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,

Joel Brammeier
President & CEO
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 – 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.

**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.

**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.
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
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
- 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 Brewer
- 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
### DONORS OF GOODS AND SERVICES

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<th>Donation Amount</th>
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### MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES

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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.

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