



ALLIANCE *for the*  
GREAT LAKES

# 50 Years ... Forward

2020 Annual Report





I began 2020 reflecting on the Alliance for the Great Lakes' 50 years of protecting the Great Lakes, knowing nothing of what lay ahead. That reflection was a big enough challenge even before grappling with all that has happened over the past 12 months. This year's events demanded that we listen up to protect the Great Lakes and the people who depend on them every day.

In listening, I learned more about how the connection between clean water and health is so immediate and urgent for millions of people and that the Great Lakes region still has a long way to go to make sure it's a connection we all can rely on. I learned more about how Black, brown, and Indigenous people and communities experience racism when connecting with nature. And I learned much more about what the Alliance could do to address both of these challenges.

It's clear to me that the lakes are central to the lives of people who live here. And ensuring a safe and healthy experience with the lakes for everyone here will make our work more successful. If the lakes are out of reach for some, their future is less secure for all.

Even amidst the disruption of the past year, the Alliance worked hard to keep up our traditions. We brought people together around our shared goals of safeguarding the lakes and all they mean for our region, even though all the convenings were virtual. We elevated the lakes in the process of democracy with a nonpartisan Great Lakes voter center to educate voters about Great Lakes issues. Our methods had to change, but we made progress on the issues that mattered most.

We accomplished that work because of your support. This report highlights a silver lining of 2020: our collective success in preserving the lakes for years to come. We look forward to more work together in 2021 and for the next 50 years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Brammeier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

**Joel Brammeier**  
President & CEO



## Celebrating 50 Years of Protecting the Great Lakes

In 2020 we celebrated our 50th anniversary. We adapted to and supported those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic by focusing on access to safe and clean water. Although we could not gather together to celebrate our anniversary as planned, we took the occasion to review our work and legacy. Through a series of articles – now available on our website, at [greatlakes.org/50years](https://greatlakes.org/50years) – we reflect on the Great Lakes and clean water issues that the Alliance shaped over the past 50 years. But, we didn't want to just look back at past successes. We also asked, "What's next, and how can we do better?"

The through-line is clear from the tiny but influential startup called the Lake Michigan Federation to today's Alliance for the Great Lakes. We've overcome difficult challenges before and, in that way, 2020 was no different.

As the year ended, we forecast another year of change ahead, which we see as one of opportunity and optimism. You will see us focusing further on the intersection of environmental justice and the Great Lakes and on an urgency fed by the reality that climate change worsens the challenges we work on every day.

As Alliance President & CEO Joel Brammeier wrote in introducing our 50th anniversary series, "After we have reflected on 50 years of progress, what is left is the choice of how we are part of shaping the future. One where each person's connection to the Great Lakes is reflected and respected in the goals of policy and in the actions we take. Where collaboration comes naturally because we do the hard work to build a cause that is inclusive and just, reflecting the whole of the Great Lakes."

# 2020 Achievements

Each year, we engage with and empower tens of thousands of people to advocate, give back, and take action to protect the Great Lakes—our most precious resource in the region. We partner with communities and leaders to develop actionable solutions that champion both our lakes and our communities. Here are highlights from last year.



## Advocacy & Leadership

### Drinking Water

We fought to stop residential water shut-offs that disproportionately hit communities of color throughout the Great Lakes region - at a time when access to safe and clean water was essential to protecting people from COVID-19.



### Invasive Asian Carp

We secured critical bi-partisan Congressional support, state-level agreements, and funding that enables a major project to keep invasive Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes.



### Great Lakes Restoration

We helped achieve a significant increase in funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which pays for the cleanup of contamination and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat across the region.

### Democracy & Election

We developed a nonpartisan toolkit—The 2020 Election Season and the Great Lakes—to get more voters involved during the 2020 election season and launched the bilingual Great Lakes Voter Information Center.



## Education & Action

### Adopt-A-Beach

Volunteers stepped up, despite challenging logistics related to the COVID-19 pandemic and organized cleanups on all 5 Great Lakes in ways that protected the health of our volunteers and the lakes.

### H.O.M.E.School

Hundreds of parents and teachers used our new H.O.M.E.School curriculum to learn about Great Lakes issues.



### Climate Change

We educated thousands of Great Lakes residents, policymakers, and media about high water levels, the link to climate change, and the need for long-term climate-ready solutions.

## Research & Analysis

### Industry

We documented the negative public health impacts of industrial land-use policies in the Lake Michigan and Calumet River communities on the Illinois-Indiana border.

### Infrastructure

We developed five new case studies showcasing cities that have successfully implemented green and gray water infrastructure as part of our Detroit work to reduce pollution and flooding.



# 2020 Treasurer's Report

The Alliance for the Great Lakes weathered the challenges of 2020 due in large part to our donors, advocates, and champions. With their support, we have maintained strong financial health while continuing with our programming and responding to emerging issues facing the Great Lakes.

In 2020, our former Treasurer, Frank Washelesky, ended his term with the Board of Directors. We thank Frank for his dedicated service on our Board and as Treasurer for many years. His expertise helped mold the Alliance's stellar financial management practices, and his stewardship in guiding us through 2020 was invaluable. Frank contributed much to our solid financial position and future planning.

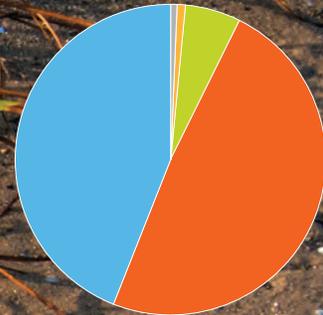
I would like to recognize my fellow members of the 2020 Finance Committee, along with Joel Brammeier, President and CEO, and Kelly Farley, our Finance & Operations Director, for their dedication and guidance. We remain committed to effectively managing the Alliance's finances and using the organization's resources strategically to continue leading efforts on Great Lakes protection and restoration.

We are sincerely grateful for the growing number of individuals who have entrusted us to carry out the critical work of protecting the Great Lakes and ensuring clean water for all of the Great Lakes community.

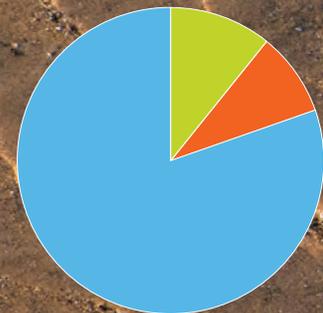
Susan McDermott  
Treasurer

In the last year, our endowment grew to \$1.35M and our balance sheet remains very strong.

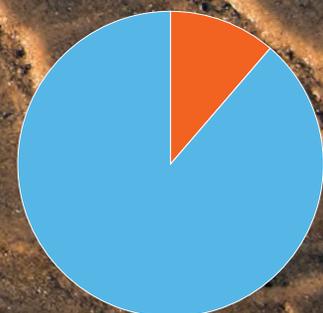
## Funding Sources



## Expenses



## Assets and Liabilities



# 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 would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the donors who supported our work in our 2020 fiscal year (September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020). Listed below are donors who 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 +

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation \*  
The Crown Family \*  
Fund for Lake Michigan \*  
The George Gund Foundation \*  
The Joyce Foundation \*  
McDougal Family Foundation

### \$50,000-\$99,999

The Brookby Foundation  
The Chicago Community Trust  
Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation  
Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation  
Grand Victoria Foundation \*  
Hunter Family Foundation  
The JPB Foundation through  
The Funders Network  
Meijer  
Pisces Foundation  
Prince Charitable Trusts

### \$25,000-\$49,999

Alphawood Foundation  
Anonymous  
Barbara Ann Steel Charitable Foundation  
Brunswick Public Foundation, Inc.  
Delta Institute \*  
Frechette Family Foundation  
Great Lakes Commission \*  
The Knowles Foundation  
Now Health Group, Inc.  
ScottsMiracle-Gro Company \*  
Shaw and Betty Walker Foundation  
Solberg Manufacturing, Inc.

### \$10,000-\$24,999

Andrew R. and Janet F. Miller Foundation  
Anonymous  
AT&T, Inc.  
Buchanan Family Foundation  
Dr. Scholl Foundation  
Freudenberg Help e.V. \*  
Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and  
Assessments (GLISA)  
Harbor Capital Advisors, Inc.  
The Herbert & Nell Singer Foundation  
Network for Good

Patagonia Chicago  
Sehgal Family Foundation  
Swanson Family Foundation  
YOT Full Circle Foundation

### \$5,000-\$9,999

Cat Footwear  
The Driscoll Foundation  
Enablon  
Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District  
Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources \*  
Miller, Cooper & Co., Ltd.  
Mizuho Americas  
Red Oak Foundation  
Robinson Industries  
Sears-Swetland Family Foundation  
The Siragusa Family Foundation  
Speaker Family Foundation  
Tucker Ellis LLP

### \$2,500-\$4,999

AbbVie Foundation Employee  
Engagement Fund  
Brandon School District  
Climate Ride  
Dakota High School  
EarthShare Illinois  
EarthShare Michigan  
EarthShare Ohio  
The KMC Foundation  
Lakeshore Foundation  
Mary and Charles Sethness  
Charitable Foundation  
Moosejaw  
Quicken Loans

### \$1,000 - \$2,499

Accenture LLP  
Adams Street Partners LLC  
AT&T Employee Giving Campaign  
BDT & Company  
Brown County Land & Water  
Conservation Department  
Chippewa Valley Schools  
Comstock High School  
Cousino High School  
DeWoskin/Roskin Foundation  
Earthshare

First Congregational Church of Wilmette  
First United Church of Oak Park and Lincoln  
Park Presbyterian Church  
The Fund for Nature at the Community  
Foundation for Greater Buffalo  
Illinois Tool Works Foundation  
JP Morgan Chase Employee Giving Program  
Land + Water WORKS Coalition  
Mightybytes, Inc.  
Oakland Activities Association  
1% for the Planet  
Pledgeling Foundation  
RWS Financial Group  
Starbucks Foundation  
Waterford Kettering High School

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

### \$100,000 +

The Estate of Gayle B. Causey

### \$50,000-\$99,999

Lois and Neal Oppenheimer †  
Searle Family Trust

### \$25,000-\$49,999

Anonymous  
H. Diane Beaupre Irrevocable Trust  
Elizabeth Crown and Bill Wallace

### \$10,000-\$24,999

Renee and Jack Beam  
H. Carol Berstein-Eckstein and  
Martin R. Eckstein  
Stephen and Alisoun Brewster  
Kay Hoida Dawson  
Stanley Iezman  
Quentin James  
Jeff and Susan Pearsall Fund at  
The Chicago Community Foundation  
Denis Pierce  
Joan M. Rothenberg  
Joyce and Charles Solberg  
Wilfred Charles Cook Irrevocable Trust

### \$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous  
Madelon Gay Dolan  
Judith Engelberg  
Ferson Creek Fund  
Robin Haugen

\* multi-year pledge/payment

† deceased

Howard Ellsworth Jessen  
John Dykema and Michelle Maly-Dykema  
Family Foundation  
Linda and Robert Lanphier  
Lee Family Foundation  
Malnati Family Charitable Fund  
Scott Norton  
Oppenheimer Family Foundation  
Charles Sawyer  
Jeannie and Thomas Tisbo

#### **\$2,500-\$4,999**

Annette and Jeff Adams  
Anonymous  
Christine Banaszak  
Sue A. Conatser and Thomas D. Terry  
Clancey Crowley  
Diane and Paul Culhane  
Janet Fairley  
Whitney and Aaron Fershee  
Janotta Family Fund  
John Kett  
Barbara and John Kowalczyk  
The Kunkel Family Charitable Fund  
Jessica and Alan Littmann  
Josephine Loong  
Barbara Mayers  
Redmond Family Charitable Fund  
Janice Thompson  
Aaron Vangetson  
Angela and Frank Washelesky  
Kristine Westerberg

#### **\$1,000-\$2,499**

Cynthia Ackerman  
Darcy Adams  
Amanda and Raymond Haas Fund of  
Community Foundation Sonoma County  
Andrea Billhardt Charitable Fund  
Anonymous  
Janis and Jack† Bails  
Tammy and Steve Benner  
Lauren Bigelow  
Kerith Brand  
Noelle Brock  
Anita Buckmaster and Michael Klingbeil  
Bueche-Lindenmuth Family Giving Trust  
Allegra Cangelosi  
Carl and Barbara Stanley 1997 Charitable  
Trust  
CDM Foundation  
Anne and Troy Close  
Come Good Home Fund  
Daphne Hoch Cunningham  
2012 Charitable Lead Trust  
David Reinisch and Julie Kiefer Fund at  
The Chicago Community Foundation  
Joan Dessloch  
Carole and Kent DeYoung  
Family Unity Fund  
Sandy and Gary Fencik

Rachel Formaro  
Barbara and Stephen Fredman  
G. William Walker Trust  
Amanda Gant  
Jo and Bill Guenzel  
Shauna Scott and J. Parker Hall IV  
Erica Halliwell  
Janet Hanley  
Sarah Hanson  
Hanson Family Foundation  
Harmann Family - John and Laila Fund of  
The Greater Cincinnati Foundation  
Sarah Hart  
Peggy Holcomb  
Hugh David and Dana White Family Fund of  
the Greater Toledo Community Foundation  
The Jenny Giving Fund  
John Gitt Charitable Fund  
The Keller Family Foundation  
Katherine Kelly-Alberdi  
Deborah Kern  
Holly King  
Jill Kirby  
Larry an Leneta Kitchel  
Barbara Koch  
Jason Krigel  
Jurate and Carl Landwehr  
Annie Lang  
Thomas Langmyer  
Lenfestey Family Foundation  
Lori Leonardo  
John and Mary Lundquist  
Michele Mack  
Mammel Foundation  
Sally and John Mather  
Patrick McDaniel  
Susan McDermott  
Ann McGill  
Arthur Mead Martin  
Susan and Mark Mihalo  
Mohr Family Fund  
Julie Moller  
Emily Monnelly and Matthew Brett  
Michael Peninger  
Tyler Porterfield  
Dr. and Mrs. William Purdy  
Stephanie Rennane  
David Rhoades  
Robert and Julia Currier Family Fund  
Lauren Rosenthal and Howard Learner  
Susan Rouse  
Pete Ruest  
Curtis Ruppall  
Kimberly and David Schmahl  
Rachel Schneider and Jeffrey Davis  
Shankar/Goodman Giving Fund  
Sidhu Family Charitable Fund  
Stuart P. Sondheimer  
Amy and Charles Spungen  
Kelley Staley

Sue and Thomas Van Dam  
Tiffany Vanderwerf  
Warner Wells Charitable Fund  
Jennifer and Alan Weaver  
Barbara Weiner  
Peter Welles  
William and Kari Foote Charitable Fund  
Mary Winburn  
Barbara Witkowski  
Mary and Christopher Wolf

#### **DONORS OF GOODS AND SERVICES**

Accents Salon and Spa  
Arc'teryx  
Chicago Bears  
Cleveland International Film Festival  
Cuttin' Loose Salon  
Adrienne and Terry Dziak  
Fairport Harbor Tourism Council  
Freudenberg Help e.V.  
Goodtime III  
Google AdWords  
GV Art & Design  
Hotel Julian  
Intelligentsia Coffee  
John G. Shedd Aquarium  
Lakewood Massotherapy  
Lush Cosmetics  
One Ocean Beauty  
Rozi's Wine House  
RxBar  
Sweet Designs  
Tame Rabbit Specialty Coffee  
Tea Lab  
Vanessa Tey Iosue and Jeremy Iosue  
Village Martini & Wine Bar  
Wine Roost

#### **MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES**

Anonymous  
Autodesk Foundation  
Baird Foundaton, Inc.  
Bank of America  
Baxter International Foundation Matching  
Gift Program  
BDT & Company  
BorgWarner  
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation  
Chubb Charitable Foundation  
CME Group  
GE Foundation  
Illinois Tool Works Foundation  
Lenovo Employees Care  
Morningstar, Inc.  
S&P Global Foundation  
3M Foundation  
U.S. Cellular Corporation  
UBS Matching Gift Program  
The Wege Foundation

# Thank You From the Alliance Board and Staff

The Alliance for the Great Lakes would like to recognize and thank the following members of the Board of Directors for their years of service: **Buzz Patterson**, **Jeff Pearsall**, and **Frank Washelesky**. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new members, **Bill Henry** and **Laura Payne**, who were elected in November 2020. We are continually grateful for the leadership and commitment of our dedicated Board of Directors.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sue Conatser, *Chair*  
Vanessa Tey Iosue, *Vice Chair – Policy*  
Stephen Brewster, *Vice Chair – Development*  
Susan McDermott, *Treasurer*  
David Schmahl, *Secretary*  
Adrienne Dziak, *Chair Nominations*  
Jo-Elle Mogerman  
Joel Brammeier, *President & CEO*

Lauren Bigelow  
Claire Castleman  
Aaron Fershee  
Kathryn Bryk Friedman  
Bill Henry  
Quentin James  
Kimberly Hill Knott  
Thomas Langmyer  
Candace Jeffers LaRochelle  
Laura Payne  
Laura Rubin

## STAFF

Joel Brammeier, *President & CEO*  
Molly Flanagan, *COO & Vice President of Programs*  
Mary Barton, *Vice President of Development*  
Jennifer Caddick, *Vice President of Communications & Engagement*  
Crystal M.C. Davis, *Vice President of Policy & Strategic Engagement*  
Olga Bautista, *Community Planning Manager*  
Todd Brennan, *Senior Policy Manager*  
Anna-Lisa Castle, *Water Policy Manager*  
Tyrone Dobson, *Senior Volunteer Engagement Manager*  
Daniel Duggan, *Finance Coordinator*  
Kelly Farley, *Finance & Operations Director*  
Michelle Farley, *Staff Writer*  
Judy Freed, *Senior Marketing Manager*  
Luz Gomez, *Office Manager*  
Jonathan Heuring, *Foundation & Corporate Giving Manager*  
Angela Larsen, *Director of Planning*  
Katrina Naeve, *Donor Database Coordinator*  
Alexandra Novak, *Community Planning Manager - Detroit*  
Anthonia Oguibe, *Water Policy Analyst*  
Olivia Reda, *Volunteer Engagement Coordinator*  
Angelique Salizan, *Ohio Policy & Outreach Manager*



150 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 700, Chicago, IL 60601

312-939-0838 [alliance@greatlakes.org](mailto:alliance@greatlakes.org)

[www.greatlakes.org](http://www.greatlakes.org)

ILLINOIS • MICHIGAN • NEW YORK • OHIO • WISCONSIN