



ALLIANCE *for the*
GREAT LAKES

Protecting Water, Sustaining Life

Local Actions, Large Impacts.

2019 Annual Report

Local Actions, Large Impacts.



When I look at the challenges facing our work protecting the Great Lakes, from toxic algal blooms that jeopardize our drinking water and wildlife to the catastrophic threat of invasive Asian Carp, it can be overwhelming. Our work is cut out for us, to say the least, especially when Great Lakes and clean water protections are under attack. But I also see how time and again, local actions can have far-reaching, positive effects on the Great Lakes.

I was reminded of this more than ever this past year. In November, we lost our founder, Lee Botts, who dedicated her life to the Great Lakes. She set the modern Great Lakes movement on its path, deliberately moving the effort forward one day, one action at a time. We are forever grateful for Lee's work and honored to have been a part of her legacy.

Today, when I hear about a community putting the Great Lakes and clean water at the center of decisions, I remember Lee setting that expectation as if it was obvious all along. Lee was a remarkable example of how one person's steady persistence can improve the lives of millions.

I believe this year's annual report shows how Lee's passion reverberates around the Great Lakes today. We're sharing the stories of local community leaders who are building powerful new coalitions in Green Bay, northern Ohio, Chicago, and beyond. They are leading the clean water movement from the ground up.

One person, one town, one state can make a difference and turn the tides to a healthier Great Lakes. We've seen it time and time again. Thank you to our generous donors, volunteers, advocates, and community partners who are joining us in this Great Lakes movement. We can only do our work because of your support. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Brammeier". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Joel Brammeier
President & CEO

2019

Treasurer's Report

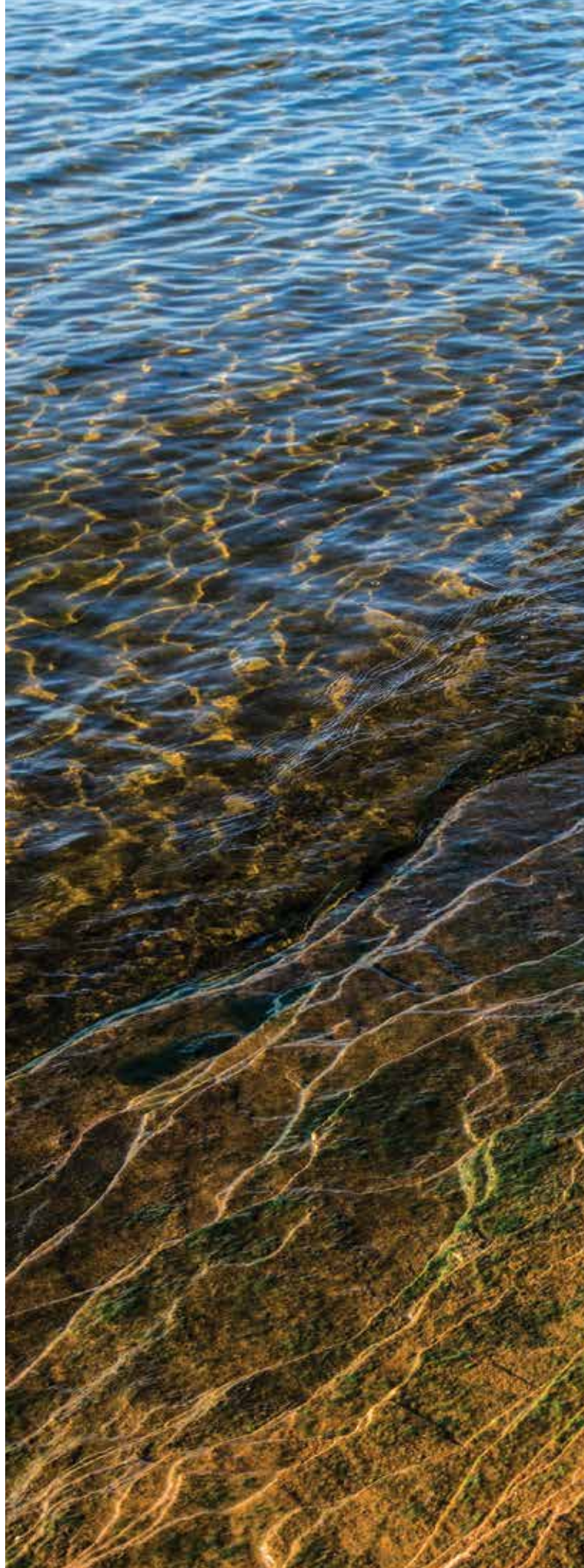
The Alliance for the Great Lakes had a great year, thanks to our donors, advocates, and champions. Without their support, we would not have been able to achieve clean water victories at local, state, and federal levels.

Last year the Alliance invested in strengthening our internal finance and operations capacity, hiring a full-time director experienced in managing complex organizations and funding sources. Our Finance & Operations Director spent the past year making more resources available for our Great Lakes programs by improving operations through new management tools and enhanced reporting to inform our leadership's and Board's guidance of the Alliance's strategy. The result is superior fiscal management and stewardship of donations, as evidenced by us receiving Charity Navigator's four-star rating—the highest possible rating—for the ninth year in a row.

We are honored that so many individuals have entrusted us to carry out the critical work of protecting clean water, and we take that commitment seriously every single day.

I would like to recognize my fellow members of the 2019 Finance Committee for their continued dedication—Sue Conatser, Laura Rubin, and David Schmahl. I would also like to thank Joel Brammeier, President & CEO, and Kelly Farley, our Finance & Operations Director, for their dedication and guidance. We remain committed to effectively managing the Alliance's finances, and using the organization's resources to continue leading on Great Lakes protection and restoration for generations to come.

Frank Washelesky
Treasurer



Every Dollar Matters

Our supporters make it possible for the Alliance for the Great Lakes to lead on clean water protection at the local, state, and regional levels. We extend our sincerest thanks to all donors who supported our work in our 2019 fiscal year (September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019). In our 2019 financial report, we list donors who have contributed \$1,000 or more, **but every gift is appreciated and makes a difference in protecting the Great Lakes.**

CORPORATE/FOUNDATION/ ORGANIZATIONAL DONORS

\$100,000 +

Aveda Salons
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation *
The Crown Family *
Grand Victoria Foundation *
The George Gund Foundation *
The Joyce Foundation *
McDougal Family Foundation
Michigan City Sanitary District *

\$50,000-\$99,999

Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
Anonymous
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Foundation *
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Searle Funds at The Chicago
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Solberg Manufacturing Inc.

\$25,000-\$49,999

Alphawood Foundation
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Frechette Family Foundation
Great Lakes Commission *
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ScottsMiracle-Gro Company *
Shaw and Betty Walker Foundation

\$10,000-\$24,999

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The Comer Foundation Fund
Conant Family Foundation
Dr. Scholl Foundation
Eileen Fisher, Inc.
Elizabeth Morse Genius
Charitable Trust
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Family Fund at The Chicago
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Gino's East *
Grosvenor Capital Management, L.P.
Healing Our Waters - Great Lakes
Coalition *
HSBC
Lemonade Insurance Company
Michigan Department of
Environmental Quality *
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration *
Network for Good

* multi-year pledge/payment

Salesforce.org
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Sehgal Family Foundation
University of Illinois at Chicago *

\$5,000-\$9,999

AT&T, Inc.
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The Driscoll Foundation
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Indiana Department of
Natural Resources *
JPMorgan Chase Good Works
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Oppenheimer Family Foundation
Red Oak Foundation
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Sears-Swetland Family Foundation
The Herbert & Nell Singer
Foundation
The Siragusa Family Foundation
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Strategex
TEGNA Foundation
Tucker Ellis LLP

\$2,500-\$4,999

AMLI Residential
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Earthwatch Institute
Eaton Charitable Fund
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HzW Environmental Consultants, LLC
Land + Water WORKS Coalition
The Longview Foundation
Malman Law
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Mightybytes, Inc.
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The Waterwheel Foundation, Inc.

\$1,000 - \$2,499

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Congregation of St. Joseph

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at Our Grand Rapids Community
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EarthShare Ohio
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Fund
First Congregational Church of
Wilmette
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Illinois Tool Works Foundation
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Lakeshore Foundation
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Farms Network
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Dentistry
New Holland Brewing Co.
Pearsall Family Foundation
Port of Cleveland
SHURE, Inc.
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran
Church
Stratosphere Networks
The Trust Company
Water Street Coffee
Western New York Environmental
Alliance
Winnetka Garden Club

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

\$100,000+

Searle Family Trust

\$50,000-\$99,999

Greater Milwaukee Foundation's
Enroth Family Fund

\$25,000-\$49,999

Anonymous
Elizabeth Crown and Bill Wallace
Kay Hoida Dawson

\$10,000-\$24,999

Jack and Renee Beam
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Susan and Jeff Pearsall
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Walchak

\$5,000-\$9,999

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Madelon Gay Dolan
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Charles Sawyer
Joyce and Charles Solberg
Janice Stull
Janice Thompson
Thomas and Jeannie Tisbo

\$2,500-\$4,999

Anonymous
The Bothfeld Brown Charitable Fund
Kevin Cahill
Sue Conatser and Thomas Terry
Brian Crabb and Christine Cucinotta
Diane and Paul Culhane
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Whitney and Aaron Fershee
Thomas P. Healy, Jr. and Gia
Interlandi
Paul Herbert
Barbara and John Kowalczyk
Meredith Miller
Duncan Stuart
Aaron Vangetson
Frank L. Washelesky

\$1,000-\$2,499

Darcy Adams
Anonymous
Erin Arnold
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Jack and Janis Bails
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Christopher Beale
Rebecca and Bruce Berman
Judy and Kenneth Betz
Lauren Bigelow
Nancy Boltrick
Kevin and Kristi Brown
Michael Brown
Anita Buckmaster and Michael
Klingbeil
Tonit Calaway
Ed and Laura Carney
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Howard and Rachel Conant
Daphne and John Cunningham
Adrienne and Terrence Dziak
Janet Fairley
Gary and Sandy Fencik
Molly Flanagan
Kathryn Bryk Friedman
Craig Golden and Michal Golden
Amanda and Raymond Haas Fund
of Community Foundation
Sonoma County
David Hackett, Baker & McKenzie
Thomas and Alison Hafner
Shauna Scott and J. Parker Hall IV
Sarah Hanson
Harmann Family - John and Laila
Fund of the Greater Cincinnati
Foundation
Martha and Jeffrey Jentz
Katherine Kelly-Alberdi
Cathy Kennedy
John Kett

online

Read the full report online at
www.GreatLakes.org/AnnualReport2019

Julie Kiefer and David Reinisch
 Holly King
 Larry and Leneta Kitchel
 William and Kelly Koch
 Joshua Koenig
 Joel and Eileen Koplos
 Jason Krigel
 Tom Langmyer
 Brittney Lanosga
 Jennifer Lisowski
 Gerard Loftus
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 Cindy Lustig
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 Barbara Mayers
 McGill-Welborn Charitable Giving Fund
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 Susan and Mark Mihalo
 David and Laura Mohr
 Julie Moller
 Emily Monnelly and Matthew C. Brett
 Katherine Newhouse
 Susan and Nicholas Noyes
 Renuka O'Connell
 Katy and Dave Pepper
 Bryce Prichard
 Dr. and Mrs. William Purdy
 Merrilee and Richard Redmond
 Lauren Rosenthal and Howard Learner
 Susan Rouse
 Mary and Bob Ruebenson
 Richard L. Rundle
 Marion Rust
 Kimberly and David Schmahl
 Mary and Rubin Schmidt
 Jeffrey and Sally Schneiders
 Jeff Shelden
 Shoshanna Bernstein Fidelity
 Giving Account
 Peggy Sloan
 James Snyder
 Jennifer and Tor Solberg
 Travis Solberg
 Amy and Charles Spungen
 Kelley Staley
 Sue and Thomas Van Dam
 Timothy VanTassel
 Carol and Peter Walters
 Ellen Ward and James Young
 Charles Warden
 Judith Wells Warner and James Warner
 Sharran Warren
 Jennifer and Allen Weaver
 Michael K. Welch
 Mary Winburn
 Lee and Carol Wolcott
 Mary and Christopher Wolf

DONORS OF GOODS AND SERVICES

Adler Planetarium
 Art Institute of Chicago
 Bagel Art

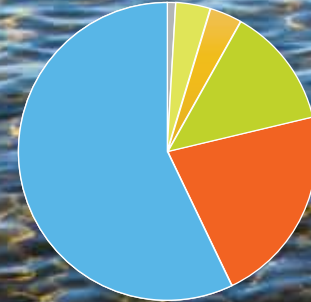
Bell's Brewery, Inc.
 Belmont Yacht Club
 Blind Faith Cafe
 Botanica CBD
 Chicago Bears
 Chicago Bulls
 Chicago Magazine
 The Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art
 Cleveland Indians
 Cleveland International Film Festival
 Cleveland Metroparks
 Cleveland Museum of Contemporary Art
 Cleveland Museum of Natural History
 Columbia Yacht Club
 Bruce Doblin
 Field Museum
 Google AdWords
 Great Lakes Brewing Company
 Great Lakes Science Center
 Hall's Rental Service
 Hewn Artisan Bread
 Hilton Garden Inn Downtown Milwaukee
 Homestead Meats
 Hopleaf Bar
 Hotel Julian
 Kellie Klein
 Lake Metroparks Environmental
 Learning Center
 L'Albatros Restaurant
 Live Space Music Hall
 Mightybytes, Inc.
 Mitchell's Ice Cream
 The Olive Scene
 Patagonia Chicago
 Peckish Pig Brew Pub
 Robert Rodgers
 Kimberly and David Schmahl
 Rachel Schneider and Jeffrey Davis
 Shaw's Crab House
 Shedd Aquarium
 Temperance Beer Company
 Vinic Wine Company

MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES

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 Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
 Chubb Charitable Foundation
 DonationXchange
 Elizabeth, Allan and Warren Shelden Fund
 GE Foundation
 Harrison Street Real Estate Capital
 IBM Corporation
 Illinois Tool Works Foundation
 Legg Mason
 Motorola Solutions Foundation
 Ohio CAT
 Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation
 Robert R. McCormick Foundation
 Salesforce.org
 Travelers
 UBS Matching Gift Program
 The Wege Foundation

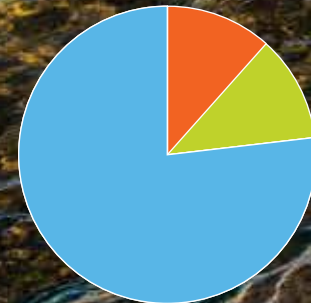
We have set aside and maintained a \$1.1M endowment and our balance sheet remains very strong.

Funding Sources



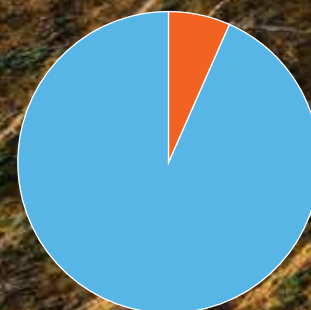
57% **GRANTS** \$2,210,596
 22% **INDIVIDUALS** \$836,038
 13% **BUSINESSES/ ORGANIZATIONS** \$508,230
 3% **EVENTS** \$134,372
 4% **GOVERNMENT** \$144,746
 1% **OTHER** \$36,165

Expenses



77% **PROGRAMS** \$2,729,555
 11% **FUNDRAISING** \$410,691
 12% **ADMINISTRATIVE** \$411,117

Assets and Liabilities



ASSETS \$5,361,300
LIABILITIES \$379,482



This year the Alliance became one of 3% of charities to receive four stars from Charity Navigator, the highest possible rating, for 9 years in a row. The rating is a recognition of our sound fiscal management, commitment to accountability, and transparency.

Thank You From the Alliance Board and Staff

The Alliance for the Great Lakes would like to recognize retiring members of our Board of Directors for their years of service: **Rachel Schneider** and **Tom Denbow**. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new members, **Kimberly Hill Knott**, **Candace Jeffers LaRochelle**, and **Susan McDermott**, who were elected in November 2019. We are continually grateful for the leadership and commitment of our distinguished Board of Directors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Stephen Brewster, *Vice Chair – Development*
Frank Washelesky, *Treasurer*
David Schmahl, *Secretary*
Adrienne Dziak, *Nominations Chair*
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Quentin James
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Thomas Langmyer
Candace Jeffers LaRochelle
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Jo-Elle Mogerman
Buzz Patterson
Jeff Pearsall
Laura Rubin
Vanessa Tey Iosue

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Kelly Farley, *Finance & Operations Director*
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Luz Gomez, *Office Manager*
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Alexandra Novak, *Community Planning Manager, Detroit*
Anthonia Ogudipe, *Water Policy Analyst*
Olivia Reda, *Volunteer Engagement Associate*



ALLIANCE for the
GREAT LAKES

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www.greatlakes.org

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