

PRINCETON-BLAIRSTOWN CENTER

IMPACT REPORT

2021



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

Once again, the COVID-19 pandemic was a major factor in our 2021 focus, programming, staffing, and collaborations. Despite the pandemic, the Princeton-Blairstown Center (PBC) staff and Board found ways to adapt and design opportunities that made a real difference in the lives of 4,149 participants and chaperones.

Because of COVID, we were unable to run programs during the winter and early spring. Our talented Program Team used this opportunity to research and develop 15 curriculum-aligned **environmental education** program units that feature inquiry-based, hands-on science learning. They also researched and developed a hands-on **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion** curriculum anchored in the premise of a justice-oriented community, addressing issues of culture, identity, agency, belonging, and engagement through a social-emotional lens. And, they continued to create and distribute social-emotional learning lesson plans to teachers and nonprofit leaders on a weekly basis.

PBC worked hard to find a creative way to deliver an in-person Summer Bridge Program, understanding the critically important need for students to safely connect in person with peers after more than a year of remote learning. Working with our Summer Bridge Program partners, we reimagined and created a hybrid program that took Summer Bridge to parks and school yards in Newark and Trenton, Monday through Thursday, and then brought students to Blairstown for a day trip on Fridays. Its focus on social-emotional learning, literacy, 21st Century skills, and environmental justice was a resounding success and helped students connect and learn within a caring community.

Our Family Camp program was offered for a second summer and provided opportunities for families with unvaccinated children to come together safely in the outdoors. During the spring and fall, we offered our Wilderness Leadership School to provide hands-on, day-long, weekly environmental programs for local students being homeschooled.

Fall at Blairstown felt closer to “normal” for our staff, students, and teachers. While we did not offer overnight programming because of the pandemic, our staff offered day and extended day programs, providing teachers and students with opportunities to build climate and culture away from classrooms filled with social distancing, masks, and plexiglass.

Throughout 2021, PBC engaged in learning, listening, and examining issues of racism and identity within our organization, bringing in an outside consultant and a range of community members to educate and work with our staff. We also set up a staff and Board DEI Task Force, developed a land acknowledgement statement and accessibility statements, and worked to center equity in our practices.

PBC’s ability to adapt, learn, and develop new ways of delivering programs was made possible by the outpouring of support from our donors. Young people needed the transformative power of the outdoors after more than a year of isolation, loneliness, and depression, and **you** helped them LEARN, GROW, and LEAD when they needed it the most.

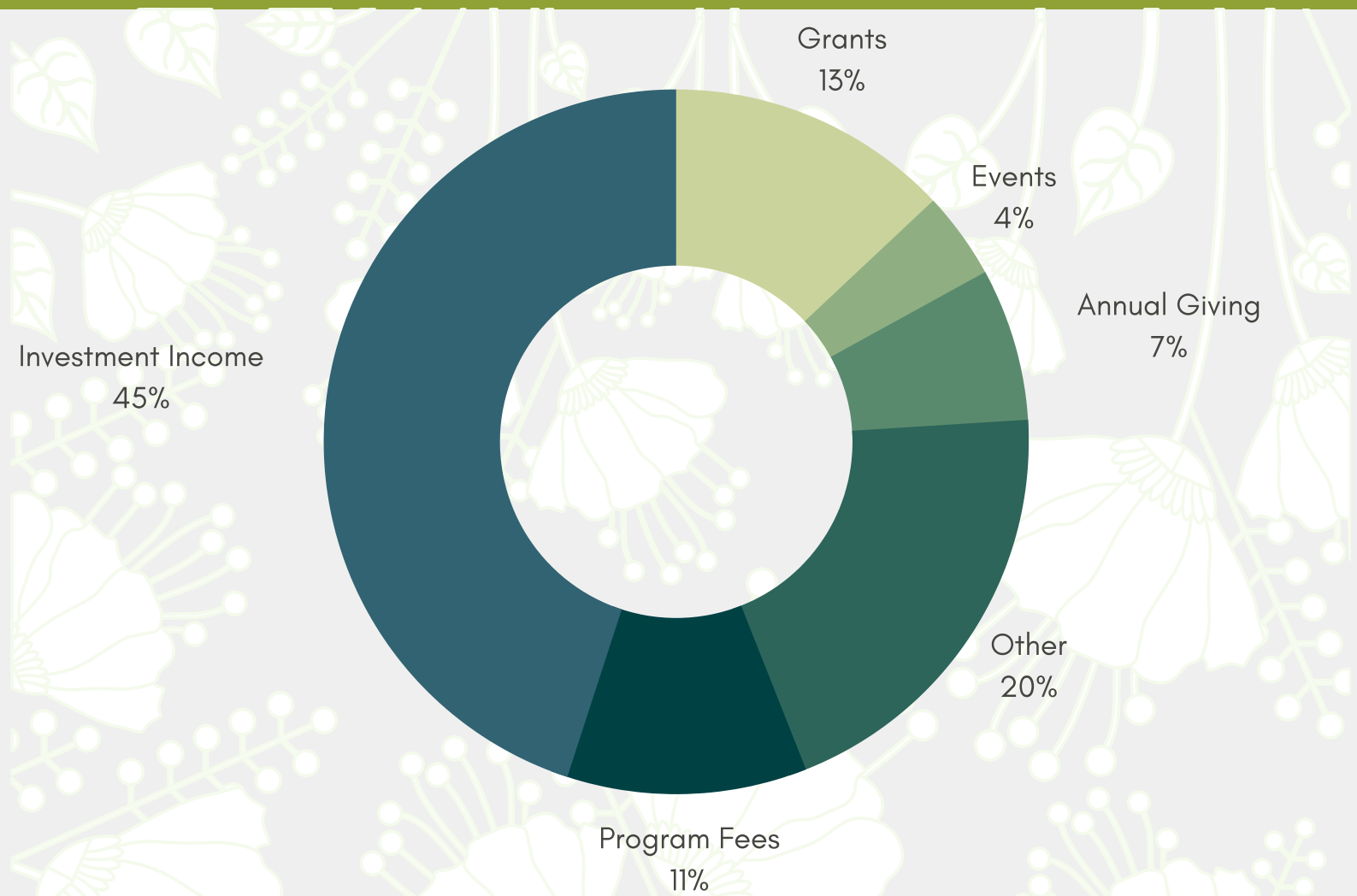
With gratitude,



Pam Gregory
President & CEO

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME - FY 2021



Income - Fiscal Year 2020

(audited - twelve months)

Blairstown Program Fees	\$128,494
Investment Income	\$1,771,000
Annual Giving	\$247,160
Grants	\$149,888
Special Events	\$84,459
Other	\$351,929

Total Income:

\$2,732,930

Income - Fiscal Year 2021

(audited - twelve months)

Blairstown Program Fees	\$306,100
Investment Income	\$1,306,183
Annual Giving	\$213,991
Grants	\$377,858
Special Events	\$101,394
Other	\$567,185

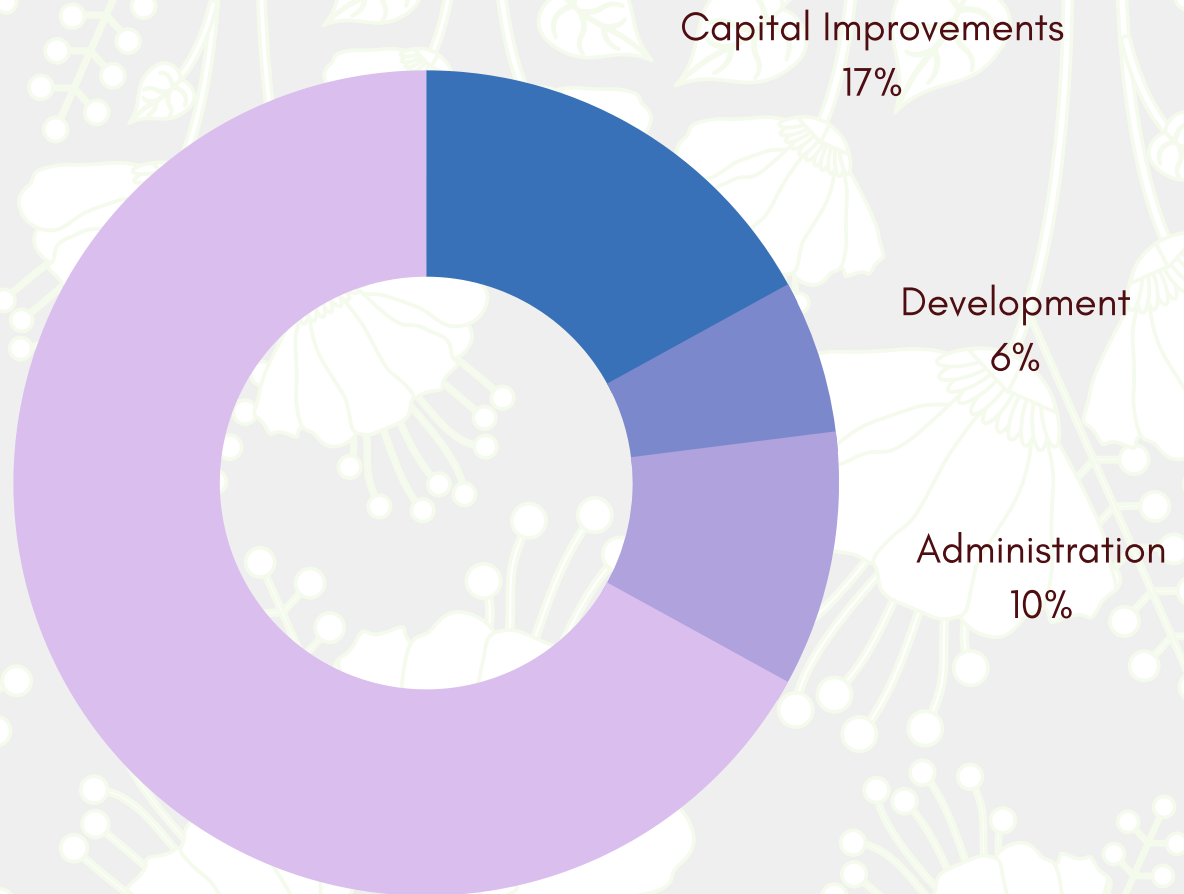
Total Income:

\$2,872,711

* Net unrealized gain/loss of Endowment Investment value is not included.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENSES - FY 2021



Expenses - Fiscal Year 2020

(audited - twelve months)

Program Services	\$1,471,792
Administration	\$251,575
Development	\$144,861
Capital Improvements	\$896,238

Total Expenses: \$2,764,466

Expenses - Fiscal Year 2021

(audited - twelve months)

Program Services	\$1,696,627
Administration	\$244,562
Development	\$150,743
Capital Improvements	\$428,931

Total Expenses: \$2,520,863

In-Person and Virtual Programming

A BALANCING ACT

2021 saw the return of in-person programming. The Princeton-Blairstown Center was one of the first to recognize that youth desperately needed in-person, hands-on learning opportunities to **help deal with the trauma** they were experiencing due to the pandemic. PBC was able to provide both in-person AND virtual programming to youth in 2021 to counteract a turbulent year.



PBC hosted

3,543

participants and chaperones for onsite in-person programs.

PBC served

286

participants and chaperones for offsite in-person programs.

PBC provided

320

participants and chaperones with virtual programs.

Summer Bridge



PBC's Summer Bridge Program creates equitable opportunities for young people to have transformational outdoor educational experiences.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN


In 2020, PBC's award-winning **Summer Bridge Program** was completely virtual. In 2021 when the world was still coping with the pandemic, PBC was able to overcome roadblocks and devise a way to bring our programming to our participants. Dedicated to our mission of youth development, we hit the road and brought Summer Bridge to local communities in Newark and Trenton to provide young people with our enriching, week-long learning experiences designed to lessen summer learning loss and strengthen literacy and social-emotional skills.




A FOCUS ON FOOD JUSTICE

In 2021, our Summer Bridge Program focused on topics such as food justice, hands-on Literacy, and STEM. Students read Seed Folks, a novella about the transformation of an empty lot into a vibrant community garden. They were able to consider themes and relate to characters in the book as facilitators wove social-emotional learning and reflection questions into each activity. Every Friday, each group ended their week-long program with a day trip to the Center's Blairstown Campus. At the end of an intensive week, participants were excited to visit PBC and learn on our Campus doing things like gardening, adventure course, and canoeing. For many, this was their first time doing these activities.

 After a week at PBC's 2021 Summer Bridge Program, 83% of students stated that they were more likely to enjoy the freedom of being outdoors.

 74% of students who participated in PBC's 2021 Summer Bridge Program stated that they are better able to appreciate opinions different from their own than they were prior to attending PBC.

 74% of students who participated in PBC's 2021 Summer Bridge Program stated that they are better able to stop and think about options before making a decision than they were prior to attending PBC.

PBC Partners With Success Academy

In 2021, Success Academy made PBC a critical part of their climate and culture building efforts. Success Academy Charter School was founded in 2006 and is the largest and highest performing free, public charter school network in New York City. PBC hosted Success Academy on three different occasions in 2021, serving 250 students and chaperones. They chose PBC to help them accomplish one main goal: for 9th graders to connect after two difficult, isolating years of COVID.

WHAT OUR PARTNER HAS TO SAY

“ PBC facilitators were super nice. The most positive outcome was scholars getting to bond and learn. ”

“ Scholars had ample opportunities to bond with each other and try new things. Everything was so joyful and organized! ”



Wilderness Leadership School and Family Camp



WILDERNESS LEADERSHIP SCHOOL TESTIMONIAL

"Thanks again for a phenomenal wilderness spring session. Gracie has come home each Wednesday giddy, sharing stories of adventures and games. In five years of homeschooling, this is by far the best experience we have had. Not only has it expanded Gracie's knowledge when it comes to nature, but has helped build her self-esteem, encouraged her to take risks with the ropes courses and climbing, and allowed for a safe and loving environment for her to be herself."



FAMILY CAMP GUESTS SPEAK OUT!

"The chance to get away with our friends and have so much fun was an absolute joy after more than a year of challenges and disappointments. We are deeply grateful to PBC for what it offered."



2021 Donor Report

The Princeton-Blairstown Center is grateful for the generous contributions received from January 1 through December 31, 2021. The following names are listed in recognition of their loyal support and generosity. We apologize if we have misspelled or overlooked your name.

If we have, please contact Jennifer Fisher at jfisher@princetonblairstown.org.

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Princeton-Blairstown Center serves young people, primarily from historically marginalized communities, by nurturing their social-emotional skills through experiential, environmental, and adventure-based programming. Developing these skills enables our participants to engage in self-discovery and transform their communities to create a more just world.

*Blairstown Campus: 158 Millbrook Road
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