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Dear Friends,

Just over a year ago, after our Executive Director Janet Milkman departed for a new position as head of the Barnstable Lands Trust, I took over as interim Executive Director of the Marion Institute. During that time I was able to get a bird’s eye view of the incredible work that our staff puts in every day. No matter what is on the front burner, we work together to get the task done – whether making a connection or moving a project along to the next step. A summary of 2017 would be incomplete without a mention of the individuals who worked together to make it prosperous and productive:

• As Program and Development Director, Robyn Branco (who was promoted to succeed me as ED in January of 2018) tirelessly brought the team together to coordinate programming, oversee funding, and make connections with other nonprofits and organizations to enhance our impact.

• Angela Silva is Director of Finance and Operations and has been with us for over 15 years. In addition to managing all the financial reporting and organizational intricacies of our programs, she has become the keeper of our institutional history and is an invaluable resource for new team members.

• In FY17, our Bioregulatory Medicine Programs flourished with the hiring of Jane Dolan, who heads up both the BioMed Network and the Bioregulatory Medicine Institute. Cheryl Radford, who works in tandem with Jane, supports these pivotal programs. Jane has also taken the lead on coordinating and staffing the new biological medicine clinic in Providence, RI. Construction is underway and we hope to open in late summer or early fall.

(Continued)
Our Organization: Introductions and Salutations

• Grow Education continued to bloom under the passionate leadership of Director, Zoe Hansen-DiBello, who worked with teachers and school leadership to ensure that the gardens remained integral parts of project based learning and community engagement. Grow’s Garden Manager, Adam Davenport, and his green thumbs, worked tirelessly to manage the in-the-garden operations while engaging students and the surrounding community to plant, maintain and harvest the gardens.

• This year, Patti Rego joined as our marketing director and she is a bundle of ideas and energy. How she keeps track of Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and every other type of communication is amazing. She is the “voice” of the Marion Institute – putting out the newsletter, working on events, and promoting the Institute near and far. To meet her in person is to see why she is so good at what she does.

• Nicole Morris-McLaughlin is relatively new to the MI but you wouldn’t guess it with how quickly she has integrated and immersed herself into the work of the Southcoast Energy Challenge and the Greenhouse Initiatives. Whether testifying at the Statehouse on alternative energy for underserved populations to addressing groups in New Bedford on a variety of subjects, Nicole has become a great proponent of our work.

• And last but far from least is Abby Smith who heads up Human Resources and serves as a sounding board and consultant for all facets of the MI. Abby has been a loyal team member, originally working as the assistant to the then – Executive Director, and then managing the biological medicine program before Jane was hired. So she has become a jack of all trades and mistress of many!

I want to thank and commend all of the MI staff for their enthusiasm, energy, and innovative ideas. Many thanks also to my fellow Board members; John Mannix, Orson Watson, Pattie Sullivan, Joan Tiffany, Ryan Wagner, and of course, to Michael who started us on this journey. We are heading into our 25th year (how is that possible?) and look forward to all that is to come. Thank you for being on this journey with us and for your continued support. We look forward to many more years of this rewarding work.

With love and appreciation,

Margie Baldwin

Our Mission: Turning Aspirations into Action

We support people and ideas that encourage growth, cultivate awareness and inspire social change through community-building, global sustainability, holistic medicine, and social justice.
COMMUNITY BUILDING

Definition of:
Community building is a field of practices directed toward the creation or enhancement of community among individuals within a regional area (such as a neighborhood) or with a common interest. It begins with the strength of the community, the extent to which resources and processes within a community maintain and enhance both individual and collective wellbeing in ways. Strengths-based community engagement recognizes that communities have many strengths that can help achieve a wide range of objectives.

MI in Action:
1. Grow Education co-facilitated a series of Community Dinners through participation in the United Way-funded South End Engaged Initiative in New Bedford, MA.

INDIVIDUAL POTENTIAL

Definition of:
A goal of personal development, which covers activities that improve awareness and identity, develop talents and potential, build human capital and facilitate employability, enhance the quality of life and contribute to the realization of dreams and aspirations.

MI in Action:
1. BioMed Programs empower people with knowledge (link to BRMI) and resources (link to BMN) to take an individualistic approach to their health and well-being and promote a medicine centered on increasing the body’s capacity and potential to heal itself; the 2017 BRMI Conference inspired practitioners and laypeople with a 2-day program dedicated to the "science of self-healing.”
2. Connector Series events inspire, educate and engage audiences who have a passion for positive change—within themselves and their community; in FY17, two well-attended events delved into spirituality and individual potential.
Program Pillars/Highlights: Defining Who We are by What We Did in FY17

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

**Definition of:**
A focus on the relationships between people and their environment; promotes human health and well-being; and fosters healthy and safe communities.

**MI in Action:**
1. Grow Education hosted monthly meetups at 5 school-based gardens throughout the summer, providing a way for residents to interact with one another by cultivating and reaping the nutritious benefits of their community garden.
2. Southcoast Energy Challenge participated in local initiatives to explore a 100% sustainable future for the South Coast of Massachusetts, specifically New Bedford, MA where the program does most of its work; SEC focuses on the residential portion, particularly those in the Low-to-Moderate Income bracket.
3. SEC also co-sponsored the Southcoast Positive Energy Exchange, where Southcoast officials joined forces to take on climate change during a forum at UMass Dartmouth.

ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP

**Definition of:**
A means of utilizing organizational strengths and networks to lead or lend support for a cause or issue in order to bring about change and help others; empowering others to achieve a collective set of goals for a progressive future.

**MI in Action:**
1. Connector Series events bring inspirational speakers and groups to the forefront to motivate audiences to action; in 2017, we hosted 2 sold-out events with Temple Grandin, a leader in animal welfare and autism advocacy and one of the first individuals on the autism spectrum to publicly share insights from her personal experience of autism.
2. Southcoast Energy Challenge testified at the Massachusetts State House about the shortcomings of the Mass Save program for Low-Moderate Income residents, non-English speakers and renters.

GLOBAL AWARENESS

**Definition of:**
The understanding of concepts that impact the world; it encompasses, but is not limited to, environmental, social, cultural, political, and economic relations. It is also recognizing the need to explore global issues, transcend deep cultural divides, and engage for change.

**MI in Action:**
1. BioMed Programs work to further the study, application, and acceptance of bioregulatory medicine around the globe; BRMI.online is an online educational forum with content from international sources, furthering discussion and creating connections for practitioners and laypeople around the world.
2. Greenhouse Initiatives create deep and positive change in the world through high-impact non-profits that are working for progress all around the world.
Grow Education continues to build and strengthen family and school partnerships through school-based community gardens with a focus on project-based learning and environmental and social justice.

**SCHOOL-BASED COMMUNITY GARDENS**

This past year, we hosted monthly garden neighborhood meet-ups at five of our Grow Education garden sites. We engaged over 300 residents through these events and engaged the students in summer volunteer opportunities.

Through our planting and harvesting days, we provided experiential learning (process of learning through experience) opportunities for students. We aligned the work at the gardens to grade specific curriculum needs. In addition, students were able to participate in composting and herb spiral workshops.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We were thrilled to have Yveldy Julien, our Americorps team member, join the Grow family for 10 months. During her time with Grow, she expanded our community outreach practices by incorporating multilingual flyers on all of the community boards, tracked engagement around our workshops and plantings and always lent a hand in the gardens.

Grow Education, along with 40 organizations, including fellow non-profits, city departments, businesses and residents, participated in South End Engaged, a collective impact initiative convened and funded by the United Way. The Community Dinner project (series of three) was hosted at Gomes School, which has one of the most widely used Grow Education gardens onsite. Close to 100 neighbors gathered to discuss topics that were pertinent to them and their community. The dinners provided invaluable information that will help inform the South End Engaged group action plan.
Southcoast Energy Challenge: Committed to a Sustainable Southcoast

SOLAR PARTNERSHIPS

SEC recently participated in Mass Solar Connect, a program created by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) to increase the adoption of solar PV systems across Southeastern Massachusetts. With Mass Solar Connect, local homeowners accessed competitive bids—free of charge—for the purchase and installation of solar photovoltaic systems at the best possible prices.

As part of the 2017 program, Self Reliance (a Cape Cod-based non-profit) and the Marion Institute partnered with PickMySolar (an online solar marketplace platform) for a 6-month community outreach initiative, hosting multiple solar information sessions around the Southcoast of Massachusetts.

The final results were 164,315 kW worth of solar capacity installed in the region!

ADVOCATING FOR ENERGY EQUALITY

This past fall, SEC testified in front of the state Energy Efficiency Advisory Council about the shortcomings of the Mass Save program for Low-Moderate Income residents, non-English speakers, and renters.

(Continued)
COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

In FY17, SEC focused on building and deepening relationships with like-minded local organizations to expand its reach and increase the impact of its community outreach efforts.

• Hosted an SEC stakeholder meeting to explore goals, objectives and needs of our community around renewable energy and energy conservation work.

• Partnered with South Coast Neighbors United, 350 Mass, UMD Office of Sustainability & Residential Services, and Coalition for Social Justice to co-sponsor the Southcoast Positive Energy Exchange, where Southcoast officials joined forces to take on climate change during a forum at UMass Dartmouth.

• Participated in meetings with local initiatives to explore the shared goal of powering the city of New Bedford, MA with 100% Renewables. We are focusing on the residential portion of this initiative, particularly renters and homeowners who fall within the Low-to-Moderate Income bracket.
The Connector Series brings thought leaders from around the world to the south coast of Massachusetts to help share ideas and connect with audiences who have a thirst for knowledge and a passion for positive change.

FY17 was officially the inaugural year of the program, completing the transition from the annual multi-day, multi-topic Connecting for Change conference to the year-round schedule of focused, curated events that characterize the Connector Series.

This past year, over 1,000 attendees participated in one of our six hosted or co-sponsored events:

We delved into spirituality and individual potential with two events: “Living in the Real World” with renowned author Mark Booth and “Living in Two Worlds”, again with Mr. Booth, who was joined by international Bestselling Author and Peace Ambassador, Lorna Byrne.

We tackled the topics of food security and farming and explored their impact on our local community; first with a panel-discussion, “We are How we Eat: Lessons from Cuba on building Community through food” and later co-hosting the 2017 Southcoast Food Security Forum with UMass Dartmouth and prominent agricultural organizations to investigate innovative approaches for food security in Southcoast, MA.

(Continued)

We were honored to host a leader in animal welfare and autism advocacy, Temple Grandin, for a pair of sold out events that left a lasting impression on the local community.

We broadened our event format to encourage engagement with our speakers, hosting a series of events on Lyme disease and climate change with respected herbalist and author Brendan Kelly; an evening lecture on his book “The Yin and Yang of Climate Crisis” kicked off the programming and was followed the next day by an eco-medicinal herb walk at the Slocum’s River Reserve in Dartmouth, MA. The walk ended with a “trail to table” luncheon co-sponsored by local eco-preservation group, the Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust (DNRT.)

We will continue to use this platform to bring inspirational speakers and groups with innovative ideas to the forefront. With national and global tensions rising rapidly, we feel, now more than ever, is the time to motivate people of all backgrounds to take action in their communities and in their own lives.
The Marion Institute Bioregulatory Medicine Programs represent a holistic approach to furthering the acceptance and application of biological regulatory (bioregulatory) medicine as an evidence-based, individualistic approach to achieving optimal health and maintaining well-being. Bioregulatory medicine provides the best understanding of the principles and causes of disease by identifying the process and root cause by which the body reacts to chemical, physical, or emotional stress. By focusing on the process and not the disease, this medicine is able to support the individual and the body in its intrinsic capacity and potential to heal itself.

BIOREGULATORY MEDICINE INSTITUTE:
Supporting the Science of Self-Healing

In early 2017, the Bioregulatory Medicine Institute (BRMI) was founded to provide a wider view of spreading the science and art of bioregulatory medicine, and to increase public knowledge. Growth since then has been steady, moving at a rapid pace to meet the need and fill the gap in the medical community.

- BRMI.online, a densely rich educational website, provides commercial free access to content and resources.
- A monthly e-journal delivers original content to subscribers and invites submissions and collaboration from practitioners around the world.
- We hosted our inaugural BRMI Conference in October, Changing Medicine from the Inside: Applying Bioregulatory Medicine to Clinical Practice. The conference hosted nearly 100 participants in Louisville, KY. A 2nd conference is planned for Spring 2018.
BioMed Programs: Advancing Health from a Different Perspective

BIOREGULATORY MEDICINE NETWORK:
Connecting the Science of Self-Healing

This past year marked the 20th anniversary of the Biological Medicine Network (BMN). It continues its mission of advancing the understanding and availability of biological regulatory medicine, now being called bioregulatory medicine (biomed/bioreg for short), for patients, doctors and other health practitioners through clinic access/referrals, financial scholarships, and networking among holistic health providers.

• The total number of internationally-located clinics and practitioners listed currently stands at 73 with more marked growth expected in FY18.

• BMN increased its social engagement on Facebook, resulting in a 23% increase in page likes during FY17.*

• Scholarships were provided to dental and medical clinics in North America with a substantial increase in funding expected in FY18.

*Source: Facebook, October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017

(Continued)
BioMed Programs: Advancing Health from a Different Perspective

BIOMED CENTER OF NEW ENGLAND:
Applying the Science of Self-Healing

The Marion Institute has served as the incubator for the BioMed Center of New England, or the American Center for Bioregulatory Medicine and Dentistry (ACBMD). Once established, ACBMD will be the largest and most complete Biological Medicine center in North America. Offering assessment, treatment, education and service in a state-of-the-art facility, this center is due to open its doors by end of summer 2018.

With a network to connect, an institute to support, and a kindred clinic to apply the science of self-healing, the BioMed Programs are at the forefront in changing the way people view- and practice- medicine.
Over the years, the Marion Institute has had amazing success helping people with ideas get the organizational support they need to grow into strong institutions by providing fiscal sponsorship and administrative backing. These Greenhouse Initiatives represent a diverse array of interest areas and have had lasting impact on individuals and nations.

**THE HIMALAYAN PROJECT**

The Mission of The Himalayan Project (THP) is to encourage the cultural preservation of indigenous people of the Himalaya through education, community development and social outreach.

Over the past 20 years, THP has helped to raise critical support for the development and expansion of The Mahendra Jyoti Higher Secondary School, the only high school in the entire Mt Everest region to offer a degree through Grade 12. With the onslaught of 2 major earthquakes in the spring of 2015 and the destruction of the school, THP has been completely focusing it’s energies on raising the funds for the “Building Back Better” project, a construction effort spearheaded by local leaders within the Sherpa community. Engineers, stone masons, earthquake resistant construction specialists and many random volunteers have been devoting thousands of hours over the past 3 years towards the completion of the “Master Plan” designed by Japanese and Nepali architects. THP is working in collaboration with the Hillary Trust of New Zealand and the Naulekh Foundation of Switzerland. When completed, this school will serve as a model institution for certainly most of Nepal.

THP continues to offer scholarships to support village children whose families cannot support the $400 per year that it costs to send a child to school. Education is not a birthright in Nepal and very often the cost of educating a child goes far beyond a families' means.

(Continued)
THE LAWRENCE ARTS HOUSE

The Lawrence Arts House (also known as LA House) is an expressive arts open studio which serves as a home for authentic expression and healing via the arts. Through our community based arts programming, we offer safe spaces for creative exploration, personal reflection, and growth as individuals and community members. LA House seeks to empower individuals as active agents for change, ultimately supporting the larger growth and development of individuals, families and their communities.

We have had a great year serving the community of Lawrence, MA, through community engagement of the arts and art therapy interventions in several schools, afterschool programs, pop-up studios and public art making projects. LA House served 310 students in both schools and afterschool programs over the past year, and has facilitated some beautiful and impactful art expressions. We also continue to do our signature pop-up studios in the community, as we bring art-making to various settings such as parks, senior centers, libraries, and coffee shops, as well as other community spaces to reinvigorate art-making as a healing tool for self expression.

This year we are planning a cross-cultural trip to Colombia to work with 400 school children to integrate learning around sex trafficking with art expression to create a public art piece. LA house will also be making public art murals in a local community to bring awareness to feminist issues in this community. We look forward to a positive year of healing through the arts in our community and our new community partnerships in Colombia!

MASS IN MOTION AND COASTAL FOODSHED

MiM NB is a Massachusetts Department of Public Health program aimed to affect policy, systems, and environment changes in the areas of healthy eating and active living. In existence for the past 9 years, MiM NB has been making strides to improve the health and well-being of New Bedford.

Coastal Foodshed was formed in an effort to fulfill gaps identified by Mass in Motion New Bedford. As MiM NB grew, it created and managed programs, oftentimes acting as conduits for food access and distribution; operating the New Bedford Farmers Markets and implementing a Subsidized Farm Share program.

Because of MiM NB’s limited capacity and structure, it had been unable to expand its work to continue meeting the community’s need without veering too far off course from Mass in Motion’s original mission. Therefore, in the summer of 2017, Coastal Foodshed was created as a direct response to these barriers. The long-term vision is to create a thriving and vibrant local food economy – promoting opportunity to grow, consume, and distribute healthy, locally produced food.

while engaging and connecting residents, farmers, and institutions alike. Coastal Foodshed is in the process of becoming its own non-profit organization in order to carry-out the food access work of MiM NB, specifically the Farmers Markets, Farm Share programs and now expanding to Farm Stands. The hope is to continue to focus its work in New Bedford and also expand to the Greater New Bedford region.

Through the success of the New Bedford Farmers Markets and recent improvements made, Coastal Foodshed was awarded the highly competitive USDA Farmers Market Promotion Grant for three years to expand marketing and promotion efforts by educating the community on the importance of supporting and eating local fruits and vegetables.

MASTATE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION (MCF)

Another year of hard work, small victories, and considerable challenges has skipped on by as we find ourselves at the end of the calendar again. This year marks 13 years of dedicated and proven work in the rural communities we work in in Costa Rica.

Our strong ties and a willingness to embrace locally-led actions have set the foundation for long-standing, positive change for the hard-working members of our rural districts. Mastatal and its community members are working tirelessly to create a sustainable community model that is increasingly needed through the world.

We are redefining our food production systems, investing in the children of our region, and educating our youth to treat and work with our environment in a way that it provides for us without destroying it.

We remain as committed as ever to the importance of strong communities and progressive education. One of our major focuses in 2017 was the continuing development of our Central American Scholarship Fund.

MCF believes that through this innovative and experiential learning opportunities, we can begin to transform the region and prepare our youth for a more challenging social and environmental reality. We are hopeful that 2018 will not only see growth in our scholarship program, but also mark the unveiling of Mastatal's first farmer and artisan market!

(Continued)
**Greenhouse Initiatives:** Experienced Support. Expanded Impact.

**S.A.F.E.**

S.A.F.E. is an “arts for education” Kenyan NGO, working with some of the most marginalized communities in the country to educate and bring change. S.A.F.E. operates in three locations: Mombasa under SAFE Pwani, The Loita Hills under SAFE Maa, and Samburu under SAFE Samburu. The teams work on a wide range of issues including HIV/AIDS, Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C), the environment, clean water, and countering violent extremism.

SAFE Maa and Samburu work to end FGM/C within their communities. The inspiration behind the campaign was the Maa project manager, Sarah Tenoi. Sarah was cut as a girl and almost died. After this experience, she vowed never to cut her own daughters and wanted to bring an end to the practice. Now, as a result of this campaign, 30% of girls in this region pass into adulthood without being cut.

This year, SAFE Maa is planning to start an ambitious environment program with the goal of conserving half of the remaining Forest of the Lost Child or the Naimina Enkiyio Forest. The forest is disappearing fast due to deforestation to create space for homesteads, grazing and farming. SAFE Maa plans to carry out a mass education program to sensitize the community on the importance of preserving the environment.

**TAKTSE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

The past year has been very fruitful for Taktse International School on many different levels.

**Students & Alumni:**

- A present senior at Taktse, Ngawang Choden Lachungpa, has topped her AS level Cambridge Literature exam in the whole of India. She is the first Taktse student to receive this award and by doing so has put Taktse and Sikkim on the national map for excellence in education.

- Two other Taktse Alums – Sonam Ugay and Kitso Tenzin (now attending ISAK, Japan) have started a program in Bhutan to introduce the love of poetry and math to underserved children.

- Other alumni of Taktse are now studying at Endicott College, St John’s College, Salem State University, St. Lawrence-NY and Jain University and BM Munjal in India continue the steady progression of Taktse graduates who are hungry for education.

(Continued)
Our New School

• The new school building is finally complete adding a beautiful art room, upper school science labs, and spacious rooms for students to study and hold specific subject classes. Upper school (Grades 9-12) are now accommodated almost entirely in the new building, allowing for the expansion of the lower and middle grade classrooms in the old building. It feels great to have so much more space to learn and grow. We are so thankful for the support that made this possible.

• In another key development, Mr Aman Singh, founding project director of Ashoka University (one of India’s first truly excellent liberal arts colleges) worked with Taktse Trustees, the leadership team and other departments at the school to create a structure of governance that has been crafted specifically for Taktse and will be implemented over the upcoming year.

• Finally, Pintso Lauenstein-Denjongpa, former Taktse Principal, is working on creating a mission based governance framework for Taktse activities originating in the USA. We remain grateful for all the support we receive. We welcome all thoughts, questions and feedback and look forward to continuing to innovate and hybridize an excellent and kind education for the future leaders of the Himalayas and the world.
Financials: FY17 By the Numbers

Fiscal Year 2017 (October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017)

**REVENUES**
- Programs $1,490,118
- MI Unrestricted $399,033
- Greenhouse Initiatives $372,933

Total $2,262,084

**EXPENDITURES**
- Programs $1,334,401
- Greenhouse Initiatives $383,410
- Admin/Fundraising/Program Support $251,247

Total $1,969,058
Net $293,026
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