART of learning. Over the years our learners have traveled through space with poetry, composed a song about the city they created, and choreographed a dance to reflect what they learned about animal habitats. As we begin the new school year our current theme is Home. While our younger students have mapped their neighborhood and created a bright, beautiful collage of all it takes to be a successful community, our older students have used drama to explore leaving one home and coming through Ellis Island to another. They have had the opportunity to experience a small glimpse into the uncertainty and hope some of their very own family members experienced when faced with the possibilities ahead of them.

So, as each of us—teachers, students, parents, grandparents—comes through the doors of The Learning Center, our home away from home, we do so with enthusiasm. Every day we experience the excitement inherent in possibilities for learning and collaboration ahead of us.

Dana Hunter Yeager
Education Director



| SCHOOL REVENUE | Amount | Notes |
|----------------------|---------------------|---|
| Contributions | \$22,943.00 | Donations, Grants, Restricted & In-Kind Donations |
| Fundraising Revenue | 3,661.00 | |
| Miscellaneous | 2,964.42 | |
| School Fees | 132,637.51 | Tuition, fees, scholarships |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$162,205.93 | |

| SCHOOL EXPENSES | Amount | Notes |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Business Expense | \$563.30 | Advertising, Registration Fees |
| Communications | 379.05 | Postage |
| Contract Services | 2,560.00 | Acct. Fees, Substitute Teachers |
| Equipment | 2,084.66 | Furniture |
| Events | 3,194.72 | Fundraising and Other Events |
| Facilities and Building | 17,718.99 | Rent, Parking, Utilities |
| Instructional Costs | 87,156.11 | Salaries, Taxes, Employee Benefits |
| Operations | 3,476.97 | Printing/Copying, Supplies, Telecommunications |
| Other Expenses | 1,418.97 | Insurance, Membership & Dues, Misc. |
| Programming | 11,875.18 | Texts, Materials, Supplies, Field Trips, Other Education Materials |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$130,427.95 | |

2013-14 Contributors to the School

- Acutec
- Boot Box Inc.
- Erie Bank
- Gourmet Products Group
- IP Services Inc.
- Integrative Therapies
- Marquette Savings Bank
- Northern Mercer Co. Community Foundation
- Northwest Savings Bank
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