



for the **bright** future of
**children &
the planet**

2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT



SUNFoundation

For the Advancement in the
Environmental Sciences & Arts

Our Mission

Founded in 1973, Sun Foundation of Washburn, Illinois is a 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt not-for-profit organization dedicated to investing in educational opportunities for children and the general public by:

Providing inspiration and motivation in the areas of environmental sciences and arts

Engaging them with outstanding artists, engineers, architects, and scientists

Promoting in-depth knowledge and first hand learning

Mission Statement:

The Sun Foundation works to strengthen and advance the arts and environmental sciences in rural and urban communities by providing quality and innovative programs, services, publications, research, regranting financial support and cooperative efforts for the general public, underserved groups, schools, Illinois artists and local arts organizations.

Staff & Board Members

Staff:

- Robert C. Ericksen, Executive Director
- Joan Root Ericksen, Development Director
- Vivian Mount, Office Manager/Executive Secretary - Part Time

Site Manager:

- Brett Root Ericksen, Wildlife and Habitat Restoration Director, Naturalist - Part Time

Board Members:

- Misty Brockett
- Mary Corrigan
- Beth Eggers
- Perry E. Ehlen
- Stephanie Gehrig
- Doug Holmes
- Preston Jackson
- David Kennell
- Jo Lakota
- Judith Lee
- Michael R. Lied
- Dave Marshall
- Susan Moore
- Lorraine Schwass
- Keith Turcot

Board & Staff Advisor:

- Rusty Dunn



Mission, Staff & Board Members

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Educational Programming

Clean Water Celebration

The Sun Foundation presented the 16th Annual Clean Water Celebration for 2500 middle school students and teachers. This year's theme "Back to the Future" emphasized what we could learn from past cultures that would apply to protecting our water resources today.

Keynote speaker Dr. Michael Wiant, Archeologist and Director of Dickson Mounds museum, presented research about the prehistoric Cahokia which was inhabited from approximately 700 to 1400 A.D. At its peak Cahokia covered nearly six square miles, and 10,000 to 20,000 people lived in the city. Farming and logging practices impacted the water resources of the Cahokians and the vitality of their culture.

Other events presented at the Clean Water Celebration consisted of environmental streams, break out sessions presented by artists and scientists, and exhibits and performances.

Thank you to the Illinois American Water Company, our partner, in presenting the Clean water Celebration to over 32,000 students in the past 16 years. Also many thanks to the granting agencies and corporation's sponsors who have helped us make Clean Water Celebration possible.

Through a grant from the American Water Company, a Clean Water Celebration model "How To " booklet is being developed by the Sun Foundation and the Clean Water Celebration Committee. The booklet will be available in hard copy and electronically on the Sun Foundation's website.

Arts Advocacy

The Sun Foundation helped schools and community groups book and employ local and Illinois artists for programs by providing information about artists and art groups in the Sun Journal and on the Sun Foundation website.

Family Learning- Fossils, Reptile Programs

This year 37 families participated in the fall fossil and rock and spring reptile field expeditions. These expeditions were held at the Sun Foundation Crow Creek and Crow Creek Marsh outdoor classrooms.

Geologist Dr. Merrill Foster lead the fossil and rock program and Herpetologist Doug Holmes led the reptile expedition.

The depth of knowledge the expedition leaders shared, paired with hands on learning in the field intrigued both youth and adult family members alike.

Art and Science in the Woods

In nature's classroom, 525 children ages 6 to 18 spent one week this summer learning with 17 artists, 1 archeologist, 3 engineers, 9 scientists, and 4 survival skills instructors. Over 100 volunteers served as teaching assistants, medical staff, and administrative assistants. Sharon Obery, the program coordinator once again volunteered her skills and time to present the 36th year for the camp. The program now is serving its third generation.

We had the pleasure of welcoming 3 former students to return as professional instructors. Families, friends and the general public attended the Friday evening student exhibits, performances and presentations. The oak hickory forest, crow creek fresh water marsh and creek beds, wild prairies and ponds, and wildlife await the return of the children coming next summer.

E.T.C.H.

E.T.C.H. (Exceptional Talent Come Home) is a program that enlists those in our communities who have made their mark in their field and have returned home to support their local schools. This was a new model program made to support the arts and science curriculum in our elementary and secondary schools. We conceptualized the plan for this program this year. Additional plans are underway to set a starlight school that would initiate and develop the model.

Educational Programming (continued)

Suzuki School of Music

This year 37 students, ages 3 ½ to 17, were enrolled in our Suzuki program. Thousands of children have received their Suzuki training through the school in violin and piano. The 'twinkling stars' shared the talents they have been learning with community performances throughout the year. This year was the school's 30th year of providing musical education to our community. We thank our fine teachers, Brian Gehrich, Carissa Klopfenstein, Lowell Koons, and Anna Price for their outstanding instruction. Also many thanks to our volunteer school coordinator Judy Lee and Artistic consultant DeLores Brown for their administrative and curriculum excellence.

Community Arts Access

Through a grant from the Illinois Arts Council and matching funds from local businesses and families, \$15,000 was regranted to schools and community art groups for arts programming in Marshall, Woodford, Stark and Bureau counties.

7,616 students and the general public were engaged in programs, presented by 76 local and Illinois Artists.

Blacksmithing Workshops

Master Blacksmith and artist Gary Jameson presented and directed the 18th year of Blacksmithing Workshops. This year 38 students from across the state participated in beginning and advanced metalworking classes. Thousands of students have participated in the workshops over the past 17 years. One of those former students has reopened a historic blacksmith shop in Metamora, IL. Gary Jameson and the blacksmiths who teach in the program have passed on their skills to another generation to keep the traditional art form alive. The workshops are presented at Gary Jameson's farm, using the tools of former generations of blacksmiths. We are grateful for Gary's contribution to the art and science of blacksmithing and for the years of service to our community.

Field Trips to the Sun Foundation

The Mable Woolsey and Montessori Schools came to the Sun Foundation Center for their yearly spring field trip. Geologist Dr. Merrill Foster, biologist and storyteller Brian 'Fox' Ellis, and artist Bob Ericksen conducted the field trips.

Winter Warming

Winter Warming, the annual children's program fundraising event was held last January at the Contemporary Art Center in Peoria. The event raised \$6000 to fund the Foundation's major children's programs; Suzuki School of Music, Art and Science in the Woods, and Clean Water Celebration. We thank the volunteers, musicians, students, artists, and the Sun Foundation' Board members who so graciously donated their time and talents to make the event a success.

Professional Development

The Sun Foundation staff attends professional development seminars throughout the year that are presented by the Professional Fundraising Association. Experts in the field present a wide range of topics such as: board development, fundraising, technology, and social networking. Not-for-profit administrators from throughout the region participate in the seminars, providing a wealth of information and networking opportunities. The Sun Foundation's Development Director is an active member of the association for professional development.

Serving the Underserved since 1974

For 35 years the Sun Foundation has raised funds to provide financial need scholarships for underserved youth and families to participate in Sun Foundation programs. Thanks to our donors, 120 underserved students, ages 6-16, from Peoria youth agencies and area rural communities received financial need scholarships to attend this year's Art and Science in the Woods summer camp. The Clean Water Celebration and Arts Access program provide free programs in the arts and sciences for area schools.

Media Outreach

Website

The Sun Foundation's website served as a key resource for comprehensive and user-friendly information regarding our programs and our organization. It also served to sell tickets and receive donations. Visits to the Sun Foundation website in FY 2009 averaged 1914 visits per month and 22,969 visitors per year. The website also averaged 166,621 hits per year.

Promotional Material for programs

The Sun Foundation designed and produced hard copy program promotional brochures and flyers for the Clean Water Celebration, Blacksmithing Workshops, and the Suzuki School of Music. The flyers are distributed to the Science Teachers Conference, Suzuki concerts, area community festivals, local businesses, local libraries, and local schools.

Sun Journal

The Sun Foundation's Sun Journal is published annually and has a distribution of 27,000. This year there were 9,000 sent by postal mail to the Sun Foundation's mailing database, 16,000 given to our 9 county region elementary and secondary schools, and 2,000 given to local businesses, libraries, and community centers. An electronic copy of the Sun Journal was posted to the Sun Foundation's website.

The Sun Journal contained Sun Foundation program information and news, and area arts organization's calendars and program information. This outreach is supported by advertising and by a donation from Alan Dworkin.

Television, Print, and Radio

Throughout FY 09 the Sun Foundation received In-kind support from television, newspaper, and radio media to promote programs and announce special events and services.

Our In-kind media partners include:

-WTVP-TV/PBS featured a 30-minute special "Interesting People" Edward Sutkowski with Sun Foundation founder Joan Root Ericksen

-WCBU 89.9 promoted the Sun Foundation's Earth Table dinner

-The Peoria Journal Star promoted and covered Sun Foundation programs and events throughout the year in featured articles

-Lacon Home Journal did program and service announcements for the Sun Foundation

-Henry News did program and service announcements for the Sun Foundation

-Pekin News did articles and public announcements for the Sun Foundation

-WEEK TV 25 promoted special events for the Sun Foundation

-WMBD TV 31 promoted special events for the Sun Foundation

-WHOI TV 19 promoted special events for the Sun Foundation

Partnerships & Funding

Sun Foundation gratefully acknowledges our supporters

Businesses, Corporations, and Foundations that have partnered with the Sun Foundation

Partners who have given \$1000 or more in support of the Sun Foundation for fiscal year 2009.

- Ameren CILCO
- American Water
- BizWerks
- Caterpillar Foundation
- CF Industries
- Community Foundation of Central Illinois
- CORE Construction
- Dick Blick
- First National Bank of Lacon
- Hallmark Corporate Foundation
- Howard and Howard
- Illinois American Water Company
- Komatsu
- Living Lands and Water
- Meta Tec Incorporated
- Metamora Telephone Company
- Micro-Pavers Incorporated
- Miles C. Hauter Foundation
- Optimists Club of Peoria
- RLI Insurance Company
- Ronald McDonald House Charities Global
- Royal Publishing
- Root Bros. Manufacturing and Supply Company
- Ruby Worner Trust
- Village of Peoria Heights Waterworks
- Wal-Mart Foundation

Individual Partnerships

Partners who have given \$1000 or more in support of the Sun Foundation for fiscal year 2009.

- Will Ball
- Dale and Terry Belcher
- Marion Bohner
- Guy and Jane Cahill
- Ryan Davidson
- Alan Dworkin
- Robert and Joan Ericksen
- Drs. Sue Ellen and Tanner Girard
- Andrew Muir
- Rose Parisi
- K. Pflederer
- Kimberly Salmon
- James and Katharine Weber

In-kind Donations:

-Judith Lee, Sharon Obery and Brett Root Ericksen have served as volunteer program coordinators.

In-kind donations totaling \$220,000 came from local businesses, service groups, and individuals made our programming possible for FY 09.

Volunteers:

Over 400 people volunteered to support this year's programs. Members of our community gave their talents and time to serve on the Sun Foundation board of directors, be active members of program committees, help at fundraising events, take care of the facility, assist with teaching, and provide medical care for students. These amazing people and groups are essential to the work of the organization.

Generosity:

We thank our community for showing the many ways they support the mission of the Sun Foundation.

Illinois Arts Council:

The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, awarded the Sun Foundation \$15,360 in grant funds for operations & program support, and \$11,830 grant for Community Art Access Regranting to Marshall, Woodford, Stark and Bureau counties.

Thanks to ALL 380 Contributors who made this year possible.

Mission, Staff & Board
Members

Educational
Programming

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**Partnerships &
Funding**

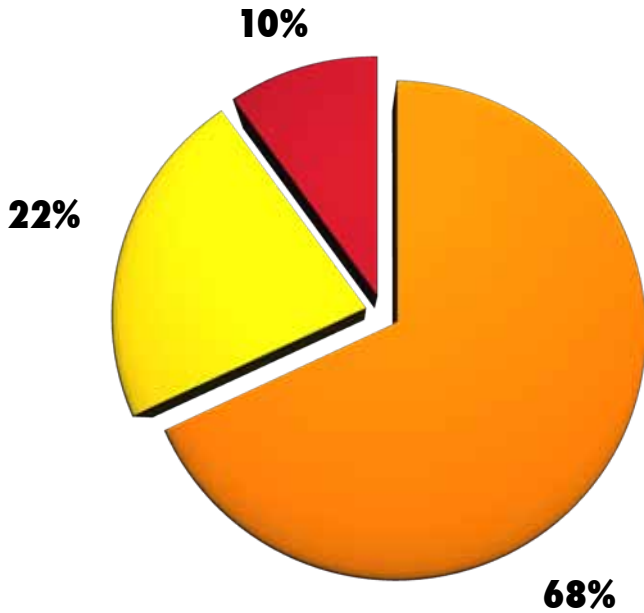
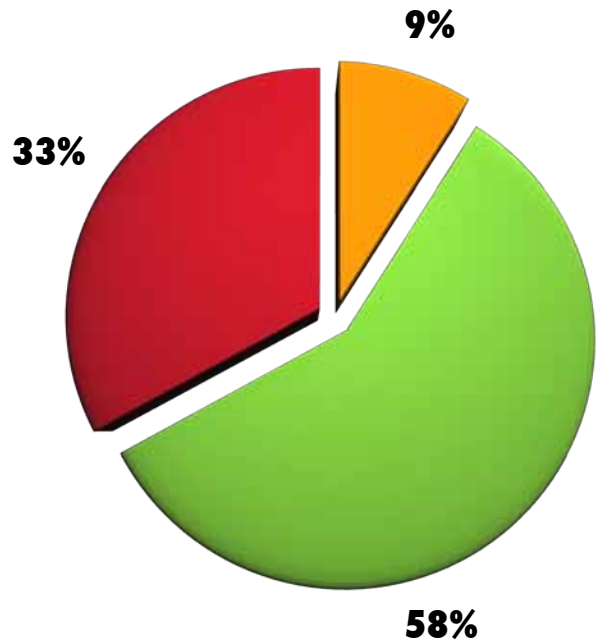
Income & Expense
Figures

Photo Gallery

Income & Expense Figures

2008-2009 Income Sources: \$359,576

- Programs - \$118,510
- Grant Income for Operations - \$32,250
- Interest & Other Income - \$118 (too minute for graph)
- Contributions - \$208,698



2008-2009 Expenditures: \$373,604

- Program & Financial Development - \$37,802
- Program Services- \$255,212
- Program Administration & Over Head Cost - \$80,590

* Throughout 2008-2009, In-kind donations exceeded \$220,000 and are not reflected in the above charts.

Note: The financial information above reflects the 2008-2009 fiscal year from September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009.

photo gallery

1. Suzuki Students at Spring Concert 2. Clean Water Celebration students inside the Earth Ball classroom 3. Brian 'Fox' Ellis as John Audubon at Art & Science in the Woods 4. Blacksmithing Workshop Forging 5. Felting students at Art & Science in the Woods 6. Gary Swicke & Dundee School Student at Clean Water Celebration 7. Sculptor Preston Jackson & Students at Art & Science in the Woods 8. Yona Lunken & son at Suzuki School of Music concert 9. Opening celebration of Art & Science in the Woods 2009



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**Photo
Gallery**