Our Mission

Founded by Robert and Joan Root Ericksen in 1973, Sun Foundation of Washburn, Illinois is a 501 (C) 3 tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization dedicated to investing in educational opportunities for children and the general public by:

- Providing innovative environmental sciences & arts programs
- Engaging audiences and students with outstanding artists, engineers, architects, and scientists
- Promoting in-depth knowledge, creativity, first-hand learning, and stewardship

Mission Statement:
The Sun Foundation works to strengthen and advance the arts and environmental sciences in rural and urban communities by providing quality and innovative programs, services, publications, research, regranting financial support and cooperative efforts for the general public, under served groups, schools, Illinois artists and local arts organizations.

Sun Foundation programs are partially funded by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

Staff & Board Members

Staff:
- Robert C. Ericksen, Executive Director
- Joan Root Ericksen, Development Director
- Katy Watson, Community Arts Access Co-director

Sun Foundation Center hosted by Blue Heron Farm
- Brett Root Ericksen, Naturalist- Habitat & Facility manager

Board Members:
- Misty Brockett  Jo Lakota
- Mary Corrigan  Judy Lee
- William Crotz  Allison McLaughlin
- Stephanie Gehrig  Sally Jo Noack
- Doug Holmes  Lorraine Schwass
- Preston Jackson  Eve Studnicka
- Dave Kennel  Cathy Williams

Board & Staff Advisors:
- Rusty Dunn, Michael R. Lied, David Marshall

Contracted Financial Services:
- Terry Bientema, accountant
- Nancy Ekerstam, bookkeeping
Educational Programming

Clean Water Celebration

The Sun Foundation presented the 19th Annual Clean Water Celebration for 3,945 middle school students, 250 teachers and the general public. Our theme this year was “Choices.” This year’s keynote original play, “Are You Thirsty” was performed by In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater of Minnesota.

Their dynamic performance explored a myriad of questions contained in a cup of water—one of our most precious, necessary and shared resources.

This performance demonstrates how much of the earth’s water is available for drinking, compares tap and bottled water, and helps us understand ourselves as part of the urban water cycle—bringing water issues vibrantly to life.

Environmental Steams conducted by biologists from the Department of Natural Resources presented science content on Watersheds, Aquatic Life/ Fish and Recycling. 41 interactive exhibits by organizations and schools presented other diverse and interesting aspects of water conservation. 19 Break Out Sessions and workshops were presented by artists, scientists, organic farmers, and engineer’s showing daily conservation practices that students can practice to improve water quality. Keynote speaker Tara Brockman, Director of the Land Connection outlined the practices and choices every person can follow to develop a vote, 3 times a day, in food they choose to enhance our community and nation wide water systems.

Sun Foundation Making Waves Award

Clean Water Celebration Awards were given to schools, individuals and organizations for outstanding contributions in community water quality projects. Thank you to the Clean Water Navigating Committee, our partner Illinois American Water Company and granting agencies, and sponsors. to date, 43,000 students have learned how to become active community stewards through the Clean Water Celebration over the past 19 years.

Arts Advocacy

The Sun Foundation is a member of the Art’s Alliance of Illinois and Arts Partners of Peoria. Our development director serves on the Illinois State Local Arts Network Council. Schools and community groups employ and book local and Illinois artists for programs supported by the Sun Foundation, providing information about artists and art groups in the Sun Journal and on the Sun Foundation web site.

Family Learning- Fossils, Reptile Programs

This year 35 families participated in the Fall Fossil and Rock and Spring Reptile Field expeditions. Field trips were held at the Sun Foundation Crow Creek and Crow Creek Marsh, and Dry Run Creek outdoor classrooms. Geologist Dr. Merrill Foster lead the fossil and rock program & Herpetologist Doug Holmes led the reptile expedition.

Art and Science in the Woods

In nature’s classroom, 475 students ages 6 to 18 spent one week this summer in studies with 32 instructors; professional artists, scientists, engineers, archeologists, and survival skills instructors. Over 112 volunteers served as teaching assistants, medical staff, maintenance and administrative assistants. Sharon Obery program coordinator and our dedicated Art & Science in the Woods staff provided outstanding work presenting the 38th year for the camp. Families, friends and the general public attended the Friday evening student performances exhibits and presentations. The program is now serving its third generation of students.

Videographer Jim Morrissette produced a documentary of the program that was distributed to students, families, and the media. Former ASIW student Eve Studnicka produced a documentary video that was broadcast on PBS-WTVP channel 47 and can be seen on the Sun Foundation web site and on YouTube.
**Sun Foundation Suzuki School of Music**

This year 18 students, ages 3 ½ to 17, were enrolled in our Suzuki program. Thousands of children have received violin and piano Suzuki training through the school. The ‘twinkling stars’ shared the talents they have been learning with community performances throughout the year. The Suzuki Method has proven to help students in all subject matter and to strengthen parent/child relationships. We thank the Universalist Unitarian Church for the donation of their facility and our outstanding instructors.

**Community Arts Access**

Through a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency and matching funds from local businesses and individuals, $11,361 was regranted to 20 schools and community art groups for arts programming in Marshall, Woodford, Stark and Bureau counties. 3,192 students and the general public were engaged in programs, presented by 118 local and Illinois Artists. 169 Volunteers supported the program.

**School & Group Field Trips to the Sun Foundation**

The Knoxville and Montessori schools came to the Sun Foundation Center for their yearly spring field trip. Geologist Dr. Merrill Foster, and Bob Ericksen conducted the field trips.

**Winter Warming Program Support Event**

250 guests attended the 7th annual Winter Warming children’s program benefit event & raised $11,606 to fund the Foundation’s major children’s programs; Suzuki School of Music, Art and Science in the Woods, and Clean Water Celebration. We thank the Winter Warming Committee, Leo Wine, Super Liquors, distributors, volunteers, musicians, students, artists, caterer Connie Randall of a Matter of Taste, Peoria Zoo and local businesses, 189 Volunteers supported the program.

**Professional Development**

The Sun Foundation staff participates in a seminar & webinars with CYGNUS Research. Throughout the year staff attended professional development workshops with the Illinois Arts Council, Arts Alliance of Illinois and the Local Arts Network on a wide range of topics such as: board development, fundraising, technology, and social networking. Not-for-profit administrators from throughout the region participate in the seminars, providing a wealth of information and networking opportunities. Joan Root Ericksen, Sun Foundation’s Development Director is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

**Serving the Underserved since 1974**

For 38 years the Sun Foundation has raised funds to provide financial need scholarships for underserved youth and families to participate in Sun Foundation programs. Thanks to our donors, 125 underserved students, ages 6 to 16, from Peoria youth agencies and area rural communities received financial need scholarships to attend the 2012 Art and Science in the Woods summer camp. The Clean Water Celebration and Arts Access program provide free programs in the arts and sciences for area schools.
Media Outreach

Website
The Sun Foundation’s website served as a key resource for comprehensive and user-friendly information regarding our programs and our organization. It also facilitated program registration and enabled donations. The Sun Foundation website had 30,994 visits, averaging 2,583 per month with a total of 772,840 hits, averaging 64,403 hits per month, and a total of 10,881 unique visitors. Webmaster Shari Tripp and James Porter of Varsity Publishing donated their services to maintain and design the site.

Promotional Material for programs
The Sun Foundation designed and produced hard copy and electronic promotional brochures and flyers. Program materials were distributed at Suzuki concerts, area community festivals, local businesses, local libraries, local schools and internet links.

Sun Journal
An electronic copy of the Sun Journal was posted to the Sun Foundation’s website. The Journal contained Sun Foundation program information news, and other area arts organization’s calendars and program information. This outreach is supported by advertising. The Sun Foundation’s Sun Journal is published annually and has a distribution of 30,000. This year there were 10,500 sent by postal mail to the Sun Foundation’s mailing database, 17,000 Journals were distributed to our 9 county regional elementary and secondary schools, and 2,000 were distributed to local businesses, libraries, and community centers. Varsity Publishing donated staff and financial support for this years Journal issue.

Sun Foundation FY 2012 Impact
September 1, 2011 to September 1, 2012, the Sun Foundation’s engaged 241,169 people through programs, services, publications, broadcasts, performances, exhibits, presentations, classes and workshops.

Television, Print, and Radio
Throughout FY 2012 the Sun Foundation received support from television, newspaper, and radio media.

Our media partners include:
- WTVP-TV/PBS featured a 30 minute Sun Foundation documentary produced by Eve Studnicka and Will Crotz
- WCBU 89.9 and Art & Society magazine promoted the Sun Foundation’s Winter Warming children’s program benefit.
- The Peoria Journal Star promoted and covered Sun Foundation programs and events throughout the year in feature articles
- Lacon Home Journal, program and service announcements
- Henry News program and service announcements
- Pekin News public announcements
- WEEK TV 25 special events promotion
- WMBD TV 31 special events promotion
- WHOI TV 19 special events promotion

Publication
- Sun Foundation “Trail Guide.” Printing donated by Varsity Publications. Research for the guide was carried out by interns, Laurel Ellis and Claire Jones. The internship was made possible by a grant from the DNR.
Sun Foundation gratefully acknowledges our supporters

Individual Partnerships
Partners who have given $1000 or more in support of the Sun Foundation for fiscal year 2012.

- Will Ball
- Dale and Terry Belcher
- Michael Coffman
- Robert and Joan Ericksen
- Drs. Sue Ellen and Tanner Girard
- Miles Hauter
- Walter & Marjorie Jacobs
- Doug and Eileen Leunig
- Laurel Ann Maze
- Rose Parisi
- K. Pflederer
- Kimberly Salmon
- James and Katharine Weber
- Richard and Karen Zuckerman

In-kind Donations:
$330,467 In-kind donations came from local businesses, service groups, and individuals that made FY 2012 Sun Foundation programming and events possible.

Volunteers:
Over 519 people volunteered to support programs in 2012. Members of our community gave their talents and time to serve on the Sun Foundation Board of Directors, serve on program committees, help at fundraising events, facility maintenance, assist with teaching, and provide medical care for students. These amazing people and groups are essential to the work of the organization.

Special thanks to our volunteers and: Sharon Obery, Libby Verkuilen, Sharl Malson, Joan Bloom, Karen Zuckerman, Joan & Bob Ericksen and Brett Root Ericksen for their many hours of service to the Sun Foundation.

Generosity:
We thank our community for showing the significant support for the mission of the Sun Foundation.

Illinois Arts Council:
The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, awarded the Sun Foundation $9,000 in grant funds for operations & program support, and a $8,070 grant for Community Art Access Regranting to Marshall, Woodford, Stark and Bureau counties.

Thank you to ALL contributors.
Income & Expense Figures

2011 - 2012 Income Sources: $338,738
- Program participant fees - $116,303
- Grant Income for Operations - $32,620
- Interest & Other Income - $926
- Contributions - $188,889

2011 - 2012 Expenditures: $336,670
- Programs - $267,656
- Program Fundraising - $16,263
- General Administration - $52,751

* Throughout 2011-2012, In-kind donations exceeded $330,000 and are not reflected in the above charts.

Note: This financial information reflects the 2012 fiscal year from September 1, 2011 through August 31, 2012.
Come Join the Fun!

PHOTO GALLERY

Art & Science in the Woods Wandering Waters
Art & Science in the Woods Insect study class
Art & Science in the Woods Friday Celebration theater

Clean Water Celebration early history exhibit
Clean Water Celebration water quality exhibit
Clean Water Celebration “Heart of the Beast” performance

Art & Science in the Woods Insect study
Art & Science in the Woods Photography class
Art & Science in the Woods Rocketry Class

SUN FOUNDATION

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