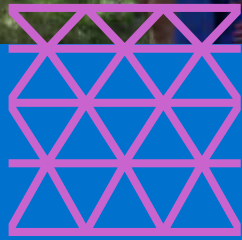
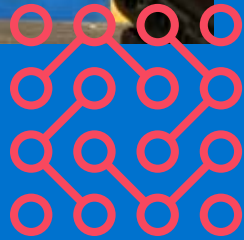




SUN FOUNDATION



# Annual Report

2021-2022





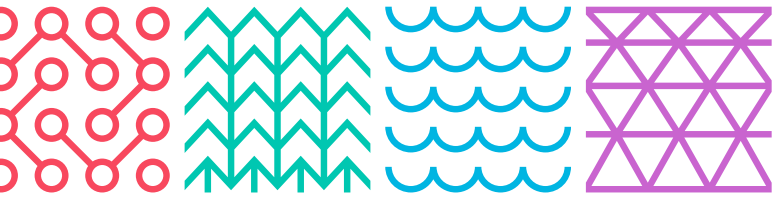


# Overview

In 2022, the Sun Foundation celebrated our 49th anniversary. Since 1973, we've touched the lives of over 6 million members of our community through art and environmental science programs and publications.

We are pleased to report that the Sun Foundation was able to safely present its programs both in person and virtually during the challenges of the pandemic, and continue to serve its community in new ways and carry out its mission.

With the innovative practices and support of our board of directors, volunteers, staff, program coordinators, presenting artists and scientists, videographers, virtual platform designers and the promotional impact of our brand agency, Concentric Design, we celebrate the positive results of this year.



**F**ounded by Robert and Joan Root Ericksen in 1973, the 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 innovative environmental sciences and arts programs
- Engaging audiences and students with outstanding artists, engineers, architects, and scientists
- Promoting in-depth knowledge, creativity, first-hand learning, and stewardship

#### 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, under served groups, schools, Illinois artists, and local arts organizations.

**Sun Foundation programs are funded by public contributions and awarded grants.**

#### SERVING THE UNDERSERVED SINCE 1973

Though the generous support of our donors the Sun Foundation was able to provide 87 financial need scholarships for student to attend the summer Art and Science in the Woods program.

With the awarded grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency and matching funds the Sun Foundation's Community Art Access Program we were able to provide funding for under-served communities in four rural counties.

#### 2022 STAFF

**Robert C. Ericksen**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Joan Root Ericksen**

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**Brett Root Ericksen**

NATURALIST – PROGRAM DIRECTOR, HABITAT & FACILITY MANAGER

**Nichole Davis**

BOOKKEEPER

#### 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

Kevin D. Day	PRESIDENT
Jonathan Wright	VICE PRESIDENT
Walter Wilkins	SECRETARY
Lorraine Schwass	TREASURER

#### 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charles (Trip) Barton, PE, GISP	Douglas Holmes
Dr. Brad Cotton	Kira Santiago
Sally Jo Eastman	Walter R. Wilkins
Zachary Fiddes	

#### BOARD & STAFF ADVISORS

Shae L. Birkey	Jo Lakota
Rusty Dunn	Rolland (Dave) Marshall
Preston Jackson	Eve Studnicka
Mike Lied	

#### CONTRACTED FINANCIAL SERVICES

Ginoli & Co. LTD	AUDITOR
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#### VOLUNTEER ACCOUNTING SERVICES

Kris Lukehart, CPA
STEVEN D. GREIM & COMPANY, P.C.

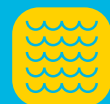




# Clean Water Celebration

In 2022, we presented the 29th Clean Water Celebration via YouTube Live to all our audiences near and far. The morning included interviews on site, a live feed from scientists in the field, students presenting from their classrooms, real time Making Waves Award presentations and live music.

ABOVE Welcome to the set of Clean Water Celebration 2022, with MC Brian Fox Ellis, participant and musical guest.



Download the Clean Water Celebration app on the Apple App Store



ABOVE Two of the many special guests for the live broadcast of Clean Water Celebration 2022, Dot, a wood turtle, and Christie from Forest Park Nature Center.



The 29th Clean Water Celebration was held April 25, 2022. Virtual programming was streamed live on YouTube 9:00 a.m.–noon.

Hosted by Brian Fox Ellis and set against the cascade of bluebells at Forest Park Nature Center in Peoria Heights, IL, you could watch live interviews with experts, sponsors and award winners. There were live from the field bird bandings, musical performances, and recorded presentations on water quality issues.

This broadcast also highlighted episodes of Clean Water Champions, premiering new episodes and the launch of the updated Virtual Environmental Classroom.

Clean Water Champion episodes are cross-curricular documenting the work of scientists, artists, conservationists, storytellers, or youth leaders. Each is aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards and challenges the viewer to take action themselves. An action planning and reporting form is available.

Entering the Virtual Environmental Classroom, avatar, Recycled Robin appears in a virtual version of our Peoria Riverfront, but the location could be any river town in

the world. Robin guides the user to Clean Water Champion video tents and through mini-game activities and scavenger hunts.

This amazing online resource will be ongoing and was accomplished in collaboration with production and film team Brian Fox Ellis and Frank Blain, the Peoria Art Guild, the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council, and Interactiva Studios.

Funding to expand this virtual programming in 2022 included \$4500 through the American Water Environmental Grant program and \$10,000 from the American Water Charitable Foundation Keep Communities Flowing program to enrich the Virtual Environmental Classroom.

Plans are underway for the 30th Sun Foundation Clean Water Celebration, April 23 and 24, 2023 in Peoria.



Our live event is available to stream at any time on our YouTube page.

CLEAN WATER CELEBRATION

# By the Numbers

CLEAN WATER CELEBRATION LIVE BROADCAST

# 523

STREAMS

CLEAN WATER CHAMPIONS YOUTUBE SERIES

# 3,994

VIEWS

# 60

EPISODES

# 52,524

IMPRESSIONS

# 9

COUNTRIES: USA, FRANCE, SPAIN, INDONESIA, INDIA, SOUTH KOREA, UNITED KINGDOM, GERMANY AND JAPAN

CLEAN WATER VIRTUAL CLASSROOM ON THE PEORIA RIVERFRONT

# 375

PEAK MONTHLY AVERAGE USERS

# 20

VIDEO TENTS PRESENTING SCIENTISTS, ARTISTS, CONSERVATIONISTS, STORYTELLERS, AND YOUTH LEADERS

# 7

UPDATED MINI-GAMES BUILDING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT WATER AND ITS PROPERTIES, PRAIRIE PLANTS, COMPOSTING, BIRD MIGRATION, WETLANDS, ENVIRONMENTAL ANTHROPOLOGY



# Art & Science in the Woods

Over the course of five days in June, the Sun Foundation welcomed our community back to attend nature's classroom in-person.





**W**e are happy to report the 47th year of Art and Science in the Woods summer program was successfully presented for 315 students ages 5-18.

Thank you to our staff and volunteers who make this program possible. For the many weeks of planning and program preparation—we thank **Robert & Joan Ericksen, Brett Root Ericksen, Sharon Obery, Libby VerKuilen, William Blumenshine, Danielle Kreie** and **Josie DePauw**.

For classroom set up and grounds maintenance, we again thank **Brett Root Ericksen** and staff members **Chelsea Schierer** and **Emily Barrett** and volunteers **Eric Jones, Max Jones** and **Shay Sichmeller**.

Thank you to our many sponsors and donors.

Special thanks to **Blick Art Materials** for supporting us with art materials for all our 47 years.

Thank you to **Stanley Steemer** for donating health cleaning services of the indoor barn classrooms, and thank you to **Two Men and a Truck** for donating the monumental service of moving tables to class sites and back into storage after the program.

Thank you to volunteer supply coordinators **Libby VerKuilen** and **Jennifer Lindstrom** for the huge task of ordering and sorting class supplies and equipment.

Thank you to auction lead **Dominique Kreie** as well as all the donors and volunteers who helped with the Silent Auction.

Thank you to all our volunteer teaching assistants and nurses for their invaluable contributions in keeping students at camp safe.

Thank you to all of the parents who entrusted your children to our care and to your children for bringing their curiosity and talents to share with us.

**Thank you to everyone who contributed to Art and Science in the Woods in any way large or small. It takes a community to bring this unique program to life.**

ART & SCIENCE  
IN THE WOODS

## By the Numbers

**315**

STUDENTS

**73**

FINANCIAL NEED STUDENT  
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

**28**

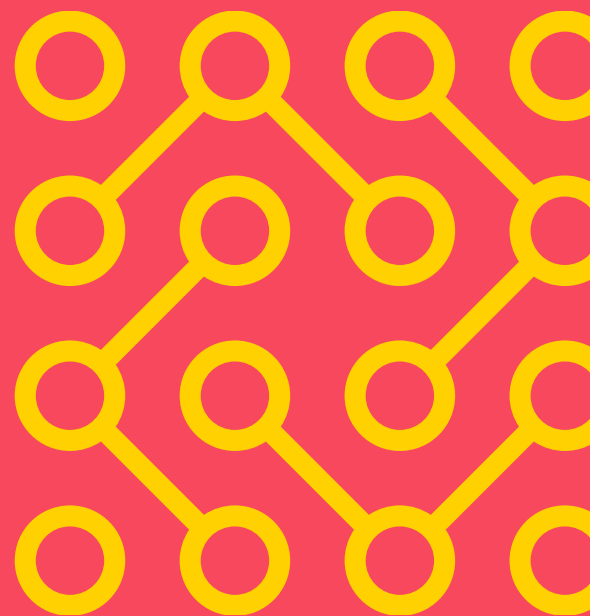
INSTRUCTORS

**75**

VOLUNTEERS

# Community Arts Access Grants

The Sun Foundation, in collaboration with the Illinois Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, awards grants for community and public arts programming.





**C**ommunity Arts Access Grants are funded by an awarded grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency and matching funds from local business and individual donors. Last year, the Sun Foundation was awarded a \$10,000 grant for community and public arts programs for regranting.

With this grant and matching contributions from **Adams Consulting, First National Bank of Lacon, Katherine and James Weber**, the Sun Foundation awarded \$13,550 to schools, arts and community service organizations for public arts programming throughout the counties of Bureau, Marshall, Stark and Woodford. The funded programs were able to adapt and innovate their programs with COVID safety measures in effect.

**2022 GRANTEES**

**ADDWC**

Capturing Art!  
\$750

**Eureka Public Library**

Artist residency, art classes and Art in the Park.  
\$1037.50

**Festival 56 Committee of Princeton**

Merry Wives of Wisdom/  
Shakespeare in the Park  
\$1037.50

**Future of Henry Events Committee**

Brown Bag It  
\$1037.50

**Gateway Services, Inc.**

Henry Site Art Program  
\$500

**Henry Community Character Counts**

Tin Hannig Theater Pro –  
Kids Show  
\$1000

**Lacon Community Center Organization**

Marshall County Area Art  
Photography Show  
\$1037.50

**Learning Stage Committee**

MATILDA summer theater camp,  
tech/dress and performances  
\$1037.50

**Malden CCSC #84**

Student 2- and 3-dimensional arts  
projects, exploring the art works  
of various noted artists  
and cultures  
\$1000

**M-P Stark Show Choir (1)**

Choreographer  
\$1037.50

**M-P Stark Show Choir (2)**

Director  
\$1037.50

**River Valley Players**

Children's Summer Theater  
Workshop and production  
\$1000

**River Valley Players**

Elf The Musical/Adult Workshop in  
preparation for the Elf Musical  
\$1037.50

**Toulon Public Library**

Read Beyond the Beaten Path  
Artist storytellers and nature  
art class  
\$1000

COMMUNITY ARTS  
ACCESS GRANTS

**By the  
Numbers**

**10,865**

COMMUNITY MEMBERS  
SERVED, INCLUDING:

**3,883**

YOUTH (UNDER 18)

**3,195**

ADULTS

**427**

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

**3,235**

UNDERSERVED

**115**

ARTISTS EMPLOYED

# Impact & Media

## SUN FOUNDATION FY 2022 IMPACT

From September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022 the Sun Foundation engaged 71,000 people through educational programs, services, publications, broadcasts, performance exhibits, community service organizations, presentations, classes, and workshops.

## WEBSITE

Our website continues to provide an important means for communication with over 16,000 visits in the fiscal year (a 10% increase over 2021), of those, 12,000 were unique visitors (an increase of 11%).

## PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL FOR PROGRAMS

The Sun Foundation designed and produced hard copy and electronic promotional brochures posters and flyers. Program materials were distributed to area community festivals, local businesses, local libraries, local schools and internet links.

## SPECIAL THANKS

A very special thank you to Concentric Design for donating their time and skills to design and maintain our website, and design this annual report, and other promotional material throughout the year.

[www.concentric.design](http://www.concentric.design)



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook continues to be a valuable source of communication for Sun Foundation programs, sponsor acknowledgment, and news.

## ARTS ADVOCACY

As a member of Arts Partners of Peoria and the Association of Fundraising Professionals, the Sun Foundation is an art advocate providing regrating support, employment, and free marketing—through social media and our website—for artists and arts organizations.

# Program Support

## SPRING AWAKENING PROGRAM SUPPORT EVENT

Our Spring Awakening event raised \$3,000 for our programs and was sponsored by Illinois American Water, Janice Zagardo, Gary Long, Thomas Figge, and Peter Managol.



# Partnerships & Funding

The Sun Foundation gratefully acknowledges our partners and supporters.

## SUSTAINING SUPPORT, GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

**Blaine Adams**, CPA, and his firm donated accounting service again this year. **Concentric Design** of Chicago continued their in-kind services as webmaster and graphic designers of program and fundraising promotions.

The Illinois Art Council Agency awarded a \$12,850 operational grant.

## CORPORATE, TRUST & FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIPS

Businesses, corporations, and foundations that have partnered with the Sun Foundation and given support of \$1,000 or more in fiscal year 2022.

- Adams Consulting LLC
- Alvar, Inc
- American Water
- American Water Charitable Foundation
- Blick Art Materials
- Caterpillar Foundation
- Commerce Bancshares Foundation
- David Vaughan Investments, Inc.
- Goodfield Bank
- Hasselberg Grebe Snodgrass Urban & Wentworth
- Illinois Valley Yacht Club

- Ivy Boating Foundation, LTD
- Kansas City Southern Matching Gifts Fund
- Living Lands & Waters
- Nature's Haven
- Network For Good
- Rex & Nelle Jackson Foundation
- Root Bros MFG & Supply Co.
- Rucker Family Charitable Trust

## INDIVIDUAL PARTNERSHIPS

- John & Sharon Amdall
- Terry Belcher
- Bridget Burke
- Michael Coffman
- Robert Ericksen & Joan Root Ericksen
- Thomas Frigge
- Roger & Jane Gabrielse
- Joe Gehrig
- Dr. Erika & Ronald Grimm
- Mary Jane Johnson
- Michael & Mary Jane Johnson
- Lionel & Vilma Kinney
- Michael Krause
- Douglas & Eileen Leunig
- James & Lynn Limanowski
- Dina Lunken D.D.S, P.C.
- Angela Madison
- Laurel & Henry Maze

- Grayce & Neal Mesner
- John Polillo
- Nancy Rakoff
- Steven Shostrom & Joy Kessler
- David Trachtenberg & Joyce Blumenshine
- James & Katharine Weber
- Richard W & Karen Zuckerman

## GRANTS AWARDED

- Ameren Illinois
- American Water Charitable Foundation
- American Water Environmental Grant Program
- Illinois Arts Council
- Maggie Bertram Foundation
- Miles C. Hauter Foundation
- Peoria Academy of Science
- Ruby Worner Trust For Charities

## IN-KIND DONATIONS

In-kind donations amounting to \$63,362 came from local businesses, service groups, and individuals to make the FY 2022 Sun Foundation programming and events possible.

# Partnerships & Funding, cont.

## VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Special thanks to:

- **Sharon Obery**, Art and Science in the Woods volunteer coordinator
- **Dominique Kreie**, camp auction lead
- **Libby Verkuilen, Jennifer Lindstrom** and **Shari Malson**, camp volunteer staff
- **Karen Zuckerman**, Clean Water Celebration volunteer coordinator
- **David Marshall**, Community Arts Access committee chair
- **Brett Root Ericksen** and **Laura Sandall**, Spring Awakening benefit leads
- **Bob Kreie**, trail lead

## VOLUNTEERS

Over 200 people volunteered to support programs in 2022.

Community members gave their talents and time to serve on the Sun Foundation Board of Directors, serve on program committees, help at fund-raising events, facility maintenance, 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 such significant and long standing support for the mission of the Sun Foundation.

## ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL

The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, awarded the Sun Foundation \$12,850 for

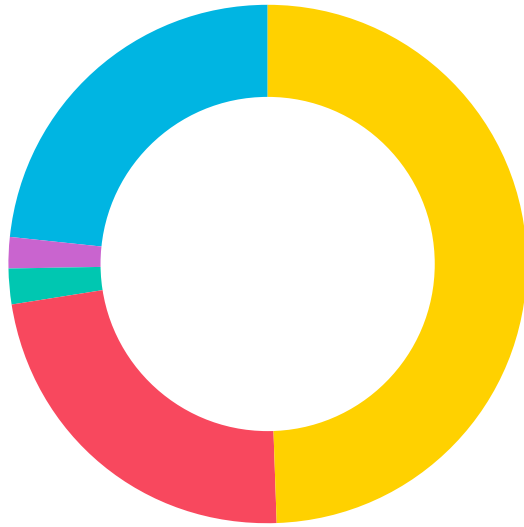


operations and program support, \$10,000 for regranting through Community Art Access Grants to Marshall, Woodford, Stark and Bureau counties.



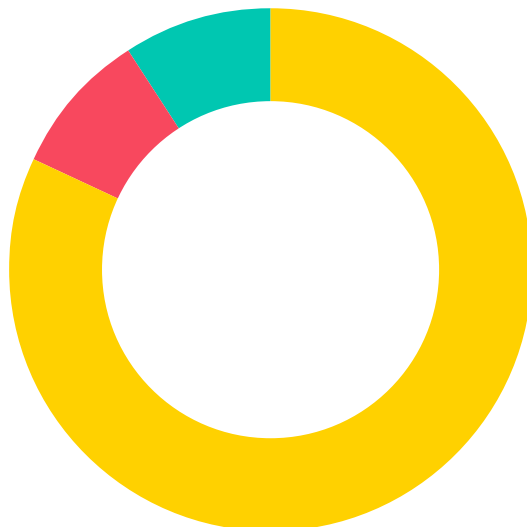
# Financials

## Income



Income Sources	\$245,944	
Contributions	\$91,959	37%
Grant Income for Operations	\$87,145	35%
Interest & Other Income	\$(5,045)	-1%
Program Event Fundraising	\$5,031	2%
Program Service Revenue	\$66,854	27%

## Expenses



Expenditures	\$292,047	
Programs	\$228,910	78%
Program Fundraising	\$30,361	11%
General Administration	\$32,776	11%

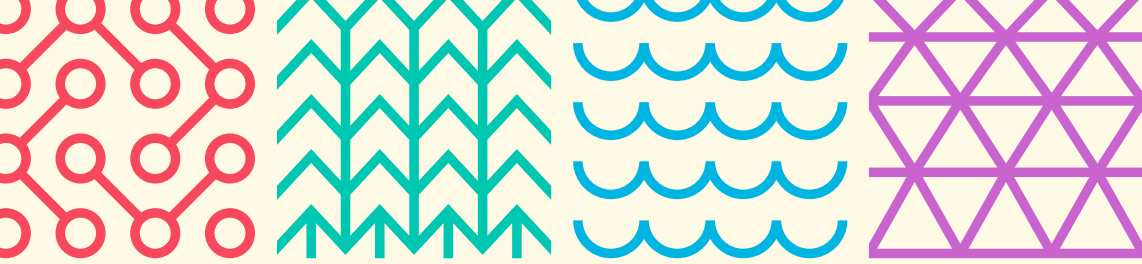
*We received \$32,857 in PPP loans in 2020 that were forgiven in 2021.*

# Donors

Thank you to our individual and organizational donors during our 2022 fiscal year! We couldn't impact our community in the same way without you.

AAA CERTIFIED	DEMANES ANIMAL HOSPITAL	JOHNSON, MARY JANE	MORRIS, ANAMARIE	SALMON, KIMBERLY & JON
ADAMS CONSULTING LLC	DERUBEIS, BECKY	JOHNSTON, DEAN	MORRISSETTE, JAMES	SCHMEISER, BENJAMIN
ADAMS, LAURE	DEVINE, SUE	JONES, ANTHONY	MUIR, ROBERT	SCHMITT, ROBERT
ALDRIDGE, NANCY	DINA LUNKEN D.D.S, P.C.	JONES, TERRY	MYERS, DEB	SCHWASS, LORRAINE
ALVAR	DIVAN, GAIL	JOY, CHERYL	NATURA HAVEN	SHOSTROM, STEVE
AMAZON SMILE FOUNDATION	DIVAN, TRACY	JP	NETWORK FOR GOOD	SLYVAN, JACK
AMDALL, JOHN & SHARON	DOYLE, TIM	JUNE, LAURA	NICHOLS VET CLINIC	SMITH, CHRISTY
AMEREN ILLINOIS	DRAPER, JEREMIE	KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN	O'CONNOR, DIANA	ST. JOHN, PHILIP
AMERICAN WATER	DUBOIS, MARK	KCKEE, AMY	O'HARE, JOAN	STAFF OF LIFE
ANDERSON, JESSICA	EASTMAN, SARAH	KEMP, JANET	PARISI, ROSE	SULLIVAN, TIM & BETH
ANONYMOUS	ELBERT, GAIL	KENNEL, DAVID	PARSONS, JEANETTE	SWAGER, EUGENE & HARRIETTE
ATHERTON, SUSAN	ERICKSEN, DEAN	KING, CHERYL	PASTUCHA, ANN	SWAGER, HARRIETT
BAKEWELL, JANET & ROBERT	ERICKSEN, JOAN	KING, OBA	PASTUCHA, KATE	SWEENEY, DONNA
BARBARA GLICK TRUST	ERWIN, PAT	KINNEY, LIONEL	PENDERGRASS, KIM	THE BENEVITY COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND
BAUTER, BRUCE & SUSAN	FEHRENBACHER, MARY KAY	KOLMER, JOHN	PEORIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE	THE MILES C. HAUTER FOUNDATION
BELCHER, TERRY	FENNER, PETER & JEN	KRAUSE, MIKE	PHILLIPS, YORK	THIEMANN, BRUCE
BENNETT, KEVIN	FIGGE, THOMAS	KREIE, BOB & DOMINIQUE	PIERCE, DEBORAH	TREASURER OF IL
BERJOHN, HAROLD	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF LACON	KROGER	PIERSON, ASHLEY	TURCOT, HEIDI
BERMKE, STEPHANIE	FLEMING, THEODORE	LEIKEN, LARRY & GAIL	PILAT, THOMAS	VELLING, SCOTT
BLACKBAUD GIVING FUND	FORD & MAYNARD AGENCY	LEMAN, CINDY	POIGNANT, MARY	VILLAGE OF HENNEPIN
BLICK ART MATERIALS	FRICTH HEATING AND COOLING	LEUNIG, EILEEN & DOUG	POLILLO, JOHN	VONACHEN, AMELIA
BODTKE, THOMAS	GABRIELSE, JANE & ROGER	LEVESQUE, CHARLES	QUINN, DEBORAH	WALK, SHEILA
BOLLWINKLE, CHRISTINE	GALENA ROAD GRAVEL, INC.	LEVIN, JULIE	RA KIEFER	WEBER, BRIAN & CAROL
BOSSINGHAM, ROY	GEHRIG, LINDA	LIED, MICHAEL	RABJOHNS, RON	WEBER, DONNA
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BROCKMAN, MARLENE	GOFORTH, TODD	LINDSTROM, BILLIE	RAKOFF, NANCY	WHITE, DEBRA
BROCKMAN, TERESA	GRIMM, RON & ERIKA	LIVINGSTON, JASON	RANDALL, CONNIE	WHITE, WILLIAM
BROWN, DELORES	GUDAT, LORI	LONG, GARY	RAPPUHN, DAVID	WICKWIRE, KIM
BUCKLEY CHARITABLE FUND	GULLEY, MIKE	LUKICH, JANICE	RAPPUHN, DAVID & TINA	WILCOXEN, DAVID
BUFFINGTON, GREGORY	GUTGESELL, MARGARET	MADISON, ANGIE	RAUH, GLENN	WILCOXEN, TRAVIS
BURKE, BRIDGET	HALEY, GERALD	MAGGIE BERTRAM FOUNDATION	RAUH, SHARON	WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED
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CHARITIES AID FOUNDATION	HOLMES, DOUG	MATTERN, COLLEEN	RITSCHER, TOM & DEB	WINE, LEO
COFFMAN, MICHAEL	HOLMES, RAMONDA	MAZE, LAUREL	ROGAL, JENNI	WINKLER, JOANNE
CORNERSTONE FAMILY	ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL	MAZE, NANCY	ROGER R CUNNINGHAM TRUST	WOLFFE, ROBERT
COTTON, KAREN	IVY BOATING FOUNDATION LTD.	MCGINN, NANCY	ROGERS, LANCE	WOSIK, JOHN
COVID-19 RELIEF FUND	J DRAPER GLASS	MCSHERRY, JANICE	ROH, ZACH	ZAGARDO, JANICE
CUSACK, LEANNE	JACOB, JOHN	MEAD, NORMA	ROME INDUSTRIES	ZOBRIST, SUE
DAMRON, JESSICA	JACOB, MICHAEL	MICHANICOU, ALEX & ANN	ROOT BROS MFG & SUPPLY	ZUCKERMAN, RICHARD & KAREN
DAY, DEBBIE	JENNETTEN, PETER	MILTON, JOSEPH	ROWLEY, MARY JO & JAY	
DE RUBEIS INSURANCE AGENCY INC.	JOCKISCH, ELIZABETH	MOON, MARGARET	RUBY K WORNER TRUST	
DEHAAN, BYRON	JOHNSON, MAGGIE	MOORE FAMILY CHARITABLE FUND	RUSK, NICOLE	
DEHAAN, NANCY		MOORE, HEIDI & RICH		
DELOS SANTOS, AMANDA				





*Advancing the  
Environmental Sciences  
and the Arts*

**SUN FOUNDATION**

[sunfoundation.org](https://sunfoundation.org)