Local Actions, Large Impacts.

2019 Annual Report
Local Actions, Large Impacts.

When I look at the challenges facing our work protecting the Great Lakes, from toxic algal blooms that jeopardize our drinking water and wildlife to the catastrophic threat of invasive Asian Carp, it can be overwhelming. Our work is cut out for us, to say the least, especially when Great Lakes and clean water protections are under attack. But I also see how time and again, local actions can have far-reaching, positive effects on the Great Lakes.

I was reminded of this more than ever this past year. In November, we lost our founder, Lee Botts, who dedicated her life to the Great Lakes. She set the modern Great Lakes movement on its path, deliberately moving the effort forward one day, one action at a time. We are forever grateful for Lee's work and honored to have been a part of her legacy.

Today, when I hear about a community putting the Great Lakes and clean water at the center of decisions, I remember Lee setting that expectation as if it was obvious all along. Lee was a remarkable example of how one person's steady persistence can improve the lives of millions.

I believe this year's annual report shows how Lee's passion reverberates around the Great Lakes today. We're sharing the stories of local community leaders who are building powerful new coalitions in Green Bay, northern Ohio, Chicago, and beyond. They are leading the clean water movement from the ground up.

One person, one town, one state can make a difference and turn the tides to a healthier Great Lakes. We've seen it time and time again. Thank you to our generous donors, volunteers, advocates, and community partners who are joining us in this Great Lakes movement. We can only do our work because of your support. Thank you.

Joel Brammeier
President & CEO
The Alliance for the Great Lakes had a great year, thanks to our donors, advocates, and champions. Without their support, we would not have been able to achieve clean water victories at local, state, and federal levels.

Last year the Alliance invested in strengthening our internal finance and operations capacity, hiring a full-time director experienced in managing complex organizations and funding sources. Our Finance & Operations Director spent the past year making more resources available for our Great Lakes programs by improving operations through new management tools and enhanced reporting to inform our leadership's and Board's guidance of the Alliance's strategy. The result is superior fiscal management and stewardship of donations, as evidenced by us receiving Charity Navigator's four-star rating—the highest possible rating—for the ninth year in a row.

We are honored that so many individuals have entrusted us to carry out the critical work of protecting clean water, and we take that commitment seriously every single day.

I would like to recognize my fellow members of the 2019 Finance Committee for their continued dedication—Sue Conatser, Laura Rubin, and David Schmahl. I would also like to thank Joel Brammeier, President & CEO, and Kelly Farley, our Finance & Operations Director, for their dedication and guidance. We remain committed to effectively managing the Alliance's finances, and using the organization's resources to continue leading on Great Lakes protection and restoration for generations to come.

Frank Washelesky
Treasurer
Every Dollar Matters

Our supporters make it possible for the Alliance for the Great Lakes to lead on clean water protection at the local, state, and regional levels. We extend our sincerest thanks to all donors who supported our work in our 2019 fiscal year (September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019). In our 2019 financial report, we list donors who have contributed $1,000 or more, but every gift is appreciated and makes a difference in protecting the Great Lakes.

CORPORATE/Foundation/ Organizational Donors

$100,000+
- Aveda Salons
- Charles Stewart Mott Foundation *
- The Crown Family *
- Grand Victoria Foundation *
- The George Gund Foundation *
- The Joyce Foundation *
- McDougall Family Foundation
- Michigan City Sanitary District *
- Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
- Anonymous
- The Brookby Foundation
- Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation *
- Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation
- Freudenberg Help e.v. *
- Herman Miller Cares
- Hunter Family Foundation
- JP Morgan Chase Foundation through the Funders’ Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities
- The Palmer Foundation
- Pisces Foundation
- Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust
- Solberg Manufacturing Inc.

$25,000-$49,999
- Alphawood Foundation
- Anonymous
- Brunswick Public Foundation, Inc.
- Frechette Family Foundation
- Great Lakes Commission *
- Prince Charitable Trusts
- Scott’s Miracle-Gro Company *
- Shaw and Betty Walker Foundation

$10,000-$24,999
- Anonymous
- Barbara Ann Steel Charitable Foundation
- Bell’s Brewery, Inc.
- Buchanan Family Foundation
- Climate Ride
- The Comer Foundation Fund
- Conant Family Foundation
- Dr. Scholl Foundation
- Eileen Fisher, Inc.
- Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust
- The Marshall and Jamee Field Family Fund at The Chicago Community Foundation
- Gino’s East *
- Grosvenor Capital Management, L.P.
- Healing Our Waters - Great Lakes Coalition *
- HSBC
- Lemonade Insurance Company
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality *
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration *
- Network for Good *

* multi-year pledge/payment

Salesforce.org
- SC Johnson
- Seghal Family Foundation
- University of Illinois at Chicago *
- $5,000-$9,999
- AT&T, Inc.
- Dale Leibowitz Legacy Foundation
- The Driscoll Foundation
- John Dykema and Michelle
- Maly-Dykema Family Foundation
- FactSet
- GLP US Management LLC
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources *
- JP Morgan Chase Good Works Employee Giving Program
- Lee Family Foundation
- Miller, Cooper & Co., Ltd.
- Oppenheimer Family Foundation
- Red Oak Foundation
- RMB Capital Management
- Robert R. McCormick Foundation
- Ross Family Foundation
- Sears-Sweetland Family Foundation
- The Herbert & Nell Singer Foundation
- The Siragusa Family Foundation
- Speaker Family Foundation
- Strategex
- TEGNA Foundation
- Tucker Ellis LLP
- $2,500-$4,999
- AMLI Residential
- CME Group
- Community Consolidated School District 65
- EarthShare Illinois
- Earthwatch Institute
- Eaton Charitable Fund
- Fifth Third Bank
- Great Lakes Brewing Company
- H2W Environmental Consultants, LLC
- Land + Water WORKS Coalition
- The Longview Foundation
- Malman Law
- Merrill Lynch
- Mightybytes, Inc.
- Motorola Solutions Foundation
- ThL Credit Advisors, LLC
- The Waterwheel Foundation, Inc.
- $1,000 - $2,499
- Accenture LLP
- Accuradio LLC
- AmWINs Brokerage of the Midwest Anonymous
- AT&T Employee Giving Campaign
- Bayview Mackinac Race
- BMO Private Bank
- Burgers & Burges Strategists, Inc.
- Busch Systems
- Carl and Barbara Stanley 1997 Charitable Trust
- Chicago Cares
- Chubb Charitable Foundation
- Congregation of St. Joseph
- Robert and Julia Currier Family Fund at Our Grand Rapids Community Foundation
- DeWoskin/Roskin Foundation
- DonateWell
- EarthShare Michigan
- EarthShare Ohio
- Elizabeth, Allan and Warren Shelden Fund
- First Congregational Church of Wilmette
- G. William Walker Trust
- Gold Mine Jewelry
- Illinois Tool Works Foundation
- John G. Shedd Aquarium
- JP Morgan Chase Employee Giving Program
- Kinslager Brewing Company
- Lakeshore Foundation
- Legg Mason
- Lenfestey Family Foundation
- Lower Fox Demonstration Farms Network
- Mark J. Mihalo D.D.S. Family Dentistry
- New Holland Brewing Co.
- Pearsall Family Foundation
- Port of Cleveland
- SHURE, Inc.
- St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Stratosphere Networks
- The Trust Company
- Water Street Coffee
- Western New York Environmental Alliance
- Winnetka Garden Club

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

$100,000+
- Searie Family Trust

$50,000-$99,999
- Greater Milwaukee Foundation’s Erin Roth Fund Family Fund

$25,000-$49,999
- Anonymous
- Elizabeth Crown and Bill Wallace
- Kay Hoida Dawson

$10,000-$24,999
- Jack and Renee Beam
- Shannon and Larry Bell
- Stephen and Alisoun Brewster
- Susan and Jeff Pearsall
- Joan Rothenberg and Kenneth Walshak

$5,000-$9,999
- Jeff and Annette Adams
- Anonymous
- Jonathan R. Cooper and Rebecca Hartman
- Mandelon Gay Dolan
- Judith Engelberg
- Ferson Creek Fund
- Generation IV Charitable Trust
- Robert and Linda Lanphier

Jamie and Todd Mayer
- Kevin Cahill
- Sue Conatser and Thomas Perry
- Brian Crab and Christine Cucinotta
- Diane and Paul Culhane
- Gregory Eakin
- Whitney and Aaron Fershee
- Thomas P. Healy, Jr. and Gia Interlandi
- Paul Herbert
- Barbara and John Kowalczyk
- Meredith Miller
- Duncan Stuart
- Aaron VanGetson
- Frank L. Washeslesky

$1,000-$2,499
- Darcy Adams
- Anonymous
- Erin Arnold
- Thomas Backus
- Jack and Janis Bails
- Ann and Brian Balusek
- Christopher Beale
- Rebecca and Bruce Berman
- Judy and Kenneth Betz
- Lauren Bigelow
- Nancy Boltrick
- Kevin and Kristi Brown
- Michael Brown
- Anita Buckmaster and Michael Klingbel
- Tonit Calaway
- Ed and Laura Carney
- CDM Foundation
- Carol A. Cleave
- Howard and Rachel Conant
- Daphne and John Cunningham
- Adrienne and Terrence Dziak
- Janet Fairley
- Gary and Sandy Fencik
- Molly Flanagan
- Kathryn Bryk Friedman
- Craig Golden and Michal Golden
- Amanda and Raymond Haas Fund of Community Foundation
- Sonoma County
- David Hackett, Baker & McKenzie
- Thomas and Alison Hafner
- Shauna Scott and J. Parker Hall IV
- Sarah Hanson
- Harmann Family - John and Laila Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- Martha and Jeffrey Jentz
- Katherine Kelly-Alberdi
- Cathy Kennedy
- John Kett
We have set aside and maintained a $1.1M endowment and our balance sheet remains very strong.

### Funding Sources

![Pie chart showing funding sources]

- **57%** GRANTS $2,210,596
- **22%** INDIVIDUALS $836,038
- **13%** BUSINESSES/ORGANIZATIONS $508,230
- **3%** EVENTS $134,372
- **4%** GOVERNMENT $144,746
- **1%** OTHER $36,165

### Expenses

![Pie chart showing expenses]

- **77%** PROGRAMS $2,729,555
- **11%** FUNDRAISING $410,691
- **12%** ADMINISTRATIVE $411,117

### Assets and Liabilities

![Pie chart showing assets and liabilities]

- **ASSETS** $5,361,300
- **LIABILITIES** $379,482

This year the Alliance became one of 3% of charities to receive four stars from Charity Navigator, the highest possible rating, for 9 years in a row. The rating is a recognition of our sound fiscal management, commitment to accountability, and transparency.
Thank You From the Alliance Board and Staff

The Alliance for the Great Lakes would like to recognize retiring members of our Board of Directors for their years of service: Rachel Schneider and Tom Denbow. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new members, Kimberly Hill Knott, Candace Jeffers LaRochelle, and Susan McDermott, who were elected in November 2019. We are continually grateful for the leadership and commitment of our distinguished Board of Directors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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