

A SINCERE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED!



**The Learning Center
Independent K-8 School**

Robert Angelino
John & Amanda Anthony
Dennis Antoline
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Amy Arpin
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**Creating Landscapes
for Families**

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CRAWFORD COUNTY
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CRAWFORD HERITAGE
FOUNDATION
FIBRO TOOL & GAUGE
DILLMAN AUTO BODY
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Pete Gifford
The Gifford Family in
memory of Debbie Gifford
Paul Gosnell & Sue Sloss
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Jed Miller
PNC Bank
Lee Scandinaro
Jodi Sipos
Elizabeth Spadafore
Autumn Vogel
David Miller & Charlotte Wellman
Lisbet Searle-White
Sue Wycoff
Dana Yeager & Family

Also, throughout the year, more than \$2,000 was received in free will cash donations at various celebrations (spaghetti dinner, soup sales, Halloween Parade Chili). We thank all those who quietly, anonymously, and generously "filled our jar"— your support sustains us and your spirit inspires us.

**Creating Landscapes
for Families
Early Learning Center**

Bob Ackerman
Ann Areson
Robert & Ellen Cass

Richard & Corinne Chafey
Crawford County Human Services
Crawford County Systems of Care
Crawford Heritage Foundation
Pat Ferrey
Pete Gifford
Dan Hunter
Jan Hyatt
John & Jill Hyatt
Bob & Joyce Klase
Charmaine Koehler-Lodge
Deb Lehman
Marquette Savings Bank
Amanda Marcum
Karen Schreiber Mason
Wally & Sherry Mason
Grady Minnis
Amber Mosbacher
Patricia Pardee
Pathstone Senior Employment Program
Pennsylvania Keystone Stars
PNC Grow Up Great Program
Charlotte Reedy
Gloria Seeley
Sarah Steffes
John Stewart
Autumn Taylor
Chuck Thom
Charlotte Wellman

Food4Thought

Jonathan Miller Design
Curt Van Tuil
Systems of Care
The Crawford Heritage Foundation
The Winslow Foundation
Creating Landscapes for Families
Going Places
Meadville Neighborhood Center
Parkside Psychological Women's Services



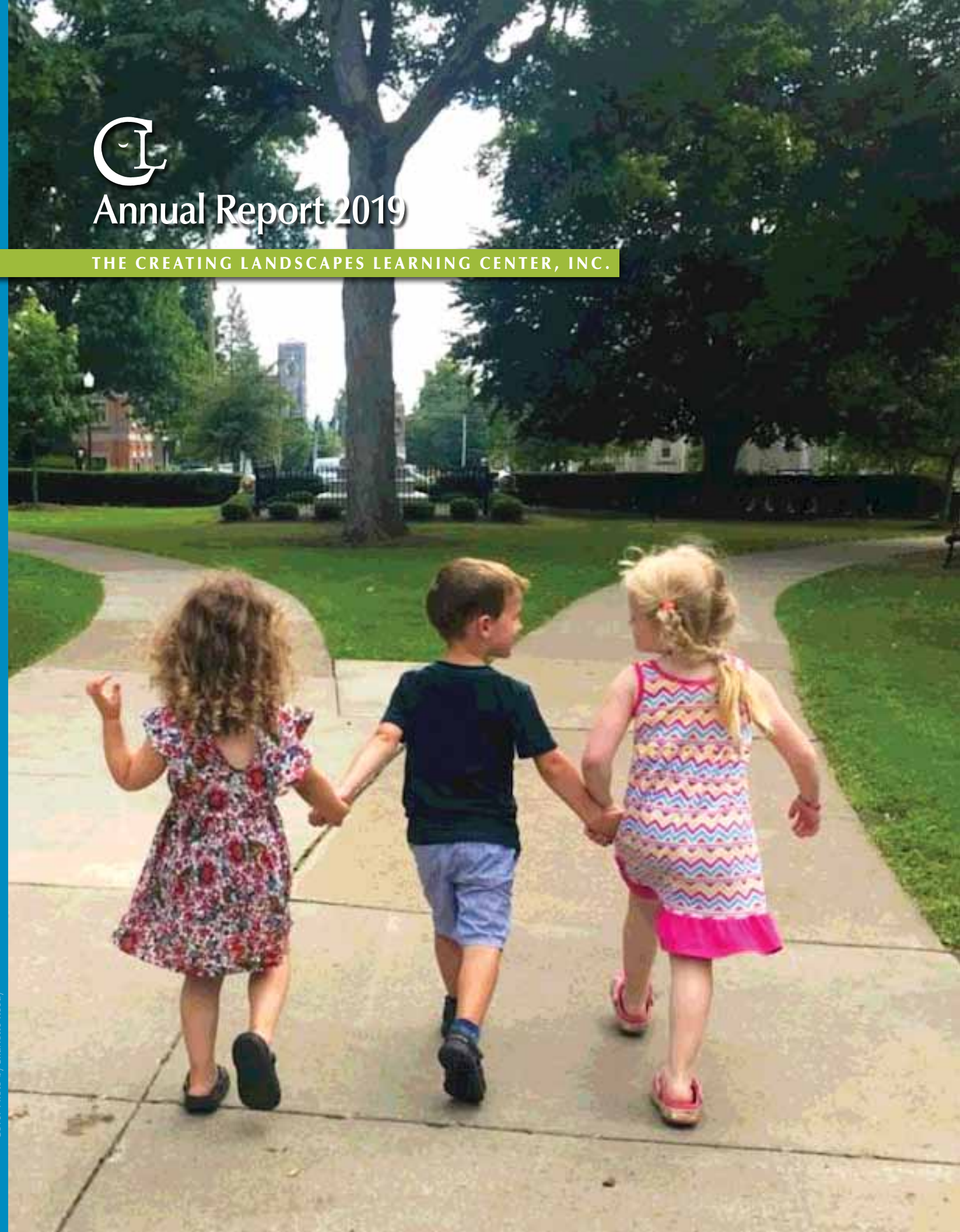
**Contributors to the
Corporation**

Robert Hyatt Family Fund
Jonathan Miller Design
Mary Spicer
Kenneth A. Unice



Annual Report 2019

THE CREATING LANDSCAPES LEARNING CENTER, INC.



Cover Photo by Charlotte Reedy



Annual Report 2019 | Creating Landscapes Learning Center, Inc.

DBA CREATING LANDSCAPES

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Families Early Learning Center

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DEAR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS,



Photo by Charlotte Reedy

Creating Landscapes Learning Center, LLC has now completed its 8th year of preparing learners for active citizenship through their engagement with our four venues — the Learning Center K-8 Independent School, Creating Landscapes for Families, the Creating Landscapes Early Learning Center, and Food 4 Thought.

We continue to work on the final steps of our organizational redesign, wherein each of our venues enjoys greater autonomy and independence while still benefiting from the support and encouragement of our experienced Creating Landscapes leaders. As part of this process, we have named an Advisory Council of consultants with particular expertise in various fields such as legal matters, insurance, fiscal management, personnel policies and marketing.

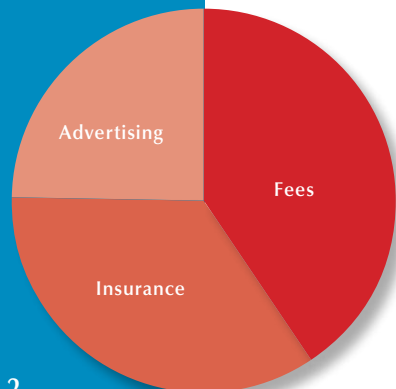
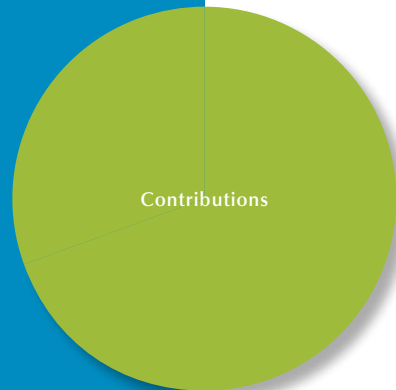
Our venues have continued to prosper and grow. The Early Learning Center has been the recipient of a multi-year Pennsylvania Department of Education Pre-K Counts grant and has brought together a wonderful and diverse group of 18 children in a loving, thoughtful, respectful and happy environment. Food4Thought was the fiscal agent for the reinvigoration of the Summer Parks program, receiving grants from Systems of Care and the Winslow Foundation. In addition, the Grow Meadville project has expanded to a network of 15 gardens throughout the city. The Learning Center K-8 Independent School is still providing exemplary, innovative and exciting curriculum for its students while nurturing artistic expression, critical thinking, problem solving and civic engagement. Creating Landscapes for Families is maintaining its community of families at both the South Main Street garden and at the new Fifth Ward garden and with the after school program.

We are looking forward to a new year with redesigned organization, allowing our venues the independence to grow and continue supporting and encouraging our community.

Corinne Chafey and Pete Gifford, Co-Chairs



Photo by Dan Winston





Creating Landscapes for Families



Food4Thought



POSITIVE POSSIBILITIES

Back in the fall of 2008, a grandmother, two mothers, and a dad sat around a table – they talked about trying to get their kids and families together for time spent enjoying life and one another through experiences involving music and art. Inspired by those few parents AND by Creating Landscapes Summer Program at Allegheny College that was attended by their children the previous summer, Creating Landscapes for Families was founded that fall.

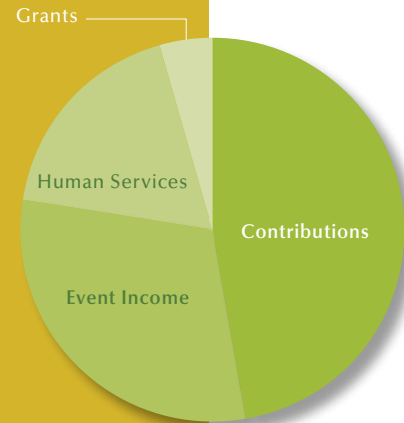
From the start, “Families”, as it is lovingly called, has found its DIRECTION and its STRENGTH from honest-to-goodness relevance. In other words, Families focus has always been on real-life issues facing young people and society. With a willingness to listen to, work with, and stand up for self AND one another, Families has evolved into a program that offers two Community Gardens providing a “gathering place” and nourishing food for any and all and an After School Program that runs fall through spring offering homework help and hot home-cooked meals at a candlelit table that expands joyfully and has a place for all. Together through the years, Families has thoughtfully found ways to evolve while strengthening our children, our families, and our local neighborhoods by taking hold of “life as it is” and rising together in small but meaningful ways to meet the “positive possibilities” life offers!

Heading into the fall of 2019, the leadership of Creating Landscapes for Families is solidly in the hands of the same mothers, dad, and grandmother who sat at that table in 2008. The young children who were the reason for families coming together in the first place are now strong youth voices at the table. They are off into the world – navigators of their own learning; reliable employees in local workplaces; active volunteers in other local endeavors – they are taking responsibility for their own lives and for the health of their community just as their parents and grandparents do. They offer the best reason for “Families” to keep going.

Some things to look for in the 2019-2020 fiscal year:

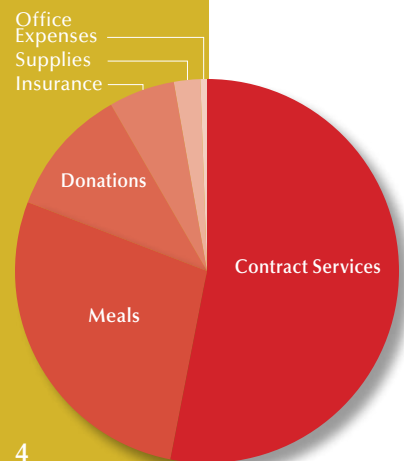
- From October through April, after-school Homework Help and Family Dinner program will be held from 3 pm until 6 pm every Tuesday that school is in session.
- On the last Tuesday of each month, Families will host “Together Tuesday” – an opportunity for local community organizations to get together for a potluck dinner while sharing each group’s “good work” with one another.
- South Main and Fifth Ward Community Gardens will continue to work toward growing good food and friendships in local neighborhoods.
- With collective heartbeat and strength, Creating Landscapes for Families remains a group of individuals moving forward as contributing parts of something larger than self. Democracy in action.

Joyce Klasen, Creating Landscapes for Families Education Director 2018-19



| FAMILIES REVENUE | Amount |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Contributions | \$3,367.00 |
| Event Income | 2,154.26 |
| Human Services | 1,279.97 |
| Grants | 305.18 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$7,106.41 |

| FAMILIES EXPENSES | Amount |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Contract Services | \$4,007.92 |
| Meals | 2,097.97 |
| Donations | 827.13 |
| Insurance | 419.00 |
| Supplies | 174.58 |
| Office Expense | 26.82 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$7,553.42 |



VISION/MISSION/ACTION

Food4Thought has had a busy year working to meet our vision to nurture grassroots engagement and action toward a well-fed, well-educated and resilient community. Since June, members of F4T have been writing articles appearing in the “Our Towns” section of the Meadville Tribune highlighting projects supported by F4T.

Food4Thought’s collaborative partners are: Creating Landscapes for Families, Systems of Care, Meadville Neighborhood Center, Parkside Psychological, and Women’s Services. These collaborations assist us in connecting with people within our community, and each partner contributes \$150 annually.

Food4Thought has received funding and grants from Harry C. Winslow Foundation, Crawford County Systems of Care, and Food Corps. These funds have been instrumental in supporting new signs and brochures for the community gardens, Film4Thought and the Parks Program.

Film4Thought: Beginning January 1, 2020, Margaret West will replace Lee Scandinaro as coordinator. Lee reported June’s film, “Cowspiracy,” aroused dialogue living up to its vision of community engagement and thoughtful conversations. September’s film, Faces/Places was introduced in French by Margaret and following the film she led the discussion in English.

Grow Meadville began with one garden and has “grown” to a network of fifteen. The first garden, across from Second District Elementary School, is still a successful neighborhood garden. Two new gardens to join the network are located at Crawford Area Transportation Authority and West End Elementary School.

These intergenerational gardens have promoted relationships and a sense of community. New garden signs have been put up and weather proof boxes have been added to house tri-fold brochures.

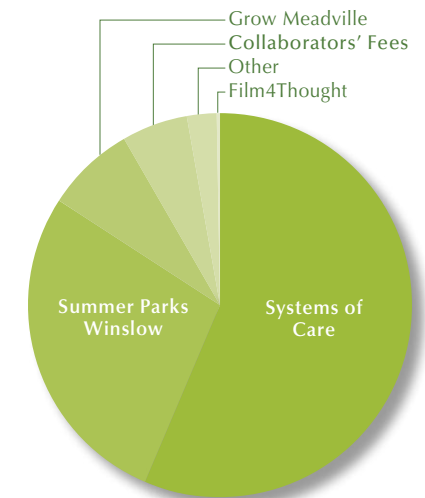
Summer Parks/Playground Initiative: For the second year Food4Thought has been involved in the Summer Parks Program venture. This year the parks were Oak Grove Park, Huidekoper Park, Shadybrook Park and Roche Park.

F4T partnered with the MARC and Allegheny College’s Bonner Scholars, Davies Leaders Program, and Gateway Network. Gateway Network student researcher Katelynn Frawley worked with Allegheny Professor Nicole Gross-Camp compiling research that will hopefully contribute to the parks becoming a reality next year and for years to come.

Looking forward, Food4Thought will continue with its vision to connect the community by developing safe and attractive walkways and promoting programs that provide opportunities to encourage relationships and active neighborhoods. We “dare to imagine” a community where all people feel needed and want to contribute.

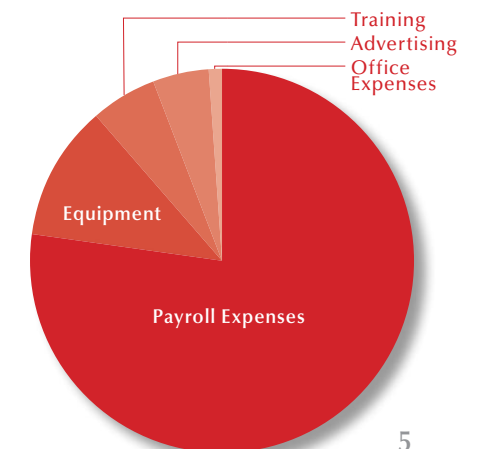


Wallace G. Mason II,
Chairperson:
Food 4 Thought Governing Board
Peter Gifford, Treasurer



| Food4Thought REVENUE | Amount |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Systems of Care | \$6,119.95 |
| Summer Parks Winslow | 3,000.00 |
| Grow Meadville | 800.00 |
| Collaborators' Fees | 600.00 |
| Other | 267.67 |
| Film 4 Thought | 28.00 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$10,815.62 |

| Food4Thought EXPENSES | Amount |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Payroll Expenses | \$7,579.42 |
| Equipment | 1,109.76 |
| Training | 550.00 |
| Advertising | 459.13 |
| Office Expenses | 100.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$9,798.31 |

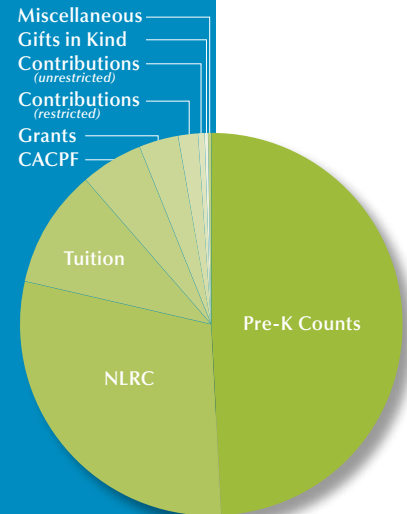




Creating Landscapes for Families Early Learning Center

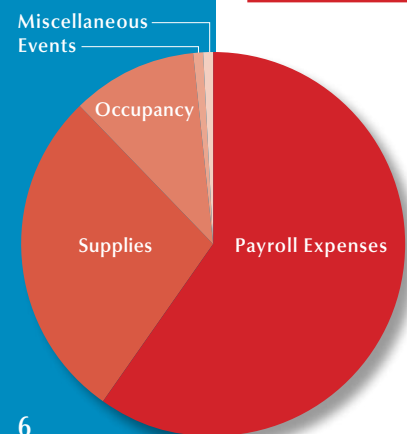


IN KEEPING WITH OUR MISSION . . .



| FAMILIES REVENUE | Amount |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Pre-K Counts | \$69,344.13 |
| NLRC | 41,198.08 |
| Tuition | 14,115.00 |
| CACPF | 7,459.45 |
| Grants | 4,740.09 |
| Contributions (restricted) | 2,314.00 |
| Contributions (unrestricted) | 560.00 |
| Gifts in Kind | 426.06 |
| Miscellaneous | 231.11 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$140,387.92 |

| FAMILIES EXPENSES | Amount |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Payroll Expenses | \$67,409.78 |
| Supplies | 31,362.77 |
| Occupancy | 11,862.59 |
| Events | 873.45 |
| Miscellaneous | 868.15 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$112,376.74 |



At the **Creating Landscapes for Families** Early Learning Center we focus on what it means to build a citizen starting with the foundation. What building blocks do we help create for the child — to support their beginning and subsequently their future?

The foundation of a human, a future citizen, is so crucially important, and yet, what we have discovered is that the building blocks need to be basic — love, acceptance, kindness, joy, connection, respect. It is with this foundation of basic human attributes in place that the child — the future citizen — is able to securely and skillfully explore their world and employ their numerous abilities.

We create an environment that is safe, beautiful, organized and full of growth opportunities so that (while playing) the child can learn what it means to be a human — a part of a larger system. Through the fluidity and lightness of play our children explore community, justice, equality, rules, being a leader and being a helper. Outside of our school, our children learn about their local community — “who are the players ... and what have they created ... and just exactly how do we all play together?”

Through dance, art, exploration, diverse experiences, play, joy — all guided by engaged, loving, intentional adults — our children are able to build a foundation of resilience that is connected to the larger world around them.

We watch our children create with confidence, navigate social situations with grace and deal with strong emotions with learned tools. They are able to engage the world from a place of security within their own being and, better yet, demand that their environment, their world, give them back what they practice, what they expect — kindness, cooperation, love, joy, empathy, acceptance, respect.

Charlotte Reedy, Education Director and Lead Teacher
Corinne Chafey, M.Ed., Treasurer

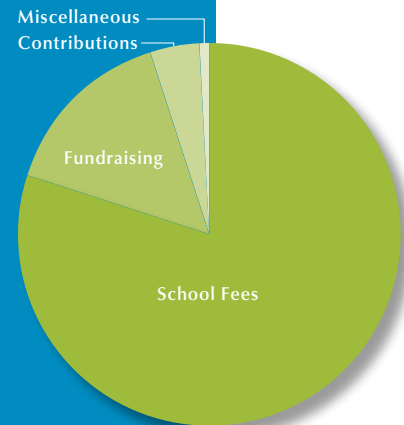




The Learning Center: K-8 Independent School

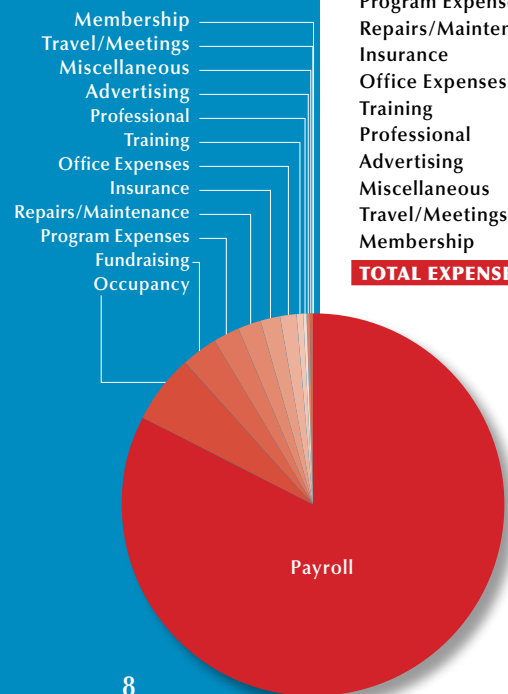


LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE . . .



| SCHOOL REVENUE | Amount |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| School Fees | \$280,412.40 |
| Fundraising | 52,978.63 |
| Contributions | 14,653.49 |
| Miscellaneous | 2,098.94 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$350,143.46 |

| SCHOOL EXPENSES | Amount |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Payroll | \$273,350.44 |
| Occupancy | 19,336.51 |
| Fundraising | 9,881.10 |
| Program Expenses | 7,582.67 |
| Repairs/Maintenance | 5,916.41 |
| Insurance | 5,567.00 |
| Office Expenses | 4,723.55 |
| Training | 1,706.17 |
| Professional | 797.35 |
| Advertising | 540.80 |
| Miscellaneous | 430.50 |
| Travel/Meetings | 399.50 |
| Membership | 198.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$330,430.00 |



With all that is going on in our world these days, I have been thinking about what it means to be a citizen. When we talk about citizenship, in its most limited sense it's about membership of a national organization and identity. But to be a true citizen is to engage with your community, to contribute something of value and to bring about positive change. People who truly embrace citizenship want to be part of the process, they want to offer something to their neighbors because they recognize the joy and beauty and good that is produced when each member of a community shares their special gifts. That's when the whole becomes more than the sum of its parts. When people feel the citizenship within their community they feel a responsibility to contribute and they feel the value of the contributions of others. They become part of a web of giving and receiving.

The Learning Center is about guiding our students through the process of exploring and experiencing those values. We're not just learning math facts and parts of a cell and adverbial clauses and the dates of historic battles. Just last year, our students created podcasts about topics that they were passionate about. We spent the day at the Hogwarts Castle as our immensely talented teachers transformed our school into a place of magical learning and brought books to life. Our students created handmade board games that they sold to raise enough money to start a school-wide recycling program. They participated in our local Second Saturdays, raising money for a variety of community projects. They reenacted battles on the fields of Gettysburg and opened their very own coffee shop, complete with a coffee blend they helped to develop, to raise money for all their adventures.

We're giving students the foundational knowledge of how the world works and the tools to express themselves respectfully in a way that causes others to listen. We foster confidence in them to follow their imaginations and the understanding of how their work delivers something of beauty and value to their families, classmates, towns, and other communities. We're guiding them through the journey of becoming a citizen of their worlds — however they define them — and preparing them to be full participants in their future.

Dana Hunter Yeager, Education Director





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. (2009–2019)

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.

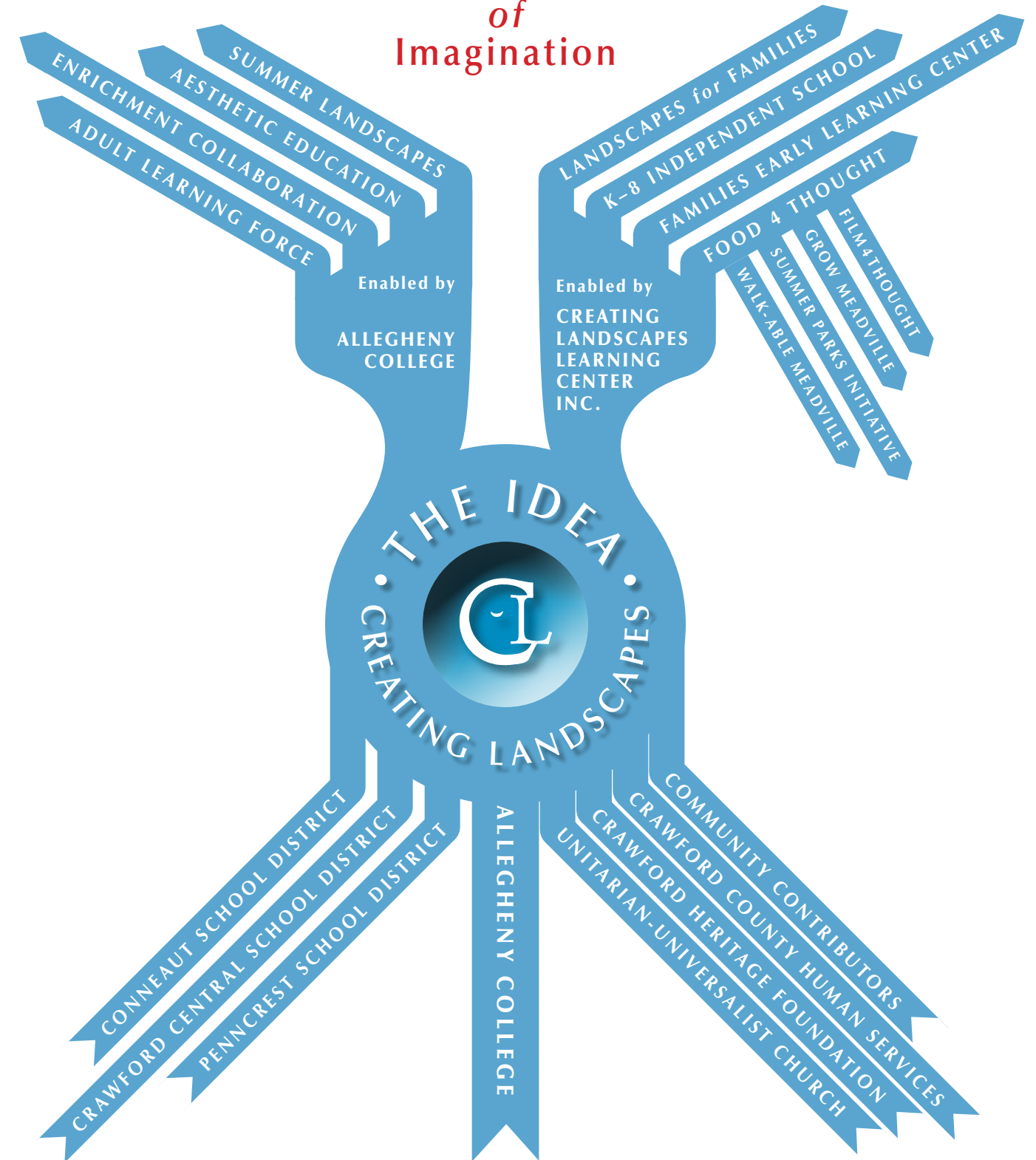
FOOD 4 THOUGHT

Home of GROW MEADVILLE, Film 4 Thought, Walk-able Meadville, and ongoing Summer Parks development (2014)
— where collaborators gather to nurture grassroots engagement and action toward a well-fed, well-educated and resilient community.

FAMILIES EARLY LEARNING CENTER

(2017)
— 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 Audacity of Imagination



Root Support