

Discover NCI...Experience More!

Nature's Classroom Institute
Annual Report 2017-2018



Learning through our Expression, Discovering through your Experience!



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Letter from the Founder & Executive Director

There is a great sense of community within the Montessori classroom, where children of differing ages work together in an atmosphere of cooperation rather than competitiveness. There is respect for the environment and for the individuals within it, which comes through experience of freedom within the community.

~Maria Montessori

As Spring moves into Summer and Summer into Fall, I am reminded of how things change and yet, how some things stay the same. Every day our children and adults experience opportunities to learn in many different environments: from our Montessori classrooms on Skyview, to the mountainsides at Angelus Oaks in California, the Live Oak savannas of New Ulm in Texas to the great auditoriums in Shanghai, China. In each of these amazing and beautiful environments, our organization expresses our core-values. We work to support the community of children and adults and to create a world where every individual has the opportunity to strive to fulfill their aspirations.

In this process, it is easy to become stranded on our own islands, thinking that what we have to do and what we care about, are more important than that of others. However, we strive to model to our students every day, the importance of community, the importance of allowing each and every member the ability to achieve their needs while allowing the whole to grow and flourish. This is particularly critical now. Here we are in 2018, in a world that seems to be at odds with itself, where one is pitted against the other to get ahead, and yet ultimately, no one is really benefiting.

As teachers, administrators and parents we all have a responsibility to model what we want for our children. This modeling is a great responsibility because at times it is very hard, and we allow our own biases and emotions to cloud our goals for our children. Maria Montessori is constantly reminding us that our children are watching us at all times and what we do and how we act is what they will become.

As we look to the year ahead I am excited about all that is happening in our programs and all the opportunities available for our students. I am delighted to see our children enter into an environment that truly cares for them and wants the best for them. We are expanding our programs to give more students and more schools the opportunity to experience what Nature's Classroom Institute has to offer. I want to thank and give a big shout out to all the teachers and staff that work with our children - they are a dedicated and amazingly talented group of individuals. They come to us with such a variety of backgrounds, and with a burning desire to support the education of children. From the Montessori classrooms, to the woods and the lecture halls, our staff are our program and they drive our organization.

I would like to thank everyone that is connected in any way to Nature's Classroom Institute and Montessori school. Your support and work to build our greater community does not go unnoticed and you make each and every day a new day and a better day.

Thank you,



Geoffrey E. Bishop
Founder & Executive Director



The History

It was April 1994, and a flight from Boston Logan international airport to Madison Wisconsin brought Stacy Schultz and myself came out to the Midwest to start Nature's Classroom Institute. It was a meeting at University of Wisconsin Madison's Dean of Landscape Architecture and chance mention of Wildwood lodge in Spring Green that started the adventure and the dream. We arrived in Spring Green and drove into the Wyoming Valley to see our new home. Tucked away on 35 acres was a little valley with an enchanting facility that was just right for a fledgling Nature's Classroom. Housing for about 50 students in a restored barn and old school house and a hippy lodge, a quaint dining hall, an old farmhouse for the staff... it was perfect.



Stacy and I arrived at the beginning of September to start selling the program and preparing for the first group of students. That winter was one of the coldest on record, and it was a trial by ice. The old farmhouse was not up to it, and we were snowed in for nearly three weeks with no heat or electricity. But a great fireplace and lots to do got us through. April came, none too soon and our first group of 5 staff arrived for training. Berthold, Melanie, (who are happily married to each other after meeting at NCI) Rifka, Mary and Christine. We had about 6 weeks of program on the books that first season, and their first group arrived from Cudahy Middle school, after a late snow storm and a cook quitting on Monday morning.

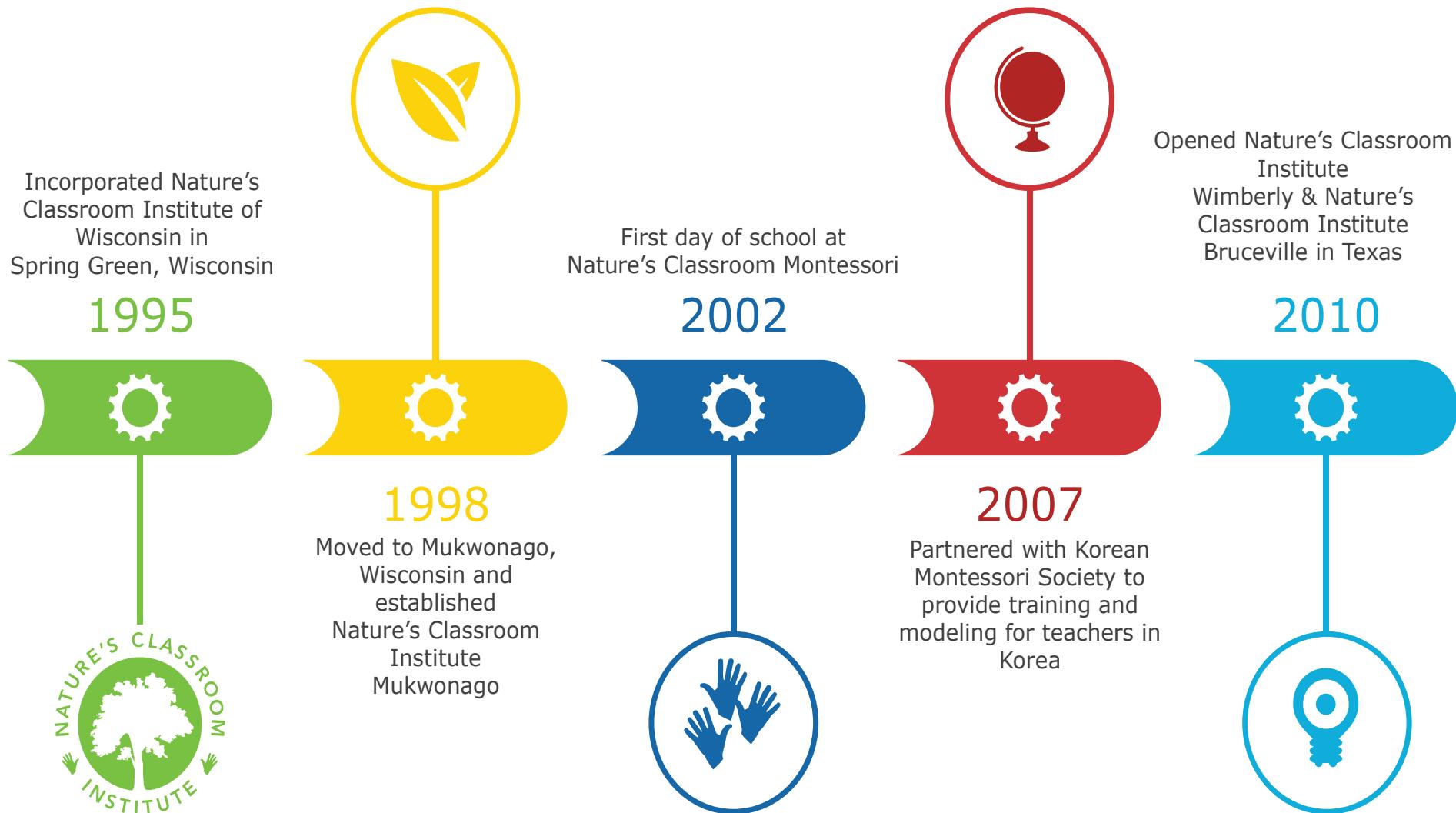
So it was in the kitchen for me and teaching and everything else you could imagine. That first week was so successful that Cudahy Middle school has come to our program every year since and still does. Our first spring moved into summer and then into our first fall season. Things were going great, we were building a program and working with wonderful schools. I spent most of the middle of the week on the road to Chicago to talk with teachers, principals and parents, trying to convince them that this experience was what every child needed.

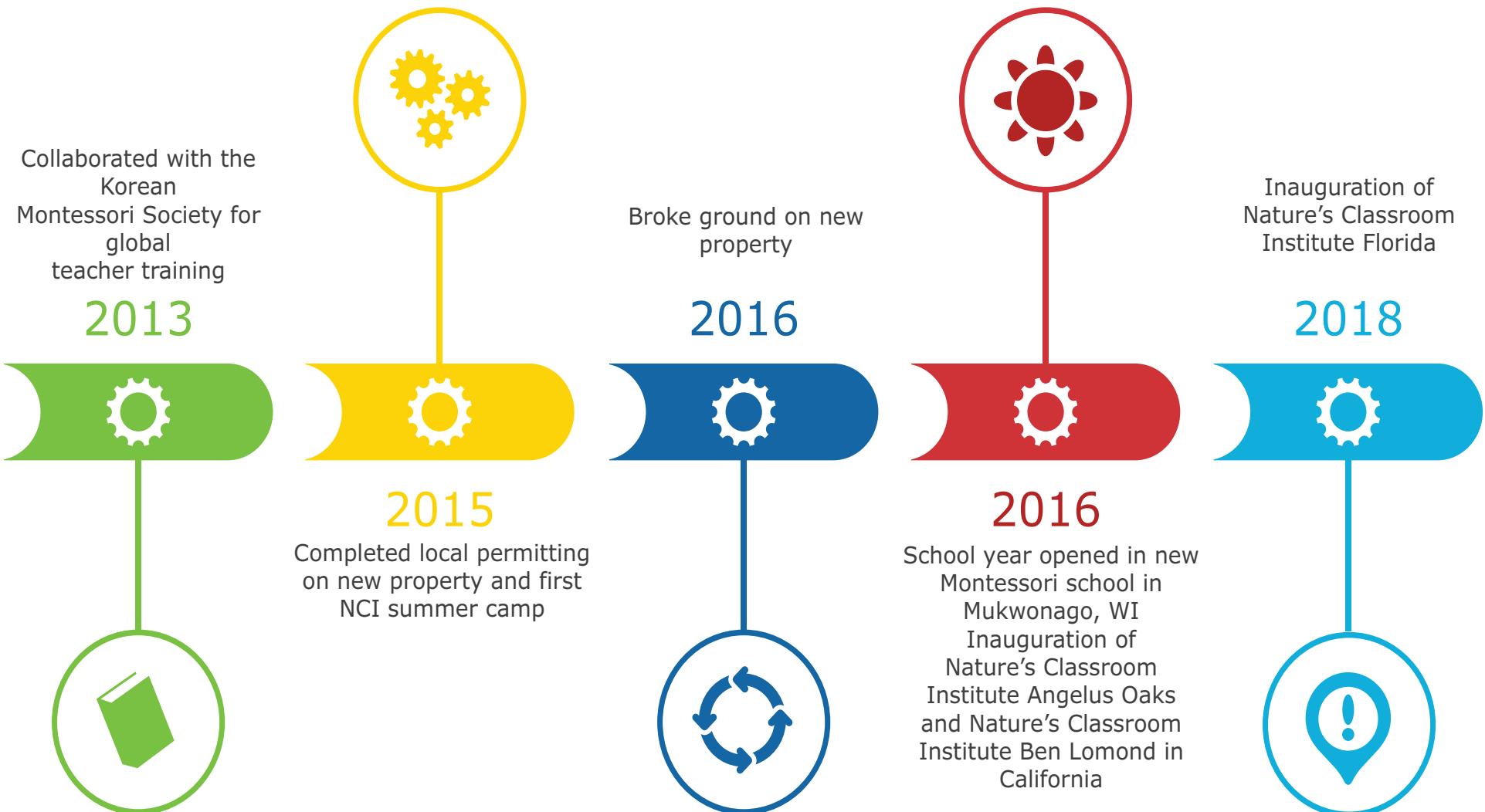
That second Fall, things started to get a little tight financially. So I began waiting tables in Madison by night and selling and visiting schools by day. I began to wonder that as we had this facility, why not open a restaurant and bed and breakfast on the weekends to get more revenue. So Wildwood Lodge and Restaurant began. They say you marry a restaurant, but I was already married to Nature's Classroom. The two were hard to juggle. By 1997 we had outgrown the Spring Greens facility and it was time to look for a bigger and more up-to-date facility with more acreage and more cabin space. So Mukwonago became our new home.

The move to the location on Hwy J in Mukwonago, allowed us to expand our EE program, being that we were closer to Chicago. To be able to move locations we skipped the fall season and moved all the groups into the following winter, spring. This gave us a robust beginning at the site in Hwy J. Mukwonago was a very different place than Spring Green, and it was much harder to connect to the local community. We felt a little isolated on our 400 acres. Over time, an idea began to emerge : why not open a school for the local community? And so, in 2002, Nature's Classroom Institute's Montessori School was born.

Written by: Geoffrey E. Bishop,
Founder & Executive Director

NCI Through the Years





Empowering Experiences 2017-2018



First Open Air Theatre Performance, Theatre Under the Stars, at the Montessori School, in Mukwonago, WI



Inauguration of Nature's Classroom Institute Environmental Education in FL



First Group of Ducklings Hatched from our Farm Ducks, Mukwonago, WI



Received \$20,000 School Safety Grant



Second annual fundraiser, Dinner in the Woods in Mukwonago, WI raised \$50,000 after expenses



National and international presentations by the Executive Director on the value of the Outdoors in Education



Adolescent Trip to Seattle, WA

NATURE'S CLASSROOM INSTITUTE (NCI)

Founder/Executive Director Board



Executive Director

Educational Directors

Outreach Directors

Environmental Education
Teachers



Executive Director

Head of School

Office Manager

Montessori Directresses

Montessori Assistants

Site Maintenance

PABC (Parents Actively
Building
Community)



Executive Director

EE Educational Directors

EE Outreach Directors

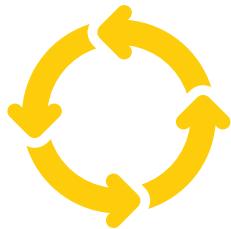
MS Montessori Directresses

NATURE'S CLASSROOM INSTITUTE (NCI)

Nature's Classroom Institute (NCI) is founded on the belief that all children need and deserve safe, beautiful and rich environments, built and natural, that allow them the time and opportunity to play, grow, learn and express themselves uninhibitedly. With a profound conviction that by immersion in the natural world, as well as in aesthetically and carefully designed built spaces, children challenge themselves physically, mentally and intellectually, NCI is a committed advocate for children to be offered the learning opportunities to develop their inner caution meter, discover their limits and push their boundaries.



Our Mission



Nature's Classroom Institute's mission is to prepare students to be vested learners by engaging their natural curiosities about the world. NCI adapts to the individual learner's needs through an interdisciplinary approach utilizing its natural and agricultural campus. Rooted in Montessori ideals of independence and mutual respect, NCI is fueled by practical and authentic learning experiences that develop academically, socially and environmentally responsible problem solvers.

Through modeled values of a successful community, we immerse students in a dynamic learning environment. NCI inspires intrinsic learning and curiosity while nurturing mutual respect and understanding of oneself, others and the world.



Our Vision



NCI will inspire a life-long love of learning while promoting independence, self-motivation and authentic learning experiences.



NCI will promote respect for the natural world through immersion experiences in nature while sharing an understanding of the learner's connection to the natural environment.



NCI will encourage the learner to become a part of his or her educational community and support discovery while instilling a love of learning.



NCI will support social awareness and building a community of ethical participants who understand and embody restorative justice.



NCI will support a socially responsible understanding of agriculture while promoting an awareness of food systems and animal husbandry.



NCI will provide an interdisciplinary curriculum that supports understanding and appreciation of the interconnectedness of the world.

Our Approach

By providing opportunities for leadership and independent work and through **independence, motivational and life-long love of learning**, NCI creates an environment that supports a positive perception of learning and encourages participation beyond minimum expectations.

By providing opportunities for **immersion** in and **respectful** exploration of natural environments, and through evaluating and **understanding** nature's effect on people, NCI develops and promotes an inter-disciplinary curriculum that shows the fragility and importance of the natural world.

By providing explorations of roles within a community, and through supporting **discovery, love of learning, and communicating reasons for learning**, NCI encourages collaborative problem solving, critical thinking, and observation-based learning.

By providing a curriculum that promotes exploration of cultural diversity and **social awareness**, and through exposure to ideals of **ethical community and restorative justice**, NCI creates environments that allows discovery of self-potential, promotion of respect for all community members and restorative justice.

By providing concrete experiences within a curriculum that allows learners to work alongside adults who model **social and moral responsibility**, and through an **understanding of the transfer and accumulation or loss of energy within the food systems**, NCI encourages the **exploration of animal husbandry, human relationships and social responsibility**.

By providing a curriculum that supports relationships within **interdisciplinary subject matters** and through encouraging the study of the complex **interconnected relationships that shape the world**, NCI helps narrow the gap between philosophical ideals and tangible outcomes.

Testimonial

“Reflecting on the NCI experience as an educator, I had the opportunity to watch my students grow. They built new bonds with new students. They had the opportunity to explore their world and what it meant to them in their own meaningful way. Cooperation and being supportive of one another was built into the experience as they took risks being away from home while having to rely on new peers. I appreciate how the program encouraged students to step out their comforts to learn and discover something new about themselves and their world around them.”

-Andrew Long (Teacher), Community Montessori Charter, San Diego, CA

"The Middle School Students at Hill Country Montessori School in Boerne, TX have enjoyed your program for many years. Our curriculum takes us off campus several times a year, but each and every year the students always say that engaging with the staff at NCI was by far their favorite. NCI never misses when it comes to taking my curriculum and enhancing it with a creative twist. Each year, as our session approaches, the staff reaches out to me to see what particular social and emotional challenges our class has. This guides the team-building activities which are scattered throughout the program. Thank you NCI for always hitting the mark with kids and teachers alike!"

-Mary Kay Lively (Teacher), Hill Country Montessori, Boerne, TX





NATURE'S CLASSROOM INSTITUTE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (NCI-EE)

NCI -EE is founded on the belief that all children need and deserve safe, beautiful and rich environments, built and natural, that allow them the time and opportunity to play, grow, learn and express themselves uninhibitedly.

NCI-EE firmly believes that by immersion in the natural world, given the time, trust and opportunity, children challenge themselves physically, mentally and intellectually. NCI-EE is an advocate for children to be offered these learning opportunities in a safe and respectful manner to develop their inner caution meter, so as to become compassionate, committed and knowledgeable stewards of the planet.

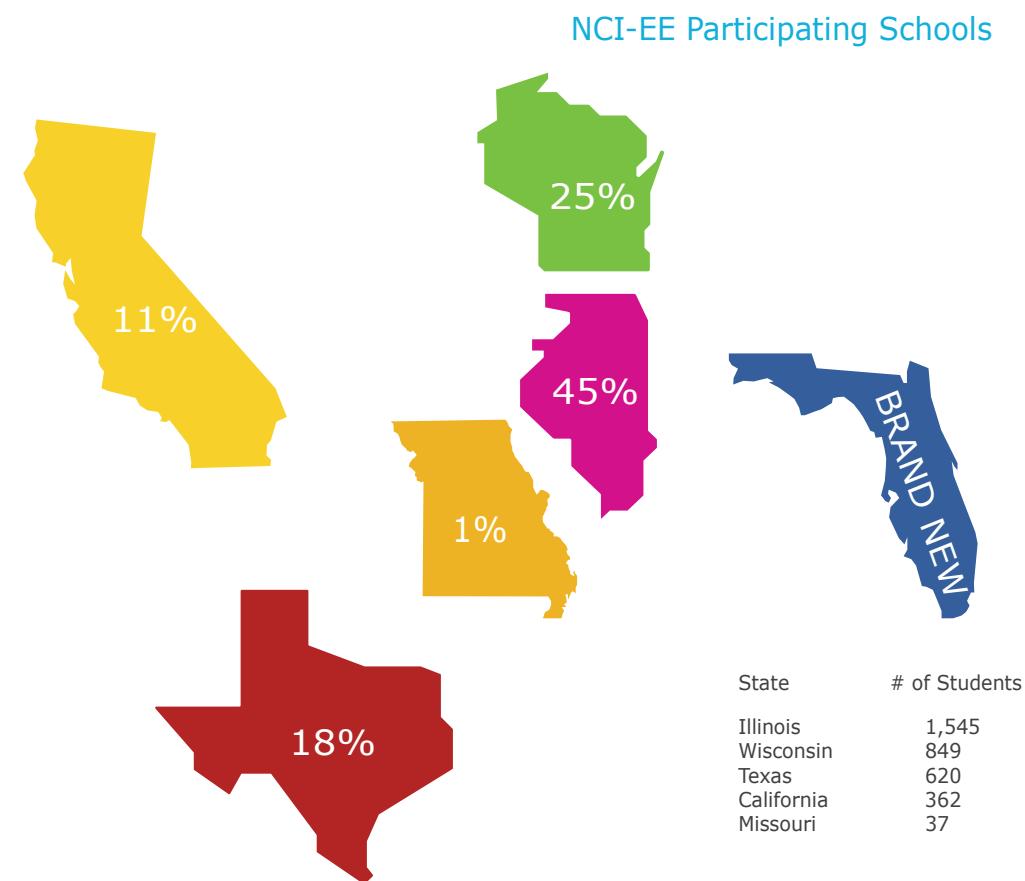




Our Mission

Through modeled values of a successful community, Nature's Classroom Institute Environmental Education (NCI-EE) immerses students in a dynamic learning environment which inspires intrinsic learning & curiosity while nurturing mutual respect and understanding of ourselves, others, and the world. NCI-EE challenges each participant to choose his/her areas of interest within our full complement of diverse subjects to explore new avenues of learning and one's place within community.

Many people believe "environmental education" is learning about natural science or participating in outdoor adventure activities. At Nature's Classroom, our program encompasses so much more than that!



Our Vision

-  NCI-EE will provide participants with opportunities for motivational learning.
-  NCI-EE will provide participants with opportunities for building community.
-  NCI-EE will provide participants with opportunities for positive agricultural and environmental outdoor experiences which create relationships with, knowledge of, and compassion for the natural world.

Our Approach

By modeling motivational learning behavior, pursuing exploration of teachable moments, providing opportunities for learner-taught experiences and self-reflection of these experiences and through **interest in subject matter, we improve positive focus and connection to learning** and focus on supporting student's academic discoveries rather than imparting information.

By providing opportunities for leadership, self –reliance and, unstructured exploration, and through supporting **independence, respect for peers and community impact**, we encourage serving the community, promotion of empathy through academic simulations and reflection of learner's role within a community.

By providing opportunities for social and spatial exploration in a safe environment, and through **relationships, knowledge and compassion**, we promote practical application of learned knowledge in the natural environment and the practice of responsible and ethical stewardship and animal husbandry.

Testimonial

"Nature's Classroom Institute compliments our school's curriculum and values in a way that no other program has been able to. NCI guides us in exploring all that nature has to offer us as humans and we look forward to our outdoor school experience every year!"

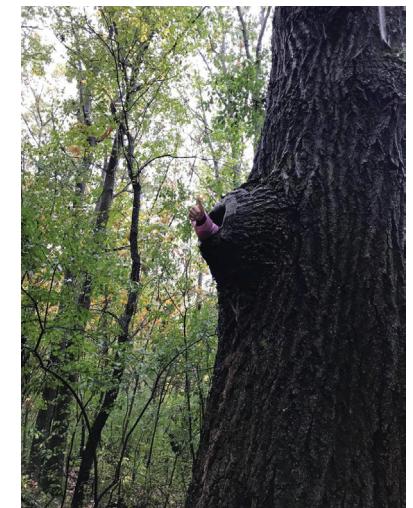
-Rebecca Bernard (Head of School), Archgate Montessori, Plano, TX

"My students do not typically have the opportunity to go to camp or be outside in nature. Therefore, Nature's Classroom is many of their only time outside and away from their families. They learn independence, confidence and an appreciation for the outdoors. They repeatedly say that it is the best week of the year and our curriculum would have a gaping hole without it."

-Dakota Prosch (Teacher), Oglesby Elementary School, Chicago, IL

"Nature's Classroom taught my now-adult children to go exploring. For years they have planned and packed independently, rejecting parental input. Growing up, they travel further and further into the world, with ease, curiosity, and confidence. Nature's Classroom got them started; their dad and I just got out of the way!"

-Anne Jordahl (Teacher), Lake Forest Montessori, Lake Forest, IL



Testimonial

"Nature's Classroom Institute allows students and teachers to grow as a community while instilling the importance of caring and appreciating our natural environment. Students and teachers alike return from their experience filled with excitement about applying what was learned and with a new appreciation for our environment and each other."

-Rose Harris (Teacher), Corpus Christie Montessori, Corpus Christie, TX

"My students were not ready to leave NCI. They learned to be independent and realized how much they could do for themselves. They loved getting into nature, away from their electronics. They were able to live in the moment, rather than focusing on what the next activity was. I saw students try new challenges out of their comfort zone with so much joy."

-Shelby Simmons (Teacher), Community Montessori Charter, San Diego, CA

"At NCI, students learn a sense of self through hands on activities that reinforce the positive attributes each child has. While incorporating choice in the activities, students feel a sense of structure and safety knowing that everyone is supporting their learning goals and building upon their social emotional wellbeing. Students are encouraged and willing to take risks and work towards a common goal they wouldn't likely experience in the school environment. Students are provided real life applicable and tangible experiences such as The Ort Report to understand their impact on the environment and think forward."

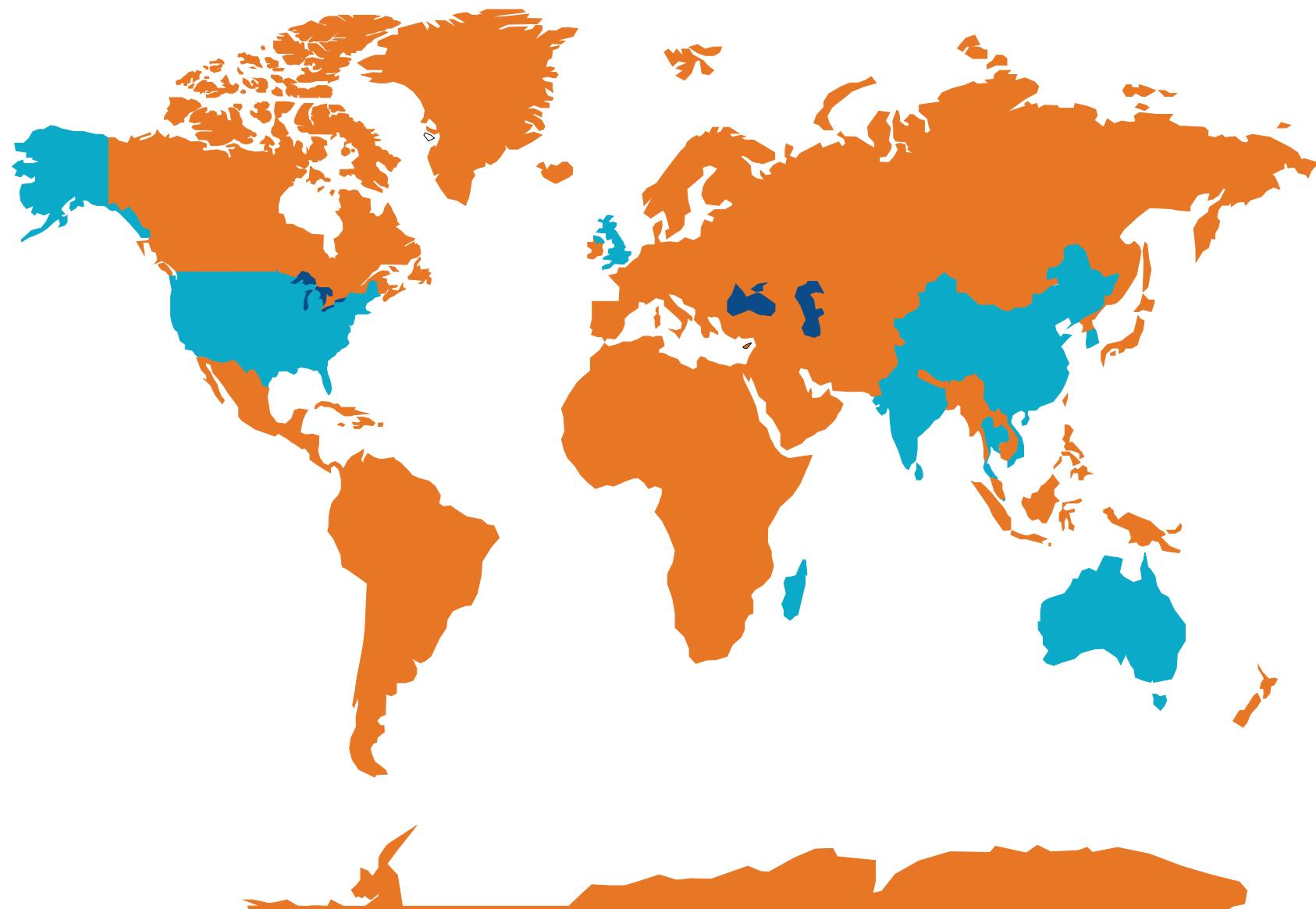
-Jodi L. Korol (Teacher), Cudahy Middle School, Cudahy, WI



"Educators trained at NCI become versatile, adaptable and highly sought after employees in education, non-profits and other professional organizations both nationally and internationally."

-Geoffrey E. Bishop, Founder & Executive Director

Reach of NCI-EE Staff



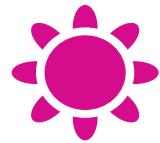


NATURE'S CLASSROOM INSTITUTE MONTESSORI SCHOOL (NCI-MS)

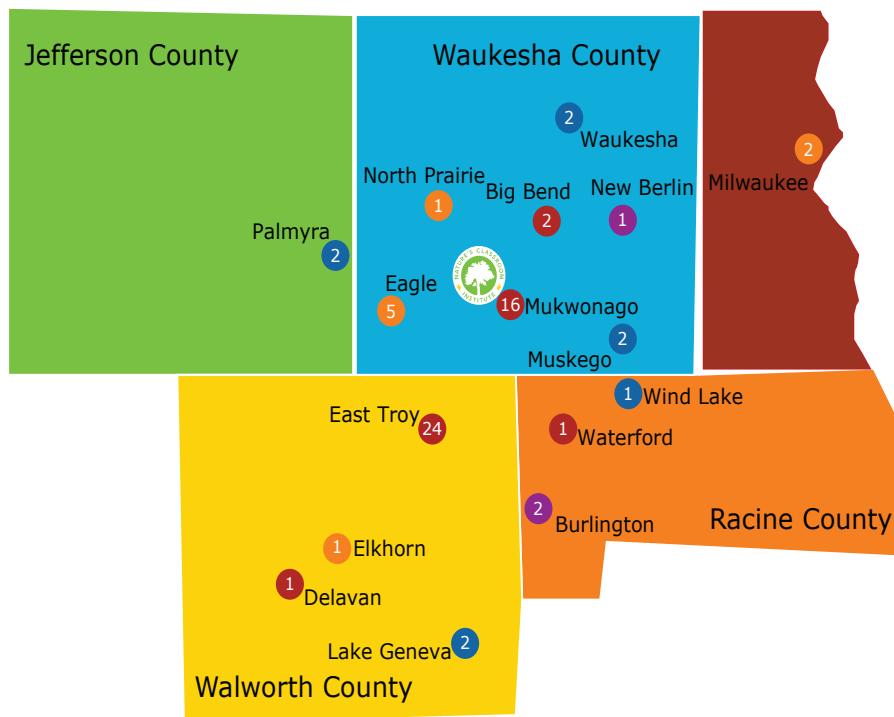
NCI-MS is founded on the belief that all children need and deserve safe, beautiful and rich environments, built and natural, that allow them the time and opportunity to play, grow, work, learn and express themselves uninhibitedly. NCI-MS believes that children thrive when their need for independence is nurtured and when their learning is driven by themselves and its relevance to them. Therefore, NCI-MS is a committed advocate for children to have an education for life, surrounded by beauty indoors and outdoors, so that they may find their place in the universe, as part of a community of life-long learners.



Our Mission



Nature's Classroom Institute Montessori School's mission is to prepare students to be vested learners by engaging their natural curiosities about the world. NCI-MS adapts to the individual learner's needs through an interdisciplinary approach utilizing its natural and agricultural campus. Rooted in Montessori ideals of independence and mutual respect, NCI-MS is fueled by practical and authentic learning experiences that develop academically, socially and environmentally responsible problem solvers. NCI-MS implements the Montessori philosophy and methodology where the environment stimulates intellectual, emotional, social, physical and cultural growth. The school promotes the development of self-motivation, independence, curiosity, cooperation, and concern for others within the framework of a strong academic program.



Where do NCI-MS families live?

"I love this school because I can work outside.
It's awesome."

-Zella Melzl (Lower El. Student), NCI-MS



Our Vision



NCI-MS classrooms will provide authentic Montessori learning experiences.



NCI-MS will use authentic Montessori materials, in good condition, alongside natural resources to engage the learner with real life applications of knowledge acquired and foster a life-long love of learning.



NCI-MS will provide an interdisciplinary curriculum that supports understanding and appreciation of the interconnectedness of the world.



NCI-MS will provide a curriculum based on an appreciation of an understanding of the Natural World.



NCI-MS will provide students with opportunities to build community with emphasis on developing empathetic and compassionate citizens of the world.



NCI-MS will foster a dynamic, supportive home-school relationship based on Montessori principles of mutual respect.

Our Approach

By ensuring the classroom demographics are representative of the **3-year multi-age grouping, to foster peer learning, uninterrupted blocks of work time, guided choice work and child-centered learning** where all enrichment programs are scheduled in a manner to keep the morning work cycle uninterrupted, and through allowing for free choice of work through the work cycle within the norms of respect to self, community and environment, we provide individualized academic content for each student based on their ability, development and interests.

By providing classrooms with the full complement of **authentic Montessori materials** appropriate for the age-level, and through a diligent maintenance of all learning materials in good and complete condition, we facilitate a safe, accurate and independent learning experience for a **life-long love of learning**.

By providing a curriculum that supports relationships within interdisciplinary subject matters and through an **interdisciplinary curriculum**, we support the understanding of the complex and **interconnected relationships that shape our world**.

By providing exploratory, sensorial, social and spatial exploration in a safe outdoor environment and through an **appreciation and knowledge of the natural world**, we facilitate consequential learning from the natural environment.

By providing opportunities for self-reflection of personal impact on the environment, with a curriculum that allows students to measure effects of service , and through **compassion, respect for peers and community impact**, we support respectful conflict resolution.

By remaining accessible for any meeting parents may want regarding their child's school experience, and through community events that enable families to interact with each other, we establish, encourage and support a strong **home-school connection**.

Testimonial

"I love the community of Nature's Classroom. It is one that fosters caring, awareness, empathy and responsibility at all levels, parent, teacher and child. I cannot imagine my child at any other school."

-Heather Ancarrow (Parent), NCI-MS

"We love the outdoor exposure and activities, the great field trips throughout the year, the gallery night, desserts and demos and the theatre play...The open and self-directed learning is perfect for our son!"

-Meier Family, NCI-MS

"We cannot imagine a more fitting place for our three children to learn and grow--at their own pace, to their own interests...We treasure the experiences they are given to stretch their minds and their hearts. We've joined a community of families that is now an innate part of how we are raising our children."

-Janusz Family, NCI-MS

"Right from the start, I was impressed by the extent to which his teachers knew him and understood his needs. The ability to move about and learn at his own pace has been vital to him. The small school environment has helped him develop strong friendships. He has flourished into a socially and academically confident young man who loves his school..."

-Rubingh Family, NCI-MS

"I have been in Nature's Classroom for eleven and a half years. I am grateful for my sense of leadership that I have learned here and for the freedom I have been given that has helped me develop a sense of responsibility."

-Billy Webber (Adolescent Student), NCI-MS





NATURE'S CLASSROOM INSTITUTE TEACHER EDUCATION (NCI-TE)

Nature's Classroom Institute Teacher Education program (NCI-TE) was founded on the belief that educators learn best when immersed in aesthetic, enriching and supportive environments that allow for diverse learning styles. NCI-TE believes that educators, like their students, deserve time and opportunities for passionate and creative learning that inspires life-long curiosity. NCI-TE advocates for educators to have time for rejuvenation and development so as to reach their best potential as joyful and engaged guides for their students.





Our Mission

Nature's Classroom Institute Teacher Education is dedicated to enhancing the skills and motivation of the individual educator. Through immersion and practical experiences in alternative forms of instruction, including Environmental Education and Montessori principles, we develop and strengthen the educator's ability to recognize and utilize teachable moments to foster natural curiosity. NCI-TE provides the opportunity for educators to experience diverse populations and diverse developmental stages. NCI-TE adapts to the individual educator's needs and supports the investigation of his or her areas of interest through collaborative and individual work. NCI-TE supports educators in seeing themselves as architects of the many aspects of the child's learning environment.



Training Locations include:

Shanghai, China

Wuzhen, China

Shandong, China

AMS Conference, Denver, CO

AIMS Conference, Chicago, IL

CMS Conference, Cincinnati, OH



Our Vision

 NCI-TE will provide a learning environment for educators to observe peer teaching styles, methodologies and curriculum.

 NCI-TE will provide and model a richly diverse community - culturally, socio-economically, behaviorally and developmentally.

 NCI-TE will develop educator's skill to facilitate an environment that supports collaborative learning.

 NCI-TE will provide opportunities to support the educator's recognition, development and utilization of teachable moments.

Our Approach

By providing open access to our learning spaces comprising of Environmental Education, Agribusiness, Field Study and Montessori programs and through **educator observation**, we promote exposure to alternative forms of instruction.

By providing opportunities to work in an inclusive environment, and through participation in **diverse communities**, we support and encourage working with children with learning and social challenges.

By providing a framework for recording and assessing student progress and through a formalized system for mentorship and feedback, we facilitate **collaborative learning**.

By providing philosophical freedom and time to follow and nurture a child's special interest(s), and through **teachable moments** with freedom of lesson planning within focused objectives, we evaluate, and encourage an educator's ability to encourage a child's desire to explore deeper into their special interest.

Testimonial



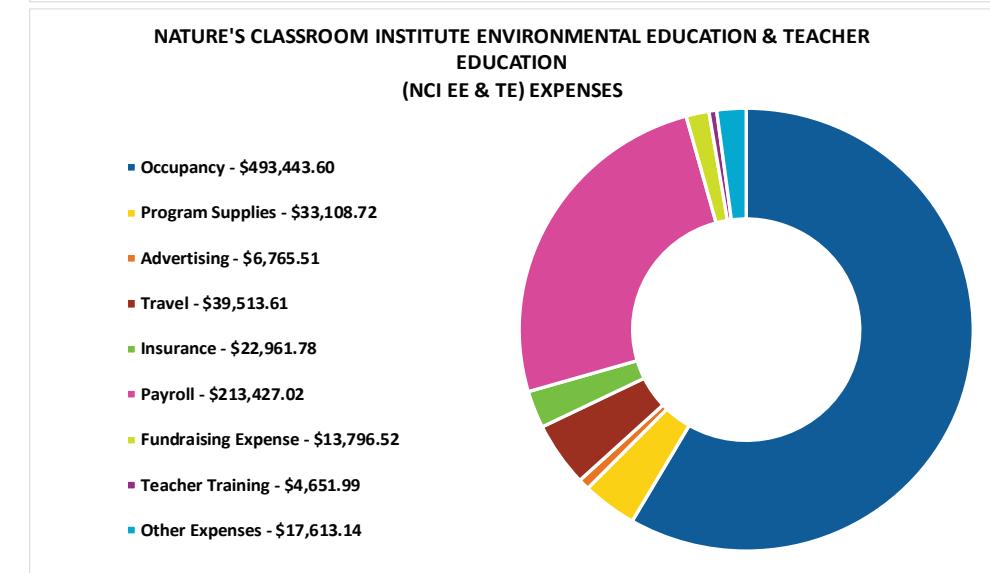
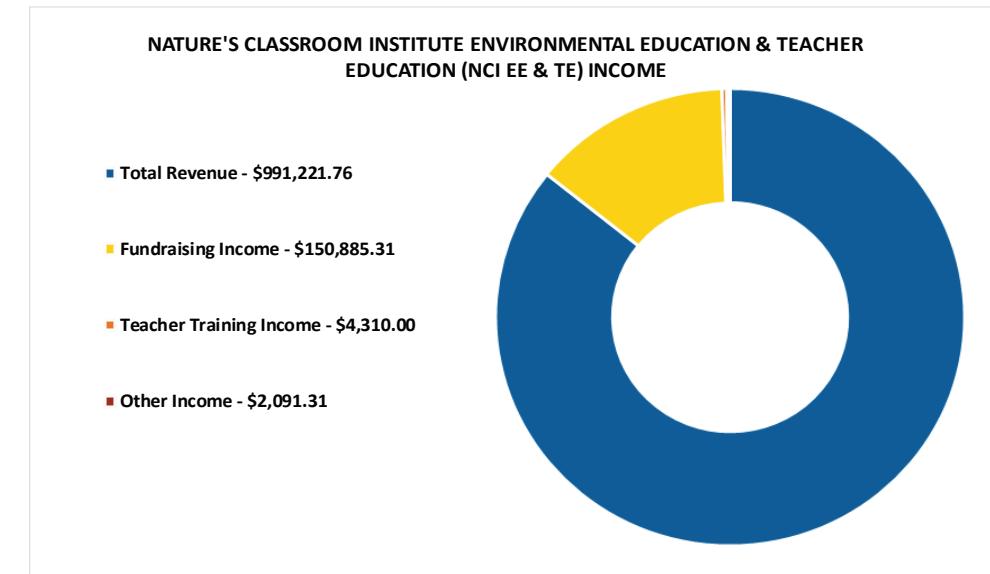
"Geoffrey Bishop kicked off the Shanghai Montessori Conference to 400 teachers, administrators and Montessori Parents. He began with graphic images and music to adjust our "state of being" to the beauty of the natural environment. His presentation continued with the absence and sometimes fear children can have of the natural environment. His powerful images and his passionate presentation left the educators rethinking their outdoor environments, their philosophy of the outside play area and understanding the importance of the natural world in children's lives. Geoffrey also did a workshop that was filled with eager educators wanting to learn more about how to make this transition to the outside environment at their school. People were "moved" by his presentation and many were asking him to come back and do more presentation on this topic. Geoffrey is an energetic and passionate presenter with great video's, graphics and clear points on immersing children in their natural world. Everyone who heard him, left a different person, with a different vision of their role as an educator in relationship to the outdoor education of our future leaders."

-Rosemary Quaranta, Head of School and Teaching Professor at Xavier University



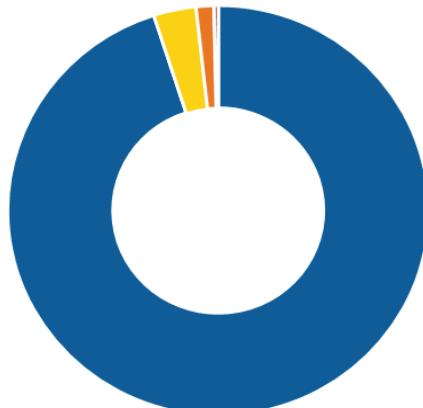


2017-2018 Financials



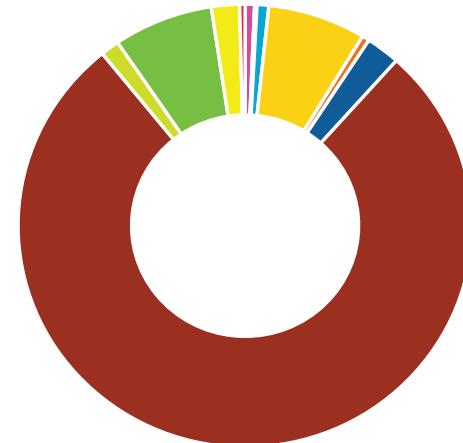
NATURE'S CLASSROOM INSTITUTE MONTESSORI (NCIM) INCOME

- Total Revenue - \$402,020.69
- Fundraising Income - \$13,709.66
- Speaking Engagements - \$5,750.00
- Other Income - \$1,398.86



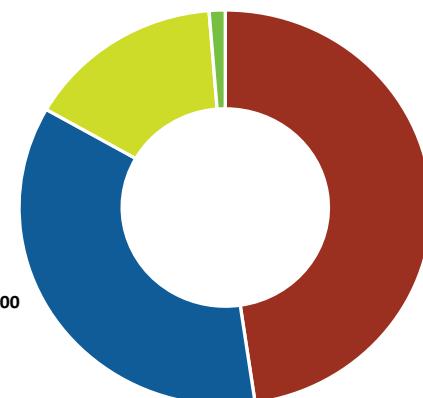
NATURE'S CLASSROOM INSTITUTE MONTESSORI (NCIM) EXPENSES

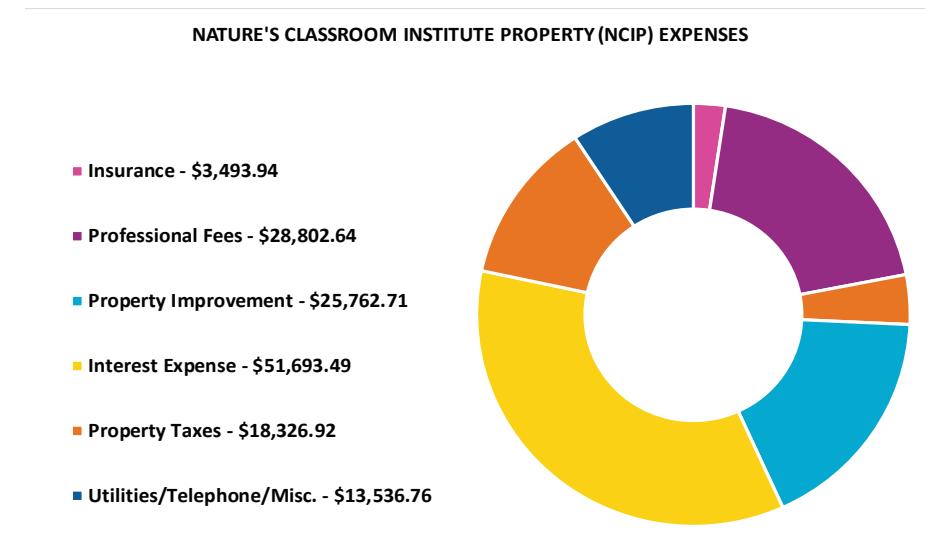
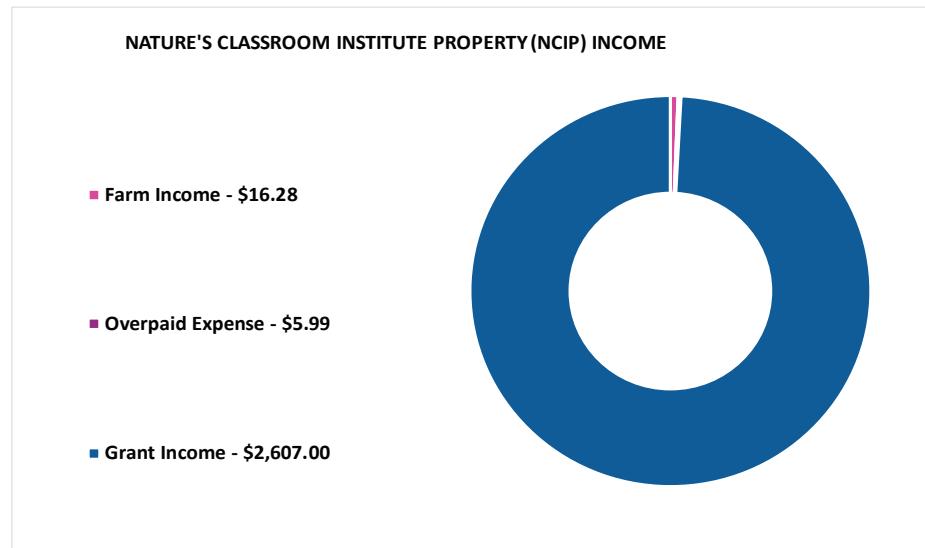
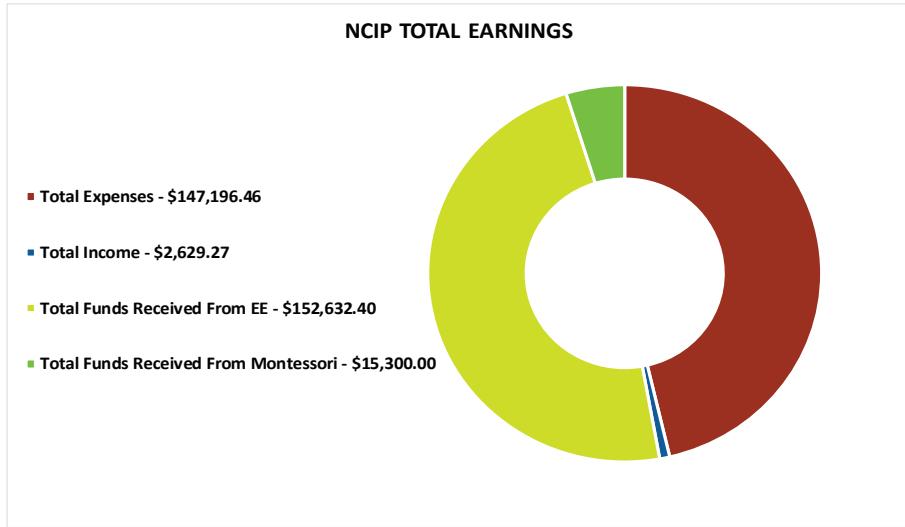
- Insurance - \$3,892.53
- Professional Fees - \$997.95
- Property Improvement - \$4,824.22
- Program Supplies - \$40,582.96
- Interest Expense - \$3,049.82
- Utilities/Telephone/Misc. - \$14,059.34
- Payroll - \$450,238.96
- Adolescent Expense - \$7,785.03
- Bad Debt Expense - \$41,227.00
- Training/Seminars - \$11,643.50
- Fundraising Expense - \$2,215.20



NCIM TOTAL EARNINGS

- Total Expenses - \$580,516.51
- Total Income - \$433,173.46
- Total Funds Received From EE - \$188,367.04
- Total Funds Transferred to Property - \$15,300.00





Help Realize our Vision

Each year, students at NCI are given positive experiences in nature. For some children, with little or no access to nature, Nature's Classroom opens their eyes to the wonders of nature, often for the first time.

"The first time I saw the stars."

"The first time I climbed a tree."

"The first time I held a chicken."

"The first time I heard a coyote howl."

"The first time I ate a tomato from the garden."

Help us Fund:

New Facility

Montessori Classroom Materials

Environmental Education Supplies

Environmental Restoration

Farm Buildings & Implements

School Garden & Animal Care

Montessori High School Program

Science Laboratory

Arts & Humanities

Community Outreach

Educational Field Trips

Today, NCI is asking for your help to support our programs. Through your donation, NCI will be able to continue to serve youth locally, nationally and internationally as we continue to develop and grow.



One-Time Giving

The easiest of all gifting options, simply log on to

www.discovernci.org

and click the "Donate" button or use the enclosed envelope to mail your donation. Your tax-deductible donation will be used to support continued academic programming at Nature's Classroom

Institute and Montessori School.

Employer Matching

Many employers offer matching gift programs that will double or even triple a donation's value. Before you complete your individual donation, please check with your company's human resources department to find out if your employer will match your gift to NCI.



Planned Giving

Planned giving is an opportunity for you to arrange a major gift to Nature's Classroom Institute and Montessori School. A planned gift creates a lasting legacy in your name while distinguishing your wish to share NCI's commitment with present and future generations.

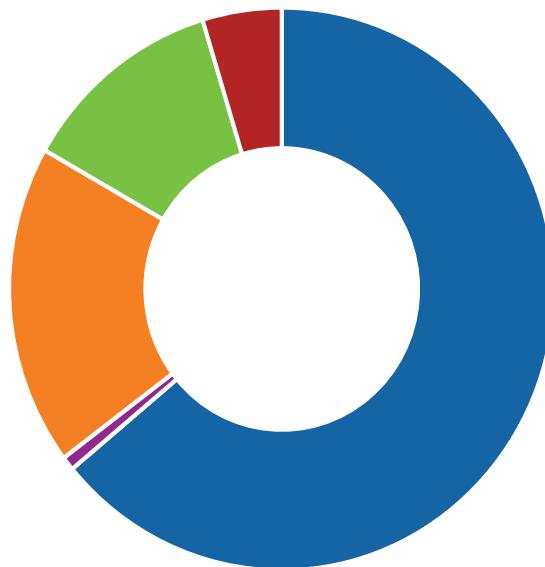
Fundraise for Nature's Classroom!

Not able to provide a fiscal donation at this time? Show your support by becoming a Nature's Classroom ambassador and fundraising through your social media and email networks. Simply email info@nciw.org and let us know of your interest!



FOR EVERY \$100 DONATED TO NATURE'S CLASSROOM INSTITUTE AND MONTESSORI SCHOOL

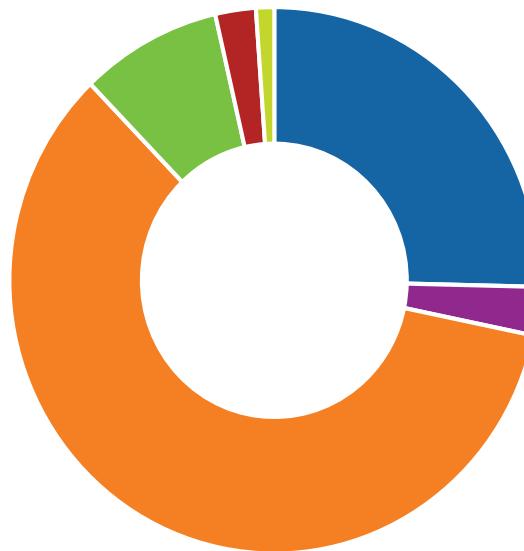
- Payroll - \$63.95
- Insurance - \$0.80
- Infrastructure - \$18.46
- Program Materials - \$12.09
- Professional Fees - \$4.69



For Every \$100 Donated

FOR EVERY \$100 DONATED TO NATURE'S CLASSROOM INSTITUTE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- Payroll - \$25.38
- Insurance - \$2.86
- Occupancy - \$59.53
- Program Materials - \$8.64
- Professional Fees - \$2.47
- Fundraising Expense - \$1.11



Dinner in the Woods



Nature's Classroom Institute (NCI) hosted Dinner in the Woods, our major fundraising event at our school in Mukwonago, WI. The fundraising concept came from a clear understanding of who NCI is and what we represent. Integrating the natural environment into everything we do is a critical part of the culture of our organization. NCI's premier Dinner in the Woods event was a great success! Our guests were greeted by a line of valet parkers who created an atmosphere that was welcoming as well as fun. From there they entered a magical experience with our large circus style marquee, and the outstanding array of silent auction items, to delicious spread of hors d'oeuvres. The atmosphere was picturesque. Families, EE friends, staff and visitors enjoyed a mouthwatering meal from LD's BBQ of East Troy with live music provided by a NCI graduate, Sophia Webber and Big Kenny 'n' 3D. With the amazing support of our school families and our Environmental Education friends and clients, our silent auction, tickets sales and outright donations, we raised \$50,000 to support the infrastructure and ongoing commitment to building our new home in Skyview.



Testimonial

"As a former Nature's Classroom instructor, elementary teacher, and now principal, I can't stress enough the importance of NCI in the lives of young children. The work that NCI does in connecting students to the land, making history tangible, and fostering teamwork and communication is irreplaceable."

-Ben Blair (Principal), Rogers Park Montessori, Chicago, IL

"There is nothing I can do in my classroom that is as impactful as Nature's Classroom Institute. Their experience was positive and the impact long lasting. As a staff member my experiences have trickled into my teaching. I use the same language, activities, and strive to provide opportunities for discovery."

-Geralyn Cesarz (Teacher), Cudahy Middle School, Cudahy, WI

"For inner-city kids, Nature's Classroom provides an important connection with nature that we just don't get when living in the heart of Chicago. But it's so much more than nature and the variety of classes taught by an amazing staff of counselors. The counselors form bonds with the students where they are providing content of new information in a way that is understandable to the kids - they really get to the level the students are. Even more, my students are exposed to the manners needed to live closely with others outside their families, including sharing living space, setting the table and passing food, and caring for inside and outside living spaces."

-Ms. Gorzen (Teacher), Oglesby Elementary, Chicago, IL



Friends of NCI

9Round, Mukwonago
Adriana Haslam
Affeldt Family, K & J
Affeldt Family, L
Alcuin Montessori School
Ali Khan
Allure Spa, Mukwonago
Alpine Valley
Ancarrow-Dingeldein Family
Anich's Liquor
Anna Janusz
Archgate Montessori
Art Moovz
Atlas Academy
Austin Jewish Academy
Badger Liquour
Banske Family
Barry and Julie Karp
Black Husky Brewery
Board Shop, Lake Geneva
Boucher Family
Bowser Family
Braun Family
Breber Family
Briana Kyle
Brickton Montessori School
Brookfield Party Rentals
Bucky's Fine Meats
Business Plus Furniture

Cafe on Square
Callies Family
Chen Family
Chiropractic Complete, Muskego
Chula Vista Resort, WI
Dells
Citizens Bank, Mukwonago
Cleary Family
Cole Family
Community Montessori
Charter Schools
Corpus Christie
Montessori
Cosmic Montessori
School
Council Oak Montessori School
Country Meadows
Montessori School
Craig Montessori School
Creative Learning
Montessori School
Cris Ros-Dukler
Crystal Lake Montessori School
Cudahy Middle School
Dague Family
Dean Bressler
Deepa Shreekumar

Doering Family
Domino's Pizza
Dooley Elementary School
Downtown Montessori Academy
Dr Race Orthodontics
Drummond Montessori
Magnet School
Dudkiewicz Family
DuPage Montessori School
Eagle Springs Pub
East Troy Railroad Museum
Elegant Farmer
End of Leash
Ervin Family
Fairview Public School
Foster Family
Fox Valley Montessori School
Fox Valley Vet Center
Francis Family
Frederick Family
Gateway Montessori
Generac
Geoffrey Bishop
Grass Family
Grassway Organics
Green Bay Packers
Guild Family
Haslam Family
Hawkinson Family
Hawks Family
Headwaters
Hill Country Montessori
Hill Valley Cheese
Hoepner Family
Hope Lutheran School

Inklink Books
Intercultural Montessori Language School
Jack and Kate Shaffer
James R Taylor Associates
Janet Berry Elementary School
Janusz Family
Jayne of Lake Geneva
Jess Keller
John Kamrath
Johnson Family
Joliet Montessori School
Karen Dingledein
Katelyn Bratz
Keating Family
Keystone
Kindi Academy
Knopow Family
Kowalczyk Family
Kurt Kenas
Kwik Trip
La Casa Montessori School
La Crescent Montessori & STEM School
LDs BBQ
LePort Montessori School - Fountain Valley
LePort Montessori School - Irvine Spectrum
LePort Montessori School - Solana Beach
MacDowell Montessori School
Madison Community Montessori School
Maria Montessori School

Maryland Avenue Montessori School	Montessori School of Champaign-Urbana	Pochert-Caradonna Family	Starwood Montessori
Maternowski Family	Montessori School of Lake Forest	Post Oak Montessori	Stonefire Pizza
McKinley Junior High School	Montessori School of Lemont	Precision Retrievers	Suder Montessori Elem
McQueen Animal Chiropractic and Research Institute	Montessori School of Waukesha	Purnell Family	Magnet School
McQueen Chiropractic and Integrative Care	Morgan Park Academy	Radler Rosarium	Tammy Webber
McQueen Family	Morning Star Golf Club	Renee Webber	The Ancona School
Meier Family	Mukwonago Animal Hospital	Resting Place Massage Therapy Center, Milwaukee	The Green Rabbit, Mukwonago
Melzl Family	Mukwonago Family Dentistry	Rhode's Towing & Repair	The Montessori School of San Antonio
Midwest Industries	Mukwonago YMCA	Rogers Park Montessori School	Think Pawsitive
Miller Family	Nature Walk Montessori School	Rohrer Family, M & J	Tino Markes
Miller Family	Nature's Classroom Montessori	Rohrer Family, R & J	Total Wine, Brookfield
Milwaukee Admirals	Near North Montessori School	Rohrganics	Unger Family
Milwaukee Montessori School	Nolan's Top Gun Charters	Rubingh Family	Urban Montessori Charter School
Mirko Sever	North Node Clinic, LLC, Milwaukee	Ruland Family	Wagner Family
Moden Family	Nothing Bundt Cakes	Satira Lord	Wales Elementary School
Monika Tsitos	Nucanoe	Saul Mirowitz Jewish Community School	Water Street Brewery
Monika Wiley	Oglesby Elementary School	Schnuelle Family	Wauwatosa Montessori School
Montage Salon	Old School Montessori	Schuett Farms	Webber Family
Monteagudo Family	Oscar Mayer Magnet School	Seaverson Family	Weber Family, J & M
Montessori Academy of Arlington	PABC (Parents Actively Building Community)	Self Family	Wern Valley
Montessori Academy of Chicago	P & N Promotions	Senkevitch Family	White Rock Montessori
Montessori Academy of Glen Ellyn	Peaceful Pathways	Seton Montessori School	Wiley Family
Montessori Academy of North Hoffman	Montessori Academy	Shore Trips Travels	William Radler
Montessori Explorer	Peterson Family	Shreekumar Family	Wilma Murphy
Montessori Habitat	Pignotti Family	Smith Family	Zinnaker Family
Montessori Pathways School	Pilgrim Imports	Solomon Schechter Day School of Metropolitan Chicago	
Montessori Private Academy		St Irene Catholic School	
		St. Catherine's Montessori	
		St. Michael Parish School	
		St. Stephen's Episcopal School	

