



**WOLF
RIDGE**SM
ENVIRONMENTAL
LEARNING CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT

September 1, 2014 - August 31, 2015





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Dear Friends,

Every year people who care a great deal about our future - parents, school teachers, naturalists, camp counselors, Wolf Ridge staff and board members - create transformative learning experiences for children and adults at Wolf Ridge. All these people join Wolf Ridge to develop a citizenry that works together for a quality environment.

In the 2013-14 Annual Report, I described some of the planning work being done for significant improvements to the Wolf Ridge campus. In the 2014-15 fiscal year, we took great strides forward in our vision for the future, here at Wolf Ridge. As a result, plans are progressing to fund some decidedly needed improvements. These plans include a remodeled West Dormitory, a new maintenance building, and separate housing for our seasonal naturalists. In addition, the longtime goal of accessing Lake Superior for teaching about freshwater is now a reality.

Your support for Wolf Ridge has never been more important. As you can see from this report, Wolf Ridge is making a real impact with thousands of youth and adults. On behalf of the participants who came to Wolf Ridge to learn as well as the staff and Board of Trustees at Wolf Ridge, thank you for your generous help.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Smerud". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter Smerud
Executive Director

LEAVE A LEGACY.

Include Wolf Ridge as a beneficiary of your will, trust, retirement account plan, or life insurance policy. Your planned gift sustains Wolf Ridge's excellence by supporting our endowment and ensures we can educate future generations about the importance of the natural world. Become part of the Wolf Ridge Heritage Circle.



ADVENTURES IN LEARNING



EXPERTS IN THE FIELD

In 2015, the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation provided funding to enhance Wolf Ridge's Naturalist Training Program. Since its inception in 1974, this program has provided quality training and experience for nearly 1000 professional naturalists and teachers who are now working all over the country and around the world. Each year 20 naturalists live, work, and teach at Wolf Ridge while earning a Certificate of Environmental Education (including 12 graduate credits from the U of MN - Duluth). They also participate in hands-on professional development opportunities such as our new "Experts in the Field" program made possible, in part, because of the Lloyd K Johnson grant. Wolf Ridge is substantially upgrading the training by both improving the tools that are available for naturalists to use in the field and by creating on-going "Experts in the Field" programs.

The "Experts in the Field" program is a partnership of regional organizations and showcases ongoing professional naturalist work on the North Shore. Students have already benefitted from time spent with Chel Anderson in "Reading the Landscape", Dave Grosshuesch in "Saw-whet Owl Banding", and Laura Stone in "Field Journaling for Naturalists". Additional funding for the Experts in the Field program was provided by the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation.

SCIENCE IMMERSION CREDIT PROGRAMS

Wolf Ridge's Science Immersion Credit Programs are in their eighth year with over 90 students participating. We continue to run our after school program for students at Patrick Henry High School, Washington Technology Magnet School, and the middle school program at Murray Jr. High.

This year, in partnership with the Minneapolis School District and Wilderness Inquiry, Wolf Ridge piloted a new summer science immersion program for 8th graders to help them get a head start with high school science. The program was part of the Fast Track Scholars Summer School run by Minneapolis public schools. The goal of the program was to give students an opportunity to earn a year's worth of high school science credit through authentic, hands-on experiences. The students spent two weeks in the classroom in Minneapolis, two weeks at Wolf Ridge, and two weeks in stipend supported internships organized by Wilderness Inquiry.



MODELING & TEACHING SUSTAINABILITY

WOLF RIDGE ORGANIC FARM

The Farm added two new high tunnel hoop houses this summer and new equipment that will allow Wolf Ridge to preserve fresh produce for use throughout the year. Spring, summer, and fall found the Wolf Ridge organic farm a buzz of activities and hosted half and all-day classes for over four hundred students. Participants explored the farm through curricula on soils, plants, and pollinators. Students harvested and prepared fresh produce for personal pizza's cooked in our wood fired oven. Fresh produce was also regularly enjoyed in the dining hall.



NEW SOLAR ARRAY INSTALLATION

In June, Wolf Ridge installed an 18.5 kW solar array that sits in front of the Science Center. It is projected that it will produce 27,162 kWh of energy per year. This is enough energy to supply all the non-heating needs of the building. Excess power produced is purchased by our utility company. The system utilizes reflective panels increasing efficiency during low angle sunlight and helping melt snow off the photovoltaic panels.

The idea for this array came about after Joel Cannon, the CEO of Ten K Solar, took the Renewable Energy class while attending Wolf Ridge with his daughter. Thank you to the donors to this project: The MN Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, The Cannon Family Fund, Ed Cannon, Joel Cannon and Russ and Becky Bierbaum.





2014-2015 Program Attendance

SCHOOLS & GROUPS

Youth	8,458
Adults	2,461

NATURALIST TRAINING 20

COLLEGES/CONFERENCES/
OTHER 485

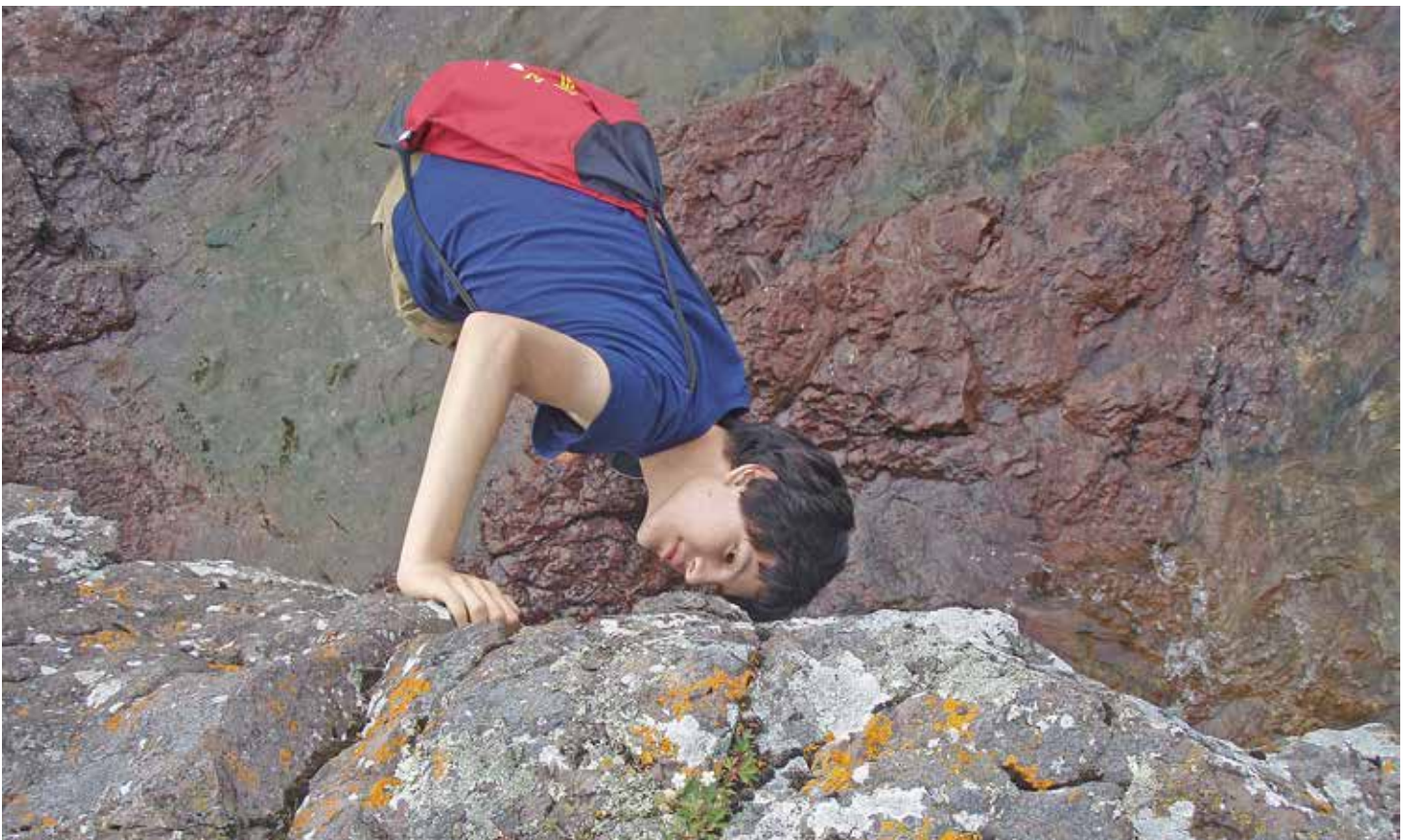
ROAD SCHOLAR & FAMILIES 234

OFF SITE 1418

SUMMER YOUTH 585

*“I’m worried my ‘Make a Wish’ trip
to Hawaii will be a
disappointment; how could it be
more fun than Wolf Ridge?”*

~12 yr old cancer patient at
Wolf Ridge with their school



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Thank you!



SCHOOLS & GROUPS

FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2014 TO AUGUST 31, 2015

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
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| Afton-Lakeland Elementary | Grainwood Elementary | North Shore Community School | St John the Baptist |
| Andersen Elementary | Great Expectations School | Northern Lights Community School | St John the Evangelist |
| Andersen United School | GS Program | NyQuist School | St Johns School |
| Annandale Middle School | Heilicher Mpls Jewish Day School | Oakcrest Elementary | St Marks School |
| Assumption School | Hibbing Community College | Oak Grove Middle School | St Marys School-Breckenridge |
| Badger School | Highlands Elementary | Oak Park Elementary | St Mary's School-Morris |
| Bancroft Elementary School | Hilltop Primary | Odyssey Academy | St Pascal Baylon School |
| Barnum Elementary | Hinckley-Finlayson Elementary | Onamia Junior High | St Patrick School |
| Beacon Academy | Holy Name of Jesus School | Orono Intermediate School | St Peter's School |
| Benilde-St Margaret's | Holy Rosary School | Our Lady of Grace Catholic School | St Stephen's School |
| Bethany Academy | Holy Trinity School | Our Lady Of The Lake | St Thomas More Catholic School |
| Bethlehem Academy | Homecroft Elementary | Our Lady of the Prairie | St Vincent De Paul |
| Birch Lake Elementary | Hope Community Academy | Park River Area School | Stowe Elementary |
| Blue Earth Area Middle School | Hopkins Summer Field Biology | Piedmont Elementary | Superior Cathedral |
| Breck School | Intl Spanish Language Academy | Pine Island High School | Todd County Health & Human Services |
| Carleton College | Inver Hills Community College | Prairie Creek | Trinity Lutheran |
| Carlton High School | Jeffers Pond Elementary | Presentation Of Mary | Triton High School |
| Central Cass Middle School | John Ireland | Providence Academy | Two Harbors High School |
| Central Lutheran | Jordan Middle School | Queen of Peace | UMD Cultural Diversity |
| Central Middle School | King Of Grace Lutheran | Raleigh Edison School | UMD Students |
| Chisago Lakes MS | Lake Superior Youth Chorus | Redtail Ridge Elementary | UMM Intl Student Success |
| Churchill Elementary | Lakewood Elementary | Rockwood Community Education | Valley Middle School |
| Congdon Park Elementary | Laura MacArthur Elementary | Rogers Middle School | Valley View Middle School |
| Cooper Elementary | Lester Park School | Sacred Heart-E Grand Forks | VandenBerge Middle School |
| Cowern Elementary | Lowell Elementary School | Sacred Heart-Robbinsdale | Warroad Middle School |
| Cumberland Middle School | Loyola Catholic School | Sawtooth Mountain Elementary | Washington Elementary |
| Diamond Path Elementary | LSS One Program | Schoolcraft Learning Community | Watershed High School |
| Dugsi Academy | Manvel Public School | Shell Lake School District | Watertown-Mayer MS |
| North Star Academy | Maple Lake Elementary | Shirley Hills Elementary | Wayzata Central MS |
| Eden Valley Watkins HS | Marquette Catholic School | Sojourner Truth Academy | Wayzata East MS |
| Emanuel Lutheran | Marshall County Central HS | South Ridge Elementary | West Central Area Schools |
| Epiphany | McGuire Middle School | St Anthony Park | West Fargo High School |
| Five Hawks Elementary | Midway School | St Charles Borromeo | Westwood Elementary |
| Fox West Academy | MN New Country School | St Cloud HEY Group | William Kelley Elementary |
| Franklin Elementary | Murray Jr. High | St Croix Catholic | Willow Lane Elementary |
| Frassati Catholic Academy | New London/Spicer Middle School | St Croix Montessori | Willow River Elementary |
| Friends School of MN | Nliigaane Ojibwemowin Immersion School | St Croix Preparatory Academy | Winterquist Elementary |
| Glen Lake Elementary | | | |

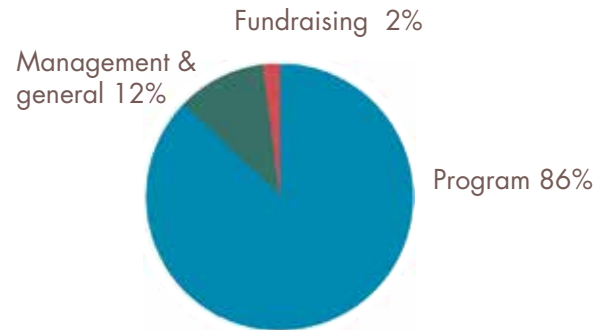
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2014 TO AUGUST 31, 2015

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

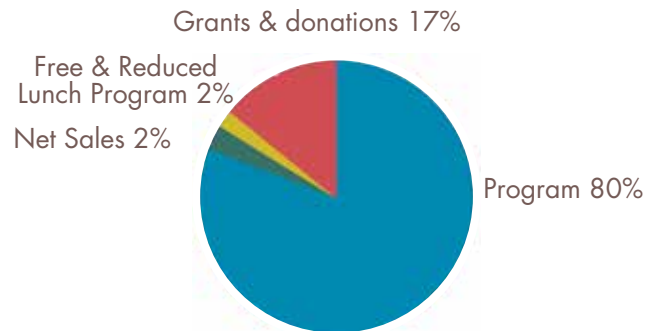
Expenses

Program services	\$2,396,199
Management & general	321,676
Fundraising	69,856
Total Expenses before Depreciation*	<u>\$2,787,731</u>



Revenue and Other Support

Program revenue	\$2,397,128
Investment income & one time gains**	(28,132)
Sales (net of expenses)	75,029
Free & reduced lunch program	56,257
Grants & donations	507,391
Total Revenue	<u>\$3,007,673</u>



Statement of Financial Position

Current assets	\$439,394
Fixed assets	7,265,468
Investments & supporting funds	
Endowment	391,469
Board restricted reserve	732,439
Total Assets	<u>\$8,828,770</u>

Current liabilities	\$225,181
Temporarily restricted net assets	283,908
Permanently restricted net assets	344,037
Unrestricted net assets	7,975,644
Total liabilities & net assets	<u>\$8,828,770</u>

*Depreciation expense = \$430,251

** Investment income & one time gains (1%)

Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center is a nonprofit, tax exempt organization under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. This financial information is drawn from the audited financial statements by the accounting firm Esterbrooks, Scott, Signorelli, Peterson, Smithson, Ltd.



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