



## A Letter from our Executive Director

Greetings Friends and Supporters,

It's late summer 2015 and one of our Menomonee Valley branch educators is leading a group of 3rd and 4th grade summer campers into the Menomonee River. They are fully outfitted in hip waders to collect bait for their Ultimate Fishing Summer Camp. An 8-year-old camper, Yichen, is hesitant. He doesn't want to get into that "nasty water" as he calls it.

Yichen, however, receives encouragement from his fellow campers and an explanation from the educator about how the "nastiness" that he perceives is just natural sediment and healthy aquatic plants – the water is safe. He reluctantly steps into the water, and his apprehension quickly fades and is instead replaced by joy and fascination. He spends the rest of the afternoon happily exploring all the life in the water alongside the other campers in the beautiful Menomonee River.

At the end of the day, a fearless Yichen asks if they will be wading again the next day. He's had so much fun, he can't wait to do it again!

The story above illustrates some of the things we do best at the Urban Ecology Center: educate while offering brand new opportunities that inspire! Many who visit our three locations are unaware of the vibrant natural world at their fingertips right in the heart of Milwaukee. Once out in the parks, visitors gain knowledge of local ecosystems while engaging with other community members. If they keep their eyes and ears open, they could witness wildlife they have never seen before, and if they're really lucky, they just might see an animal or plant that is returning to the improved habitats our many volunteers help to create. A few of these species have been absent over 100 years! (continued on next page)





I'm pleased to report that during the 2014-15 fiscal year, with the support of our generous donors and volunteers, we were able to serve more individuals and children than ever before. More Milwaukee youth participated in hands-on science and nature experiences and more individuals came to our parks to take part in programs or to enjoy a bit of serenity the green space offers to our urban community.

Our 2014-15 fiscal year was one of accomplishments, growth and transition. Here are just a few highlights from the year:

- Thousands of people came together to connect with each other in urban natural spaces at our community
  festivals including Winterfest at our Washington Park branch, Summer Celebration at our Menomonee Valley
  branch, and the Local Farmer Open House at our Riverside Park branch.
- We capped off Earth Month 2015 with our Earth Day of Service at all three branches. 375 volunteers demonstrated care for our urban natural spaces.
- Our Citizen Science staff and volunteers observed new critters returning to our restored green spaces, including a short-tailed shrew (for the first time in our records) and two species of dragonflies that were last recorded in Milwaukee County in 1907! We've also seen increased beaver activity in Riverside and Three Bridges parks, a sign of a healthy habitat.



- We partnered with 53 local schools and served 28,000 students through our Neighborhood Environmental Education Project.
- Summer Camps were a resounding success with 650 children more than ever before attending innovative camps like Engineering for Kids, where campers built and launched a Huck Finn-style raft!
- As our organization continues to grow and evolve, so does our leadership. This year we welcomed two new directors to the staff leadership team (Director of Development and Director of Marketing & Communications), and our board of directors has expanded to over 35 active community leaders.
- 2014-15 was not without its challenges and learning opportunities, however. The Urban Ecology Center has a track record of over 10 years of successfully building an operating reserve through positive annual budget results. In the 2014-15 fiscal year, this reserve was used for the first time to balance a budget deficit. View our financial summary section for more details.



And though it took place just after the end of our fiscal year, we hosted our first-ever fundraising hike called HKE MKE in September 2015! Over 250 hikers enjoyed the route and helped support our mission by generously raising over \$30,000 through their participation!

Of course, none of our accomplishments would have been possible without you, our generous donors and members! On behalf of all of us at the Urban Ecology Center, thank you for your support!

Ken Leinbach
Executive Director

# **Financial Report**

The 2014-15 fiscal year proved to be another successful year at the Urban Ecology Center.

We met the ambitious goal of closing the \$25 million Menomonee Valley–From the Ground Up campaign, increased the number of people served at our three locations by 6%, and continued to enhance the technology and facility infrastructure to support the long-term goals of the organization. The Urban Ecology Center has a long track record of successfully building an operating reserve through positive annual budget results. In the 2014-15 fiscal year, we needed to use utilize our operating reserve to balance our year-end budget deficit, which occurred due to our focus on the Menomonee Valley capital campaign, transition within our key development staff and various other factors. The 2015-16 budget remains flat from the prior year with strategies in place to end the fiscal year in a comfortable and balanced position. This will be accomplished thanks to the generous community support and dedication of staff and volunteers who carry out the Center's mission.

### **Urban Ecology Center and Affiliate**

Audited Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as of August 31, 2015 (Accrual Basis)

Audited Consolidated Statement of Activities for the year ended August 31, 2015 (Accrual Basis)

as of August 51, 2015 (Accrual dasis)			for the year ended August 51, 2015 (Accrual basis)		
Assets			Revenues		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	1,742,161	Individual Contributions	\$	1,046,509
Building Maintenance Fund		617,363	Corporate Grants		292,540
Receivables		3,444,407	Private Grants		1,949,572
Prepaid Expenses		57,882	Government Grants		24,506
Property and Equipment (net)		8,417,440	Fundraising Events		221,639
Endowment		106,005	Earned Income		685,884
			Program Service Fees	553,140	
Total Assets	\$	14,385,258	Facility Rental Income	117,956	
			Other Revenues	14,788	
Liabilities					
Accounts Payable	\$	53,646	Total Revenues	\$	4,220,650
Line of Credit		1,025,000			
Accrued Payroll and Benefits		164,682	Expenses		
Deferred Revenue		65,731	Program Services	\$	2,988,347
Other Liabilities		66,827	Education	1,105,688	
			Community Improvement	1,075,805	
Total Liabilities	\$	1,375,886	Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability	806,854	
			Fundraising		459,385
Net Assets			General Administrative		487,932
Unrestricted	\$	8,089,578	Depreciation		312,121
Board Designated		188,220			
Temporarily Restricted		4,731,574	Total Expenses	\$	4,247,785
Total Net Assets	\$	13,009,372			
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$	14,385,258	Change in Net Assets	\$	(27,135)

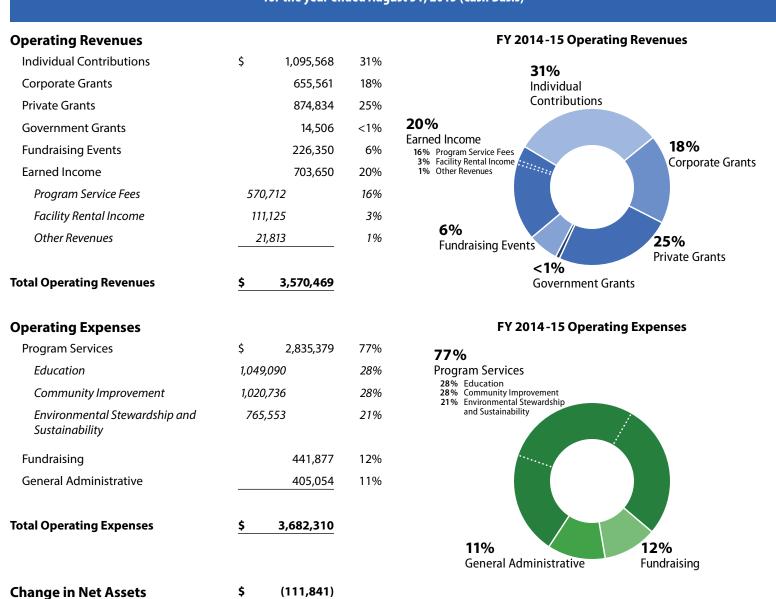
The Center maintains a healthy level of reserves for our operating needs as well as for our capital projects, as required from time to time. We carry no long-term debt and only enter into agreements that are supported by existing pledges and contributions from our donors. The Board and Finance Committee collectively maintain a keen focus on the adequacy of cash and overall reserve levels while providing oversight for all material financial aspects of the Organization. The Center has a positive ratio of assets to liabilities and a robust fundraising pipeline to ensure a solid financial foundation from which to cultivate future growth.

We have provided two financial statements to give the most accurate picture. Our Audited Consolidated Statements (accrual-basis accounting) include capital projects such as the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum and the Riverland property, whereas our Operating Statement of Activities (cash-basis accounting) shows the day-to-day costs of carrying out the Center's core mission. Our operating revenue for the 2014-15 fiscal year was \$3.6 million while our annual consolidated revenue was \$4.2 million for the same period.

Our annual financial statements are audited by the Milwaukee-based accountants of Scribner Cohen & Co. Please visit our website at www.urbanecologycenter.org for additional information including the IRS Form 990.

### **Urban Ecology Center**

# Operating Statement of Activities for the year ended August 31, 2015 (Cash Basis)



# Here's to You

### The Urban Ecology Center thanks our generous donors for their support in the 2014-15 fiscal year.

We are grateful for the support of the following foundations, corporations, and individuals who made a contribution in the 2014-15 fiscal year to support our mission, programs or operations. Donor levels reflect total giving for the year, including gifts-in-kind. Donors who gave to special projects are recognized on subsequent pages. The following list includes gifts \$250 and up; a full listing of donors can be found on our website.

Gifts to the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum are marked \*; gifts to the Riverland Property Acquisition are marked †; gifts given in honor of or memory of an individual that are designated to a specific fund are marked ‡.

# Foundations, Corporations, Organizations and Individuals

#### \$50,000 & Up

Argosy Foundation
The Burke Foundation Inc.
Caterpillar Foundation
George B. Storer Foundation, Inc.
Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Inc.

- Gerda A. Debelak Fund†
- · Enroth Family Fund
- William & Alicia Schoeneich Conservation & Preservation Fund†
- Louise Uihlein Snell Fund†
   Kohl's Department Stores, Inc.
   Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Charitable Trust
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#### \$10,000 - \$49,999

Anonymous (3)
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Program

#### \$5,000 - \$9,999

Alvin & Marion Birnschein
Foundation
Anonymous
Astor Street Foundation, Inc.
Stephen Bablitch and Elaine Kelch
Bader Philanthropies, Inc.
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Every effort was made to ensure that this list of donors is accurate. If you made a gift between September 2014 and August 2015 and your name is not listed, or is listed incorrectly, please contact the Center's Development Department at (414) 964-8505.





#### \$1,000 - \$4,999

88nine Radio Milwaukee Anne Channell Living Trust Anonymous (3) **Anthony Petullo Foundation** Badger Meter Foundation Baird Baird Foundation, Inc. **Bartolotta Restaurant Group** Natalie and David Beckwith Biorklunden **BMO Harris Bank** Bob and Sherry Bourgeois Cheri and Thomas Briscoe Robert and Christine Bukowski‡ C&N Family Foundation, Inc. Jennifer Callaghan and Adam Yellen Peter Campbell Cargill Barbara Carson CG Schmidt Inc. Cherry Republic, Inc. Joan and Ron Cook Eric and Elsie Crawford

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- Burns-Schrader Family Fund
- · Children's Experiential **Opportunities Fund**
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#### \$1,000 - \$4,999 (continued)

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- · Leesly B. & Joan Hardy Living
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- Jorgensen Family Fund
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North Star Energy Consulting LLC

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Kate and Jerry Parent

Patagonia

Tamar Peltz

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Gerald and Sue Ryack

Sacajawea Charitable Foundation

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#### \$250 - \$999 (continued)

Gail Sahagun SC Johnson Fund Inc. Callan Schoonenberg and Matt Parrish Kathleen and Thomas Schrader Jay and Carolyn Scott Jan Serr and John Shannon Patricia Shires **Shopko Foundation** Roger and Julie Siegel Lyn and Bob Slater Katherine Smith Bruce and Janine Smith Dale Snider Marianne Soldavini and Gary Giombi Source One Technology, Inc.

Gina Spang Jeff and Jana Spence Alice Jo Star and Mark Clausen Gary Steinhafel and Jocelyn Servick Mark Stodder and Muna Sill George and Eileen Stone **Summit Credit Union** Derek and Charlotte Supple Carolyn Sweers Tamarack Petroleum Co., Inc. **Telly Foundation** Maria Terres-Sandgren The Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region The Kubala Washatko Architects, Inc. The Omanhene Cocoa Bean Company

The Sigma Group The Wiggins Family Fund Timothy Haglund Studio, LTD. Carl and Nancy Trimble Janet Trostel Martin and Andy Martin United Methodist Children's Services United Way in Waukesha County United Way of Dane County **Urban Ecology Center Photo Club** Valley Community Presbyterian Church Charles and Joan Van Norman Jeffrey and Bethany Veglahn **Venture Construction Group** Venture Products, LLC

Marilyn Vohs and Susan Sedlachek

Chris von Briesen John Wakefield Dr. Roberta S. Wallace and Robert Alamillo Stephen and Barb Weinstein Susan and Len Weistrop Mark and Sandy West Wheel & Sprocket Madonna & Jay Williams Family Fund **Bob and Lois Winans** Jack and Patti Winters Wolf Peach Mark and Evonne Zalewski Ashley Zeiher and Ben Lowery Chris Zimmerman Mark and Laura Zimmerman

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## **Endowment Gifts in Honor Of**

Acacia Omdahl
Andrea Arciszewski
Al & Betty Seimsen
Sharon Williams
Alex the birthday boy!
The Lukas Family
Andy Connors
Judith L. Knight and Alan Rank
Ava

Michael and Jennifer Lamontagna

Beth Heller and Urban Ecology Center Programming Dante and Jennifer Houston

Betty Wright Judy Jones Daniel Narvey

Daniel Loewenstein Dick Maher's birthday Penny and Chuck Cruse Edwin Morris Maria Kuehn Else Ankel Dennis Grzezinski and Jane Porath

Islamic Environmental Group of Wisconsin (Wisconsin Green Muslims) 10th anniversary Huda Alkaff

Jane Callanan's birthday Sylvia Halaiko Leslie Grinker

David and Diane Buck Kathy and Tom Wigdale Leslie Grinker and Jackie Stone

Susan Freeman Liam Hren

Logan Zeise Louise Schoenke Katy Wick Matthew Gnas David and Kayla Russick

Michael Ziegler

Susan Montgomery and Jim Mancos

Nathan & Christian Anderson Carolyn Anderson

Pam Ariens' retirement from Sunnyslope Dental

Jane Finn

Quinn Stout on her graduation from UWM

Mary and Bob Jones

Rebecca & Sam's Wedding

John Gillies Ryan Martens

Dan and Jennifer Forman

Sam & Rebecca's wedding

Mary Gillies Nancy Buss Susie and Fred Kasten

Madonna and Jay Williams

Family Fund Susie Kasten

Kathleen Todd

The 10th anniversary of the Urban

Ecology Center Philip Hardacre

The marriage of Wekai Lang &

Lauren Roth

Kevin Mackey and Susan LeVine

The wedding of Nik Kovac & Grace Fuhr

Pegi and Dale Christiansen

Willie Karidis

Judith L. Knight and Alan Rank

# **Endowment Gifts in Memory Of**

Adam Melissa Vine

Daniel Cline

Anonymous

Lynda Cipov Kathy Gruszcynski

Beverly Miller Maria Miller

Lacy Landre and Eric Sanford

**Daniel Sacks** 

Nancy Thomadsen

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Moore

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Jerry Krause, a great friend Robert and Suzanne Kanack

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Meyer Lipshutz Brett Lipshutz

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**Deborah Cobus** 

My dad

Shelly Tuominen

**Noel Cutright** 

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Paul Fleckenstein

Barbara Richter

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Thejus Jayakrishnan and Vidya

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Jean Robertson and Craig
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Vicki Wachal
Judy Knight and Al Rank

Judy Knight and Al Rank Vilas Schwanke

Betsy McChain William Wakeman

Lois Wakeman

\*Gifts given in honor or memory of an individual, that are not designated to a specific fund, support the Urban Ecology Center's Endowment.



## **Legacy Gifts**

The following individuals have demonstrated their commitment to the Urban Ecology Center's mission through a legacy gift. As the Center continues to grow, we are dedicated to planning for a sustainable future. The significant impact of the contributions made by these individuals will help ensure the Urban Ecology Center's financial health for generations to come. Thanks to these planned gifts and bequests, the Center can continue to work to create a world where every child can explore nature every day of every year of his or her life.

A legacy society to recognize and thank donors for their commitment during their lifetime is currently under development.

If you would like more information, or if you have included the Urban Ecology Center in your will or estate plans and would like to be recognized, please contact the Center's Development Department at (414) 964-8505.

Italics = new this year; asterisk = deceased

Anne Channell Living Trust
Noel Cutright\*
Patricia and George Mueller

Gertrude "Tula" Erskine\*
Georgia Snider\*
Lorrie Otto\*



# Menomonee Valley—From the Ground Up

Menomonee Valley-From the Ground Up was a collaborative effort of the Urban Ecology Center, Menomonee Valley Partners, the State of Wisconsin, and the City of Milwaukee. Together we implemented \$25 million worth of projects and programs that wove the Menomonee Valley back into the community and added key assets essential to job accessibility, science education, environmental and public health, and neighborhood vitality. Thanks to the support of these private sector donors\*, whose pledges and gifts range from \$10 to \$2.3 million, we completed this multimillion-dollar campaign in December 2014.

Want to learn more? Visit www.MenomoneeValley-FromtheGroundUp.org

\*Private sector funds raised for this effort are directed to UEC/MVP Project Inc., a third fiscal entity formed by the Urban Ecology Center and Menomonee Valley Partners specifically to fund and implement Menomonee Valley-From the Ground Up.

#### \$1,000,000+

**Anonymous** The Burke Foundation US Dept. of Transportation WI Dept. Natural Resources -Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund

#### \$250,000 - \$999,000

Isabel & Alfred Bader Fund, A **Bader Philanthropy** City of Milwaukee Foley & Lardner LLP Forest County Potawatomi Foundation Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Inc. • Enroth Family Fund Herzfeld Foundation Marianne & Sheldon B. Lubar M&I Foundation **Rexnord Corporation US Forest Service** Joseph and Vera Zilber Family Foundation, Inc.

#### \$100,000 - \$249,999

**BMO Harris Bank** The Lynde & Harry Bradley Foundation The Ceres Foundation **Charter Manufacturing Company** Foundation In Memory of Jack C. Flack, Sr. Allied Insulation Supply Co. Fund for Lake Michigan Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Inc. · Walter & Olive Stiemke Fund The Harley-Davidson Foundation Joy Global Inc. Menomonee Valley Business Improvement District Palermo Villa, Inc. Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Charitable Trust **Bud & Sue Selig** We Energies Foundation

#### \$50,000 - \$99,999

**Brewers Community Foundation** Ralph Evinrude Foundation, Inc. Friends of the Hank Aaron State Trail **Great Lakes Basin Partnership** Menomonee Valley Partners, Inc. Bert L. & Patricia S. Steigleder Charitable Trust The Windhover Foundation

#### \$25,000 - \$49,999

Brico Fund Debra & Robert Cervenka **Evan & Marion Helfaer Foundation** Barry Mandel Milwaukee County Parks MMSD National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Reiman Foundation Wells Fargo Bank Wisconsin Coastal Management Program

#### \$5,000 - \$24,999

**AECOM** Anon Charitable Trust Brass Light Gallery, Inc Caleffi North America, Inc. Monique Charlier & Holly **Blomquist** Clear Channel Craig & Michelle Counsell **CSA Commercial Curt & Sue Culver** Dave & Pam Doerr Art & Rhonda Downey Tom & Sue Ela Kurt & Laura Goranson Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Inc. Anonymous Fund • Honkamp Family Foundation

- Catherine & Walter Lindsay Foundation Fund
- Mary L. Nohl Fund Mick & Lisa Hatch House of Stone

J.F. Ahern Co. J.M. Brennan, Inc. Susie & Fred Kasten In memory of Joe Kennedy Friends of the Hank Aaron State Trail Barbara & Dennis Klein Herb Kohl Charities Kotze Construction Co., Inc. Marcus Corporation Foundation **Masterson Company Materion Advanced Chemicals** Daniel F. "Jack" & Patti McKeithan MGIC Investment Corporation The Milne Family Foundation Jeffrey & Rosalie Morgan In Memory of Lorrie Otto Jan Serr and John Shannon **PNC Foundation** The Private Bank In honor of Brian Reilly Lilith & Lincoln Fowler & Colleen Reilly **Rockwell Automation** Scathain The Sigma Group Charles Trainer & Anne Booth David V. Uihlein Foundation U.S. Bank Foundation Zimmerman Architectural Studios

Insulation Technologies, Inc. (INTEC)

#### \$1,000 - \$4,999

Badger Railing, Inc.

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Bill Davidson **Hugh & Mary Ross Denison** Max & Sandra Dermond Derse Foundation, Inc. Roman Draba Ginger Duiven Flux Design Focus on Energy In Memory of Eileen E. Gardner Donal Demet & Mary Gardner Demet

In Memory of Paul "SEB" Gazo His family & friends Sheldon & Danni Gendelman Greater Milwaukee Association of **Realtors Youth Foundation** 

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#### \$1,000-\$4,999 (continued)

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**Facilities Caretaker** 

#### **Riverside Park**

Manager of Land Stewardship

**Marketing Communications** 

**Community Program Coordinator** 

Lainet Garcia-Rivera

**Matthew Gnas** 

Coordinator

1500 E. Park Place Milwaukee, WI 53211 (414) 964-8505

#### **Washington Park**

1859 N. 40th Street Milwaukee, WI 53208 (414) 344-5460

#### **Menomonee Valley**

Manager of Research and Citizen

Science

Jeff Veglahn

Land Steward

3700 W. Pierce Street Milwaukee, WI 53215 (414) 431-2040