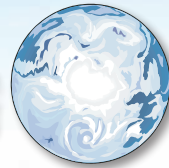


WILL STEGER
FOUNDATION



2008 – 2009 Annual Report



**EDUCATE
INSPIRE
EMPOWER**



Despite a normal winter and cool summer for those of us in Minnesota, the rest of the world had an all-time record of high temperatures this year. The

changes are not going unnoticed in the Arctic; researchers say air temperatures in northwest Canada, in Siberia and elsewhere in the Arctic have risen more than 2.5 C (4.5 F) since 1970 - much faster than the global average. The summer thaw is reaching deeper into frozen soil, at a rate of 4 centimeters (1.5 inches) a year, and a further 7 C (13 F) temperature rise is possible this century, according to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). At a meeting in Greenland in early September 2009, scientists from the Danish Meteorological Institute, the Greenland Climate Center, and other organizations said that the thickness and volume of Arctic ice is decreasing at an even more rapid rate than the precipitous decline in ice extent; Arctic Ocean winter ice thinned by 2.2 feet from 2004 to 2008.

Despite these grim findings and a weakened economy, I'm a firm believer that great things come out of recessions. I spent four months this summer in Ely, Minnesota, while connected to the work of my Foundation in the cities from a distance, I was able to reinvest in my homestead operations, connect with the wilderness everyday, and reflect on where the state of the climate is and where we are going.

One of the highlights of the summer was when we hosted 12 Norwegian students in the sciences in Ely; part of a Fulbright award the University of Minnesota received in collaboration with the Will Steger Foundation. The program focused on climate change, sustainability, and collaboration between the U.S. and Norway. During one of our discussions on civic engagement with the students, we asked them what youth were doing in Norway to organize around the upcoming Copenhagen conference or even with their upcoming election. Apathy circled the room. They responded that they are not involved in politics at all. They were shocked to learn they could even participate in the United Nations climate negotiations. As our

conversation continued, it became even more evident why it is so critically important we work to support youth, especially when it comes to global warming. The Norwegian students were an extremely intelligent group with a firm understanding of the issue, however they lacked the knowledge that they could make a difference and the support to get involved. For me, the solution to climate change has always been about social engagement. Our conversation intensified as the students shared stories of the challenges they've encountered back home in changing individual behavior, to discussing how the group could meet the Midwest youth delegation we will be bringing to the conference later this year. The weekend was a rejuvenating one because it touched the basics of human spirit; the need to find common ground and to work collectively and collaboratively to reach a common goal.

For me, I know that several of the ice shelves I have crossed in the Arctic will never be there again, but I am confident that we can adapt around the changes that have resulted from global warming. At the same time we must do everything we can to immediately drop our carbon dioxide emissions to the scientific-based target of 350 parts per million. If we do this, we will be much better for it and the youth that joined me in Ely, and the thousands of youth my Foundation supports, will look back proud that they were not bystanders to the issues surrounding them, but leaders creating the change we need and truly making a difference. Tough times call for innovation, change and action. As our economy pulls out of the recession, so should our planet.

Will Steger, President and Founder



Starting in September 2008, as the Will Steger Foundation (WSF) staff and Board gathered in Ely, Minnesota for our first strategic planning retreat,

we knew 2009 would present enormous opportunity, as well as challenges, both internally for the organization and externally with the United States political climate about to shift. We made the decision to postpone our traditional Arctic expeditions, recognizing the looming recession and the chance to put our energy into our policy, youth and educational efforts here at home. As I look back I am humbled by the vision we set forth for the year which allowed us to fine-tune our focus, strengthen our credibility in Minnesota and the Midwest, and continue to grow our partnerships both domestically and internationally.

Our Emerging Leaders Program was strengthened as we expanded our work in the Midwest through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes National Program Office to conduct a 10-day tour of the Great Lakes Region to draw attention to the impacts of climate change on the area and examples of citizen solutions. We partnered with educational institutions, student groups, mayors and corporations to visit university campuses and major cities in the Great Lakes Region to galvanize college students, civic leaders and engage citizenry in climate change solutions.

We also focused our policy and community outreach efforts in the Twin Cities metro-area through HIRE (Healthcare, Infrastructure, Renewable Energy) Minnesota, a coalition co-chaired by Will Steger and Louis King, a prominent African American leader in North Minneapolis. HIRE Minnesota is focused on ensuring that public investments for Minnesota, such as those that resulted from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, benefit low income communities and communities of color, jumpstart our economy and reduce harmful global warming pollution. A major success of these efforts has been the ability to bring unlikely allies together and forge new partnerships.

Also, aware of a new political climate under the Obama Administration, and the opportunity for the U.S. to

finally lead on climate and energy policy domestically, and internationally, we sought to combine our strengths in curriculum development, youth leadership and position in the Midwest to lead a Midwest youth delegation to the United Nations (U.N.) climate negotiations taking place in Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2009.

We also continued to monitor our organizational health and financial stability as the economy grew worse and our support from private foundations, corporations and individuals dropped sharply. With our strategic plan as a guide, we were able to respond efficiently and effectively; we brought our staff to part-time through the last quarter of our fiscal-year, May-August 2009, and stream-lined our expenses. While changes such as these are always difficult, the Will Steger Foundation is committed to moving forward to educate, inspire and engage people in climate change solutions.

I am proud to say that we have already had a successful close to the year. Bill McKibben, author and founder of 350.org, joined us in late August for a community forum which attracted an audience of 500, and he participated in our annual Summer Institute, which drew 85 participants in person and via an online webinar. Bill's message of social engagement and the opportunity for U.S. climate leadership and international cooperation is one that complements and affirms our own strategic goals and vision.

We continue to adjust and adapt as we move into a new fiscal year. Thank you for your generous support and critical participation in our accomplishments. We would not be who we are without you. Join us for another year of climate leadership and critical work on the frontlines of global warming. We believe we can make a difference.

Nicole Rom, Executive Director

- Executed *The Longest Summer Tour* with support from the U.S. EPA Region 5 and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) (www.thelongest-summertour.org), a 10-day tour of the Upper Midwest that brought eyewitness footage of global warming, opportunities to dialogue with policy-makers, scientists and experts, and solutions from young climate leaders on the forefront of an international movement to solve the climate crisis.



- The Longest Summer Tour worked with the following governing units: MPCA; Governor Quinn of Illinois; Mayor Heartwell (Grand Rapids, MI); Mayor Peterson (Houghton, MI); Mayor Tollefson (Marquette, MI); U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office; and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.
- Will Steger joined Louis King of Summit Academy OIC to co-chair the HIRE Minnesota campaign (www.hiremn.org), a coalition of community organizations that are seeking public investments that jump-start our economy, provide access for all people to jobs, training and living wages, start to ease the climate crisis and promote healthy communities.
- HIRE Minnesota successfully secured training and outreach dollars from the Minnesota weatherization bill for low-income communities and communities of color. The bill will ensure hundreds of low-income people will be trained for green jobs and thousands of low-income homes will be weatherized – putting people to work, reducing utility bills and decreasing global warming pollution.
- Will Steger Foundation supported Minnesota's Clean Car bill with action at the Capitol, involving over 250 youth from across Minnesota and green jobs guru, Van Jones, in partnership with MPIRG and Minnesota Environmental Partnership, March 2009
- Our North Dakota Eyewitness to Climate Change Tour (May 11-13) was a success with support from Audubon Dakota, National Wildlife Federation, Pew Environment Group, Prairie Climate Stewardship Network, RE-AMP Media Center, Sierra Club Dacotah Chapter, and the Will Steger Foundation. The Tour reached over 1,000 North Dakotans in three public evening forums, one school presentation, and garnered significant media coverage in print, radio, and on the two main television stations in Grand Forks and Fargo.

LOCAL:

- Grew Young Environmental Activists Minnesota (YEA! MN) to include 25 high schools in the Twin Cities Metro area.
- Developed valuable partnerships between WSF and Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTS) regarding YEA! MN participation in the 'Schools Cutting Carbon' Program.
- Led delegation of 25 high school students from YEA! MN to the national Power Shift conference for youth climate leadership in Washington DC, March 2009.



STATEWIDE:

- Sponsored and mentored Minnesota Powershift, October 2008, a statewide youth climate summit planned and facilitated by youth climate leaders at Washburn High School, featuring Will Steger, Congressman Keith Ellison, Jack Nelson-Palmeyer, and special video message from Senator Amy Klobuchar.
- Co-facilitated a planning retreat for the Trans-Campus Energy Action Movement Minnesota (TEAM MN) at the University of St. Johns, November 2008, a network of youth climate leaders from colleges and universities across the state.

REGIONAL:

- Worked with regional partners including the Sierra Student Coalition, Global Exchange, and Student Environmental Action Coalition to formalize the Midwest Climate Coalition, and helped to plan and facilitate bi-monthly conference calls with youth climate organizers across the Midwest.
- Co-managed 6 RE-AMP youth liaisons in partnership with the Sierra Student Coalition, to sit on RE-AMP working groups and foster communication across the generational spectrum.
- Selected 12 highly qualified youth climate leaders to join Will Steger and Expedition Copenhagen, representing North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Illinois.



EDUCATION



- Enhanced the Summer Institute for Climate Change Education, which included establishing new partnerships with the University of Minnesota, recruiting over 85 participants many of whom were new to WSF, offering a webinar option and securing keynote speaker and author Bill McKibben.
- Created a new curriculum, Citizen Climate Lesson Plans, on global climate solutions, to support Expedition Copenhagen programming with grants from the Irwin Andrew Porter Foundation and the National Education Association.
- Strengthened Emerging Leaders Program through participation in local, regional and national youth climate events, lobby days, and conferences.
- Collaborated with the University of Minnesota Office of International Programs on a Summer Institute for Norwegian Students in the Sciences, including providing curriculum support and hosting a weekend retreat in Ely, MN.

EXPEDITIONS

- Featured North Pole '09 Expedition.
- Launched preparations for Expedition Copenhagen (December 2009), a Midwest youth delegation led by Will Steger to the U.N. talks in Copenhagen, Denmark.



DEVELOPMENT

- Executed three successful mailed appeals as well as a series of fall dinner fundraisers that netted \$17,615.00.
- With three years financial data we were able to be officially listed in the Central Contractors Registration (CCR) as well as the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) which gives the Will Steger Foundation national access for donors and federal employees.
- Secured partnerships with Stonyfield Farm, Inc. and SUPERVALU for Expedition Copenhagen.

OPERATIONS



- Executed first strategic plan with staff and board to set a plan for the organization over the next three years.
- Began re-design of Will Steger Foundation Web site.
- In fiscal year 2009 we began logging our volunteer hours. Volunteer hours from September 2008 through August 2009 totaled 600 hours with over 13 active volunteers contributing on a regular basis.
- Managing our database remains a high priority after implementing a new database last year and cleaning out many contacts with missing or partial information. We have built our database back up from about 2,400 contacts to almost 4,500 contacts this year.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- WSF was a finalist for the 2009 Minnesota Environmental Initiative Award for Environmental Education for our high-school program, YEA! MN (Young Environmental Activists).
- The Baffin and Ellesmere Island Expeditions were featured on PBS/National Geographic *Wild Chronicles* and in the *New York Times*. Videos from the expedition are displayed in National Geographic's flagship store in London.
- Will was featured in Northwest Airlines *World Traveler* magazine in September 2008 and the University of St. Thomas *St. Thomas* magazine, which received a photo editor award.
- Will/WSF reached out to the following universities this year:
 - **Minnesota:** College of St. Scholastica, University of Minnesota-Duluth, St. John's, St. Cloud State
 - **Wisconsin:** Lawrence University, Northland College
 - **Illinois:** Northwestern University, University of Chicago
 - **Michigan:** Calvin College, Cornerstone University, Grand Valley State University, Michigan Technological University, Northern Michigan University, Olivet College
 - University of California – Santa Barbara
 - Franklin Pierce University, Rindge, NH

FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND CONTRIBUTORS

STATEMENT OF UNRESTRICTED REVENUE AND EXPENSES

Fiscal Year 2009*

September 1, 2008 - August 31, 2009

EARNED REVENUE

Contributions	\$447,269.06
Other Revenue	\$77,573.18
Total	\$524,842.24

EXPENSES

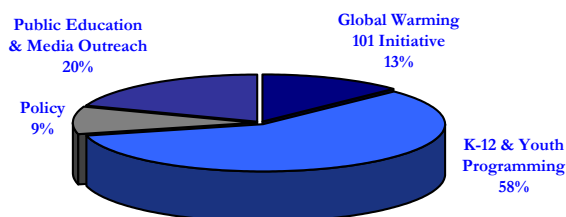
Administration	\$17,434.01
Fundraising/Development	\$32,642.12
K-12 & Youth Programming	\$288,467.18
Policy	\$45,823.01
Public Education & Media Outreach	\$96,179.75
Global Warming 101 Initiative	\$62,686.51
Total	\$543,232.58

Excess/Deficit (\$18,390.34)**

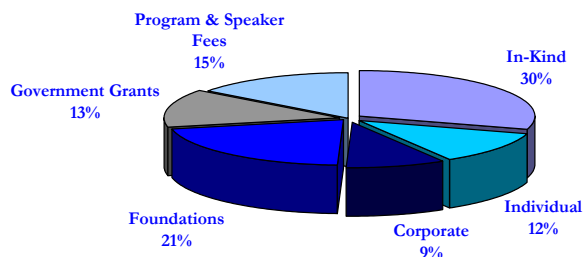
*Unaudited financials

**Total Earned Revenue (restricted and unrestricted) is \$586,656.73 and Excess/Deficit is \$43,424.15

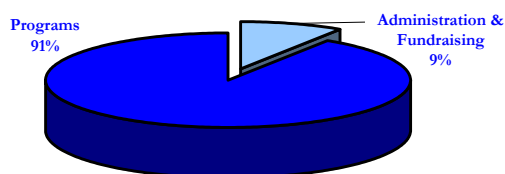
PROGRAMS



SOURCES OF SUPPORT



EXPENDITURES



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 Anne Leck
 Bill Lee
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 Peter Reich
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 Eric Utne
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 Stuart and Kate Nielsen
 Don and Barb Shelby
 Barbara Steiner
 Susan Knutson
 Julie Jackley Steiner
 Lisa Ringer
 Irene Steiner

STEGER SOCIETY (\$5,000 AND ABOVE)

Anonymous
 David Bryan and Ann
 Longfellow
 Steger Designs, Inc. dba Steger
 Mukluks

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The Brownstein Family Fund -
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 • Robert of The Saint Paul
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 RE-AMP Strategic Media Fund (2)
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 Irwin Andrew Porter Foundation
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 Summit Academy OIC
 The Thomas Braun Fund of the
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 Canadian Consulate General of
 Minneapolis
 U.S. EPA Region 5
 Great River Energy
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 Agency
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College of St. Scholastica
 Clif Bar
 Eleven
 Fischer Edit
 Gasket Studios
 GreenMark
 Hell's Kitchen
 Jill Palmquist
 Michigan Technological
 Univeristy - Graduate
 School
 Northland College
 Toyota City
 University of Chicago

EDINA COMMUNITY FORUM

Barr Engineering Co.
 Concierge In My Pocket
 Cool Planet
 Edina Community Foundation
 Edina Community Education
 Services
 Edina High School Planet Earth
 Energy and Environment
 Commission
 SUPERVALU
 Wild Harvest

SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION

Aveda Corporation
 Blue Sky Guide
 Do It Green Guide
 Orion Magazine



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 University of Minnesota Dept.
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 Environment
 University of Minnesota Office
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 Valley Natural Foods
 Wild Harvest

IN KIND PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

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 Claudia Del Zoppo
 Granite Gear
 Kim Knutson
 Patsy Noble
 Brian Oake
 Sharon Parker
 Lisa Ringer
 Steger Designs, Inc. dba Steger
 Mukluks
 Will Steger
 Jerry Stenger

VOLUNTEERS

*We are grateful to our dedicated
 volunteers who donated over 600
 hours this last year.*

Erin Bast
 Diane Belanger
 Steve Crum
 Maia Dedrick
 Grace Ferrara
 Joe Foss
 Dawn Newbrough
 Anna Sturdevant
 Celine Vaaler
 Paul Zimmerman

*Any comments or corrections
 regarding this annual report,
 please contact:
info@willstegerfoundation.org
 or (612) 278-7147.*

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The Will Steger Foundation is dedicated to creating programs that foster international cooperation and leadership through environmental education and policy.

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