

THOMAS IRVINE DODGE NATURE CENTER FISCAL YEAR 2009 ANNUAL REPORT



DODGE NATURE CENTER: FISCAL YEAR 2009 IN REVIEW

Volunteers

Each year, our passionate and talented volunteers help Dodge Nature Center in April produce summer snacks. Experiences at the preschool have are forever with them in some way. These that preschoolers have are forever with them in some way. These experiences in the barn and with the natural wonders of the nature center grounds will certainly inform our preschoolers as they continue to learn and grow.

2009 school year enrollment	196
Tuition grants for 31 families	\$65,000
2009 summer enrollment	165
Tuition grants for 14 families	\$4,361

Community

Dodge has a strong positive influence in the community. Programs and events provide opportunities to bring families together, get people active in the outdoors, and give people the knowledge to make wise choices in respect to the future of our planet.



Halloween Extravaganza	1,100 in attendance
Frosty Fun	400 in attendance
Pancake Breakfast	523 members and volunteers served
Earth Day	100 volunteers
Farm Fest	750 in attendance
Annual Golf Challenge	120 golfers

Events from September 2008 – August 2009

Shan Knox Volunteer of the Year

Dodge Nature Center presented the 2009 Shan Knox volunteer award to Alan Johnston. Two and a half years ago we received a call from Alan, a neighbor of Dodge, looking to find out what he could do to assist with the spread of buckthorn. Wasting no time, Dodge staff and Alan spent a December afternoon hiking the 38 acre Marie Property. Staff and volunteer groups had worked on the removal of buckthorn on this property since we acquired the land in 1978. Little did we know, this volunteer had a vision beyond our wildest dreams. On the hottest July mornings and coldest January days, when groups are trying to reschedule their visit to Dodge, buckthorn from more than 20 acres of the Marie Property, turning a lost parcel of land into one that can be enjoyed by people and wildlife. He has taken on the daunting task of removing diseased elm trees throughout the nature center, repairing and building bridges, cleaning up trails and downed trees (before many of the staff even knew the trees were down), not to mention taking some of the most beautiful bird pictures that we have on file. For all of these accomplishments, our 2009 Shan Knox volunteer of the year winner is Alan Johnston.

Alan Johnston
2009 Shan Knox Volunteer of the Year
Presented by Jason Sanders



Programs

During this critical period for our central to our community involvement is our partnership with Independent School District 197, which serves West St. Paul, Mendota Heights, and Eagan. Five elementary schools and two middle schools send students two or three times a year for natural history and agriculture classes. One of the schools, Garough Elementary Magnet School, located across the street, contacts and supports Dodge provides in providing a nature-based curriculum. Garough received the Hogan Lovells Award from the Magnet Schools of America, an award given to the nation's top emerging magnet school. Housed at another school in the district, Moreland Elementary, is the Building Bridges Program, an early childhood family education program for Latino families. Through monthly programs provided by Dodge naturalists, these families in our community often new immigrants are introduced to the range of resources Dodge can provide.

Partnerships

Dodge introduced two new programs this year including a speakers series for adults. Presentations by local scientists and policy directors focused on Minnesota's changing climate and renewable energy technologies. Another new addition is a Saturday program designed especially for families with children in kindergarten through 3rd grade called Family Adventures in Nature.

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Preschool

Farming is "in" these days. It seems that anywhere one looks there is another article, another discussion, a new enterprise related to food and farming. So what does this all mean for the Dodge Nature Preschool? It means we are in the right place at the right time!

O.W.L.S.	272
Gardeners	29
Public Programs	901
Woolly Bears	502
Young Explorers	39
Fall Camp	98
Spring Camp	82
Summer Camp	564
TOTAL	2487
Classes taught including outreach classes	31,406*
GRAND TOTAL	33,893

* Estimate based on revenue. Software for scheduling was changed over to Filemaker Pro. No accurate attendance statistics were available from the software for the 08-09 fiscal year.



Mission
To inspire commitment to the thoughtful care of the environment.

Vision
To provide exceptional programs and experiences in environmental education.

Values
Youth Education
We believe in teaching and engendering in our young a love and reverence for nature and all things pertaining to it.

Training/Higher Education
We believe in the importance of providing training in ecology and conservation.

Community Education
We believe we must give our community the realization that in nature we are all part of one another and whatever happens to one species inevitably will affect the whole chain of nature, including us. This knowledge is necessary to be good stewards of the land and protectors of our natural resources.

Restoration & Preservation
We believe that in order to provide quality educational experiences and be an example to our community, we must take care of the land that is the foundation of the nature center. It is also important we preserve the heritage of the nature center through the care and keeping of its buildings and grounds.

Outreach
We believe that the promotion and demonstration of the Dodge mission is an important expression of our educational experience, and a necessity for sustaining our financial future.

A Message from Executive Director Jason Sanders



"I have driven by this place a million times, but I have never stopped." This simple statement is one we hear weekly at Dodge Nature Center. As the new Executive Director it is my goal to make it so we do not hear that statement anymore and instead start to hear, "What a treasure in the middle of the city." We are nestled in an urban setting surrounded by oaks, ponds, and prairie. Children learn about nature and are provided with hands-on opportunities that will lead to an awareness of their surroundings.

For the past 43 years Dodge Nature Center has provided environmental education opportunities for hundreds of thousands of children and continues to inspire commitment to the thoughtful care of the environment. Our founder, Mrs. Olivia Dodge, once said, "Dodge Nature Center will provide an experience you will never forget." In order for us to provide that experience we need you to make that turn into our main office and stop in and ask the questions, stop at the preschool and see what our young students are learning, we need to connect with you the experience so many are enjoying.

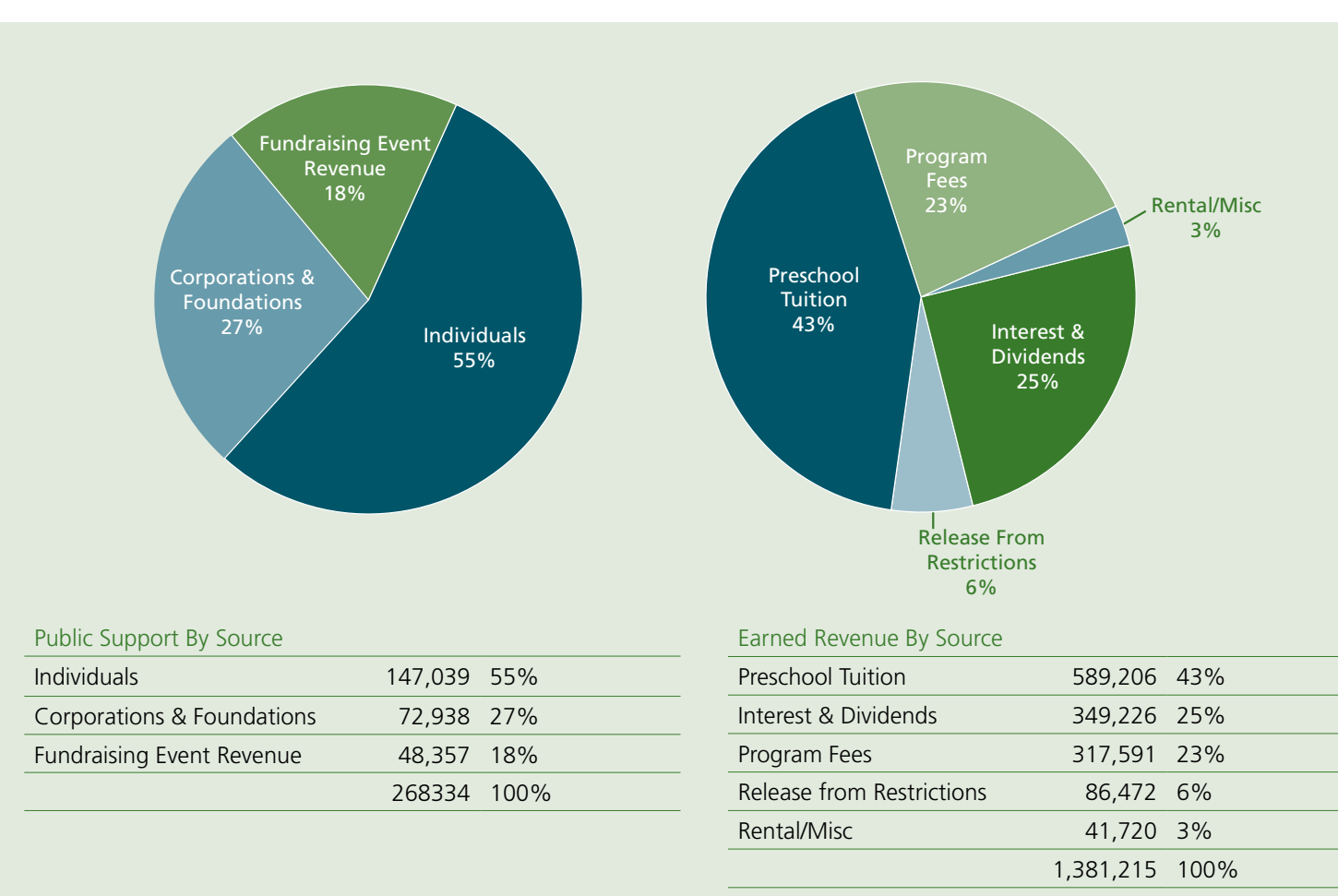
As you go about your day and run to work functions, ball games, meetings, etc. please know there is a place in West St. Paul/ Mendota Heights that is looking to connect with you. A place where you can hear the wind blow through the trees, see apple tree's starting to blossom, or even hear the call of a rooster in the middle of the day. I challenge you to come to Dodge Nature Center, the place you have driven by a million times but never stopped, I challenge you to find this treasure, I challenge you to connect with Dodge so you can see what so many have and provide yourself an experience you will never forget.



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	Verde Strategies		Verde Strategies		John and Kathy McCall	

	Operating	Non-Operating	Total	
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE				
PUBLIC SUPPORT				
Contributions	219,977	70,506	290,483	
Government Grants	-	-	-	
Memberships	13,733	-	13,733	
Special Events	48,357	-	48,357	
Total Public Support	282,067	70,506	352,573	
REVENUE				
Visitor Fees and Tuition	903,797	-	903,797	
Investment Income (Loss)	19,808	-	19,808	
Miscellaneous	349,226	(184,592)	164,634	
Miscellaneous	21,912	-	21,912	
Total Revenue	1,294,743	(184,592)	1,110,151	
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	86,472	(86,472)	-	
Total Operating Public Support and Revenue	1,663,282	(200,558)	1,462,724	
EXPENSES				
PROGRAM SERVICES				
Nature and Environmental Education	1,454,519	-	1,454,519	
SUPPORTING SERVICES				
Management and General	243,417	-	243,417	
Fund Raising	133,797	-	133,797	
Total Supporting Services	377,214	-	377,214	
Total Expenses	1,831,733	-	1,831,733	
Operating Change in Net Assets	(168,451)	(200,558)	(369,009)	
Non-Operating Change in Net Assets	(1,509,919)	673,645	(836,274)	
Total Change in Net Assets	(1,678,370)	473,087	(1,205,283)	
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS				
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	6,725,198	131,669	9,552,691	16,409,558
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	(1,678,370)	332,245	140,842	(1,205,283)
Net Assets, End of Year	5,046,828	463,914	9,693,533	15,204,275

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Current Assets		Current Liabilities	
Cash and Equivalents	172,383	Accounts Payable	14,618
Accounts Receivables	1,000	Accrued Liabilities	17,236
Prepaid Expenses	40,579	Accrued Real Estate Taxes	335
Total Current Assets	213,962	Deferred Revenue	75,089
Property and Equipment		Deferred Compensation Payable	13,365
Land and Improvements	5,143,595	Total Current Liabilities	120,643
Buildings and Improvements	3,403,299	Long Term Liabilities	
Furniture and Equipment	841,749	Deferred Compensation Payable	30,148
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(2,388,655)	Net Assets	
Total Property and Equipment	6,999,988	Undesignated	2,732,791
Other Assets		Board Designated for Endowments	2,314,037
Investments	8,094,129	Total Unrestricted Net Assets	5,046,828
Other	46,987	Temporarily Restricted	463,914
Total Other Assets	8,141,116	Permanently Restricted	9,693,533
TOTAL ASSETS	15,355,066	Total Net Assets	15,204,275
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			15,355,066



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