6
million community members served

46
years of service to Central Illinois

FY2019

Annual Report

SUN FOUNDATION

2019 ANNUAL REPORT
In 2019, the Sun Foundation celebrated our 46th anniversary. Since 1973, we’ve touched the lives of over 6 million members of our community through art and environmental science programs and publications.
Founded by Robert and Joan Root Ericksen in 1973, the 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 and 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 funded by public contributions and awarded grants.

SERVING THE UNDERSERVED SINCE 1973
Thanks to our generous donors, 119 underserved students from rural area communities and Peoria youth agencies received financial need scholarships to attend the 2019 Art and Science in the Woods summer camp. The Clean Water Celebration and Community Arts Access Grants provided free programs in the arts and sciences for area schools and communities.

2019 STAFF
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Joan Root Ericksen  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Dominique Kreie  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT & BOOKEEPER

Brett Root Ericksen  
NATURALIST- PROGRAM DIRECTOR, HABITAT & FACILITY MANAGER

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PRINCIPAL, ADAMS CONSULTING, LLC
Clean Water Celebrations

Over two days in April, our community discovered how we have the power to change our throw-away culture through science, art education, and adventure.

We learned from keynote activist, Hannah Testa (above, right), “You Are the Change” the planet needs.
As part of the 27th Clean Water Celebration’s theme, *You Are the Change*, activist Hannah Testa, presented our keynote address. Additionally, through environmental streams, interactive exhibits, special event sessions and zero waste stations, state of Illinois learning goals were met.

For the second year, the Peoria City Council issued a proclamation to designate April 29th to May 6th the official Peoria City *Skip the Straw* week. The cities of East Peoria and Peking also endorsed the event.

**Clean Water Making Waves Award**

Awards are given to schools, individuals and organizations for outstanding contributions in community water quality projects.

The 2019 Making Waves Award winners are:

- Abigail Ihrke
- Better Earth Logistics
- SAFE Club
- Hannah Testa
- The Well Farm at Voris Field
- The Nature Conservancy, Illinois Rivers Program

Thank you to the Clean Water Navigating Committee, our program partner Illinois American Water Company, granting agencies, and sponsors.
Art & Science in the Woods

Over the course of five days in June, the Sun Foundation welcomed our community to attend nature’s classroom.
In 45 years of Art and Science in the Woods programming, we have had over 22,400 student participants. The program now serves our third generation of students.

Students studied with instructors from a diverse set of backgrounds, including archaeology, engineering, science, survival skills, and the arts.

Families, friends, and the general public attended the Friday evening student performances, exhibits, and presentations.

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to Sharon Obery, summer camp coordinator, and all the dedicated Art and Science in the Woods staff and volunteers that gave amazing support for the 45th year of the camp.
EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIP

In May two 4th grade classes from the Henry school district came to the Sun Foundation’s Native American Indian field trip program taught by artists Robert Ericksen and Brian Fox Eliss.

Special thank you to teacher Jennifer Scott for arranging the field trip for her school district and fourth grade classes.
The Sun Foundation, in collaboration with the Illinois Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, awards grants for community and public arts programming.
Community Arts Access Grants are funded by an awarded grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency and matching funds from local business and individual donors. Last year, the Sun Foundation was awarded a $13,500 grant for community and public arts programs for regranting in Bureau, Marshall, Stark and Woodford Counties.

With this grant and matching contributions from Katharine and James Weber, Mary Ann Child, Charles Levesque, Lacon First Nation and Hallmark Metamora Fixtures, the Sun Foundation awarded $11,500 to schools, arts organizations, and community groups throughout Woodford, Bureau, Marshall, and Stark counties.

### By the Numbers

- **8,475** Community Members Served, Including:
  - **3,191** Youth (Under 18)
  - **8,475** Rural
  - **337** Physically Challenged
  - **1,919** Seniors
  - **4,293** Underserved
  - **45** Artists Employed
  - **45** Volunteers

### 2019 Grantees

- **Association For the Developmentally Disabled of Woodford**
  - EUREKA, IL
  - County Clay and Sculpture workshops – $300

- **Bureau County Historical Society**
  - PRINCETON, IL
  - Artist Demonstrations of historic artifacts: landscape painter, quilter, blacksmith and potter – $800

- **Charles Perdew Museum**
  - HENRY, IL
  - Norm Crook Memorial Decoy Carving Class – $1000

- **Future Of Henry Events Committee**
  - HENRY, IL
  - Brown Bag It Music Series – $750

- **Henry Chamber of Commerce**
  - HENRY, IL
  - Bald Eagle Tales & Eagle Adventures with John James Audubon, with Story Teller Brian Fox Eliss – $400

- **Henry Community Character Counts**
  - HENRY, IL
  - Tim Hannig Pro Kids Show “I Show Great Character” – $1000

- **Illinois Prairie District Public Library**
  - METAMORA, IL
  - Authors and Illustrators Kate & M. Sarah Klise Schools and Libraries Visit – $750

- **Ladd Community Consolidated School District # 94**
  - LADD, IL
  - Dance Outreach, Master Dance classes – $1000

- **Learning Stage**
  - PRINCETON, IL
  - Two Week summer Theater Camp for youth 8 to 18 – $1000

- **Malden CCSD # 84**
  - MALDEN, IL
  - Art From Here and There, Now and Then: Two and Three Dimensional art classes introducing the arts of Africa, China, Japan, Hispanic cultures, European and American artists, minority artists and artists of the region using recyclable materials – $1000

- **Marshall Putnum Stark Show Choir**
  - HENRY, IL
  - Music Instructor for youth vocal and music training classes and performances – $1000

- **Princeton Theatre Group Festival 56**
  - PRINCETON, IL
  - Acting Director for Shakespeare in the Park – $1000

- **River Valley Players**
  - HENRY, IL
  - Children’s Summer Theater Camp and Workshop – $1000

- **Toulon Public Library**
  - TOULON, IL
  - “It is Show Time At Your Library” Multi Arts workshops with artists for children and adults – $1000
Impact & Media

**SUN FOUNDATION FY 2018 IMPACT**

From September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 the Sun Foundation engaged 65,000 people though educational programs, services, publications, broadcasts, performance exhibits, community service organizations, presentations, classes, and workshops.

**WEBSITE**

Our website continues to provide an important means for communication, reaching over 12,600 unique visitors over the fiscal year.

**PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL FOR PROGRAMS**

The Sun Foundation designed and produced hard copy and electronic promotional brochures, posters and flyers. Program materials were distributed to area community festivals, local businesses, local libraries, local schools and internet links.

**PUBLICATION — PROGRAM GUIDE**

We thank Havana Printing for their very important support. The guide contained Sun Foundation program information, and other area arts organization’s calendars and program information. The program guide is published annually and has a distribution of 30,000 printed copies. This year there were 10,000 copies sent by postal mail to the Sun Foundation’s mailing database, 20,000 guides were distributed to our nine county regional elementary and secondary schools, and 3,000 were distributed to local businesses, libraries, and community centers. Additionally, an electronic copy of the guide was posted to the Sun Foundation’s website.

**SPECIAL THANKS**

A very special thank you to Concentric Design for donating their time and skills to design and maintain our website, and design the Journal, annual report, and other promotional material throughout the year.

[www.concentric.design](http://www.concentric.design)

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Facebook and Twitter continue to be valuable sources of communication for Sun Foundation programs, sponsor acknowledgement, and news.

**ARTS ADVOCACY**

As a member of Arts Partners of Peoria and the Association of Fundraising Professionals, the Sun Foundation is an art advocate providing regranting support, employment, and free marketing—throughs social media and our website—for artists and arts organizations.
Program Support

WINTER WARMING PROGRAM SUPPORT EVENT

Guests attended the 15th annual Winter Warming Children’s Program Benefit wine tasting event. $13,788 was raised to fund the Sun Foundation’s major children’s programs; Art and Science in the Woods and the Clean Water Celebration. We thank event chair Libby Verkuilen, the dedicated Winter Warming Committee, Leo Wine, Super Liquors, distributors, volunteers, students, artists, caterer Connie Randall and A Matter of Taste, event sponsors Hasselberg, Grebe, Snodgrass, Urban & Wentworth, Illinois American Water, Goodfield Bank and local business and individual in-kind contributors for making this year’s fundraising event a great success.
Partnerships & Funding

The Sun Foundation gratefully acknowledges our partners and supporters.

**CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS**

Businesses, corporations, and foundations that have partnered with the Sun Foundation and given support of $1,000 or more in fiscal year 2018.

• Alvar, Inc
• American Water
• Blick Art Material
• Caterpillar Foundation
• Eileen Fisher, Inc.
• Goodfield State Bank
• Hesselberg Grebe Snodgrass Urban & Wentworth
• Illinois American Water
• Living Lands and Waters
• Renaissance Charitable Foundation Inc.
• Root Bros MFG & Supply Co.
• Rucker family Charitable Trust
• Schwab Charitable
• TIAA

**INDIVIDUAL PARTNERSHIPS**

• John & Sharon Amdall
• Sue Atherton
• Michael F. Coffman
• Robert C. Ericksen
• Joan Root Ericksen
• John Jacob
• Douglas & Eileen Leunig
• Dina Lunken, D.D.S.P.C.
• Angela Madison
• Laurel & Henry Maze

• David Tachenbarg & Joyce Blumenshine
• James & Katherine Weber
• Dr. Robert Williams
• Ag Ziny

**GRANTS AWARDED**

• Ameren Illinois
• Community Foundation of Central Illinois
• Forest Park Foundation
• Illinois Arts Council a state agency
• Maggie Bertram Foundation
• Miles C. Hauer Foundation
• National Endowment for the Arts
• Network for Good
• Peoria Academy of Science
• PNC Charitable Trusts

**2019 IN-KIND DONATIONS**

In-kind donations amounting to $156,000 came from local businesses, service groups, and individuals to make the FY 2019 Sun Foundation programming and events possible.

**VOLUNTEERS**

Over 430 people volunteered to support programs in 2019.

Community members 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.

**GENEROSITY**

We thank our community for showing such significant and long standing support for the mission of the Sun Foundation.

**ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL**

The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, awarded the Sun Foundation $12,000 for operations and program support, $10,000 for regranting through Community Art Access Grants to Marshall, Woodford, Stark and Bureau counties, and $6,000 for summer youth employment.

**VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS**

Special thanks to:

• Sharon Obery, Art and Science in the Woods volunteer coordinator
• Karen Zuckerman, Clean Water Celebration volunteer coordinator
• Sue (Katherine) Weber Community Arts Access volunteer coordinator
**Financials**

**Income**

- **Program Participant Fees**: $85,903 (28%)
- **Grant Income for Operations**: $87,457 (28%)
- **Interest & Other Income**: $1,622 (1%)
- **Program Event Fundraising**: $11,183 (4%)
- **Contributions**: $123,025 (40%)

Total Income: $309,190

Throughout 2018-2019, in-kind donations exceeded $156,000 and are not reflected in the above charts.

**Expenses**

- **Programs**: $285,874 (84%)
- **Program Fundraising**: $15,502 (5%)
- **General Administration**: $40,441 (12%)

Total Expenses: $341,817

This financial information reflects 2019 fiscal year: September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019.
Thank you to our individual and organizational donors during our 2019 fiscal year! We couldn’t impact our community in the same way without you.