

THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF NEW JERSEY

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF NEW JERSEY

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

Since 1981, we have been dedicated to protecting land and water resources throughout the state in order to build environmental resilience and fight the climate crisis. Here's how we did in 2025.

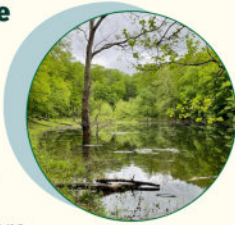


Split Rock Mountain

We acquired a new property on Split Rock Mountain to provide permanent access for the Ramapo Munsee tribe to this sacred site.

Limestone Forest Preserve

We acquired the last missing puzzle piece to connect Swartwood Stare Forest with Paulinskill Wildlife Management Area, capping a 20-year effort to develop a 1,000-acre wildlife corridor here.



South Branch Master Plan

Developed a comprehensive master plan for South Branch Preserve, focused on balancing increased public access to recreational opportunities with the critical need to preserve drinking water quality.



Outdoor Ambassadors

The Outdoor Ambassadors Program brought 175 children who do not have regular access to nature out to South Branch Preserve to observe the organisms and ecosystems they learned about in the classroom.



STAFF

David Epstein // *President*

Barbara Heskins Davis // *Vice President, Programs*

Sandy Uργο // *Vice President, Land Preservation & Stewardship*

Amber Ray // *Vice President, Development & Communications*

Dennis Briede // *Stewardship Manager*

Ken Fung // *Senior Mapping Manager*

Aaron Cela // *Land Preservation Specialist*

Linda Glosinski // *Land Preservation Specialist*

Yvonne LoGiudice // *Senior Land Preservation Associate*

Julia Flath // *Membership Manager*

Kate Munning // *Communications Manager*

Van Trat // *Outdoor Education Manager*

Robert Santee // *IT & Project Manager*

Joy McElyea // *Bookkeeper*

Siobhan Noland // *Development Associate*

John Ursin, Schenck Price // *Counsel*

Fellows: Heather Corzun, Katie Heo, Jonah McDowell, Grace Nelson

Stewardship Interns: Presley Coglon, Danielle Davies, Kevin Esposito, Tyler Hand-Coyle, Ainsley Stewart

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Eutectix Corporation



Acorn in autumn at Yards Creek Preserve

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Nickelodeon Fund*

Berkley Harmon III // *Paychex*

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Dr. Grant Parr // *Cardiac Surgeon (retired)*

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TRUSTEES EMERITUS

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Pat Kennelly

John Lundberg

Sally B. Martin

Peter Meyer

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Farm to table dinner at South Branch Preserve

2025 was another year of Land Conservancy milestones. We preserved a parcel in Fairfield's Great Piece Meadows, which was our 30,000th acre! We preserved 358 acres in total this year, with a highlight of a small but mighty property in Mahwah that now provides permanent public access to Split Rock Mountain—the most spiritually important property to the Ramapo Munsee tribe.

We helped develop and lobby for legislation that will establish a new grant program to preserve forest easements in partnership with SADC, allowing The Conservancy to protect forest properties that are not adjacent to state and county parks. This is especially important since the amount of land being preserved in New Jersey has plummeted in recent years and is not enough to meet the challenges of protecting watersheds, greenways, wildlife habitat, and farms in the face of the relentless development pressure.

We developed and funded a master plan to enhance educational opportunities and expand the ways the public can enjoy our South Branch

Preserve. These new facilities will bolster our Outdoor Ambassador Program, which provided outdoor education to 175 children who do not have regular access to nature.

Our scholarship program awarded \$70,000 in scholarships to seven college and graduate students, making this the largest environmental scholarship program in New Jersey. We have now awarded a total of 87 scholarships totaling \$535,000 since the program began in 1984. We will be awarding ten \$10,000 scholarships in 2026.

The 30th year of our internship program was marked by hiring 11 interns to work with us and learn a wide variety of new skills to help them build their leadership credentials. We have now hired 175 interns and fellows since the program began in 1995. We were also very excited to have several donors make generous gifts to increase our Richard M. Sargent Intern endowment to help us pay for interns into the future.

All in all, 2025 was another year to remember.



Limestone Forest Preserve in Hampton (Sussex County), preserved in 2025

LAND PRESERVATION

The Land Conservancy of New Jersey completed nine acquisition projects that preserved 358 acres in 2025, bringing our grand total to over 30,000 acres preserved since 1981.

The 248-acre Limestone Forest Preserve (pictured above) is the last missing puzzle piece to connect Swartswood State Forest with Paulinskill Wildlife Management Area. The Land Conservancy worked for more than 20 years to build a 1,000-acre wildlife corridor here. We are currently evaluating a possible re-forestation of the farm fields and hope to eventually transfer the property to the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust.

We preserved a 10-acre property in Great Piece Meadows in Fairfield. This 7,000-acre wetland is the largest fresh-water swamp in northern New Jersey and one of the most biologically diverse places in the state. It is a haven for wildlife and a very valuable flood storage area.

We acquired the critical Split Rock Mountain Access property in Mahwah. Although this is only 5.5 acres in size, it provides the only permanent public access to Split Rock Mountain—the most spiritually important site to the Ramapo Munsee tribe.



Bee on coneflower in the Power Flowers meadow at South Branch Preserve

STEWARDSHIP

Our stewardship efforts at South Branch Preserve are focused on balancing increased public access to passive recreational opportunities with the critical need to preserve drinking water quality. A new master plan establishes a clear vision for improving existing facilities and identifying new, appropriate recreational spaces. We began implementing this vision and funded the first phase of the project.

In September, 75 employees from AEGIS trekked out from their office in East Rutherford to South Branch Preserve to help our small stewardship team with weeding, mulching, and sprucing things up for the fall. Many of the volunteers hailed from more populated areas, so it was exciting to introduce them to our work and show them what makes South Branch Preserve so special. And we're tremendously grateful for their help in beautifying the land we love.

For the 14th consecutive year, the Community Garden at South Branch was fully booked, with all 143 plots growing food for the members and for local families in need.



Outdoor Ambassadors learn about water quality at South Branch Preserve

EDUCATION

For the 41st year of our scholarship program, we awarded \$70,000 to seven future environmental leaders. Since 1985, our scholarship program has proudly awarded 86 scholarships totaling \$535,000. In recent years, we have intentionally deepened this impact by expanding access and support for students of color, ensuring our funding reflects the diverse talent within New Jersey.

Our Outdoor Ambassador Program continues to grow, with Education Manager Van Trat working with the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson and Passaic and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Coastal and Northern New Jersey to teach children about water quality, pollinators, where their food comes from, and the natural world around us all. The program brought 175 children who do not have regular access to nature out to South Branch Preserve to observe the organisms and ecosystems they learned about in the classroom.

In 2025 we hosted 8 interns and fellows: two in planning, five in stewardship, and our first development fellow who helped develop storymaps to showcase our preserves. Since the program began in 1995, 175 interns and fellows have worked with us. The Richard M. Sargent Internship endowment supports and sustains our interns and fellows, an essential program that benefits young people as well as our organization.

In addition, for the fourth consecutive year we won a \$2,500 Don Palmer Grant from the Morris County Park Commission to support our stewardship interns working to care for South Branch Preserve.

PLANNING SERVICES

In 2025 our planning team completed seven plans, with another 11 in progress—including farm plans for Sussex and Bergen counties. To date, TLCNJ has completed 220 plans since the program was established in 1995.

We provided open space preservation advising services to 17 towns. In addition, we assisted 7 towns in securing a total of \$3,608,000 in grant funds from Green Acres, and another \$164,800 in county grants, for a total of \$3,772,800.

We won a grant from the Open Space Institute Climate Resiliency Grant program to identify and prioritize intact forests in the Highlands for preservation outreach.

Our planning fellowship program is in its fourth year and continues to be a valuable year-long opportunity for young professionals to learn mapping and creative analysis, working with governments and communities on real-life projects that promote conservation in New Jersey. These fellows enhance the quality of our work and significantly increase the organization's capacity.



The planning team meets up for team-building



18
Plans



19
Municipalities



\$3.7M
In Grant Funds Secured

BUILDING COMMUNITY



Linda leads a community hike at South Branch Preserve

Community building remains central to our conservation work. In the past year, approximately 150 people came out for 13 community events: full moon and happy hour hikes, trail maintenance training, planting native seedlings with Wild Woods Restoration Project, and community garden programming. Our staff attended the Warren County Bicentennial to raise awareness about our history of land preservation and farmland easements in that region, engaging children and adults to play environmental games and see our impact.

We hosted another fundraising farm-to-table dinner to celebrate our 30,000-acre milestone and showcase the new South Branch Preserve master plan; this directly resulted in a significant gift from donors who are eager to see the plan come to fruition.



13

Community
Events



150

Participants

DEVELOPMENT

The Land Conservancy raised a total of \$698,020 in unrestricted donations between July 2024 and June 2025. We also raised \$1,392,903 for land acquisition and stewardship projects. Our sixth annual End of Fiscal Year campaign was supported by 151 donors who contributed a total of \$182,459, including \$42,650 for four land acquisition projects.

We hosted the 16th annual Gray Cup Classic with 80 golfers, raising \$59,500 in net income in addition to \$117,050 for our Wildcat Ridge acquisition project—the largest amount we have ever raised for an acquisition project at the Gray Cup.

Our World Series of Birding team, the Highlands Hawks, scoured the state for the 30th year, spotting 155 different species of birds and helped raise a new record of \$47,700. Our fifth annual Land Conservancy Fondo in fall 2025 attracted 19 dedicated riders who completed the beautiful 30-mile course through the rolling farmland of Hope and raised \$10,143, a new record.

We continued to give supporters a firsthand perspective of our work through events such as our annual member forum. Our second Farm to Table dinner was a tremendous success, where 98 attendees enjoyed food picked fresh from our South Branch Preserve farm and got to learn about our new Master Plan to enhance the Preserve.

Two new individuals joined our Legacy Giving Circle, making 45 dedicated members who have included The Land Conservancy in their estate plans.



Donations

+20%



Legacy Circle
members

45



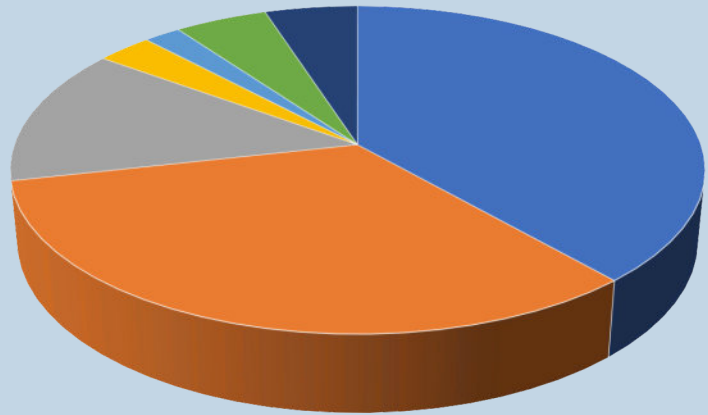
Wildcat Ridge Project

\$117,050

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

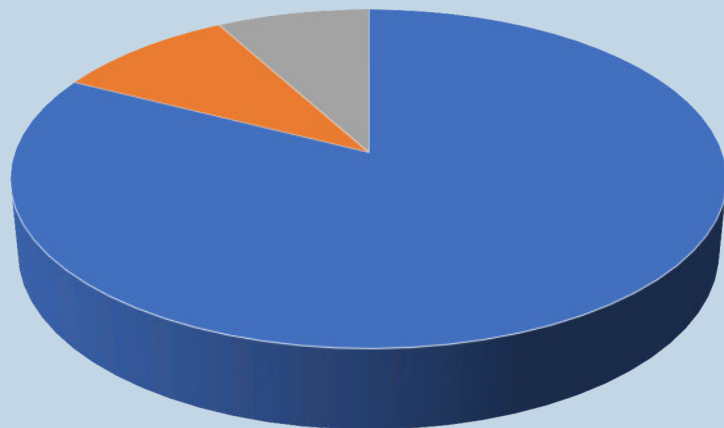
* INCOME

Government	38.5%
Membership	33%
Endowment	13.5%
Open Space Planning	5%
Foundations	3%
Events	2%
Other	5%



* EXPENSES

Programs	82.5%
Fundraising	9.5%
Management	8%



The Land Conservancy of New Jersey produced a balanced budget for the 16th consecutive year.

LEGACY GIVING

Have you ever considered how the investments you've made in The Land Conservancy of New Jersey have helped create a brighter future for our state? Take, for example, Split Rock Mountain. Not long ago, the mountain seemed destined to be lost to the ever-reaching development that sprawls out from Manhattan. Today, the sacred ancestral site of the Ramapo Munsee Nation stands as a beacon of hope for the preservation of land and those who protect it. That's thanks to supporters like you.

Now, we invite you to take the next step in helping to build a greater, greener tomorrow by becoming a member of our Legacy Giving Circle. This extraordinary group of supporters have named The Land Conservancy of New Jersey in their estate plans, knowing that their generosity and forethought will help protect natural resources in the Garden State long into the future. Legacy Giving Circle members are the game-changers who solidify a strong financial future that ensures our vital work will continue.

To sign up, simply fill out and return the form on our website or at bit.ly/TLClegacy. If you are interested in learning more about the Legacy Giving Circle or have any questions regarding the process, please feel free to reach out to Vice President of Development Amber Ray at (973) 957-7195 or aray@tlc-nj.org.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the future of New Jersey's natural heritage. Together, we will help ensure that the beauty and biodiversity we cherish today remain a treasure for the generations yet to come.



Future forest at Yards Creek Preserve

Thanks to the kindness of two dedicated supporters, The Land Conservancy of New Jersey will receive a \$1,000 donation in honor of each person who sends in a bequest intention form.

MEMBERS

*Indicates Legacy Giving Circle member

15+ YEARS

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 Rosemarie Agostini
 James Ahlstrom
 Sherri & Norman Albrecht
 Richard & Rosemary Amon
 Margo B. & Richard Anderson
 William Anderson
 John G. Azzoli Jr.
 Astri Baillie & John Kimball
 Kenneth Baker
 Pat Balko
 Kathleen Banks
 Nancy Barrett
 Keith Barton
 Tom & Joanne Bintingier
 Elizabeth Bitterman
 Janet Bone
 Beth & James Branigan
 Warren & Virginia Braunwarth
 Judith Brown & George Breece
 Jenifer & John Burghardt
 Lois Burns
 Brian & Ginny Bussey
 Thomas & Deborah Caine
 Frank M. Calabrese
 Chip Carver & Anne Delaney
 Eve Casey
 Dennis & Susan Clancy
 Roger & Judy Clapp

Gary & Lori Cohen Charitable Fund
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 Anna-Lisa Dopirak
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 Debbie Duch
 Gail Duffe
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 Steve Gruber
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 Joseph Hallock
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 Gerhart Karg
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 Patrick & Susan Lanza

Robert & Mary Leamer
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 Will & Mary Leland
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 Jeffrey & Peggy Mark
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 Peter & Lauren Meyer
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 Vic & Joanne Miller
 Steven Minassian & Diane Dzedzic
 Thomas Moorhead
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 Robert More
 Valerie Morgan
 Dennis R. Morgan
 Brian Morrell
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 Linda O'Brien
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 Marisa Paradiso
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 Paul Payton & Bette Schultz
 Thelma N. Personette
 Edmund Peters
 Robert & Julia Peterson
 James & Linda Pierro
 Catherine "Kaki" Pierson*



Brothers modeling TLCNJ bandanas at Warren County's Bicentennial

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15+ YEARS

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Mary Purzycki
Ranger Family
Richard Reynolds
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Jens Riedel
Mark & Patricia Rochkind
Rogers Family
Stuart & Brooke Rogers
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Diana Uddo-Kaniuga
Thomas Unger
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Joseph Vaughn
Roger & Jessie Vellekamp
Jackie Vnencak
Nancy P. Voll
Charles & Maureen Walker
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Donna Weinberg
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Kathy & Carl Woodward
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& David Cooper
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Pamela Zave

10-14 YEARS

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Mary Adelman
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Ethel Ashenfelter
Paul Augustyniak*
Barbara L. Bailey
Edward & Constance Baker
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Kimberly Blais & Steven Jones
Carrie & Bradley Bobroff
Patricia Brown
Van & Debra Buchanan
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Kathleen Caccavale
Charles & Jeanie Chapin
Jim & Donna Chaplin
Nectarios Clapsis
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Robert & Nancy Cole
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William & Katherine Conger
Thomas & Fran Cote
Brenda Curnin
Susan Darago
Bonnie Davis
Jay Desai
Jeremy Doppelt & Leslie Shaw
Joel Ergas & George Courchesne

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Marianne Hosty
Irene Howell
Richard D. Huhn
Bruce Hyde
James & Tara Jacobus
Bob & Florence Jennes
Carol Johnson
Peter & Lisa Kadar
Andrew E. Kasper Jr.



Scholarship recipient Odera Umeh (right) helps pot seedlings with Wild Woods Restoration Project

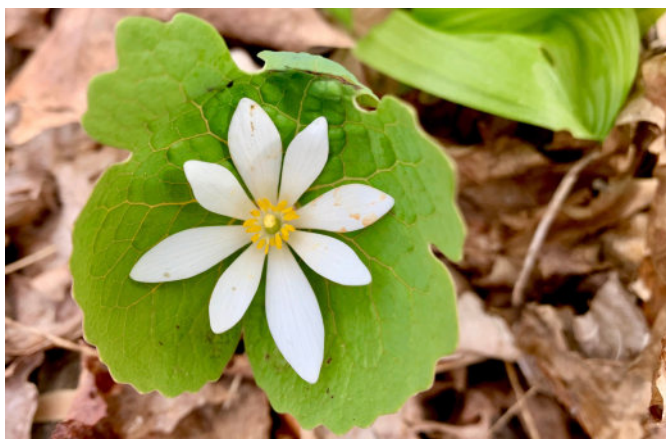
MEMBERS

10-14 YEARS

Thomas Kean
Carol A. Kurtz
Mildred A. Lillis*
Cindi Linton
David Lowenstein
Michael Lyons
John Maurer
McClester Family
Marshall & Kimberly McLean
Richard More
Philip Moss
Kelly Nash
Shawn Nettles
Stanley North III
Mary Jo Nutt
Kathy O'Neill
Camille Perkowski
Robert & Ronnie Powers
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Kenneth Rapp
Howard & Susan Reed
Patricia Reed
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Barbara Ross
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Amy Rubin
Bruce Rudin
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Zaire Schoenholt
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Stephanie Seymour
Fei Shen
Thomas Snyder
Edward Stavenick
Andrew Szwak
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Roxanne Tavakkol
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Uwe & Lynne Trink
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Gwendolyn Utberg
David Walsh
Fred Westcott
James Wood
Cindy Zanca
Michael Zuckerman

1-9 YEARS

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Michael Addesa
Francis Amaasah
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Mark Andrews
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Mark Didriksen
William Dietz
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Andrea Dudek
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Bloodroot at South Branch Preserve South

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Steven J Fisher	Keith Holmes
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Madeline Florio	John Hyde
Jane Folger	James Jaworski
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Marc Friedman	Raymond Johnson
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Michael Frohling	Jeffrey Kania
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Jeff & JoJo Gertler	William Kempey
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Scott Ginter	Ron Kieliszewski
Linda Glosinski	Alex King
Kevin Gorman	Stuart Klein
Ann & W. Preston Granberry	Toni Klimowicz
Robert & Stacy Golding	John & Elizabeth Koch
Amy Greene	Bill & Cynthia Korman
Chantal Greffer	Ian Krietzberg
Richard Griffin	Anil Kumar Beta
Gregory Grillo	Laura A. Lander
Roy Groething	Renee Lando
Joan Guida	Steven Lane
Bruce & Karen Haas	Larry L. Luing Family Foundation
Loriann Haberthur	Gerry & Barbara Lauro
Edward T. Haffy	Howard Levine

MEMBERS

1-9 YEARS

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Sharon & Gary Mayer	Emily Ober	Kathleen Rose	James Tracy
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Spence & Lily Mehl	Panda Sabyasachi & Mamata Dash	Robert & Lisa Safier	Dale Vanyo
Mary Meila	Charles Parr	Jerome & Marianne Saladino	Johnny Ventimiglia
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Peter Miceli	Alan & Janet Payson	Steven Sander	Renae Waggner
Elizabeth Miggels	Roman Pazdro	Lloyd Schaefer	Donald & Sharon Walker
Sarah Mikulis	Alicia Perkins	Aaron Schrage	Linda Walsh
Alexandra Milbank	Mercedes Perkins	David Schwartz	William & Nancy Walter
Priya Mistry	Kathy Platt & Bill Petitt	Joe Scully	Barbara Wattenbach*
Rob Mitchell	Brandon Pinn	Melissa Seminaris	Peter Watts
Deryl Mitzen	Christine Pirog	John Sepede & Amy Gimbel	Joanne Weir
Nancy Monroe*	Steve Pisano	Bijal Shah	Joy Wenberg
Veronica Montagna	Elizabeth Pongo & Richard Burst-Lazarus	Niraj & Mona Shah	Charles F. West
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Hugo Moras & Lauren Lebo	Emily Porter	Anne Shulman	Fred Whaley
Christy & Neil Morganstein	Tom & Lisa Potash	Steve & Mary-Ellen Shyne	Jackson Wheeler
The Morris & Clara Weshnak Family Foundation	Jess Prekel	Brad & Sylvia Silfies	Gabriella Wheeler
Elise Morrison	Nikki J. Pricken	Steven & Barbara Silverman	Kelly Wieand
John Mulvey	Michael & Kathryn Prokop	Carolyn & Tim Simpson	Carl Wilder & Lynn Orlowitz
Michael & Suzanne Munning	Hilary Prouty	Mandeep Singh	The William L Gibson Fund
Andrew B. Myers	David J. Quinby & Catherine Lazaro	Daniel Smith	Tom Williams
Walter Nahadil	Harold Rabinowitz	Melanie Jean Smith	Ann Wolf
Lisa Natoli	Anita & Naveen Rao	Kevin & Lynn Smith	Christina Wolf
Debra Natyzak		Wendy Smith	Joanna Wright
		Amy Snider	Tim & Nicole Wright
		James Sonneborn	James Yauch
		Anthony Sprague	Richard Zipper
		Amy Stanberry*	Ruth Zowader
		Andrew Z. & Lydia Stec	
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