



2018 was another successful year for the Waterfront Botanical Gardens.

Dear WBG Supporters,

We work hard to engage donors and volunteers to help us build the Gardens and so we can offer programming and education for the youth in our community and the surrounding states. When I'm asked why, that "Why?" is clear: *families*.

We recently lost our biggest supporters and the sponsors of the **Graeser Family Education Center**, Emil and Nancy Graeser. But the Graesers knew their gift was not about them. As the grandparents of 12 great-grandchildren, their gift has always been about creating something for future generations. What vision they had – To create an educational and beautiful, fun and practical world-class facility for the enjoyment of all those who would come after them.

Thanks to the generosity of the Graeser family, twenty years from now, no one will remember at time when the Waterfront Botanical Gardens didn't exist. And certainly no one will remember when it was a smoky junkyard or a flood-damaged neighborhood. The history of our site is fascinating, but our daily work is about looking ahead and about the people who will appreciate the Gardens for years to come.

Did you know?

- Air pollution can lead to lost crops, trees, vegetation, and flowers. And, air pollution has a drastic negative impact on plants, animals, and most definitely humans. Did you know that all plants clean air?
- When plants absorb water from the ground, they filter out impurities. Clean water can then be extracted from them. Plants transpire water, meaning that water vapor evaporates from their leaves; this water can be collected Have you ever witnessed this process?
- Have you ever heard of phyto-remediation or mycoremediation? Certain plants have a particular gift for absorbing chemicals from the soil. When these plants are sown on contaminated ground, they can absorb the contaminants into their tissues, gradually reducing the amount in the soil until it's safe for humans.

Don't you think this information is important for our students to learn in an outdoor classroom?

I didn't know these facts as a child. I grew up in Louisville, so I wasn't exposed to the science and beauty that a botanical garden can provide. The Waterfront Botanical Gardens will add to the tapestry of environmental education facilities in this region so that our kids can become experts in all things plant-related and also become part of the solution to making this world a better, cleaner, and more resilient place to live.

Focus on the future. Gardens are places for gathering, community, learning, and inspiration for everyone – No matter where you come from. Help us inspire passion in future generations for the natural wonder that surrounds us. Join us as we build a better tomorrow for our kids.

And finally, when you enter the completed Graeser Family Education Center this October, pause. Take a moment to remember Emil and Nancy, along with so many others, who had the vision to make this dream for Louisville a reality.

Warmly,

Kasey Maier
President

OUR STAFF, LEFT TO RIGHT **Kasey Maier**, President

Tyree Hughes, Manager of Finance and Operations **Allison Whitehouse**, Program & Development

Coordinator

Jamie Burghardt, Dir. of Horticulture & Education Elizabeth Chandler, Development Manager

"Gardens are not made by singing 'Oh, how beautiful,' and sitting in the shade."

-Rudyard Kipling

The location of the former city of Louisville was determined by the Falls of the Ohio. For many hundreds of years, our metropolitan area's local economy was dependent on its proximity to the river for trade and shipping. By the end of the 1800s, industry had found home along the banks of the mighty Ohio.

But in the decades after World War II, Louisville became increasingly isolated from the primary source of its own genesis. By the turn of the last century, many of our waterfront properties (including the home of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens) had literally become garbage dumps.

Since the dawn of the new millennium, the opening of Waterfront Park, Louisville Slugger Field, the KFC Yum! Center and the Big Four Pedestrian Bridge (to name just a few), have once again demonstrated the Ohio River's potential to drive our city's economic growth. There can be no doubt that new waterfront amenities have contributed to downtown Louisville's resurgence as a place for outdoor recreation, entertainment, and tourism.

The Waterfront Botanical Gardens are poised to further strengthen Louisville's local economy by connecting our Commonwealth's natural beauty to the Ohio River in ways that will delight and inspire Kentuckians and out-of-state visitors alike. In fact, the capacity for new public green space to drive economic development is well-documented in increasingly sustainable cities across our nation.

2019 will mark an important milestone in our quarter-century long initiative to develop the Waterfront Botanical Gardens. Later this year, we'll open the doors to our first brick and mortar structure, the Graeser Family Education Center. Our path has not been quick or easy – and there is much work that remains to be done. But thanks to the financial seeds planted by generous partners in both the private and public sectors, the Waterfront Botanical Gardens has at long last been brought to fruition.

It is our sincere hope that, as a result, our community's beauty, sustainability, and economic prosperity will all be enhanced. I know that this is possible, having seen it first-hand in the neighborhoods where I lived in New York City and Washington, D.C., and over the past decade in WBG's own Butchertown neighborhood.

We're proud of the broad range of support for our mission across the state and in Southern Indiana from backyard horticulturalists and nature enthusiasts, to advocates of agricultural and environmental education, tourism, and economic development. So even if flowers aren't your thing, we humbly ask for your help – even if you're only a fan of a stronger Louisville.

The Waterfront Botanical Gardens are now well on their way but their promise can only be fulfilled, if as a community, we are all willing to roll up our sleeves and put our hands in the dirt together. On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, we look forward to you joining us at the Gardens this year.

Jon Jlm

Jon SalomonChair, Board of Directors

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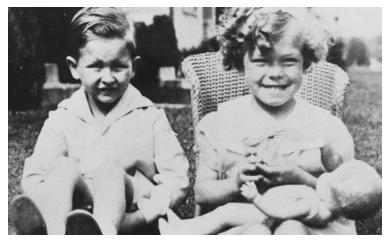
Bill Wade National Program Director, BMW CCA Foundation













THE EMIL STANCY GRAESER FAMILY

Excerpts from a 2016 Interview

BY BOB HILL PHOTOS BY VALERIE J. SMITH

Emil and Nancy Graeser were important visionary donors for the Waterfront Botanical Gardens. We lost them at the end of 2018 and in early 2019, just two weeks apart.

The best garden stories always take a little time, nurturing, and tenderness. Emil and Nancy Graesers' story would grow to include the Waterfront Botanical Gardens, as well as, a Japanese garden and bonsai display.

The Graesers were married for 64 years. They met when they were five years old. Emil's aunt lived next door to Nancy's parents on Fetter Avenue in Louisville. More than 80 years ago, someone snapped a photo of the two children sitting together in that aunt's front yard. Nancy was holding a doll. The photo survived in a family album, and years later, Emil had it enlarged as a keepsake. "It became a family joke," said Nancy, laughing. "People saw that I was holding a doll, and said we had to get married."

Emil and Nancy grew up together and dated all through high school - Nancy at Presentation

Academy, and Emil at St. Xavier. They dated long distance briefly when she went to St. Mary's College at Notre Dame and then Spalding

University in Louisville, while he attended Xavier University in Cincinnati. "She was only 100 miles away," Emil said of their sustained togetherness.

They married at age 21. He joined the U.S. Air Force and served in the finance department at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa. "I was the only guy bonded to handle cash," he said. "I was sitting there with eight or nine million bucks... but I was also responsible for the losses."

His service completed, they returned to Louisville. He took a job with Bohnert Equipment Co. He'd worked there during the summers since the eight grade never realizing that Nancy's father owned the company. Her father had started the company in 1934, and saw it through the Great Depression. Emil would help it grow, eventually turning it over to his family as the company prospered. He credits Nancy with making that possible.

"My goal in life was to retire at 50," he said. "We had five kids. Nancy was the home manager. She gave me the freedom to spend time to build the business. Without that, it wouldn't have happened."

Family backyard gardens came along with all that. He well remembers family Victory Gardens planted during World War II. His lifelong interest in bonsai plants developed at about the same time.

He was in grade school at as Louisville dealt with an outbreak of infantile paralysis, better known as polio. The city's answer was to quarantine all children in their homes. While homebound, Emil saw an article in the "National Geographic" about bonsai plants. He sent away for a pamphlet, and a lifelong hobby was born. He would eventually have 80 or 90 plants, and became very active in the Greater Louisville Bonsai Society.

God has
been good to us.
Our children are
all grown, so what
else can we
share?

77

In retirement - and while he and
Nancy traveled the country and world
visiting botanical gardens - he became
interested in Botanica and the future
Waterfront Botanical Gardens. He saw
its value as an education center for
children, as a place to visit, and as a draw
for tourism.

"I think this is very important to the city," Emil said.
"I want to see it happen in my lifetime. I want to be able to walk that garden. I think we are getting close."

Nancy agrees. "We want to leave something," she said. "God has been good to us. Our children are all grown, so what else can we share?"

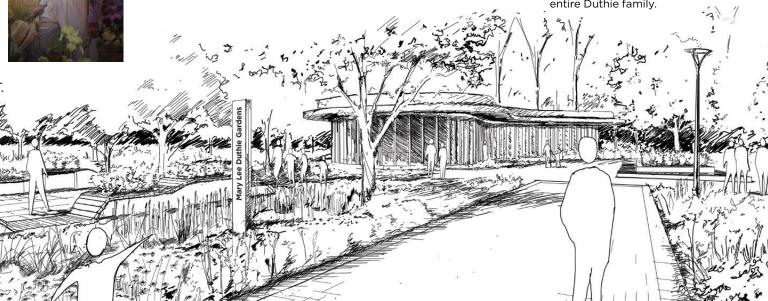
\$500.000 Duthie Match



Mary Lee Duthie was an avid gardener. In memory of his late wife, George Duthie announced a \$500,000 match grant in August of 2018 to help the progression of Phase 1 of our project. The commitment was matched within a few months.

In exchange for the Duthie family's significant commitment to the project, the plaza and gardens surrounding the Graeser Family Education Center will be named the Mary Lee Duthie Gardens.

The Duthie family stated that their hope is that their father's commitment will incentivize new donors to get "off the fence" and step up to support this project. We are honored to name these first gardens for Mary Lee Duthie. This is an amazing legacy for her, and the entire Duthie family.





2018 Construction Update





In November 2017, construction started on the Waterfront Botanical Gardens site with grading and other work, including the beginning of construction for a road and utilities.

In August 2018, building construction began with the driving of 65-foot piles to support the Graeser Family Education Center. By December, the building was above ground. Construction has gone well and we are on schedule to have our ribbon cutting on October 4, 2019.

The 6,000-square-foot facility will be used for educational programming for youth and adult education, and is available for weddings, corporate events, musical performances, speaking engagements, and other rentals.

While there were some surprises along the way, T&C Contracting and Whittenberg Construction have done a great job of keeping on schedule and within budget - the two biggest challenges on a construction job.

Something's Growing at The Avish Estate

The summer of 2018, we announced a new partnership to make use of the gardens at the former estate of Owsley Brown Frazier, **The Avish**. The Avish is located just seven miles from the Waterfront Botanical Gardens.

The new owners of the The Avish, Steve and Merry-Kay Poe, have developed an agreement for WBG's use of the Avish Gardens to begin immediately.

The 22-acre estate, built in 1910, boasts six to eight acres of gardens and greenhouses, including 20 kitchen garden beds, multiple flower beds, two greenhouses, and winter garden beds. These gardens flourished up until Frazier's death in 2012. Student and adult programs led by Director of Horticulture and Education, Jamie Burghardt, will take place at the Avish Gardens. The Waterfront Botanical Gardens staff and volunteers are working to use the greenhouses to plant for WBG.



Each of the listed donors have committed \$10,000 toward the construction of the Graeser Family **Education Center.** The distinctive design of the building will include 100 pillars. The names of the donors, or names of those they would like to remember, will be listed on each pillar with pinned, stainless-steel letters.

Please note: Rendered names shown are not reflective of final sponsors.

Anonymous

Anonymous

Thank you to this extraordinary group of supporters who could see the vision before the building became a reality.

Kelley Abell and David Huber Deena and Ty Adams **Anchorage Botanical** Society Jane D. Arnold Regan Atkinson and **Brad Titzer** Patricia Ballard Barbara Berman **Roland and Marie** Blahnik **Greg Braun** Alice and Barry Bridges Owsley Brown III Philanthropic Foundation Sarah and Robinson Brown III **Bruce and Joan Burton** Nancy D. Bush Donald (D.T.) Campbell **Bill and Betsy Chandler** Mary Beth and Charlie Clark Luca Conte and Diana Parker Tim Corrigan and **Courtney Protzer** Paul and Michelle Costel Elizabeth Davis **Todd and Harriet**

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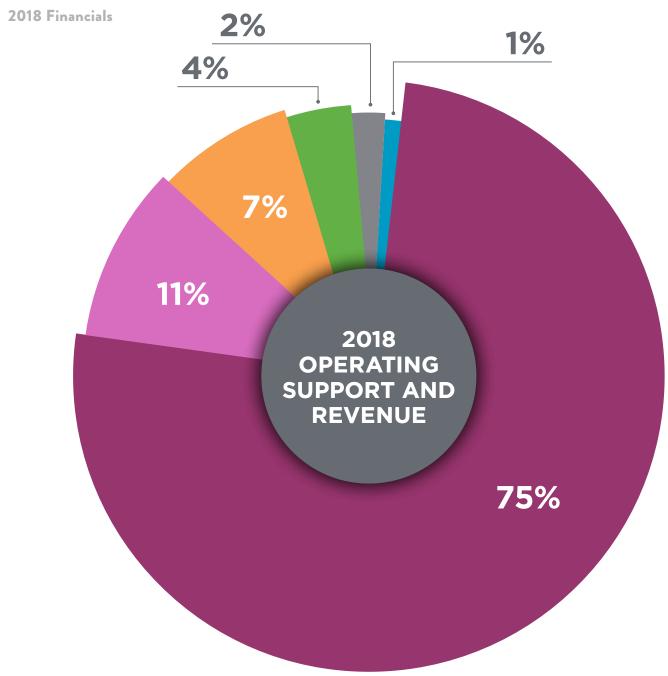
Edwards Family Foundation Frank Otte Nursery and Garden Center **Garden Clubs of** Anchorage **Amanda Gist** Robert Gittli and Karen Alladin **David Graeser** Kathleen Graeser **Kurt and Janet** Graeser Peggy and **David Grant** Claudia and Joost Grubben **Hagerty Engineering** Paula and Frank Harshaw **Carol and Charles** Hebel, Jr. Steven Humphrey Adrienne and **Chad Jones** Barbara and Allen Kannapell Maribeth Kelly **Kentucky Select** Properties, LLC **KPFF Consulting Engineers** Lynn and Walt Kunau Robert Ladouceur Joy Lait

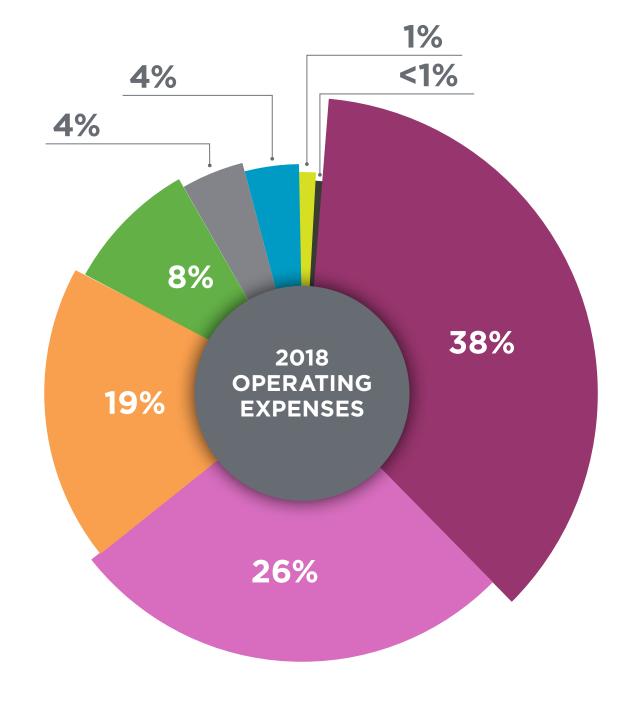
Lifetime Wealth Strategies Louisville Area Daylily Society Jo Ann and Frank Luecke Caroline Lussky and Dr. James Segal Sam and Jean Miller Samuel G. Miller, Jr. Barbara Montgomery John Moore and Patricia Pugh-Moore John Morgan Charlie and Sally Mover **Scott Neff and** Michelle Wells Laura Padgett Larry Pierce and **Constance Story** Steve and Merry-Kay **Ned Price and Cole** Gilbert Edie and Norvin Raque Nancy C. Reynolds **Towns and David** Richardson Phyllis and Dan Risch Roth Family Foundation, Inc. R.C. and Amy Scheinler

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Paula Schoenhoff





ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Total Cash	\$ 1,973,560
Total Pledges Receivable	\$ 1,759,310
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 55,970
Total Current Assets	\$ 3,788,840
Fixed Assets	
Construction in Progress	\$ 3,452,189
Land	\$ 969,819
Equipment (Less accumulated depreciation)	\$ 4,735
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 4,426,743
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 8,215,583

LIABILITIES & NET	ASSETS	
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$	189,779
Other	\$	2,540
Total Current Liabilities	\$	192,319
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$	300,000
Total Liabilities	\$	492,319
Equity		
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$	6,376,056
Net Income	\$	1,347,208
Total Equity	\$	7,723,264
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$	8,215,583











reGeneration Fair

The fourth annual reGeneration Fair was held under the beautiful shade trees in Waterfront Park this year.
Twenty-five booths educated over 300 visitors about everything from butterflies to baby goats.



Tree Planting

One hundred trees donated by Trees Louisville, Inc. were planted by our wonderful volunteers on the Beargrass Creek hillside.





4th Annual Prelude

The fourth annual Prelude was held behind the Franfort Avenue Heigold Façade. The Louisville Ballet performed on the back porch of the façade, and Atria Hospitality prepared unique fare in the pouring rain for 200 guests who sat under a tent at one long table.





Annual Meeting



Speaker

Spencer Crews, President Emeritus, Lauritzen Gardens, Omaha, NE

what

DOES IT MEAN TO GROW?

STEADY, UNBRIDLED AND UNWAVERING.

OR IS IT MORE A TRANSFORMATION
MAGIC AND METAMORPHOSIS
BLOOMING INTO WHAT COULD BE?

now,

IMAGINE A GARDEN
OF BEAUTY AND WONDER
IN THE VERY HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY
THAT WELCOMES US ALL.

A PLACE TO EXHALE. TO INSPIRE.

TO OPEN OUR MIND AND SEE OUR WORLD

THROUGH THE EYES OF NATURE,

SEASON AFTER SEASON.

A WORLD-CLASS DESTINATION THAT TEACHES
US TO VALUE OUR ENVIRONMENT,
TO LEARN MORE, AND TO TAKE ACTION.

here,

WE REDISCOVER OUR
PASSION FOR WHERE WE LIVE.

HERE, WE RECLAIM OUR DELIGHT
IN THE NATURAL WORLD AROUND US.

HERE, WE CELEBRATE WHAT'S NEW
AND WHAT'S NEXT.

TRANQUIL AND ENRICHING,
WILD AND ALIVE,
SIMPLE AND EXTRAORDINARY.

WE ARE THE WATERFRONT BOTANICAL GARDENS.

THIS IS WHERE WE



WE LOVE OUR **VOLUNTEERS**

We have more than 130 active volunteers, and many more on our volunteer list. From the Avish Estate to the Founders Garden, our "extended family" keeps us going. For over seven years, Bob Hill and Karen Bohannon have led the Founders Garden beautification.

Thank you WBG volunteers!

MALE HIGH SCHOOL Creek Class

Advanced Ecology at Louisville Male High School, otherwise known as the "Creek" class, have been regular Waterfront Botanical Gardens volunteers. Led by their teacher, Angela Page, the goal is to get students outside to expose them to real life environmental concerns and study possible solutions.

Before site was cleared, the students studied the existing trees and vegetation to learn about the types of plants living there. They learned to identify and press

Angela Page says, "I think it will be a powerful experience for them to come back later and visit the site where they studied in high school."

"Beargrass Creek has been a big influence on my work as a teacher. I started my undergraduate studies on a canoe trip with Dr. David Wicks 16 years ago. That trip made me think about the state of the creek and the human influences around it. Since then, I have incorporated Beargrass Creek into my curriculum every year since that initial trip."

"My hope is that the building of the botanical gardens will bring more people to the creek and my dream is that they will become not only more aware of the creek, but also want to change their habits, and work to improve the health of it."









Volunteer of the Year TAVIA CATHCART BROWN Executive Director of Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve



Cultivator Volunteer of the Year JOSH SHUCK

President of the Cultivators



Conceived in January 2016, the Waterfront Botanical Gardens Cultivators is a young professionals group for earthlovers who are interested in connecting with other likeminded friends on the principles of environmental education, sustainability, and strengthening cultural life in our hometown.

The Cultivators Council is the Cultivators leadership group and operates under the umbrella of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens. The goal of the Council is to promote and advocate for the Waterfront Botanical Gardens' development and upcoming opening to a younger demographic through monthly, consistent, free touch-base events with a focus on education, conservation, community, and fun.

2018 Cultivator **Events**

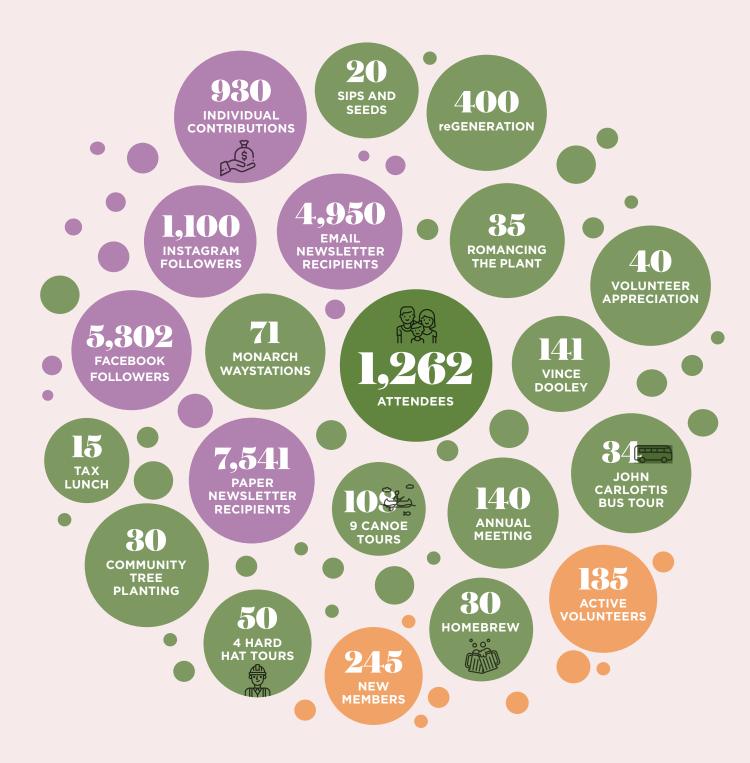
- Tree plantings
- Seed swaps
- Second annual Homebrew Fair
- Yoga for the Gardens
- And more!

Cultivators **Leadership Team**

Josh Shuck, President Elizabeth Chandler Grea Ellis Gabriella Gaona Chelsea Grant Brandon Harwood Todd Hudgens James Padgett Tonya Record **Chad Tolbert** Jessica Usher Allison Whitehouse Tom Wilburn Olivia Zoeller







NUMBER OF ATTENDEES

2018 HOSTED EVENTS

and other interesting facts

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

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Tavia Cathcart Brown Bob Hill Steve Humphrey Cindi Sullivan

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Nancy Bush
Peggy Grant
Lynn Kunau
Caroline Lussky
Mary Beth O'Bryan
Chris Padgett
Towns Richardson
Brian Voelker

Site Committee

Dominic Gratto Greg Buccola

reGeneration Fair

Tim Baker Cole Gilbert Courtney McKinney Ned Price

VOLUNTEERS

Mary Albrektson Mary Alexander Pam Allard Tony Bacala Mary Ellen Baker Mateo Barnett Susan Barton Chris Bidwell Mary Alice Bidwell Roxanne Black JoAnn Bochmann Karen Bohannon Monica Boone Paul Bridwell Tavia Cathcart Brown Dana Brown Matt Brown Mattie Brown Johanna Campbell Don Canary Cheri Casey Sara Ceresa **Beverly Chester-Burton** Elizabeth Coffman Victoria Costello Kim Cottingham Linda Crouch Gayle Crow Madison Culler Carolyn Day Phoebe DeVore Abigail Diaz Melissa DiBiase Sheree Drake Jan Eastburn Andrea Eisenbrei Mary Jane Emrich Wilson Ethington

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Amanda Forsting

Jessie Newhouse Donna Nistler Stan Nistler Debbie Nold Lisa O'Connor James Padgett Teddie Phillipson-Mower Abigail Powell Abigail Puckett Tonya Record Chad Reischl Cynthia Richards Brandi Roads Dave Robinson David Rummler Kendall Russell Eileen Schweinhart Brenda Scott Jahrael Shabzultvorn Susan Sheckler Josh Shuck Amanda Shull Marty Simione Elizabeth Smith Michael Smith Sandra Sotsky Harrison Janice Staugas Allyson Stout Michael Storm **Denise Thomas** Brenda Thurston **Chad Tolbert** Jessica Usher Karen Watson Claire Watson Wesleigh Wethington Marianne Wheat Karman Wheeler Tom Wilburn Juliette Willis Olivia Zoeller

THANK YOU, **2018 DONORS!**

\$500,000+

George Duthie, in memory of Mary Lee Duthie

\$100,000+

Anonymous The Gheens Foundation, Inc. Sam and Jean Miller

\$50.000 to \$99.999

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\$1,000 to \$2,499

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\$500 to \$999

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