



## WHERE LEARNING IS NATURAL



### MISSION & HISTORY

ALNC's mission is to provide innovative, hands-on programs for children & their families & teachers that "teach the student to see the land, to understand what he sees & enjoy what he understands" in the spirit of famed Wisconsin conservationist Aldo Leopold.

Back in 1994, the Aldo Leopold Nature Center was little more than a dream. Founded by committed community leaders, ALNC has now become a regional model of excellence for environmental education.

During its first year, ALNC offered field trips to 7,000 students. Today, ALNC reaches more than 40,000 individuals annually at two campuses - Monona and Black Earth - with year-round opportunities to participate in environmental education programs, healthy physical activities & intellectual stimulation in safe, nurturing & convenient locations. ALNC programs foster admiration & respect for nature, encourage sustainability & stewardship of the land & build self-confidence, leadership and outdoor recreational skills.

### 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

**EXPANDING TO ENGAGE, EDUCATE AND EMPOWER NEW VISITORS OF ALL AGES:** What a spectacular year! On Earth Day the Aldo Leopold Nature Center officially unveiled an 11,000 square foot addition featuring cutting-edge interactive educational exhibits and programming related to climate science, renewable energy and sustainability to engage, educate and empower generations to come. As a result, ALNC has tripled its teaching capacity, attracted more visitors than ever before, reached a wider demographic (individuals and families from two-years old to seniors) and expanded its geographic reach to include the entire Midwest region.

**AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH:** A leader in innovative education, ALNC pioneered a powerful new approach to environmental education by combining "high-touch" outdoor nature programs on the land with new "high-tech" state-of-the-art multimedia exhibits and interactive programming to draw connections between global issues, regional impacts and local solutions.

- Exhibits include:
- Science on a Sphere
  - Storms 360
  - Kid's Climate Cast
  - Global Warming: Facts & Our Future
  - Madison Gas & Electric Renewable Energy Center
  - The Nina Leopold Bradley Phenology Center
  - Innovation Station



**MAKING ALNC ACCESSIBLE TO ALL:** Emerging studies continue to show that economically disadvantaged children have even fewer opportunities than other youth to enjoy the outdoors and the reap the physical, intellectual and emotional benefits that nature education can provide. To close this gap in 2012, ALNC expanded its efforts to reach students that needed financial assistance to participate in a field trip to ALNC by offering bus reimbursements through Nature Net's Nature Express, running after school programs targeted to low-income elementary and middle school students and by launching Nature Notebooks, an incentive program that encouraged students to record their own nature observations just like Aldo Leopold. Through these programs, hundreds of low-income students developed a critical connection to nature while also improving key academic skills and their self-confidence.

\* Global Warming: Facts and Our Future was developed by the Marian Koshland Science Museum of the National Academy of Sciences.

### EXPLORE

From the prairie, with its native wildflowers and abundant butterflies, to the pond, full of pollywogs and a favorite haunt of green herons, to the wetlands, a popular feeding habitat for sandhill cranes, the Aldo Leopold Nature Center is a natural world of wonder in an urban landscape.



In our fast-paced world, ALNC is a place you can slow down and enjoy a quiet walk on the trails, visit the Children's Shack to discover how Aldo Leopold lived lightly on the land or rest in the shade of the Old Hickory to reconnect with nature.

While connecting with nature is ideal for fostering a sense of respect and responsibility for the environment on a local scale, our new cutting-edge, interactive exhibits and programs are a perfect tool to demonstrate sustainability concepts.

By providing both the local and global perspective, visitors can now get the big picture — enabling them to understand the environmental challenges Wisconsin and the world are facing and empowering them to make sustainable lifestyle choices.



Dear Friends,

From the beginning, the key to the Aldo Leopold Nature Center's success has been its unique educational approach, grounded in Aldo Leopold's philosophy to "teach the student to see the land, understand what he sees, and enjoy what he understands". ALNC's work is experiential and hands-on — encouraging students to reawaken their natural curiosity and rediscover their senses as they explore and learn from the natural world. Now, we are making that approach even more

powerful by combining tried and true outdoor "high-touch" nature programming with new "high-tech" state-of-the-art multimedia exhibits and interactive programs.

Through this powerful new approach to our programming, ALNC is able to use real-life examples to facilitate understanding of critical issues while making climate science, sustainability and renewable energy resonate with visitors of all ages.

We give great thanks to the community and its many generous individuals, corporations and foundations, including American Transmission Company, Design Structures, Hewlett Packard, Madison Community Foundation, Madison Gas and Electric, Terra Engineering and many more, who have generously supported ALNC with nearly \$5 million raised to make our dream a reality. Thank you for helping us make a difference in the lives of children throughout Wisconsin as we inspire and teach tens of thousands of children, their families and teachers to become responsible stewards of the land by enacting solutions to today's environmental challenges for the benefit of this and future generations. As key supporters of our work, please share in our accomplishments with pride. With your help, we look forward to another successful year at the Aldo Leopold Nature Center. For your enthusiastic support of our mission, I thank you.

With your support, we look forward to another successful year.

CEO & Chairman of the Board  
Aldo Leopold Nature Center

*When admiration & respect for nature is established early, the next generation will grow up to be ecologically conscientious adults - prepared to make positive choices regarding the systems that sustain us all.*

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

From 2011 Audited Financial Statement

### ASSETS

Cash & Cash Equivalents: \$390,474  
Grants Receivable: \$41,513  
Pledges Receivable: \$98,400  
Prepaid Expenses: \$2,152  
Property & Equipment, Net: \$5,522,684  
Other Assets: \$25,000  
**Total Assets: \$6,080,223**

### LIABILITIES

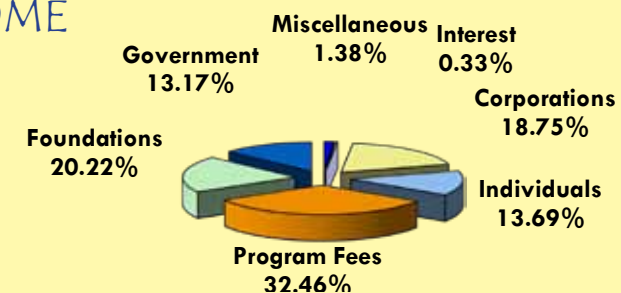
LINE OF CREDIT: \$395,591  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: \$77,092  
Accrued Payroll & Related Liabilities: \$31,415  
**Total Liabilities \$504,098**

### NET ASSETS

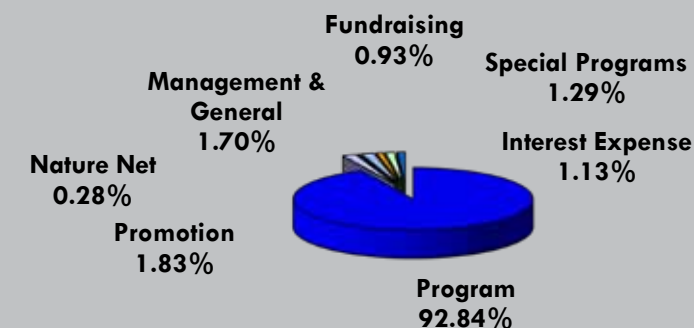
Unrestricted: \$1,697,055  
Temporarily Restricted: \$3,879,070  
**Total Net Assets: \$5,576,125**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS: \$6,080,223**  
**ADDITIONAL IN-KIND & CONTRIBUTED SERVICES \$356,019**

### 2012 SOURCES OF INCOME



### 2012 USES OF FUNDS

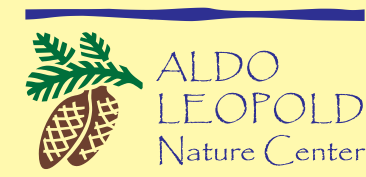




# DONORS

The Aldo Leopold Nature Center extends its most heart-felt gratitude to the many donors who made our work possible in 2012. If your name was inadvertently left off the list, we apologize! Please call 608-221-0404, ext. 3 to let us know.

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\*Gifts in kind

## The Aldo Leopold Nature Center is governed by an experienced volunteer Board of Directors

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