



2023  
GRATITUDE  
REPORT





## Dear Friend of Au Sable,

As Executive Director of Au Sable Institute, I have the opportunity to spend a good amount of time with young people passionate about serving, protecting, and restoring God's earth. They love the things that God loves, and they deserve a place like Au Sable that will support, encourage, and applaud them. They leave Au Sable not only with greater knowledge and skills, but with greater faith, purpose, and hope.

I am incredibly grateful for your support and the unforgettable experiences you have provided to so many students. This 2023 Gratitude Report will show you what your generosity accomplished, reasons to hope for even greater things ahead, and ways you can support our mission.

We remain unashamed about our love of God's earth and will continue to play a unique and important role in advancing God's kingdom.

**THANK YOU for standing with your Au Sable Institute!**

I am grateful.

Jon Terry, Executive Director

P.S. Please consider a year-end gift that enables us to inspire and educate people to serve, protect and restore God's earth. Donate using the enclosed envelope, or [www.ausable.org/donate](http://www.ausable.org/donate).

### DONATE TODAY



### Board of Trustees November 2023

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*Environmental Education  
Coordinator*





Au Sable Trustees left to right: Steven Bouma-Prediger, Robert Ddamulira, Mozhgon Rajae, Emily Wilke, Dale Stephenson, Dean Biggins, Helena Cicero, and Rob Keys. Bethany Laursen and Dave Foster are also current trustees.

# Refreshed Strategic Plan

Au Sable's board of trustees met on our Great Lakes campus in early August. The board reviewed and refreshed our strategic plan and met with students, staff, and faculty.

**OUR MISSION:** Au Sable Institute inspires and educates people to serve, protect, and restore God's earth.

**OUR VISION:** A global community equipped with environmental knowledge, skills, and ethics to faithfully and fearlessly pursue the Christian vision of a flourishing earth, including all things that God has created, cares for, and one day will restore.

## OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

- Advance Mission-Focused Programs
- Steward Our Land and Learning Spaces
- Maintain a Strong and Diverse Team
- Secure Mission-Focused Funding



"I enjoyed every single moment of Au Sable. My friends are tired of hearing about Michigan because of how often I talk about the experience and the way I saw God working during my time there. I am grateful for the diverse perspectives I encountered, the ethical challenges we explored, and the practical experiences that will shape my future endeavors in protecting and preserving our precious natural resources."

– *Marc Ntare, Trinity Western University*



# 2023 College Programming

## Empowering More Students

Our college program offers expert-led environmental field instruction rooted in Christian faith and a supportive community, empowering students to make a meaningful impact in environmental service and stewardship.

There is an increase in demand for our programs, and we are serving more students from more colleges.

In the three years since 2020 (the year we canceled courses due to COVID), we have served an average of 131 students each summer in our college program, a 38% increase over the average annual enrollment in the three years prior to COVID.

For the past three years, an annual average of 40 different colleges and universities have sent students to study at Au Sable, an increase of 18% compared to the three years prior to COVID.



### Students Served Each Year in our College Program

2021-2023 **Average of 131 students each summer**

2017-2019 **Average of 95 students each summer**

### Colleges Served Each Year

2021-2023 **Average of 40**

2017-2019 **Average of 34**

“Au Sable was an amazing way to experience God’s creation while taking field-based classes.”

– Sarah Steffy, Taylor University, who spent all summer on the Great Lakes campus conducting research on the Boardman River and Little Pigeon River





This summer we celebrated 25 years of programming at our Pacific Rim campus on Whidbey Island, WA.



“What a treasure Pacific Rim has been! Thanks be to God for the opportunity and resources to deliver courses on Whidbey Island for the last twenty-five years. I offer blessings to all current and former students. My heart is with the Au Sable Institute, and I pray it continues to flourish in the years to come.”

*-Dr. Cal DeWitt, Au Sable’s first Executive Director*



**134**

**STUDENTS SERVED**



**43**

**COLLEGES REPRESENTED**

Most Ever!



**22**

**IN-PERSON COURSES IN  
THREE LOCATIONS!**

Plus 2 Online Courses!



**\$294,550**

**IN FINANCIAL AID  
PROVIDED**

Thanks to your support!





1

# REYS & Sacred Grounds Community Outreach

Our community outreach initiatives are serving **more** local schools and **more** churches through donor-supported and in-demand programming.





2



3



4

**1** We partner with the National Wildlife Federation to implement Sacred Grounds, a program designed to install native plant gardens at houses of worship. We have worked with 14 houses of worship so far and five new churches are lined up to participate in 2024!

**2** Our Restoration Ecology for Young Students (REYS) program has expanded to now serve 450 5th-grade students at ten northern Michigan schools.

**3** Our pollinator gardens across northern Michigan are thriving! This photo is of a new native plant garden we installed at the Grayling Fish Hatchery in partnership with students from Grayling Middle School.

**4** Josh Hall and Natalie Schnackenberg are serving as Education and Outreach Specialists this fall. Josh is a graduate of Spring Arbor University and Natalie is a graduate of North Greenville University. Both are alumni of Au Sable and love getting their hands dirty in service of God's created world.



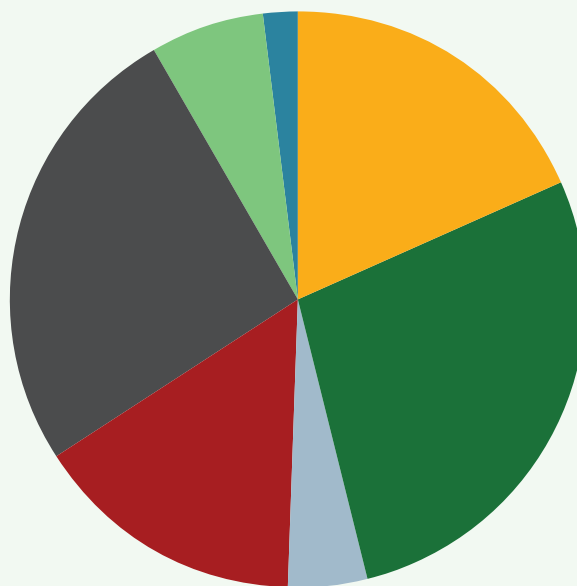
# Financials

FISCAL YEAR: APRIL 1, 2023 TO MARCH 31, 2023

## REVENUE

- Room & Board \$249,680
- Academic Program Income \$378,945
- Sustaining Partner Colleges \$62,000
- Contributions & Gifts \$208,669
- Trust Income & Transfers \$350,000
- Grants \$88,500
- Other Income \$22,741

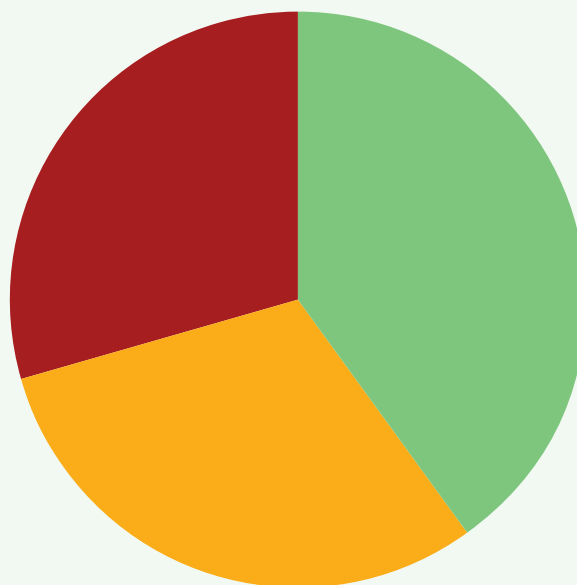
—  
TOTAL REVENUE \$1,360,535



## EXPENSES

- Personnel \$496,085
- Academic Support \$377,217
- Operations \$361,002

—  
TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,234,304



FINAL NET INCOME \$126,231



We are committed to high standards of financial integrity and are accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.





## Individual Donors

Thank you to the following individual donors who gave a gift between April 1, 2022, & March 31, 2023.

### Your support allows us to fulfill our mission!

Nathan & Mayumi Aaberg	Charles & Susan Emmerich	Ben Lowe	Dale & Carol Stephenson
Glenn Aley	Jared & Juliane Evans	Dave Mahan	Shawn Stoskopf
Sandra Andresen	Eric & Rebecca Everman	John Matalavy	John & Tanneke Streefkerk
Kathryn Applegate	Kathleen Fackler	Sarah McCormack	Kenneth Sytsma
Tad Asbury	Frederick Fleischmann	Rhonda Mejeur & Jeff Jackson	Louis Sytsma
Susan Aston	Tony Frank	Kim Melton	Wesley & Abigail Tamkin
Brian & Kelly Aukema	Nathan & Rebecca Friebel	Valerie Metzler	John Taylor
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Norma Bobbitt	Brenda Gordon	Daniel O'Callaghan	Rick Treur
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Terry & Jan Boone	Molly Guillaume	Ivan & Janis Opperman	David Unander
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Dietrich & Thomas, Deena Bouma	Christian T. Hayes	Keith & Mandi Post	Matthew & Marjorie Vanderhill
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John & Emily Brittenham	Rebecca Heidkamp	Janet Pylman	Tricia VanDyk & Benjamin Groenewold
Tonya & Jeff Bronleewe	Erin Hillman	Mozhgong Rajae	David & Rebecca Vandyke
Henry & Jane Brouwer	Marty Holtgren	Jeff Regier	Pamela Veltkamp
Stan & Betty Burden	Joann Homberg	Sarah Richart	Barbara Verduin
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Robert Dykstra	Richard Lindroth	Chuck & Deann Stankey	Grady Zuiderveen
Eric & Carolyn Elder	Jeremy Lloyd	Ralph Stearley	Roger Zylstra
Gary & Sylvia Emberger	Rebecca Loli	Brian Steel	Uko & Jane Zylstra

We strive for accurate record-keeping. If we missed something, please email [celeste@ausable.org](mailto:celeste@ausable.org) so we can correct our database. **Thank you.**



## Other Supporters & Partners

- Antrim County Conservation District
- Bear Lake Association
- Blue Lake Coldsprings Civic Association
- Conservation Resource Alliance
- The Estate of Margaret Elizabeth Brand
- Calvin Institute of Christian Worship
- Caterpillar Foundation
- Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- Conservation Resource Alliance
- Consumers Energy Foundation
- Grand Traverse Conservation District
- Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation
- Greenwood Foundation
- Illinois Tool Works (ITW) – Kalkaska
- Kalkaska Conservation District
- National Wildlife Federation
- Manistee Lake Association
- Rotary of Traverse City
- SKM Foundation
- TransCanada
- Verduin Charitable Foundation
- Worthington Family Foundation

## Tributes

### In Honor of Richard & Mary Walker

- Elodie Crawford

### In Honor of Allison De Jonge

- J. William Peters

### In Honor of Cal DeWitt

- Gary Fick
- Matthew & Marjorie Vanderhill
- James Muller

### In Honor of Dave Mahan

- James Wolfe

### In Honor of Bert Froyland & Memory of Mae Froyland

- Terry & Jan Boone
- Charlene Quint
- Scott Gritter
- Arthur Veltman

### In Honor of Rolf Bouma

- Jesse Turner

### In Honor of Dr. Thomas Lee

- Isabel Lee-Rosson

### In Honor of George Harrison

- Joyce Wood

### In Memory of Bob Stone

- Connie Bass
- Anne Stone
- Ivan & Janis Opperman

### In Memory of Carol Frank

- Tony Frank

### In Memory of Timothy Terry

- Barbara & Cal Verduin
- Robert DeJonge
- Jon & Kristen Terry

### In Memory of Gloria Stearley

- Ralph Stearley

### In Memory of Gibbs, the three-legged dog

- Scott Carr

### In Memory of Norm Andresen

- Sandra Andresen

### In Memory of Chris Asbury

- Tad Asbury

### In Memory of Lynn Drew

- Kelsey Gamble

### In Memory of David Arthur Steel

- Brian Steel

### In Memory of Barbara Wray

- Charlotte Chase
- Jon & Kristen Terry
- Sharon & Bob Harmon
- Ted Wray

### In Memory of Harold Snyder

- Sandra Andresen
- Shawn & Ron Stoskopf
- Garrett Crowe
- Gloria Whelan
- George Harrison

### In Memory of Dan Ippolito

- Bill & Janet Deutsch
- Taylor Marshall

### In Memory of Paul Wiemerslage

- Paul and Jessica Wiemerslage

**In Appreciation of Trish Fagg, Bob and Becky Barr, Harold and Ellen Snyder and the Snyder clan, Dave Mahan, Muriel Reid, John Bratton, Orin Gelderloos, Ken Sytsma, and the many others in the Au Sable family who impacted my life.**

- Lauren Vanagasem Kramer



# Your steadfast support is what keeps Au Sable going!

If our values mirror your own, please reach out to us about building your legacy through a planned gift.

For more information on making a gift to Au Sable, contact **Jon Terry** at **231.881.6402** or **jon.terry@ausable.org**.

## Remembering Dan Ippolito

“Dr. Dan Ippolito inspired hundreds of students to love all of God’s creation, and he never let the underdog believe they were forgotten. His memory will live on through all the lives that he touched. I hope this gift allows one future student to see the wonder of God’s creation in the same way I was able to when I studied under Aqua Dan.”

– *Note from Taylor Marshall, one of Dan’s former students*



**Please consider joining the growing number of churches that support Au Sable!** We would be happy to meet with your missions committee or lead a session on why earthkeeping is an integral part of Christian discipleship.

**Current church supporters include:**

- Christ Church, Grand Rapids, MI
- Mancelona United Methodist Church, Mancelona, MI
- Neland Avenue Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, MI
- Second Christian Reformed Church, Grand Haven, MI
- Watershed Church, Traverse City, MI





**Au Sable Institute**  
*of Environmental Studies*

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Au Sable inspires and educates people to  
serve, protect, and restore God's earth.



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