



Audubon Community Nature Center

The connection begins with you.

Annual Report

October 1, 2020 –
September 30, 2021



Audubon Community Nature Center

2020 – 2021 Annual Report

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2020 – 2021 Volunteer Chairs

<i>Eagle Care Taker</i>	Thom Armella
<i>Fundraising and Development</i>	Linnea Carlson Brittany Wilcox
<i>Garden Committee</i>	Janet Forbes
<i>JEDI Committee</i>	Willow Fodor
<i>Land Use Management</i>	Jane Conroe
<i>Mailing Committee</i>	Leah Bullock
<i>Membership</i>	Sandy Fletcher Linda Trostle
<i>Publicity</i>	Pat Brininger

2020 – 2021 Board Officers

<i>Board Chairman</i>	Andrew Harrington
<i>Vice Chair, Strategic Planning</i>	Greg Lyle
<i>Vice Chair, Development</i>	Dave Burlee
<i>Treasurer</i>	Robert Klebacha
<i>Secretary</i>	Penny Lester

2020 – 2021 Board of Directors (Non-Officers)

Louise Boutwell, Linnea Carlson, Willow Fodor, Beth Hall,
Tim Piotrowski, Tim Smeal, Piper VanOrd, Brittany Wilcox

2020 – 2021 Nature Center Staff

<i>Executive Director</i>	Leigh Rovegno
<i>Administrative Assistant and</i>	Tina Preston
<i>Volunteer Coordinator</i>	
<i>Building and Grounds Manager</i>	Terry LeBaron
<i>Gift Shop and Reception Manager</i>	Joanne Miller
<i>Receptionist</i>	Claire Certo
<i>Education Coordinator</i>	Sarah Hatfield
<i>Senior Nature Educator</i>	Jeff Tome Katie Finch
<i>Nature Educator</i>	Chelsea Jandreau
<i>Designer and Education Assistant</i>	Kim Turner
<i>Education Interns</i>	Grace Anderson Ashely De La Cruz Katerina Farrell Gwen Swanson Charlie T.
<i>Invasive Species Seasonal Assistants</i>	Ray Carlson Courtney Jung



An Introduction to ACNC

Mission

Audubon Community Nature Center builds and nurtures connections between people and nature by providing positive outdoor experiences, opportunities to learn about and understand the natural world, and knowledge to act in environmentally responsible ways.

Vision

ACNC envisions a future where every child within our community has a real and healthy connection to nature.

Message from the Executive Director

The 2020 – 21 fiscal year turned out to be quite the surprise! ACNC's staff, board, and volunteers worked together to stay focused on strategic plan initiatives despite ongoing challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to maintaining a balanced budget, continued community support allowed ACNC to accomplish many things, including:

- The completion of the Pamela A. Westrom Wildlife Habitat building
- A new habitat for Ebenezer the Wood Turtle
- The Creation of the 'ACNC Animal Fund' designated to provide ongoing support for ACNC's Animal Ambassadors
- A full overhaul of ACNC's Land Use Management Plan
- The creation of ACNC's JEDI Committee (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion)
- An updated salary range policy to reflect recent changes to minimum wage

Leading this organization through the last year has been one of my greatest personal and professional challenges.

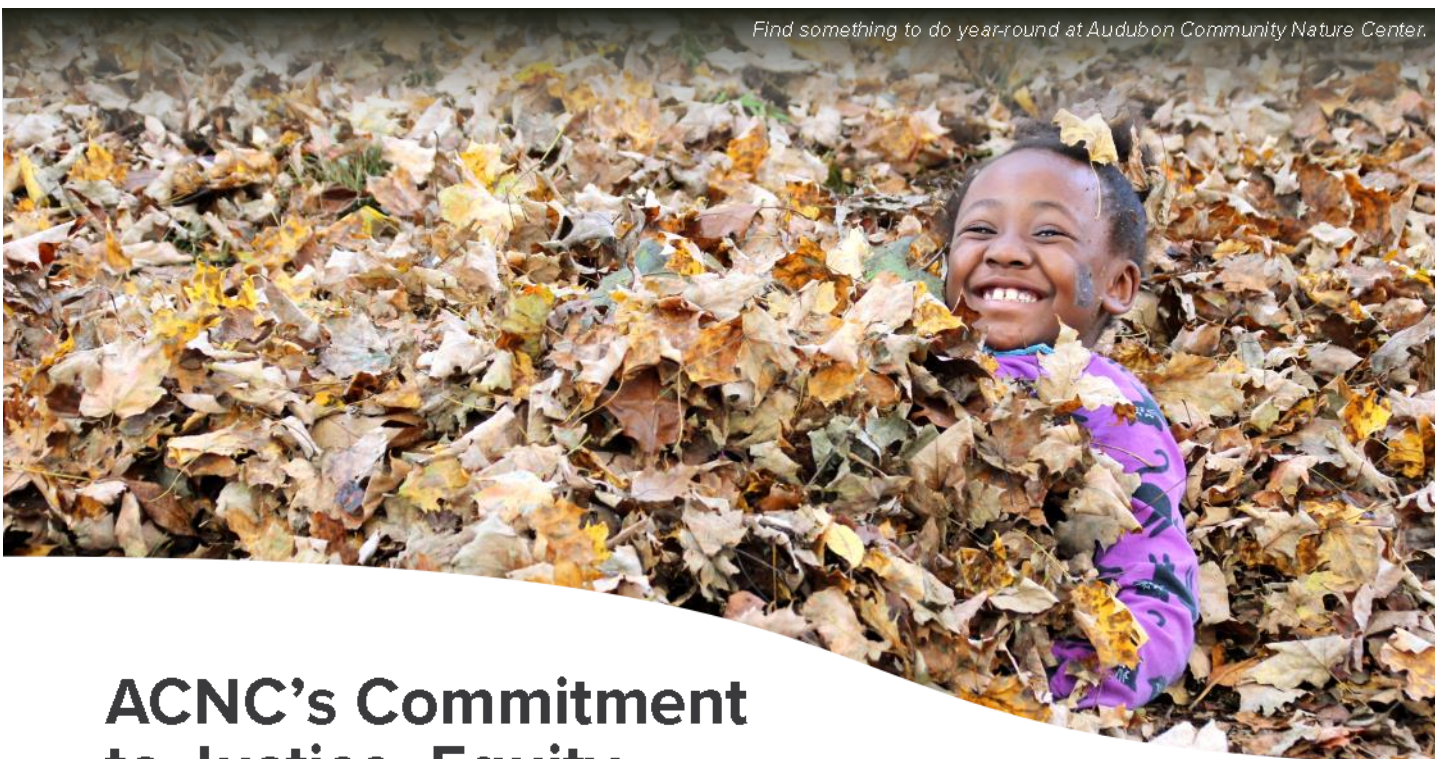
Just when I thought it might not be possible, something would shift, and everything felt possible once again.

Cheers to another year in the books, and kudos to all of us who persevered in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of this great organization.



Leigh J. Rovegno
Executive Director





ACNC's Commitment to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI)

Audubon Community Nature Center recognizes that a healthy ecosystem is defined by its level of biodiversity. Similarly, Audubon believes that the level of diversity within an organization's leadership, staff, and constituency defines its health and overall relevance to the community it serves.

In 2020, Audubon formed a committee which consists of staff, board members, and volunteers who are committed to looking at how Audubon can address issues related to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) both internally and externally as an organization.

Audubon's JEDI Committee recognizes there is much work to be done! The committee has implemented some initial steps including the introduction of free building admission to SNAP/EBT Card Holders. It also finalized its 'Purpose and Commitment' statements which will inform the next strategic planning process beginning in January 2022.

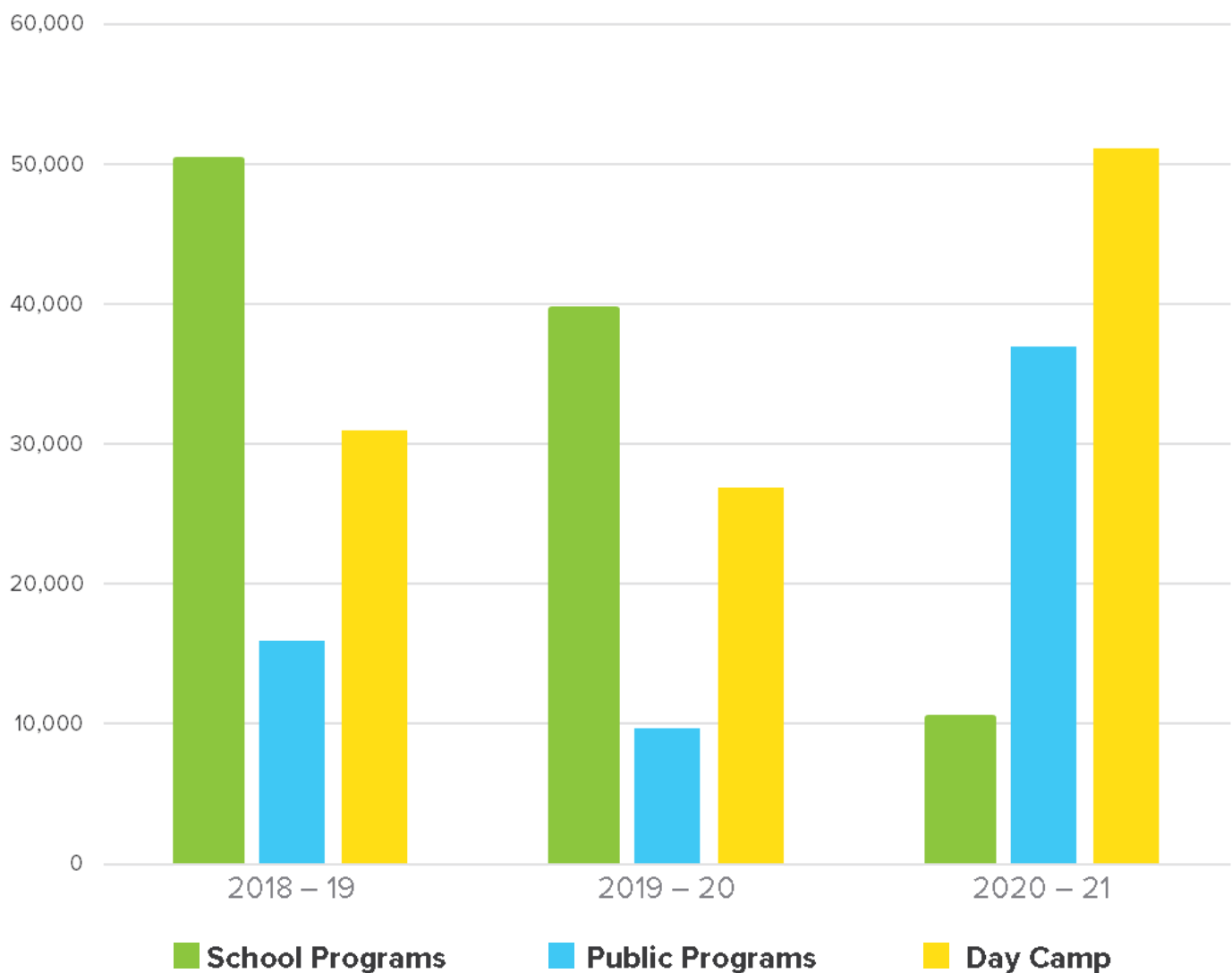
These commitments address all areas of the organization including: culture and human resources, leadership and governance, major financial support, programs and services, buildings and grounds, and principals, policies, and procedures. For ACNC's full list of JEDI Commitments go to: auduboncnc.org/jedi

Education

ACNC's Education Staff continue to adapt programs to meet the needs of both the community and of the organization throughout the pandemic.

The following chart shows the variability in income over the last three years since before the COVID-19 pandemic began. This chart shows that as school programs decreased significantly, onsite programs (such as Day Camp and Nature Schoolhouse) increased. This allowed ACNC educators to continue to fulfill the needs of working parents whose children were only attending school part-time and to bring in income that was necessary to sustain the organization.

Education Program Income through August





Day Camp

The 2020 – 21 Summer Day Camp season was Audubon's most successful yet. Over the eight weeks, Audubon hosted **378 campers** who participated in **36 Camps**. Day Camp was still challenging this year as we continued to navigate concerns related to COVID-19, but we provided essential, outdoor experiences for children who really needed it.

School Programs

2020 – 21 School Programs were limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Audubon educators were still able to deliver a total of **176 school programs** that included virtual, in-person classroom visits, and fieldtrips to the Nature Center for the following:

Schools: Bush Elementary, Chautauqua Lake Central, Clymer Central, Falconer Middle, Fenner Elementary, Fletcher Elementary, Fredonia Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, Love Elementary, Ring Elementary, Southwestern Elementary, Temple Elementary, Warren Area Elementary Center, Youngsville Elementary Middle School.

Community Preschools: A Children's Place, Chautauqua Opportunities UPK, Jamestown YMCA and YWCA.

"Covid has taken away numerous learning experiences as the goal for schools across the country has been shifted to safety. As we begin to return to normal, we often appreciate the small things we took for granted in the past. Planning an instructional visit for the Elementary School with the Audubon represented an exciting learning experience and light at the end of the tunnel from the current pandemic. Clymer Elementary School is thankful for the in person instruction highlighting the beauty and learning experiences of nature. I am looking forward to collaborating with the Audubon this year and in future years as we return to normalcy and always look to provide learning opportunities for students."

• **Joshua Tedone, Principal at Clymer Elementary School** •

Nature School House

The Nature School House program series was designed by Audubon educators to help meet the needs of parents who were trying to maintain full-time jobs while their children were only attending school part-time.

A safe and outdoor learning environment was provided for 643 children ages 4 to 10 over a total of 36 weeks. The Outdoor Classroom Program (ages 6 to 10) included 493 student contacts, and the Nature Lab Program (ages 4 to 6) included 150 student contacts. Throughout both programs, the children engaged in outdoor lessons and free play. Nature School House programs ran from September 2020 through May 2021. The addition of this program series helped to close the income gap left by school contracts that are normally a large part of Audubon's education income.

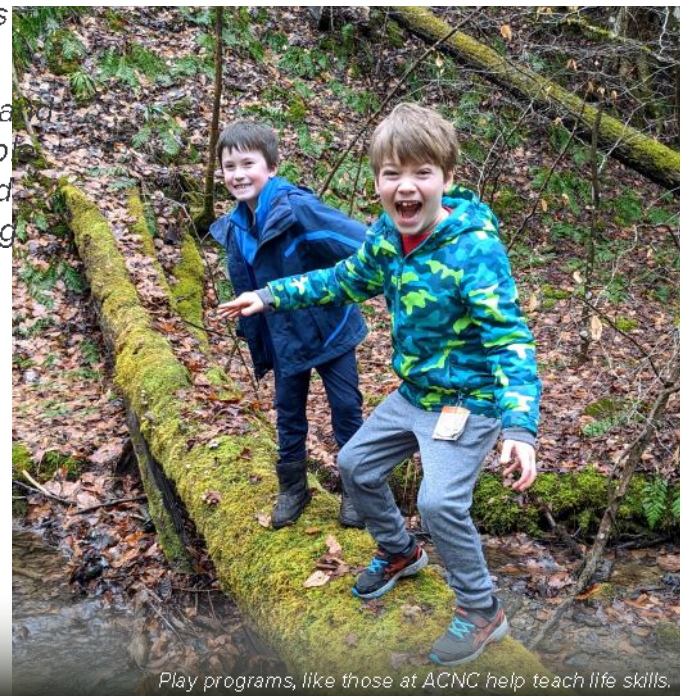
"We were so thankful that Audubon offered its Nature Schoolhouse Program during the 2020 - 21 school year. Although our local schools were back in session by September 2020 (following a full shut-down in March 2020), until April 2021, our son's elementary school was only able to offer in-person learning on alternating weekdays.

Our son yearned for more opportunities to meet new friends, play outside, and interact with other kids his age. Audubon's Nature Schoolhouse was an ideal solution. What could be better for our young children, while navigating a deadly virus that was found to be highly transmissible through indoor spaces, than to send our kids to school outside?

Our son was able to meet new friends, learn about the natural world, and develop his social skills with nature educators and other kids in his age cohort.

Finally, Audubon was a savior to me and my husband. As working parents, we needed to find safe, reliable childcare where our kids would be both well cared for and enriched. Rather than sitting at tables filling out worksheets, Audubon kids were hunting for bugs, visiting Liberty (Audubon's resident Bald Eagle), checking out the herbs in the volunteer garden, and heading out on muddy walks. We love that Audubon is part of our community, and we hope for more opportunities to participate in outdoor/nature school in the future."

**• Polly Hampton,
ACNC Member and Camp Parent •**



Play programs, like those at ACNC help teach life skills.



A Story From the Garden

"Spending time with children is a special delight for me. As a life-long learner and community builder, ACNC gives me many opportunities to learn about nature and be an educator around gardening, therapeutic knitting, and experiencing the natural world. I have met many incredible people at ACNC that I would not have otherwise come to know and several have become dear friends. One of my highlights is when a visitor in the Kitchen Garden says that they started a small, raised bed garden at their home after visiting ACNC and talking with the garden volunteers. The ACNC Kitchen Garden has inspired several to become home gardeners. ACNC is my Happy Place, and I am always glad to help others make this their Happy Place, too."

• Janet Forbes, ACNC Garden Committee Chair and Volunteer •



Motivated teenagers helped develop the new VolunTeens program this year.

Volunteers

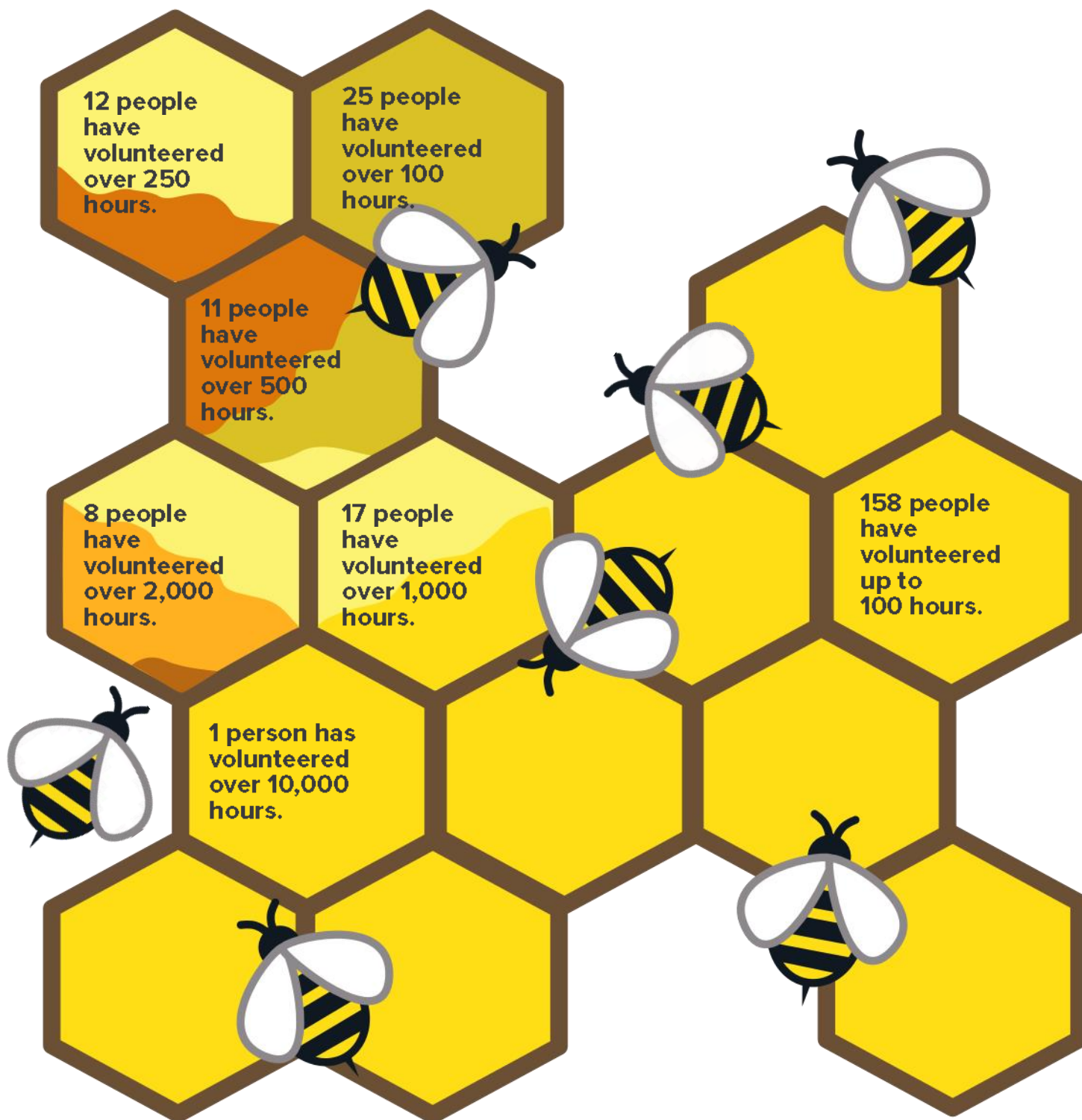
In 2020 – 21, 235 volunteers contributed 8,488 hours of service. According to *The Non Profit Times*, each hour of volunteer work is valued at \$28.54/hour. **That is a total of \$242,239 of donated time for 2020 – 21 alone.** This was still far less than a ‘typical’ year when more than 300 volunteers normally spend over 11,000 hours assisting ACNC with delivering its mission.

The number of new volunteers are on the rise at ACNC. In 2021, ACNC initiated a new VolunTeen program to help meet the demand from local youth looking to complete volunteer service hours. Between May and December 2021, 15 individuals ages 12 to 17 assisted ACNC with everything from office work to building and grounds maintenance.

Audubon’s volunteers make it a unique organization. Many individuals commit a lifetime of service including 100 to 11,000 hours over their many years.

Summary of Lifetime Volunteer Service Hours

ACNC Volunteers are the ‘worker bees’ that help sustain the hive. ACNC would not be the organization it is today without their support.



Financial Sustainability

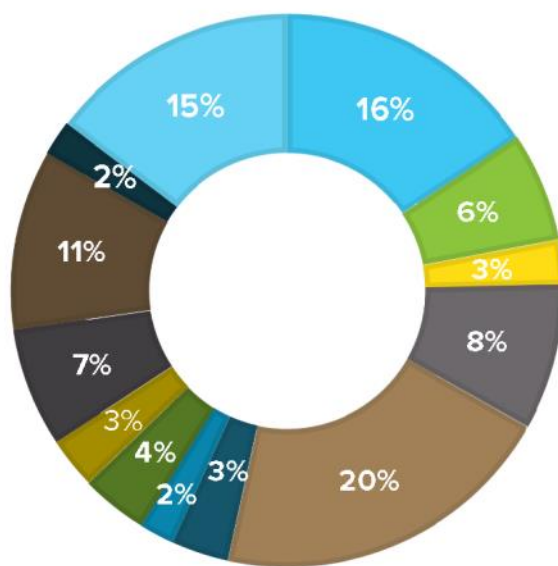
ACNC is unique in that no more than 20% of its total operating income comes from any one source. The organization recognizes that in order for a non-profit to be financially sustainable it must develop new ways to generate income that fit within its mission.

In 2020 – 21, ACNC received \$82,160 in PPP Federal funds (listed as ‘other income’). In future years, this income will be replaced with ACNC’s annual Endowment Distribution which was not taken in 2020 – 21.

Close to 70% of ACNC’s annual expenses include staff salaries and benefits. Over the past three years, ACNC has worked to adjust its salary ranges based on increased job responsibilities and the increase in minimum wage.

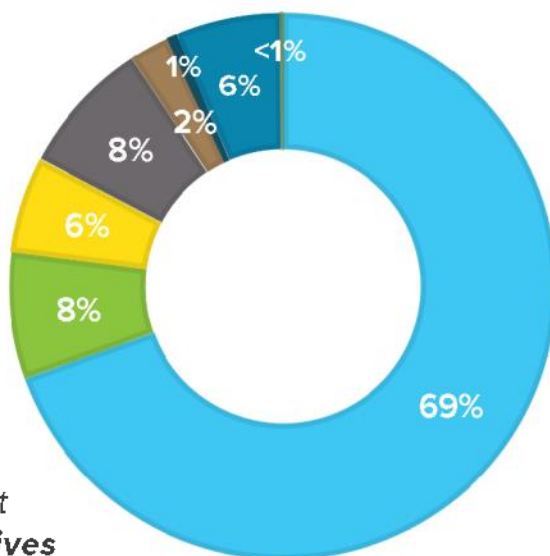
The Operating Income and Expense summaries listed are taken from ACNC’s pre-audited financial statements and do not include ACNC’s full financial portfolio.

To view ACNC’s 2020 – 21 full Audited Financial Statements please visit auduboncnc.org/archives



Income

- 16% Foundation Grants
- 6% State Grants
- 3% Investment Distributions
- 8% Membership
- 20% Programs and Admission
- 3% Gift Shop Sales (net)
- 2% Birdseed Sales (net)
- 4% Gifts and Donations
- 3% Grants—Other
- 7% Fundraisers
- 11% Events
- 2% Contributions and Sponsorships
- 15% Other Income



Expenses

- 69% Staff Salaries and Benefits
- 8% Administration and Insurance
- 6% Building
- 8% Education Materials
- 2% Grounds
- 1% Membership, Marketing, Volunteers
- 6% Store, Events, Fundraising
- <1% Other

Grants

- Carnahan Jackson Foundation
- Chautauqua Region Community Foundation
- Cummins Engine Plant
- Jessie Smith Darrah Fund
- Greater Buffalo Community Foundation
- Holmberg Foundation
- Hultquist Foundation
- Lenna Foundation
- New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
- Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation
- Ralph C. Wilson Foundation
- Scott Electric Foundation
- United Arts Appeal of Chautauqua County

Business Sponsors: \$100 – \$750

Business Sponsors support ACNC's annual events including Enchanted Forest, Monarch Festival, and more.

- Ashville General Store
- Courier Capital LLC
- Eagle Systems Inc.
- FORECON Inc.
- Frucella's Income Tax Service
- FSC Communications
- I-86 Truck and Auto Repair
- Kwik Fill/United Refining
- Jamestown Macadam
- Jamestown Kitchen and Bath
- Kings' Heating and Sheet Metal
- Lakewood Apothecary
- Lind Funeral Home
- Northwest Investment Services
- Orkin Pest Control
- Saxton, Kocur and Associates
- Wegmans

Community Partners: \$2,000+

Audubon Community Partners include foundations, businesses, and individuals who make a contribution of \$2,000 or more in a year. The following list is in addition to the participating foundations listed above.

- Bush Industries
- Hal and Mary Conarro
- Bob and Kathy Frucella
- Univera Healthcare
- Curt and Susie Westrom
- Whirley-Drinkworks!

Blue Heron Legacy Society

Audubon's Blue Heron Legacy Society includes a group of 20 individuals who have made a commitment to provide financial support by listing ACNC as a beneficiary in their will, IRA account, retirement plan, or designated fund.

This commitment ensures that Audubon Community Nature Center can continue creating real and healthy connections to nature for generations to come.

Blue Heron Legacy Society Members gather twice a year to learn more about ACNC's current and upcoming priorities and projects while enjoying some social time with like-minded individuals.



Blue Heron Legacy Society Members with ACNC Executive Director, Leigh Rovegno (right)

Annual Fund Drive: Individual Donors \$100+

Every donation makes a difference! In 2020 – 21, more than **640 individuals** made donations totaling **\$60,999**. The following list includes the 173 donors who made contributions in 2020 – 21 at the \$100 level and higher.

\$1000+

Delores Erickson
Ronald Kohl
Peter Stark
Lois Strickler

\$500 – 999

David Camahan
Kay and Gary Johnson
Lucille Jordan
Frances Lapinski
Chase and Mary Putnam

\$200 – 499

Lynn Allen
Renaë Barie
Bruce Battler
Bill and Diana Burbank
Dave Chase
Chautauqua Bird Tree
and Garden Club
Ron Cook
Donna Decarolis
Deborah and Theodore First
Nadia Geliel
Christine Kuntz
Nancy Kyler
Linda Lombardi
Matthew Luvison
Kenneth Macdonald and Priscilla
Hampton
Madeline Miles
Tom Mooney
Lois Reid
Charles Sinatra
Robert Walker

\$100 – 199

Thomas Africa
Sharon Albrecht
Nancy Allen
Larrie and Norma Anderson

\$100 – 199 (continued)

Jason Anderson
Todd and Linda Anderson
Ruth Antosh
Katherine Baker
Wendy and Bill Bale
Bob and Kathy Barber
Andrew Beardsley
Anne Beck
Jon Belin
Ann Carlson
Bill Cobb
E. Virginia Cochran
David Cooney
Robert Crowley
Laurie Dell
Karen Dennerlein
Ronald Dutton
Priscilla Fairbank
David Forsberg
Robert and Kathy Frucella
Marjorie Gingell
Claudia Goodwin
Doreen Gould
Melanie Gritters
Mark Grohol
Brett Hagberg
Diana Hatfield
Kathleen Horner
Marty Idzik
Tory and Adam Irgang
Tracy and Evan Kirchhoff
Nikole Knobloch
Henri LeMeur
Harry Levinson
David Lundin
Priscilla Marsh
Mike McEntire
Leonard Meissner
Heather Joy Morrison
Timothy Muffitt
Michael Nielsen
Laura Otander

\$100 – 199 (continued)

Dan Overcash
Thomas Path
Arthur Pearson
Jean Prechter
Tom Price
William Reed
Thomas Reitz
Neil Robinson
Maureen and Jim Rovegno
Arlene Ruia
Rick Rupprecht
Lee Ann Russell
Nancy Scott
Craig Seger
Barbara Sheldon
Richard Slater
David and Susan Snyder
James Stegner
Leon Stein
Jason Stronz
Mary Katharine Swanson
Dana Thelander
Russell Thompson
Robert Ungerer
Bill Vargo
Betty Voltmann
Jennifer Williams
Stephanie Zwyghuizen



Memorials

In 2020 – 21, 127 donors contributed a total of \$9,395 to Audubon Community Nature Center in memory of their loved ones. Each year ACNC plants more than 500 daffodil bulbs along the entryway to ACNC in memory of those we have loved and lost.

Brian Abbott — The Cusimano Family, Jamestown Public Schools Board of Education, Daniel and Deborah Kathman, Kendall Club PBA, Rolland and Jane Kidder, John LaMancuso, Cynthia Weldon

John Alexander — Kimberly Waldron

James Andersen — David and Linda Cusimano

John Andrea — Jeff and Mary Carlson, Mark and Susie Brown

Stephanie Carol Auge Good Bear — Deborah A. Hunt

A. Troy Bell — Paul and Carol Bell

Roy Bennett — Marjorie Neel

Norman Blackmer — Audrey Cable

Bruce E. Boardman — IBEW Local 106

Murray Bob — Renate Bob

Diane Bourne — Larry and Tim Bourne

Ric Brocton — Linda Lucas

Barbara Case, Monarch Mama — Elaine Crossley

Kurt Coleson — Janette Coleson

Cornelis Dirkmaat — Kathi and Doug Staaf

Kay L. Elder — Beth and James Barnes

Daniel Farley Sr. — David Cirincione

Dustin Fleming — Norman and Wilma Fleming

Nicole Font — Nancy Clavins, Marsha and Larry Frost, Nancy Sampson, The Teachers and Staff at Beaty Warren Middle School

Dave Forsberg — Phyllis Born, Rick Rupprecht

JoAnn W. Forsberg — David Forsberg

Boyd Freeborough — Jon and Helene DuShaw

Stephanie Frucella — Elisabeth A. Hall, Mary Anne Kupiec, Nancy H. Miller, Lloyd C. and Regina C. Weatherbee

Bill Fugagli — Alec and Karen Conarro

Susan Fulford — Eleanor Allette, Nancy Almquist, Hans and Kari Auer, Tom and Sandy Calalesina, Gary and Rosanne Clark, Chautauqua County Board of Basketball Officials IAABO Board #39, Donald Schroeder and Jacque Deborde, Russ and Thelma Ecklund, Kenneth and Shirley Gustafson, Mardell and John Hanson, Rolland and Jane Kidder, Jim and Christa Meyer, Steve and Cathy Meyer, Amy and Mike Onorate, Bob Ortendahl, Suzanne Sharp, Elaine Short, Suzanne Turnquist

David Hatfield — Anonymous

David Hedberg — John and Elaine Sherwood

Walter L. Heilman — Julie A. Heilman

William M. Hill Jr. — Joan Alson, Sue Baker, Liz Gibb Barnes, Jim and Mary Berry, Susan MacKenzie and Craig Bertollett, Gary and Sharon Birtcil, Craig and Crystal Branstrom, Pat and John Carlson, Gayle Daugherty, Jon and Helene DuShaw, Sue and Bob Klebacha, Kyle and Linda, Greg and Pam Lyle, Denny and Chris McClellan, David and Lori McDevitt, Hugh and Debbie McDevitt, Greg and Mary Nagurney, Don and Jan Scott, The Giant Spoon

James Hitchcock — Vicki Hitchcock

Andrew Kibler — Frank and Liz Petiprin

Kevin Kirchhoff — David and LuAnn Backus

John M. Lundin — George S. Lundin

Frank A. Marcello — Joan M. Marcello

Frank A. Marcello and Jason M. Williams — Joan M. Marcello

Janet Meissner — Leonard Meissner

Frank C. Nelson — MJ Fletcher Elementary Kindergarten and First Grade Teachers, Debra and Vincent Ognibene

Alison Wells Ney — Lillian Ney

Mary Jane Nordsiek — Kay R. Stahlman

Norman A. Owen — Evelyn Owen

Jodi L. Page — David and Beth Tenney

Edna Rexford — Lynette Rexford

Megsie Rugg — Susan Lampo

Mary Rulander — Audrey Cable

Maria Welker Schulz — Carol M. Drake, Hal and Marlene Hanson, Richard and Allyce Johnson, Karen Mattison

Mary Shaul — John

Randy Sliter — Tom and Connie Heider, Ivan and Nancy Johnson, Dave and Nancy Pratt, Linda S. Moore, George C. Spinks Jr.

Angela L. Smith — Carol Montgomery Drake

Betty H. Steward — The Creeley Family, Wendy Farone, Michael and Barbara McAvoy, Terry and Janice Ressler

Rose Stark — Andrea, Linda and Nick Manno, Brendan Coogan and Ellen Reiling, Bob and Judy VanEvery

Dr. Dixon Stevens — Judith M. Stevens

Bob Sundell — Bill and Kay Fugagli, Mary and Tom Erlandson

Brian S. Suckow — Barbara S. Suckow

William A. Whitmore — Furnlite, Inc., Michele Ognibene, Lawrence Verry

Honorariums

In 2020–2021, **15 donors** contributed a total of **\$2,795** to Audubon Community Nature Center in honor of their loved ones.

A good friend — Dennis Anderson

Robert and Kathy Barber — Greg and Melissa Barber and kids

Janet Forbes — Ruth Lundin and Paul Hedberg

David and Elizabeth Garaas — The Garaas-Johnson Family

Virginia McIntosh — Meredith McIntosh

Leigh Rovegno — Anne and Jack Palomaki, Peter Stark, Maureen and Jim Rovegno, Christy Simons and Simon Pontin

Rick Rupprecht — Daniel Courtine

Sarah — Diana Hatfield

Jennifer Schlick — Bob and Judy VanEvery

My Sister Tina — Kathleen Eastland

Jim Wood — Jon and Helene DuShaw

Jim Yaich — Frank and Liz Petiprin

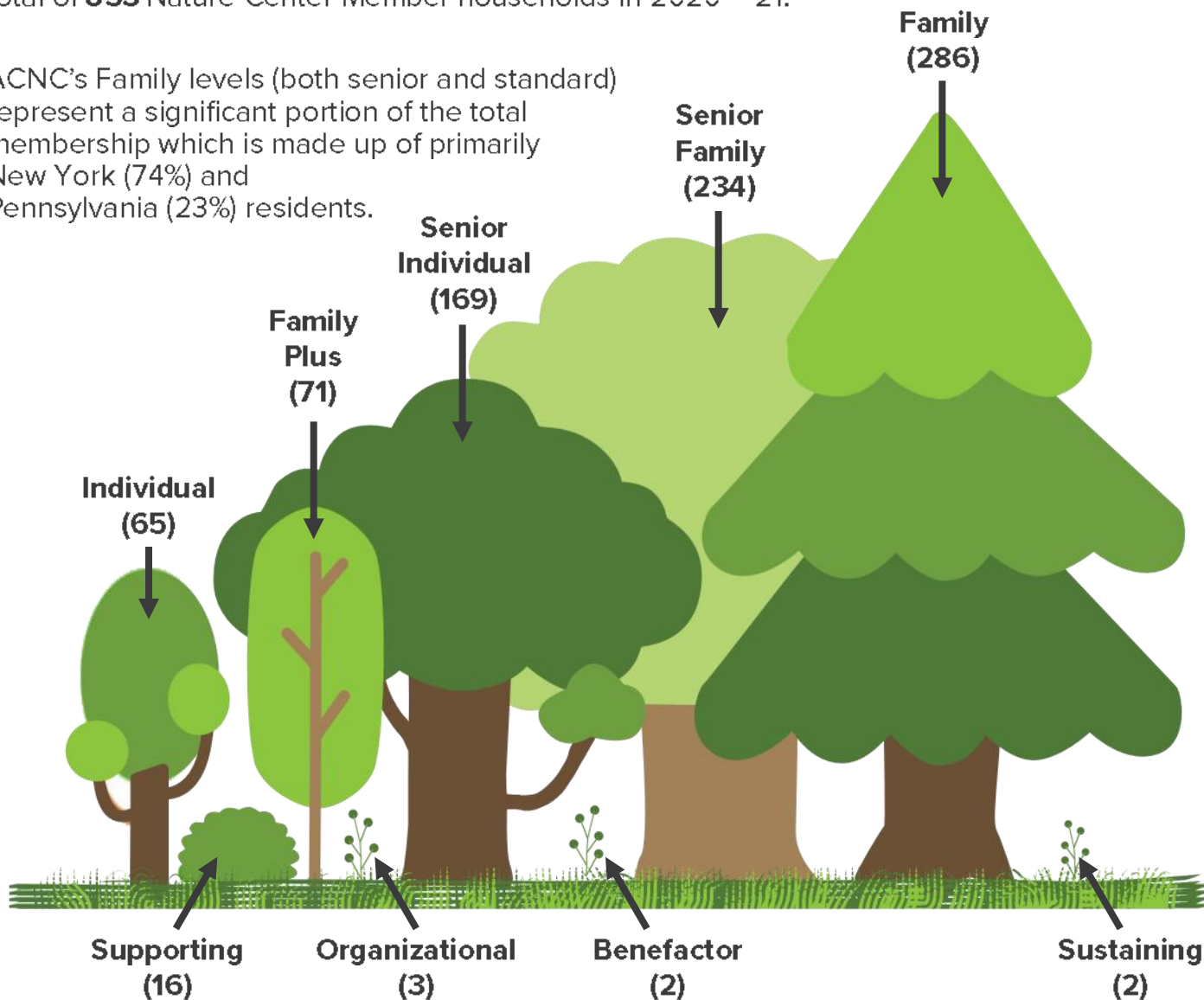


ACNC now has a swing on the trails. This structure was created in memory of former board member, Rose Stark. This space welcomes visitors to stay a while and enjoy the serenity that nature can offer.

Membership

ACNC Members provide annual support through their financial contributions. Dedicated members established the roots of this incredible organization in 1957 and since then, ACNC has grown into a vibrant forest (as pictured below). ACNC welcomed a total of **853** Nature Center Member households in 2020 – 21.

ACNC’s Family levels (both senior and standard) represent a significant portion of the total membership which is made up of primarily New York (74%) and Pennsylvania (23%) residents.



630 Members from New York • 28 Members from other states • 195 Members from Pennsylvania

Coming Soon in 2022

ACNC has been busy over the past two years overseeing the completion of two significant construction projects. The addition of the Stephanie Frucella Education Pavilion and the Pamela A. Westrom Wildlife Habitat have increased ACNC's ability to fulfill its mission of connecting people to nature.

So, what's next?

Staff are eagerly waiting for federal permits to be processed so they can welcome additional birds of prey to the team of Animal Ambassadors. Until then, staff and volunteers will continue to work on developing the inside of the new aviaries, addressing some necessary improvements to Liberty's aviary, and developing the area surrounding the wildlife habitat to include upgraded pathways, benches, landscaping, and interpretation. There is still so much to be done!

Audubon will also be celebrating the 20th anniversary of Liberty's arrival this year. Liberty has become one of the most recognizable parts of the organization. ACNC looks forward to celebrating her and welcoming the new birds of prey as each arrives and gets settled in.



Kim Turner has been training with the birds at Tamarack Wildlife Center.



ACNC Staff started 2022 with a Safe Zone Training by Prevention Works.

Additional Plans for 2022 include:

- A new three-year strategic plan that will direct the organization for October 2022 – September 2025.
- Incorporating Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion into all areas of the organization.
- Collaborations with other non-profits including Western New York PRISM, Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, Chautauqua Institution, Warren YMCA, GROW Jamestown, The Prendergast Library, and more.
- Continued development and engagement with the Blue Heron Legacy Society.
- A newly implemented Land Use Management Plan that effectively addresses all areas of Audubon's property.

Thank you for supporting
Audubon Community Nature Center.

The connection begins with you.



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