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Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center and the USDA are equal opportunity providers and employers.
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,

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.
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.
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.
“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
SCHOOLS & GROUPS
FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2014 TO AUGUST 31, 2015

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

Program services $2,396,199
Management & general 321,676
Fundraising 69,856

Total Expenses before Depreciation* $2,787,731

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 $3,007,673

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 $8,828,770

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 $8,828,770

*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.
Our mission is to develop a citizenry that has the knowledge, skills, motivation, and commitment to act together for a quality environment.