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Creating Landscapes for Families July 2017-June 2018

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 Sue Wycoff
 Dana Yeager & Family

Also, throughout the year, more than \$2000 was received in free will cash donations offered at various celebrations (spaghetti dinner, soup sales, film4thought movie night dinners, harvest dinner). We thank all those who quietly, anonymously, and generously "filled our jar" —your support sustains us and your spirit inspires us.



Contributors to the Corporation

Carolyn & Dale Anderson
 Jennifer & Aaron Brady
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 Mary Spicer
 Susan Wycoff



Annual Report 2018

THE CREATING LANDSCAPES LEARNING CENTER, INC.



Cover Photo by Joyce Klasen



Annual Report 2018 | Creating Landscapes Learning Center, Inc.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Our 7th year at the Creating Landscapes Learning Center has been a year of transition as we harnessed the audacity to continue to imagine.

This year, we approved two new learning venues: The Creating Landscapes for Families Early Learning Center and Food for Thought. These additions, along with the momentous growth of the other venues, gave rise to a structural reimagining. Each learning venue has designed a structure that allows it to be self-managed and self-directed. Putting these structures in place has allowed the venues to find independence and autonomy. All the while, The Creating Landscapes Learning Center, Inc. continues to envelop these venues, ensuring that each one is thriving and supported in promoting our noble mission in this community.

Each year, we see the benefits of our work ripple through our streets, our blocks, our neighborhoods and our city. We see the faces of our children light up, their minds and hearts expand. We witness our community members taking ownership of both the difficulties facing us and also the resolutions. Each and every day, we are, in fact, creating new landscapes; landscapes of learning, landscapes of experience and landscapes of possibility. We are incredibly fortunate to have so much support from you. Please continue to imagine and create with us. You make it all possible.



Elizabeth Spadafore, Chair



CORPORATE REVENUE	Amount	
Contributions	\$558.74	
TOTAL	\$558.74	
CORPORATE EXPENSES	Amount	Notes
Contract Services	300.00	Website
Memberships	150.00	
Travel	723.00	
Operations	605.05	Annual Report
Other Expenses	1,162.83	
TOTAL	\$2,940.88	



Photos by Dan Winston

CLC INC. GOVERNING BOARD

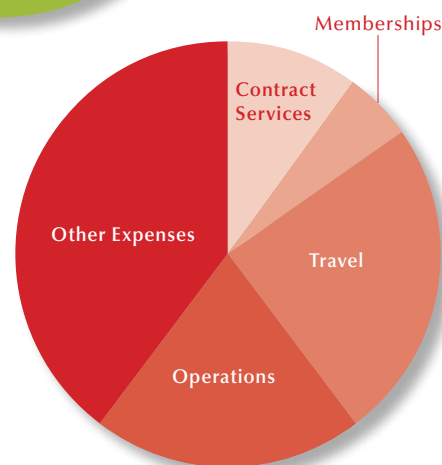
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Food4Thought: Peter Gifford

Contributions





Creating Landscapes for Families



Photos by Joyce Klasen

OUR TABLE



Since its beginning in 2008, the mission of Creating Landscapes for Families has always been to bring families together...to experience the joy of working together while working toward a shared vision. It's that simple. Back then, it was just a few people—two moms, a dad, and two grandmothers—who sat around a small table and shared hopes for their children and neighborhood. Along with those hopes, they imagined change. They made plans. Those plans were honest and realistic and that table may have been small but it was bubbling over with big conversation about skills, optimism, and reservations. In the fall of 2008, those families pushed their imagination into action!

Through the years:

- Families After-School and Family Dinner program has remained a place where twice a week children are supported in their schoolwork and families come together to prepare and enjoy hot, healthy dinners.
- Families grow two Community Gardens, which have provided beautiful gathering places for neighbors to share vegetables, ideas, and life stories.
- And now... just this past year... Creating Landscapes for Families Early Learning Center opened its doors, offering local families a state-certified FOUR STAR Quality Preschool where children love to learn, teachers love to teach, and families feel at home.

All the while—since 2008—those same families who formed the rock-solid foundation of Creating Landscapes for Families—Chris and Tammy Collins, Cheryl Dooley, Cheryl Johnson, and



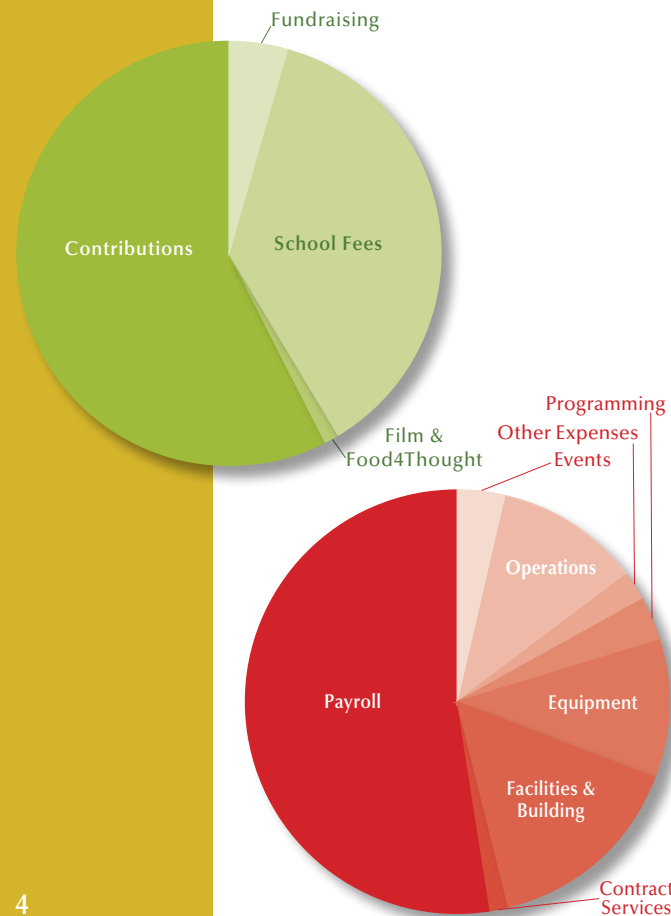
Rosemary Richardson—have remained at the table. And every day since our first day together, I am personally grateful that I sit at that table beside them. It is a table that has grown over the years—one that welcomes ALL and sees our differences as our biggest assets and our problems as “positive possibilities.” It is a table that keeps us humble through our vulnerabilities and a table that is grateful for opportunities to build relationships and trust, and to engage in meaningful collaboration—work to create something together—with local, state, and federal organizations.

Those organizations include: Allegheny College Bonner Program; the Child and Adult Food Care Program; City of Meadville Redevelopment Authority; Crawford County Human Services; Crawford County Systems of Care; Crawford Heritage Foundation; Edinboro University; Fibro Tool; Pathstone Senior Citizen Employment Program; Pennsylvania Keystone STARS; Pennsylvania Department of Education PreK Counts program; PNC; and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville.

So I end this fiscal year by honoring those who sat at that very first table AND all those who have helped “grow” our table ever since. I hope—no, I believe—that Creating Landscapes for Families will continue to learn, be imaginative, be grateful, and be of service to others while holding true to our mission—bringing families together in the community to focus on positive possibilities.

There is always room at our table....

Joyce Klasen
Education Director – Creating Landscapes for Families
Charmaine Koehler-Lodge, Treasurer



Food4Thought

VISION/MISSION/ACTION

Food4Thought is a forum to nurture grassroots engagement and ACTION toward a well-fed, well-educated and resilient community.

Our collaborations permit us to connect with one another, learn from each other, and reach a broader audience within the community.

To date, our actions have been focused on three entities:

Grow Meadville's mission is to support a network of community gardens that promote growing food and bringing together (Meadville) community members of all ages.

Film4Thought's agenda is to provide community and family engagement around films that grow thoughtful conversations in an accessible and pro-social atmosphere

The **Walk-able Meadville** initiative is F4T's newest ACTION PLAN. Currently evolving, its mission is to create safe and accessible (spaces and) pathways through the community.

Our Collaborative Partners each contribute \$150 annually. They include:

Creating Landscapes for Families, My Meadville/Meadville Heart and Soul, Meadville Neighborhood Center, Parkside Psychological, System of Care, Women's Services, The Unitarian Universalist Church, the MARC Garden (formerly Community Wellness Initiative), and the now defunct Going Places and READ.

Additionally, Food4Thought has received funding from Crawford Heritage Foundation and the Harry C. Winslow Foundation. Our funders have supported signage construction and maintenance for Community Gardens, advertising and film rental fees for Film4Thought, and the cost of producing Grow Meadville's Annual Harvest Garden Walk during the Fall Equinox weekend.

The Pilot Park Project in summer '18, funded by our collaborative partner Crawford County System of Care, was facilitated by Food4Thought. Discussions about the ongoing status of Food4Thought's role in the Summer Park Project are ongoing....

Wallace G. Mason II,
Chairperson: Food 4 Thought Governing Board
Peter Gifford, Treasurer

Film/Food4Thought REVENUE	Amount	Notes
Film4Thought	\$300.00	Donations
Food4Thought	450.00	Donations
Fundraising	599.10	Film4Thought
Grant	67.00	Film4Thought
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,416.10	

Film/Food4Thought EXPENSES	Amount	Notes
Film4Thought	1335.00	Events
Events	57.15	Printing
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,392.15	



Creating Landscapes for Families Early Learning Center

IN KEEPING WITH OUR MISSION...

Creating Landscapes for Families Early Learning Center was founded at Jan Hyatt's dining table in February 2017. A few of us were talking about the "once-in-five-year window of opportunity" that was scheduled to open in Spring 2018. This "window" would offer childcare centers and preschools the chance to apply for a PreK Counts grant through the PA Department of Education. The PreK Counts grant would provide free access to high-quality early learning to families with 3 and 4 year old children who fall in the economic gap between Head Start and private pre-schools. In our community many working families fall into this category. I wanted to know more.

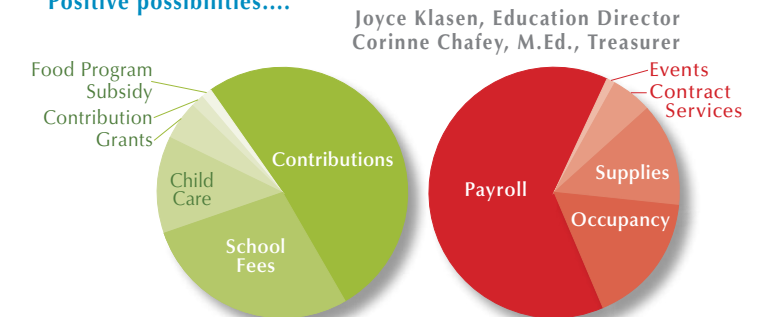
As I listened and learned as a mother, grandmother, and early childhood educator, I had no doubt of the need for high quality early learning. I wanted to do my part so that ALL children could have access to a preschool which was "good enough for my grandchildren"—the highest bar imaginable. I also listened and learned as Education Director of Creating Landscapes for Families. I knew that this "window of opportunity" was opening at EXACTLY the right moment for Creating Landscapes for Families. I knew that the resilience and the relationships built over our "almost ten years together" was all we needed to keep with our mission—bringing families together in the community to focus on positive possibilities—so we went to work!

THROUGHOUT THE 2017/2018 FISCAL YEAR:

- An Action Committee—Corinne Chafey, Pat Ferrey, Pete Gifford, Jan Hyatt, Joyce Klasen and Deb Lehman—met weekly and shared the load of work and deadlines...FAST deadlines!
- City Zoning was approved and we were off and running! Space on the second floor of the Unitarian Universalist Church was rented and remodeled with the generous hearts and strong hands of many individuals, families, and community partners. Time, money and supplies flowed our way when needed most.
- Outstanding classroom staff was hired—Charlotte Reedy as Director with Rosemary Richardson as Assistant. Hiring those two was a defining moment as far as the QUALITY of our school—I now KNEW that this school would meet my personal standard—"good enough for my grandchildren."
- A partnership with a federal food program was put in place to help with the cost of food for nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snack and through a collaboration with Pathstone (Federally funded program designed to employ Senior Citizens), our children's meals were being planned with lots of "grandma" love and cooking experience!
- Inspections—local, state, and federal—were held and found us to be in good shape!

- On December 4, 2017, we opened the door of Creating Landscapes for Families Early Learning Center to Hanna, our very first preschooler!
- By mid-May 2018, our school was bustling with eleven preschoolers and was rated a STAR 4 Center—Pennsylvania's highest rating for quality. We were taken under the wing of Edinboro University and were in a position to apply for Pre K Counts grant.
- By July, we received word that we DID receive PreK Counts funding for eight preschoolers...the opportunity that began the whole process was fulfilled. Plans for the 2018/2019 school year began...a preschool that offers high-quality learning to ALL families—those who can pay privately and those who can use a little help.
- Creating Landscapes for Families Early Learning Center is a place that grew quickly—It also grew well. It grew well because children, families, staff, and community partners came together to focus on the possibility of a place where children love to learn, teachers love to teach, and families feel at home. A place where, above all else, kindness matters.

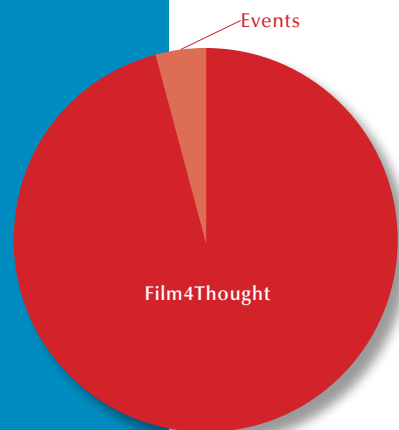
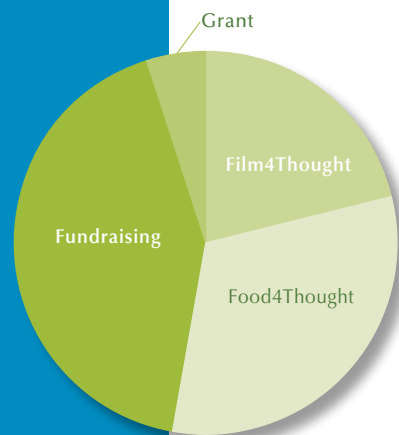
Positive possibilities....



FAMILIES REVENUE	Amount	Notes
Child Care	4,402.15	
Contributions	18,270.00	Donations
Contributions	563.13	Restricted
Food Program Subsidy	466.24	
Grants	1,800.00	
School Fees	9,891.31	Tuition
TOTAL REVENUE	\$35,392.83	

FAMILIES EXPENSES	Amount	Notes
Contract Services	300.00	Accounting & Other
Facilities & Building	1,682.15	Renovation
Occupancy	5,296.00	
Payroll	19,714.76	Salaries & Taxes
Supplies	4,080.00	Family Meal Supplies, After School Snacks

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$31,072.91
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The Learning Center: K–8 Independent School



Photos by Dana Yeager

Their interests help determine the themes for the learning that happens at the school. Our “Through the Ages” theme came as a request from the history buffs, while our budding scientists spearheaded our “Mystery Science Theater 2018” theme... lots of things exploding this year! We spent a day towards the end of the year with our whole school experiencing Hollywood Day! Not only did our students dress the part to walk the red carpet as they entered the school, they organized into multi age groups to write, edit, and publish scripts. They then had to take another group’s script and create costumes and props for that story. Then they moved to yet another script, with its set of costumes and props from other collaborators, and stage and filmed the movies. Every Learning Center student’s hand touched each film that was created that day. The end results were not only thoroughly enjoyed by all, they were quite impressive!

But the real reason I say that we can and are changing the way education happens is because of what our students are doing beyond the classroom walls. The Voyagers had their first overnight field trip where they spent three days and two nights at an environmental center in the Cuyahoga Valley in Ohio. Their learning was deep and their growth immense. But imagine the pride felt by all when one of our board members received a call from a representative from the center describing the great level of engagement and maturity that our students exhibited. We had other students from our Civic Engagement Club partner with the local Market House to create a beautiful mural to be enjoyed by the whole Meadville community. And we had several students take the initiative to collaborate with a local coffee shop, Tarot Bean, to organize a fund-raiser for the school which involved music and baked goods—both created by the students—and, of course, coffee. These are just a few examples of how our students are taking what they have learned out into the world with them.

At The Learning Center we do what we can in our corner of the Meadville Community. Our teachers, our parents, our students share knowledge and experiences so that we can all learn and grow from one another. And beyond sharing information, we share the process, the way learning happens. We want children to be curious and seek knowledge and share what we have learned. And that is what our students are doing as they engage with the community beyond the school. They are inspiring new friends to ask questions. They are teaching others to seek knowledge. Our students are out there in the community making a difference and changing the way education happens.

Dana Hunter Yeager, Education Director
Shannon Ongley, CPA, Treasurer

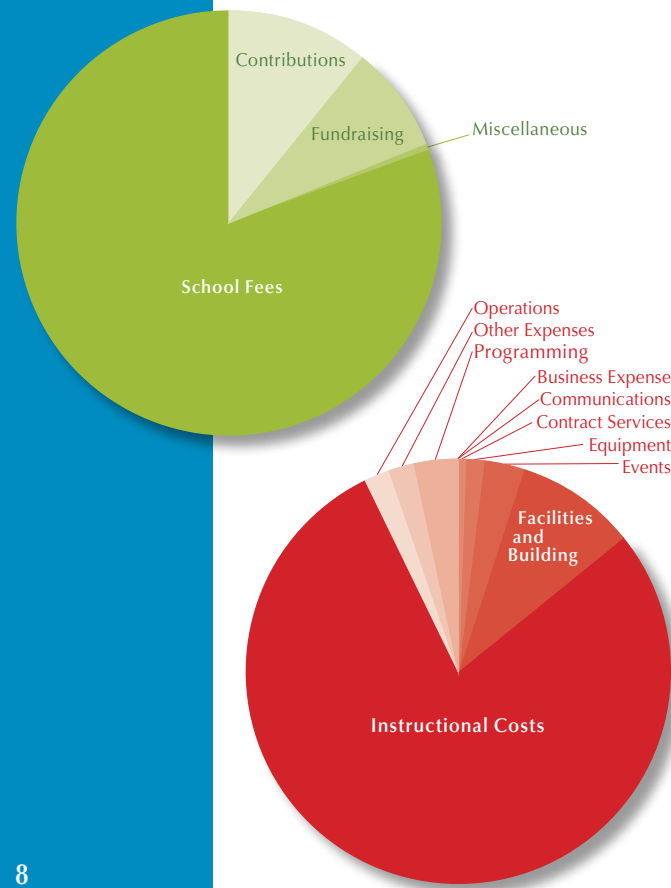
I was recently asked the question if Creating Landscapes can change the way education happens. It has always been my belief that we have an obligation to do what we can to make the world a better place—especially in our very own corner of the world. It is no secret that the United States educational system is experiencing challenges. But when I look at the projects that our students are producing, when I listen to the conversations they are having, when I watch the initiative they are taking and their involvement in community projects—and for those who are into numbers, when I see our test scores going up each year—I believe we have the opportunity to change the way education happens.

We do things a little differently at The Learning Center. First of all we are a true learning community. It has taken all of us, working as a team, to bring about the success of this school. All members of our families, from the youngest to the oldest, take an active role. Our teachers, students, parents, and grandparents work together in a variety of ways and roles to make this school a success. This was never more evident than on June 9th when we moved the school to our new temporary location. The support was overwhelming and the move was completed in a record three hours! Although we continue to look for our permanent home we are now settled into our cozy new space, which, inspired by the children’s enthusiasm for it, already feels like home.

Our multi-generational learning community is modeled from the school outward. It begins with our multi-age classrooms and then develops through the effort that is put into organizing opportunities for our oldest and youngest students to work together. The youngest students rise to the occasion of working with older students and our older students become mentors and teachers. The older students can see how they are inspiring the younger students to ask questions and solve problems creatively. In fact, our new middle school students, The Voyagers, took the lead on many things this year like writing our newsletters, leading whole-school meetings, organizing their first school dance, and publishing the first Learning Center yearbook.

At The Learning Center we give our students the opportunity to be who they are. Multi-age classrooms allow this to happen naturally and academically. Children can work where they are challenged—they aren’t bored listening to repetition of material they’ve already mastered and are able experience success without frustration. As they grow with the school their role is naturally ebbing and flowing between that of student and teacher. Regardless of their role, each student knows that they have a voice at The Learning Center—their ideas are honored and their opinions matter. Our students always guide the curriculum.

Many of you know that The Creating Landscapes Learning Center School was founded seven years ago with my own children in mind. I wanted a different educational experience for them than what was available in our small community. It was astounding to me that we had 14 children, grades kindergarten through second, that first year—12 other families were also looking for something different! Now, as we enter our eighth year, we have 74 students attending The Learning Center ranging in grades kindergarten through eighth. Each year I continue to be astounded by the interest in our learning community.



SCHOOL REVENUE	Amount	Notes
Contributions	\$36,546.39	Donations, Restricted Donations (next school year)
Fundraising	27,689.41	Spring Bling, Merchandise Sale, Other
Miscellaneous	1,564.56	
School Fees	271,380.59	Tuition, Fees, Scholarships
TOTAL REVENUE	\$337,180.95	
SCHOOL EXPENSES	Amount	Notes
Business Expense	\$350.40	Advertising, Registration Fees
Communications	232.35	Postage
Contract Services	1,870.00	Accounting Fees, Substitutes
Equipment	3,838.82	Furniture
Events	9,135.03	Fundraising
Facilities and Building	27,016.87	Rent, Parking & Utilities
Instructional Costs	231,748.78	Salaries, Taxes, Benefits & Training
Operations	5,623.38	Printing/Copying, Supplies, Telephone
Other Expenses	5,627.60	Insurance & Misc.
Programming	9,793.22	Materials & Field Trips
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$295,236.45	



The Creating Landscapes IDEA (1990)

INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING at the INTERFACE of IMAGINATION and CRITICAL THINKING

ENABLED by ALLEGHENY COLLEGE (1990–2018)

SUMMER LANDSCAPES

The Summer Creating Landscapes Program (1990)
— where curious students and creative faculty play and learn together.

AESTHETIC EDUCATION

Aesthetic Education Programs for Educators (1990)
— where area educators discover the power of arts-infused learning as a viable path toward achieving twenty-first century learning skills.

ENRICHMENT COLLABORATION

The Enrichment Collaboration for Middle and High School Students (1999)
— where Allegheny College Faculty and community professionals offer enrichment opportunities in the arts and sciences for area middle and high school students on twelve Fridays each academic year.

ADULT LEARNING FORCE

The Adult Learning Force in conjunction with the Enrichment Collaboration (2010)
— where adult learners participate with area high school students to reacquire themselves with the best of liberal arts learning.

ENABLED in the COMMUNITY by CREATING LANDSCAPES LEARNING CENTER INC. (2009–2018)

A non-sectarian, non-profit organization that extends creative and active inquiry to intergenerational learners. Our work is distinguished by aesthetic learning, which engages the senses and emotions in addition to the critical mind.

LANDSCAPES for FAMILIES

Creating Landscapes for Families (2009)
— where families wholeheartedly navigate LIFE together, sharing the load.

K-8 INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

The Creating Landscapes Learning Center K-8 Independent School (2011)
— where children, parents and educators create a rich learning environment that nurtures and grows our future leaders.

FOOD 4 THOUGHT

Home of GROW MEADVILLE, Film 4 Thought, Walk-able Meadville (2018)
— where collaborators gather to nurture grassroots engagement and action toward a well-fed, well-educated and resilient community.

FAMILIES EARLY LEARNING CENTER

(2018)
— where children love to learn, teachers love to teach and families feel at home. A 4 STAR Early Learning Center for children 3-5 years old offering Pre-K Counts and wraparound care.

The schools of Creating Landscapes Learning Center, Inc. admit students of any race, color and/or any ethnic origin. December 2018

The Audacity of Imagination

