

WOLF RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT

September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024





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MEMORANDUM FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Peter Smerud



This year, Wolf Ridge stood at the forefront of a growing movement that's reshaping how we think about education, health, and our connection to the natural world.

In spring 2024, we proudly served as a thought leader in the push for Minnesota's Outdoor School for All (OSFA) Act. While the bill ultimately did not pass, it sparked a powerful conversation, garnering widespread media coverage and catalyzing similar legislative efforts in at least seven other states. The message resonated - outdoor learning is essential, and every child deserves access to it.

Wolf Ridge also contributed to another important initiative—the development of Minnesota's Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. This policy framework outlines a vision where every child has guaranteed access to meaningful time in nature. Remarkably, 14 of the 15 rights identified by the Governor's task force can be fulfilled on a single trip to Wolf Ridge.

These efforts reflect a deeper truth. In an age when young people spend more time indoors and online than ever before, access to the outdoors is no longer a luxury but a necessity. At Wolf Ridge, we are working every day to reverse this trend. We don't just advocate, we act. In 2024, we provided nearly \$400,000 in scholarships to help youth and families experience Wolf Ridge, the most we've awarded in our 50-year history. That's a tenfold increase from pre-pandemic levels, and thanks to strong public and philanthropic support, we've secured this level of funding for the next three years.

To carry this work forward, we've been actively strengthening our leadership team, bringing in new energy and expanded expertise to meet the growing need for outdoor learning. I'm especially excited to announce the addition of Rebecca Meyer to the team as our new Program Director. Her passion for outdoor education and her ability to connect vision with implementation make her a tremendous asset to Wolf Ridge as we continue to grow and evolve. With strong leaders at the helm, we are well-positioned to deepen our impact, innovate boldly, and ensure that every youth's outdoor learning experience is meaningful, inclusive, and transformative.

People care deeply about the future of youth, their communities, and the planet. At Wolf Ridge, we're responding with real solutions that inspire hope, build leadership, and foster lifelong connections with the natural world. We're grateful for your support and partnership now and in the seasons ahead.

Gratefully,

Peter Smerud Wolf Ridge ELC Executive Director



Academic Arts High School Ain Dah Yung Center Annandale Girl Scouts Assumption School Badger School Barnum Elementary Bay View Elementary Beacon Academy Belle Plaine Schools - Oak Crest Elementarv Bethlehem Academy Birch Grove Community School Birch Lake Elementary Blue Earth Area Middle School Bug O Nay Ge Shig School Career Pathways A Public Charter Secondary School Carleton College Carlton High School Cathedral School Cavalier Middle School Central Cass Middle School Central Middle School Chisago Lakes Middle School City of Lakes Waldorf School Cloquet School District Community of Saints Congdon Park Elementary Cook County Creative Arts Secondary School DaVinci Academy of Arts & Science Denfeld High School Ely Memorial MS **Emanuel Lutheran** Face To Face Academy Farnsworth Aerospace Upper First Lutheran Church First Lutheran School Fisher Public School Five Hawks Elementary Friends School of MN

Girl Scouts Troop 4054 & 4055

Girl Scout Troop 18148

Girl Scout Troop 57675

Glendale Elementary

Glen Lake Elementary

Great Expectations School Gustavus Adolphus College Hamilton Ridge Harbor City International School Heilicher Jewish Day School Hermantown Elementary School Hiawatha Leadership Academies Hiawatha Leadership Academies Hilltop Primary Hinckley-Finlayson Elementary Hmong College Prep Academy Holy Name of Jesus School Homecroft Elementary Home Educated Youth Humboldt High School International Spanish Language Acad-Jeffers Pond Elementary John Ireland Catholic School Jordan Middle School Kaleidoscope Charter School Kelliher Public School King Of Grace Lutheran Lakes International Language Academy Lakewood Elementary La Ola del Lago Laura MacArthur Elementary Leave No Trace Master Educator Lester Park School Lowell Elementary School Loyola Catholic School Manyel Public School Many Rivers Montessori

Maple Lake Elementary Marshall School Mary Queen of Peace Midway School Midway Star Academy Miltona Science Magnet Elementary School Minnesota Naturalists' Association

Minnesota State Envirothon Minnesota Waldorf School

Minto School

Myers-Wilkins Elementary Minnetonka Middle School East Mounds View Community Ed

New City School New Discoveries Montessori Academy New London-Spicer Middle School Northern Lights Community School North Metro Flex Academy North Shore Forest Collaborative Staff Nyquist Elementary Oak Ridge Elementary Oak Ridge Elementary Oak Ridge Elementary Onamia Junior High Our Lady Of The Lake Our Village School Park River Area School Phoenix Learning Center Prairie Creek Prairie Lutheran School Presentation Of Mary Providence Academy Ramsey County Youth Plus Program Red Lake Schools Redtail Ridge Elementary Roseau School District Saint Jude of the Lake Saint Rose of Lima Sawtooth Mountain Elementary Schoolcraft Learning Community Sejong Academy She Ascends Shell Lake School District Sierra Club Solon Springs School Southside Family Charter School St. Paul School of Northern Lights St Anthony Park Elementary St Charles Borromeo St Croix Catholic St Croix Preparatory Academy St Francis De Sales St John School of Little Canada St Mary's School-Morris Stowe Elementary St Patrick School St Paul's Lutheran School St Peter's School St Stephen's School Summit Academy OIC The Journey School Trinity Lutheran/Our Lady of the Prairie TRIO Upward Bound Triton High School Two Harbors High School Two Harbors High School UMD MS-Gateways to Medicine & Research Valley-Edinburg School District Warroad Middle School Washburn Middle School Washington Technology Magnet School Watershed High School Watertown-Mayer Middle School Westwood Elementary William Kelley Elementary William Kelley Elementary Willow River Elementary Winterquist Elementary Woodbury Leadership Academy

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WILLIAM KELLEY ELEMENTARY, SILVER BAY MN

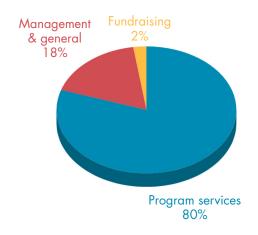
LEARNING. JUST AS NATURE INTENDED.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Fiscal year: September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024

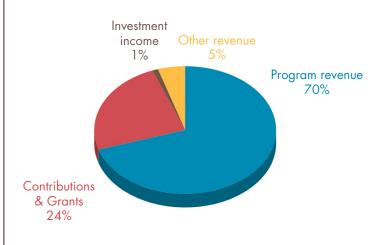
Expenses

Program services	.\$3,314,174
Management & general	727,400
Fundraising	\$97,779
Total expenses before depreciation*	.\$4,139,353
Depreciation	\$644,698
Total expense	.\$3,494,655



Revenue and Other Support

Program revenue	\$2,290,208
Contributions and Grants	\$787,436
Investment income	\$33,366
Other income	\$158,483
Total Revenue	\$3,269,493



Statement of Financial Position

\$515,110
\$12,084,706
\$34,485
\$534,494
\$519,550
\$13,688,345

Current liabilities	\$654,809
Restricted net assets	\$685,702
Unrestricted net assets	\$12,951,703
Total liabilities & equity	\$13,688,345

^{*}Depreciation expense = \$644,698

DONORS

FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 TO AUGUST 31, 2024

Leaders of the Pack

The Wolf Ridge Leaders of the Pack are visionary supporters who have chosen to include Wolf Ridge in their estate plans. Through their enduring commitment, these individuals are ensuring that future generations will continue to be inspired by the natural world and be prepared to care for it. Their legacy sustains and strengthens the mission of Wolf Ridge for decades to come.

If you would like to consider joining this special community, we would be honored to speak with you. Your legacy can help shape the environmental stewards of tomorrow. More information can be found at www.wolf-ridge.org/ support or contact Misha Evertz at misha.evertz@ wolf-ridge.org.

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Under \$ 100

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