



Marion Institute

2012 Annual Report



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Marion Institute Team



2012 Americorps Team

The Marion Institute is a non-profit that acts as an incubator for a diverse array of programs and serendipity projects that seek to find a solution to the root cause of an issue, in the realms of sustainability and social justice.

From Michael Baldwin, *President and Co-Founder*

The thing that always impresses me about the Marion Institute is the way we evolve, grow and LEARN. There is never a problem with stasis, or stagnancy. (Even with something that's about to be "repeated" a ninth time: Connecting for Change on October 25 – 27th, 2013.) The reviewing and thinking over past conferences, the tweaking, always in an attempt to improve, and also to search out keynotes and workshop leaders who are cutting edge and who provide information in areas that are deepening the ongoing discussion with new revelations and discoveries. A process that is never ending, staggeringly complex and time consuming, but so exciting and necessary!

This applies to our ongoing work in all of our initiatives: does our work in its various manifestations still have meaning and applicability to help effect change, and generate meaningful awareness? Where should we explore to bring even more potency to what we do and what we share? The most recent endeavor is the purchase of Round the Bend Farm, nearly 40 acres in South Dartmouth, just south of New Bedford, to create the Center for Restorative Community. The farm is where we can now demonstrate to the community and hopefully so many others from farther afield, the skill sets related to farming, which are of course multifaceted. The farm is all about recreating community, with abundant sharing, collaboration and partnering connotations, which is vital for our future survival. The farm will host interns, visiting school children as well as experts to teach workshops. It is our intent to be an incubator for entrepreneurial endeavors that result in small but viable businesses related to farming.

In addition, we are now doing exploratory work, with respect to creating a biological medicine clinic in Southeast Massachusetts, something that is sorely needed in our area. This is just in the embryonic stage, although we are confident it will lead to a successful operation in the not too distant future.

So, we continue to challenge what we do, how we do it and how we can improve and expand our reach. We are always furthering our passion by seeking new ways to help ourselves and others to make our world a healthier and more sustainable environment.

"I believe the work that the Marion Institute does to expand our consciousness, to help us experience on an even more regular basis what it means to "Be One," to be deeply interconnected, to help us develop new stories, that work will bring kindness more steadily and sternly into our human behavior."

Richmond Mayo-Smith,
Associate Board Member



From Desa Van Laarhoven, *Executive Director*

The Marion Institute's mantra is root cause solutions and diversity is one of nature's best root cause solutions. I believe that the Marion Institute is well-rounded and resilient because we support a diverse array of programs and serendipity projects that strengthen our portfolio and our work in eight countries.

As a member of a multiracial family, I can attest to the strength of diversity in addressing challenges. It is my belief that a round table, with people from all different races, classes, ages, and walks of life, when faced with a challenge, can create a solution that is sound, vibrant and robust, only if we are able to truly listen deeply, and value our differences and diversity. The key is to create a round table, invite people to sit at it, put our assumptions aside and listen deeply to each other, without judgment. Only then will the most resilient solutions emerge. This is what we try to embody at the Marion Institute.

As our symbolic logo suggests, "the circle represents the whole whose power is increased as the group expands," we are striving to build bridges, break down boundaries and welcome people to our round table.

It is my deepest wish that humanity, instead of fearing differences, will cherish our diversity, and therefore be resilient. One of the Marion Institute's best example of the strength of diversity is Connecting for Change (CFC), a solutions based conference. In its ninth year, CFC is our culminating event, welcoming a truly diverse audience to be part of a movement to heal our world. By integrating the essential topics of food and farming, health and healing, green business, indigenous knowledge, environmental and social justice, women and youth empowerment, spirituality and sustainability, CFC serves as the catalyst that sparks connections and innovation across social lines.

This year has been an incredibly powerful year for the Marion Institute and thank you, supporters, for all that you give to create root cause solutions. As you flip through these pages, I hope you are touched by breadth and depth of work that you have contributed to over the year.



Vaccinium tenellum (Blueberry)

BIOLOGICAL MEDICINE NETWORK

Biological medicine takes a holistic approach to health and wellness that allows the human body to maximize its own innate healing powers. It assesses the body's entire combination of physical, emotional and spiritual factors and tries to identify which combination of these factors may cause the body to be out of balance. The Biological Medicine Network (BMN) is working to advance biological medicine by providing education and increasing the accessibility and availability of biological medicine in North America.

"I had a name, I was seen, heard, understood, and trusted! I was deeply, compassionately, and truly cared for and about, and dare I say Loved as an individual, as a human being. In their heart of hearts they wanted to do everything in their power to save, repair, restore, and rejuvenate my life."

Mario Campanaro,
Paracelsus Clinic patient, Switzerland

BMN is supporting patients, healthcare practitioners and the general public through educational trainings, free public lectures, informational gatherings, a large online presence, and patient referrals. In 2012, two seminars were held in New Bedford, MA and drew in hundreds of attendees.

The expansion and development of biological medicine is bearing fruit in the United States. We are very happy to announce our collaborative efforts resulted in the opening of the The American Center for Biological Medicine in Scottsdale, Arizona. This new clinic is dedicated to helping individuals attain their personal health and life goals. The innovative testing and treatments offered at biological medicine clinics correct the imbalances that compromise health and performance. This new clinic will be offering some of the most comprehensive biological medicine assessment and treatment programs in the United States.

BMN is committed to fostering sustained dialogue and collaborative relationships. Our goal at BMN has always been and continues to be, educating people about and spreading the principles of health and healing through biological medicine.

[WWW.MARIONINSTITUTE.ORG/
BIOLOGICAL-MEDICINE-NETWORK](http://WWW.MARIONINSTITUTE.ORG/BIOLOGICAL-MEDICINE-NETWORK)

CAMBODIAN LIVING ARTS



Traditional Cambodian Performances



Cambodian Living Arts (CLA) was founded in 1998 by Arn Chorn-Pond, a genocide survivor and former child soldier, to revive traditional performing arts. He started by seeking out surviving Master Artists and working with them to create classes to transmit their knowledge to the younger generation. Since becoming a program of the Marion Institute in 2009, CLA has grown its program tremendously. After 15 years of work, CLA has expanded its mission to include building the capacity of future leaders in the arts and being a catalyst for the national arts sector, moving towards Arn's dream of a Cambodia blossoming with peace and creativity.

CLA has three core programs:

1. The Community Arts Education Program provides high-quality, traditional performing arts classes to over 500 students in nine provinces in Cambodia, and works with communities to independently sustain these classes. Demonstrations raise awareness and encourage people to learn these art forms.
2. The Capacity Building Program provides 20 scholarships annually to art students who wish to increase their skills as artists or arts professionals.
3. Creative Industries Program stages traditional Cambodian arts performances providing 120 artists, technicians and managers with regular, well-paid work and valuable experience.

In addition to our Core Programs, we take on special projects, including:

Season of Cambodia, an arts and cultural festival that brought 125 Cambodian Artists to present in some of New York City's most prestigious venues in April/May 2013.

The Cambodian Youth Arts Festival, a bi-annual event that brings together emerging artists and youth in Cambodia to present and raise awareness about the arts.

The **"TlaiTno"** or **Dignity Association**, a collaborative program for art school graduates.

[WWW.MARIONINSTITUTE.ORG/
CAMBODIAN-LIVING-ARTS](http://WWW.MARIONINSTITUTE.ORG/CAMBODIAN-LIVING-ARTS)

"I wish to see Cambodia blossom with peace and creativity. I want to see all Khmer children have the chance to know their culture, to live it, and to make it richer."

Arn Chorn-Pond, Founder of Cambodian Living Arts, and subject of the award-winning book, *Never Fall Down*

CONNECTING FOR CHANGE

The Connecting for Change Conference (CFC) is a three-day, **solutions-based** gathering that brings together a diverse audience to create deep and positive change in our communities. As a result of environmental degradation, climate change, population growth and our ever-increasing demands for energy—we face enormous economic, environmental and social challenges.

For the past seven years, these solutions, based on nature's principles, have been shared at Connecting for Change. We have brought together scientists, business leaders, educators, students, community leaders and concerned citizens to think about our world, what is happening to it and how together, we can be a positive force for change.

In past years, Robert F. Kennedy, Vandana Shiva, Van Jones, Satish Kumar, Paul Hawken, Laurie David, Bill McKibben, David Orr, Janine Benyus, Diane Wilson, Annie Leonard, Seth Goldman, Greg Mortenson and Amy Goodman have graced the main stage as keynote speakers.

Each year, the conference grows in attendance and impact. The Youth Initiative continues to expand and now has an active Youth Committee comprised of twelve members, hailing mostly from New Bedford. The committee is playing a role in the program implementation of the conference including outreach and public speaking.

Scholarships were awarded to almost 1,000 participants at last year's conference. More entry points for the public than ever before included a public farmers' market, engaging exhibitor halls, free live music performances and art installations. The conference develops each year around the growing needs of our community, our world and ourselves.

WWW.CONNECTINGFORCHANGE.ORG

Past Keynotes



Amy Goodman
Investigative Reporter and Host of Democracy Now 2011



Paul Hawken
Environmentalist, Journalist, Entrepreneur, and Author 2006, 2009



Van Jones
Pioneer in Human Rights and the Clean Energy Economy 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010



Satish Kumar
Activist and Editor of Resurgence & Ecologist 2011



Annie Leonard
Author and Host of The Story of Stuff 2010



Bill McKibben
Environmentalist and Writer, Founder of 350.org 2007, 2012



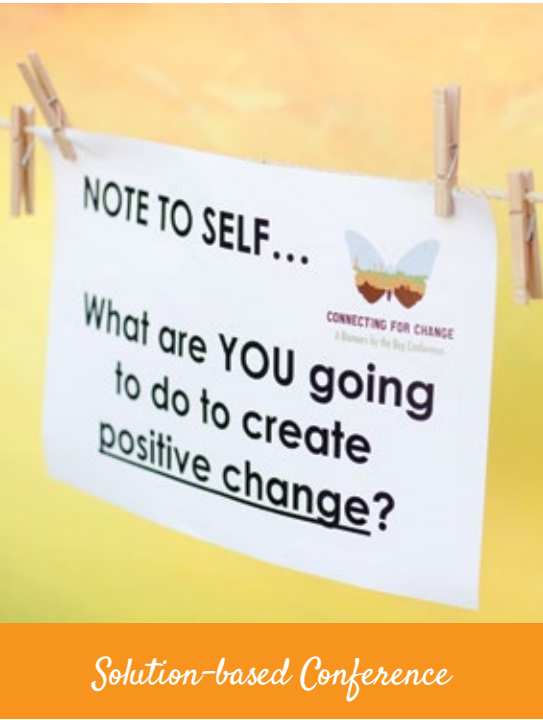
Vandana Shiva
Environmental Activist and Anti-globalization Author 2009



Diane Wilson
Environmental Activist, Anti-war Activist and Author 2007, 2010



Local Lunch at Connecting for Change



Solution-based Conference

“A wonderful experience. I feel empowered by group mentality, very hopeful, extremely motivated, and optimistic.”
- CFC Workshop Presenter



Birds of Prey Demonstration

“Truly exhilarating and a much needed dose of reality for a community moving forward as we are!”
- CFC Attendee

SHAPE-SHIFTING: Five-Pointed Star

Through the shape-shifting lens of sea water we only see the top side of a starfish, and we are awed by how it eyelessly seems to see and glide across the bottom of the tide pool. As much as anything else may be, it is the image of the shape-shifting regenerative five-fingered hand of What created it, you, me.

Though it does not twinkle as it dines on, lives on dead fish and opens, eats mussels, oysters in the shallows, today we should make a wish upon it anyway, for it, for all of us, and our deep, life-giving, ever-surface-changing, salty, liquid Common Source, our ocean, by way of something good for our consciousness, good for our souls: a Connecting For Change

Bioneers Sunday pilgrimage, not just to this venue, but also in person to the beach at our own nearby scenic bay to look for, connect with the seemingly shimmering starfish and other mundane miracles among its shoals.

Everett Hoagland, New Bedford Poet Laureate, 2012

FUTURE PRIMITIVE

Future Primitive is a podcasting website that presents intimate conversations with authors, visionaries and innovators from around the world. The Future Primitive podcasts are dedicated to assisting people in participating in the shift that is occurring at this moment in our way of life. We as human beings are experiencing a renaissance of awareness that is taking place as we dream it together. We invite dreamers and activists to articulate their vision of the future rooted in a respectful understanding of the past.

Dedicated to the preservation of oral traditions and emergent communities in a planet-friendly future, Future Primitive features a range of recorded material and podcasts. Special interviews have included: Charles Eisentstein, a teacher, speaker, and writer focusing on themes of civilization, consciousness, money, and human cultural evolution; Joan Halifax a Zen Buddhist Roshi, anthropologist, ecologist, civil rights activist, hospice caregiver, and the author of several books on Buddhism

and Spirituality; and Evelin Gerda Lindner, a transdisciplinary scholar in social sciences and humanities.

Joanna Harcourt-Smith, Program Leader, has a unique and incredible interview style and focuses on asking heartfelt questions and deeply listening. Joanna has built a solid following of over 10,000 podcast listeners per month. Future Primitive adds yet another dimension to the Marion Institute's commitment to networking in the global perspective. Future Primitive continues to have an ever broadening reach across most of the world; we now enjoy an audience in 144 countries!

WWW.FUTUREPRIMITIVE.ORG

"I appreciate the guests you have on your show, your incredible warmth and positivity, and the overall sense of love and wonder throughout. I find your voice to be such a comfort."

Sara, Future Primitive Listener



Joanna Harcourt-Smith, Program Leader



New Bedford Student Gardener

GROW EDUCATION

Three years ago, through a garden club and a pilot program designed to bring "real food" (fresh fruits and vegetables) into the 1st grade classrooms in New Bedford, a program was born. The pilot exposed some of the challenges many youth and families in New Bedford face on a daily basis and showed how nutrition and food education connect to it all.

Grow Education (Grow) serves as a collaborative effort with the New Bedford, Massachusetts public school district and offers teachers the opportunity to engage on a deeper level with community organizations and each other. Our goal is to connect teachers to community support systems and resources, empowering them to increase nutrition and sustainability education initiatives in their classrooms. Through the creation of school-based gardens, we hope to increase accessibility to locally grown food for teachers, their students and the New Bedford community.

School by school, teachers are empowered to educate their students about food and nutrition. Grow is working to put together a team of facilitators to deliver trainings to top performing teachers in each school in the New Bedford Public School district. Trainings will include tools and curriculum specific to New Bedford, and informational packets on bringing food to the classrooms for teachers. Each toolkit and curriculum resource will be available online for community accessibility. Models entice families to become actively engaged in their children's education and school community. We will make the vibrant culture represented in the region come alive through family activities revolving around food; a critical resource that connects us all.

WWW.MARIONINSTITUTE.ORG/PROGRAMS/GROW-EDUCATION

P.O.W.E.R.

P.O.W.E.R. – People Organizing for Wealth and Ecological Restoration is a core partner for the City of New Bedford's New Bedford Energy Now! program (NBEN). The program is comprised of over 20 partner organizations and businesses who work together to maximize energy-saving opportunities for New Bedford residents. Three programs are available under the umbrella of NBEN: NB Efficiency Now!, NB Solar Now! and NB Challenge Now!. The objective is to create a simplified process for residents and business owners to leverage energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities through a single entry point. The program has three main goals – to save residents money, to reduce carbon emissions and to create local jobs. P.O.W.E.R. is the lead partner on energy efficiency, outreach strategy and data management.

P.O.W.E.R. has also trained 14 community partners in energy efficiency outreach, including the Immigrant's Assistant Center, Cape Verdean Association, the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce, local churches, youth groups, and neighborhood associations. These partners offer a wide range of outreach support, from translation services, creating multi-media educational materials and engaging residents through trusted relationships.

P.O.W.E.R. presents Spiritual Warriorship

Sneak Peek

INTO 2013...OUR NEWEST PROGRAM

Round the Bend Farm, a Center for Restorative Community, located in the SouthCoast region of Massachusetts, is a working farm and soon to be learning center. The farm seeks to localize culture, work, and wealth by exposing individuals to the basic tenets of sustainability: resiliency, zero-waste design and diversity. The vision is a community of growers, educators and social entrepreneurs, who support themselves through food and farming businesses and nurture the public with real food and place-based education. Round the Bend Farm will also serve to build community capacity by re-skilling through inclusive classes, workshops, and apprenticeships that build the skills needed to transition to a localized economy.

This program strives to address the root causes of the multiple

crises of climate, energy and food insecurity on both a global and local level. It has been made possible by a very generous contribution from ongoing Marion Institute supporters **Duncan and Ellen McFarland**. The farm property – which includes 39 acres, a farmhouse and barn – was officially purchased by the Marion Institute in May 2013. While we are still in the planning and visionary stages of designing the learning center that will serve the local community by hosting events, workshops and apprenticeships, local entrepreneurs are already using the land to grow vegetables and raise animals for local restaurants.

This program truly represents the Marion Institute's goal to implement root-cause solutions as well as continued commitment to the SouthCoast region of Massachusetts.



SERENDIPITY PROJECTS



CREATIVE LIVES

Creative Lives brings new tools for unleashing human potential to educators and a holistic approach to developing curriculum for our youth. Public schools are one of our greatest resources for transforming national well-being. Healthy school communities will make vital contributions to our collective future, yielding new music, art, science, and more collaborative leadership. Creative Lives emphasizes an experiential, individualized approach that integrates the creative and contemplative arts with academic learning based on the work of Ellen Tadd, Serendipity Project leader of The Wisdom of the Chakras. This year, the pilot programs served hundreds of students and teachers in a variety of settings in New England through direct programming for youth and teaching and parenting workshops.

LAS GAVIOTAS CARBON OFFSET INITIATIVE

Carbon offsets are "credits" for greenhouse gas reductions used to compensate for the emissions of an individual, family or business. The eco-village and research center at Las Gaviotas (located in eastern Colombia, South America) has been offsetting these emissions by sustainably regenerating tropical rainforest for over 20 years. To date, Las Gaviotas has successfully reforested 8,000 hectares (20,000 acres) of fully canopied, poly-culture rain forest. As a result of this success, Las Gaviotas has 144,000 tons of carbon offsets to offer on an annual basis. In addition to reducing greenhouse gases, the

increased rainforest has increased the annual rainfall to the area by 10%, dramatically increased the proliferation of plant species, improved water quality and provided a sustainable living wage economy for the indigenous community.

HIMALAYAN PROJECT

The Himalayan Project encourages the cultural preservation of indigenous people of the Himalayan region, through education, community development, and social outreach. This year they hired a Sherpa community leader to teach a three month course on the Sherpa cultural traditions, including song, dance, storytelling and language, as well as an English teacher, committed to teach two years in the remote village of Chaurikharka, Nepal. Four additional scholarships were given to indigenous children to attend school, in addition to the continuation of twenty-one previously selected students. Sally Hunsdorfer, project leader, conducted a five week trek to distribute polar fleece clothing to a remote area in western Nepal and then lead a group to Tibet on an ecotrip sponsored by the Marion Institute.

I AM SOMEBODY

By building integrated, resilient communities that support young leaders, I Am Somebody! addresses the impact of fear and the legacy of apartheid that continues to fuel challenges such as HIV/AIDS, violence, unemployment and crime in South Africa. Three new interconnected long-term programs were developed this year to create the space for diverse young people,

their families, mentors, and friends to confront their challenges and speak their stories. Specifically, ten young adults took part in the eighteen-month "Young Adult Rites of Passage" program, participating in storytelling workshops, community events, monthly mentorship sessions and two five-day camps. Coming from different cultures and classes, these young people now call themselves family, and together they are rediscovering being loved, being able to cry and remembering to laugh often.

MASTATE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

After three years of planning, designing and constructing the Community Learning and Sharing Center (CLSC) in Mastatal, Mastate Charitable Foundation (MCF) is proud to say that the facility is a few pieces of furniture away from being opened. Having completed the structure, MCF and the community of Mastatal can now shift their focus to filling the space with library materials and organizing workshops and events. It is an exciting time for this small rural community, as local businesses continue to thrive and more attention is brought to this resource-rich region of Costa Rica. For the past eight years, MCF has worked diligently with community members to promote and support opportunities in education, local economic development and environmental conservation. MCF hopes that the CLSC will provide a common space to bring these arenas together and form even stronger community bonds, across genders and generations, in an effort to show what kind of positive impact one small village can have on the world.

S.A.F.E.

S.A.F.E. uses the performing arts and community programs to educate, inspire and deliver social change in Kenya. This year, the project began filming its second feature film, *Ni Sisi*, which examines peace and post-election violence in Kenya. Continuing programs include a water project encouraging water purification in rural Coast Province; the peace program and live performances throughout Coast Province, Nairobi and the Rift Valley; a partnership with McGill University in Canada to address gender-based violence in the context of post-election violence; and the female circumcision abandonment project with the Maasai of the Loita Hills. Because all of S.A.F.E.'s performers come from within operational communities, the teams are considered a familiar, supportive and trustworthy source of information and therefore able to sensitively engage with the audience on otherwise culturally taboo subjects.

TAKTSE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Located in the foothills of the Indian Himalayas, near Gangtok, Sikkim, the mission of Taktse International School is to develop a diverse community of self-motivated students and teachers who have a passion for excellence, inquiry and lifelong learning. This year,

the school built five floors and installed electricity and water in a new building, completing construction on eighty percent of the project. This building will provide housing for teachers and additional boarding students. Several teachers from Sikkim were also hired. Taktse is developing a strategic plan for growth and sustainability while increasing efficiency in organizational structure.

WELCOME HOME

The Welcome Home Project focused on promoting and distributing the documentary film, *The Welcome*, to communities around the country and encouraging a powerful dialogue between veterans and civilians. *The Welcome* has been shown at festivals, therapy conferences, on college campuses and in hundreds of homes. Working with organizations assisting with public outreach, there has also been a nation-wide community centered screening campaign this year; and the film has been screened by native elders in Alaska, elks in Oregon, Chaplains in Kansas, coffee drinkers in Hawaii, yoga practitioners in Florida, and churches and peace groups throughout the country and around the world.

THE WISDOM OF THE CHAKRAS

The Wisdom of the Chakras has developed its online presence and expanded its resources to share

the knowledge of the chakras as a valuable tool for applying spiritual solutions to everyday problems. Ellen Tadd, a teacher and counselor on spiritual potential in everyday life furthered national and international conversations via the web. Ellen knew that the seven ethereal centers of the chakra system represented the different qualities of our nature and that the crown chakra in particular was the main source of happiness or conversely depression. This project reaches a wide audience, providing greater opportunity for *The Wisdom of the Chakras* to help our world at large.

TWO ANGRY MOMS

Continuing with the mission to improve the quality and nutritional content of school food, Two Angry Moms has a free, community-based site where users can meet and network with one another. This online community is both local and global and consists mainly of school food advocates, parents, students, teachers, health professionals and others. In addition to these media tools, in-person face time was spent with advocates working on the local school district level around the country. Two Angry Mom's workshops, webinars, book, movie and panel discussions continue to create incentives for "regular folks" to become advocates and activists in their communities.

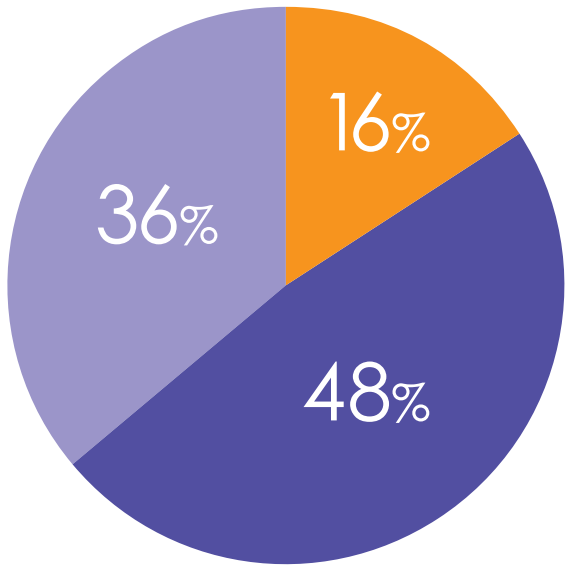


The Wisdom of the Chakras

FINANCIALS

Fiscal Year 2012 (October 1, 2011 - September 30, 2012)

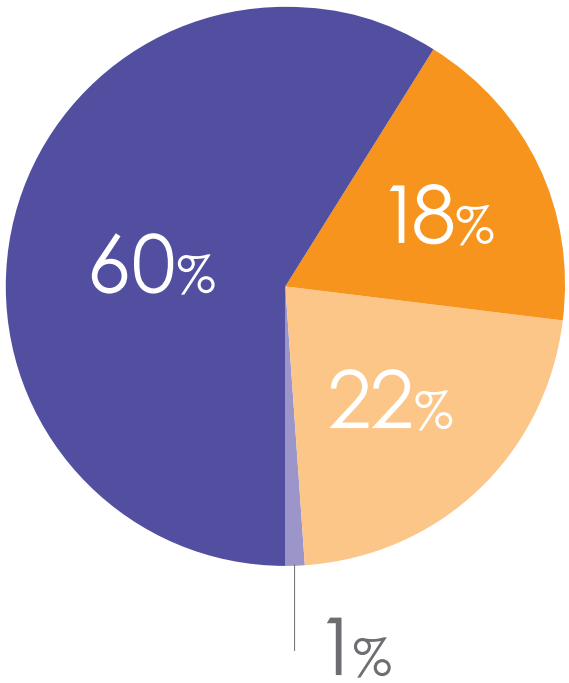
Revenue



- Marion Institute Unrestricted
- Programs
- Serendipity Projects

Marion Institute - Unrestricted	\$926,688
Programs	\$1,209,506
Serendipity Projects	\$405,701
	\$ 2,541,895

Expense



- Programs
- Serendipity Projects
- Administrative/Fundraising
- Other

Programs	\$1,464,218
Serendipity Projects	\$443,102
Administrative/Fundraising	\$532,809
Other	\$13,748
	\$2,453,877

OUR SUPPORTERS

The following donors have given \$500+ to their respective programs.

Biological Medicine Network

Michael & Margie Baldwin
David & Laurie Barrett
Thomas & Jane Barron
Matthew A. Baxter
Steven J. Carini, D.D.S.
Carol W. Casey
Adelaide Park Gomer
Edward Goodman
Roy Halstead
Carole Hunter
Philip & Whitney Long
Peter & Elizabeth Loring
Alexander & Sally Lynch
John Mettler
Kevin Murphy, M.D.
Joseph Portmann
Winthrop & Mary Rutherford
Hans-Jurgan Schwartz, D.D.S.
John & Katherine Stanton
Paul & Christabel Vartanian

Cambodian Living Arts

Gretchen Adkins
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Christina & Charles Bascom
Olivia Bernard
R. Kelley & Walter Bonn
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John C. Broughton
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Anonymous (2)

Connecting For Change

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Creative Lives

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Music Drives Us
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
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Himalayan Project

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Scott & Catherine Webster
Russell & Megan Wiese
Patricia Wydle

GROW Education

Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEAL)
Issa Van Dyk

I Am Somebody !

Christina & Charles Bascom
Jaime Davila
Janet Penn

Los Gaviotas

AnJel Advised Fund of RSF Social Finance
Power Super Foods Australia
Krystyna Jurzykowski

Mastate Charitable Foundation

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P.O.W.E.R

Christina & Charles Bascom
Community Foundation of SE MA
Jennifer & Rupert Grantham
Nancy & Edward Kurtz
Mayor's Community Education Fund
NeighborWorks America
Sustainable SouthCoast/11th Hour Fund
Issa Van Dyk

S.A.F.E.

Cindi B. Crain
John Glaister
Thomas McKitterick
Rozita Shay
Elizabeth Stern

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