



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

The Argosy Foundation is pleased to present our Annual Report for the year 2015. This year, the Foundation supported 92 organizations through 100 grants, totaling \$6M in giving -- an increase over 2014.

2015 presented socio-economic challenges stemming from a shrinking middle class, complicated race relations, lack of access to affordable housing, pervasive underemployment, and poverty cycles keeping Americans from attaining a sense of prosperity and security. Compounding these were natural disasters, wild fires and flooding affecting thousands of American families in 2015 – the tangible and tragic effects of a changing climate.

The Argosy Foundation remains committed to staying nimble and flexible in responding to the ever-changing needs of our communities and environment. Staying informed, open-minded, communicating often with our partners in the field, encouraging staff volunteerism, and producing high quality research are integral parts of our work and decision making process. Still, we embrace new challenges, fully cognizant that there is much we don't yet know.

In addition to supporting historical partnerships, this year the Foundation undertook a special project to increase capacity of FIRST Robotics, bringing a quality STEM experience to youth who would not otherwise be able to participate in such programs. In addition, the Foundation carried out research on climate change adaptation strategies in order to learn more about how philanthropy can play a role in helping communities prepare for changing weather patterns. The Foundation also invested in new partnerships in reproductive health and family planning, helping organizations carry out innovative work ensuring youth and families stay physically healthy and economically strong.

This year, we also recreated our logo and website. We believe that the new design reflects our relationship with our times, while retaining the image of harmonious growth which has guided the Foundation's work since its inception in 1997. In order to maintain our commitment to our vision, we also need to be willing to change and reexamine ourselves on a regular basis. We would like our new website to serve as a way to raise awareness of our partners and the difficult work they undertake every day with both strength and grace.

The Foundation continues to change, affording us opportunities to reflect on our mission, and our dynamic identity as a family foundation. The one constant is that we don't truly know what the future holds and whether or not our grants bring lasting positive change. This doesn't stop us from bringing hope and curiosity to all our partnerships. While we maintain lasting relationships with our partners in order to evaluate our grants, ultimately we are committed to supporting good people trying to make a difference.

The Argosy Foundation

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MISSION, VISION, AND GUIDING VALUES

Mission

The mission of the Argosy Foundation is to support people and programs that make our society a better place to live. We seek to employ creative and entrepreneurial approaches that help people to help themselves, and become self-sustaining whenever possible. Our intention is to solve systemic problems, build teams and communities, create replicable solutions, and inspire others to contribute in their own ways.

Vision

Argosy's vision is a world where all people are empowered and inspired to make a positive impact on their communities and our world.

Guiding Values

Family

This foundation is formed around a family and is meant to strengthen it. We are committed to encouraging and empowering philanthropy among family members.

Fiscal Stewardship

Argosy Trustees view themselves as stewards of financial and intellectual resources. We expect of ourselves and our partners a disciplined and responsible use of these resources.

Decision-Making

Argosy is deeply committed to informing the decision-making process. Proportionate to their impact, decisions should be the end result of rigorous research, data, and analysis, including best practices, risk contingency, and scenario modeling.

Human Resources

The most important variable in an organization is personnel. We are committed to aggressively seeking out, retaining, and developing an increasingly effective staff. We strongly support our partners in doing the same, particularly in leadership.

Method of Engagement

We seek to make investments that empower through infrastructure and long-term capacity-building. We approach investments with a shared notion of engagement, defined benchmarks, and an exit strategy. We encourage creativity, try to avoid bureaucracy and dependence, and focus on outcomes.

Outcomes

We are committed to continually assessing the effectiveness of ourselves and our nonprofit partners, and equally dedicated to learning from and adapting to the findings. We encourage and support partners to adopt efficient and creative study designs.

Volunteer Ethic

We celebrate and encourage the charitable impulse in society. We believe in interacting with our peers, our partners, our staff, and the community with respect and grace. Where we disagree with others, we try to communicate productively.

Collaboration

What is done well in isolation is often done better in partnership. We seek collaboration and encourage our partners to continually explore potential collaborations when they lead to greater efficiencies, scalability, and pooled-voice advocacy.

Curiosity

We believe that continually examining the world in which we live and the fields in which we work makes us better grantmakers. We are committed to remaining open-minded, sharing knowledge, and learning from our successes and failures.

Integrity

By operating in a manner consistent with our values, we hope our methodology and integrity will earn respect. We value diversity and differences of opinion regarding our decisions and actions. ●

2015 FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

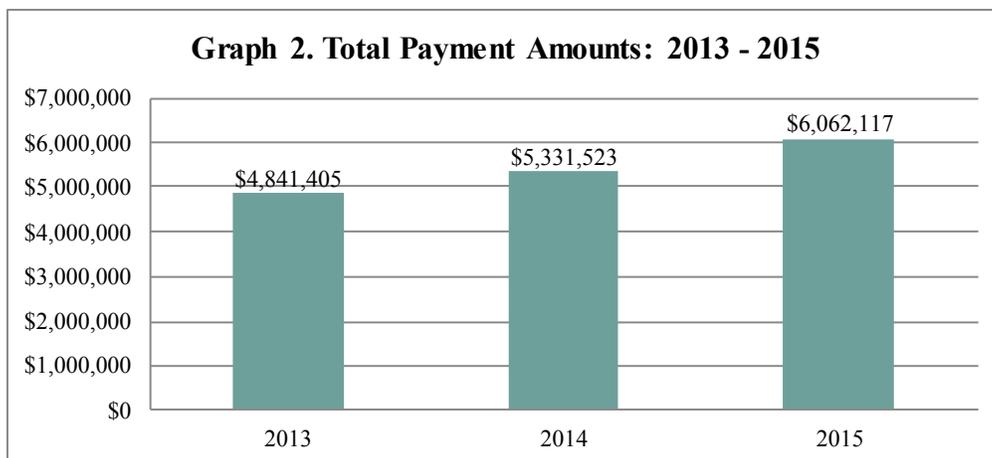
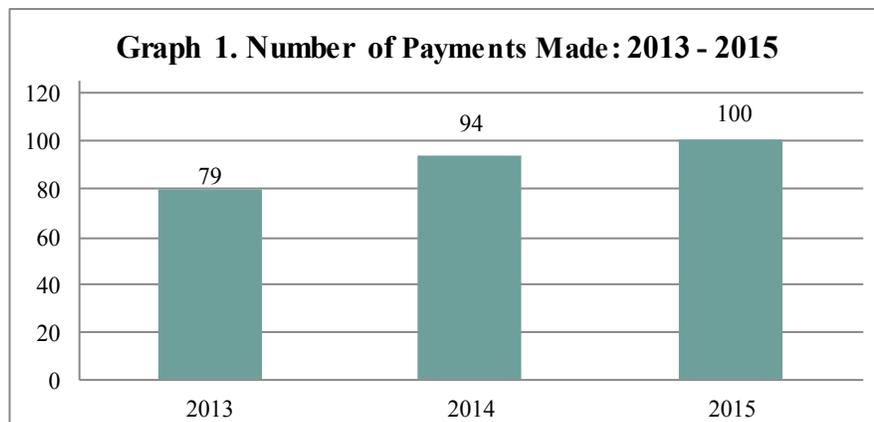
INVESTMENTS AND EXPENSES

Operating & Administrative Expenses in 2015: \$570,653

Charitable Payments Made in 2015*: \$6,062,117

*Grant payments that were made in 2015 may have been approved in previous years, as grants can be paid over several years.

Please note that Argosy's investments are not always financial. For example, Trustees and staff frequently serve on executive search committees and advisory boards, provide in-house research, and assist with program evaluations.



INVESTMENTS BY TYPE AND ORGANIZATION

The following lists present Argosy's 2015 paid financial investments classified into two categories: grant payments \$20,000 and under, and grant payments over \$20,000.

INVESTMENT FACTS

- 32 organizations received grant payments in the “\$20,000 and under” category for a total of \$319,490.
- 62 organizations received grant payments in the “over \$20,000” range, totaling \$5,742,627.

Please note: Some of the organizations listed may have received more than one grant payment, and some payments may fulfill grants approved in previous years.

GRANT PAYMENTS \$20,000 AND UNDER

30th Street Corridor

To support an environmental project.

Acumen Fund

To support the general fund.

Albert & Vivian Puzey Foundation

To support a clean water project.

Andover Newton Theological School

To support an event.

Arkansas FIRST

To support a youth STEM program.

Attention, Inc.

To support a health program for homeless youth.

Berea College

To support campus interfaith initiatives.

Boston University—College of Engineering

To support the Annual Fund.

Boulder Shelter for the Homeless

To support programs for the homeless.

Bravo Youth Orchestra

To support a youth music program.

Center for Biological Diversity

To support an environmental project.

Center for Whole Communities

To support training and converting to renewable energy.

Conservation Colorado

To support an education program.

Conservation Law Foundation

To provide general operating support.

ECHO at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain

To support an environmental project.

Freshwater Future

To support an environmental project.

FIRST Nevada

To support a STEM program.

Georgia FIRST

To support a STEM program.

GRID Alternatives

To provide general operating support.

Habitat for Humanity International

To support disaster relief efforts in Nepal.

Hands to Honduras

To build a NICU in Tela, Honduras.

Intercambio de Comunidades

To support a program for immigrants.

Institute for Local Self-Reliance

To support general operations.

Living Lands & Waters

To support river restoration and education projects.

Montshire Museum of Science

To support an engineering education program for children.

Oxfam America

To support general operating expenses.

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains

To support health programs.

Public Conversations Project

To provide general operating support.

Riverside University High School Foundation

To match an employee donation.

Rocky Mountain Institute

To support a fellowship program.

United Way of Chittenden County

To support general operations.

Vermont Humanities Council

To support a veterans' book club.

GRANT PAYMENTS OVER \$20,000

Access Esperanza Clinics

To support a reproductive health program.

American Academy for the Advancement of Science

To support a fellowship program.

American Indian College Fund

To support scholarships.

American Rivers

To support an environmental project.

Amherst College

To provide general operating support.

Association of State Floodplain Managers

To support an environmental project.

Boston University—College of Engineering

To support outreach and STEM promotion.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America

To support the State Alliances initiative.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee

To support the Decade of Hope Campaign, and an event.

California Water Foundation

To support an environmental project.

Center for Biological Diversity

To support the Endangered Species Condoms project, and a legal program.

Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity

To support heating and weatherization assistance, and the food pantry.

COLOR

To support a reproductive health program.

Common Good Institute

To provide general operating support.

Common Ground Communities

To support homelessness programs.

Communities for a Better Environment

To support an environmental project.

Conservation Colorado

To support an environmental project.

Cuban-American Friendship Society

To support a sports program.

East Troy Middle School

To support a robotics program.

ECHO at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain

To support an endowment and an environmental project.

Environmental Learning for Kids

To support environmental education efforts.

FIRST

To support a robotics competition; the annual fund; and to provide a challenge grant.

FIRST in Michigan

To support STEM.

Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering

To support a faculty exchange program.

Fresh Energy

To support a communications project.

Forest Ethics

To support environmental efforts.

Greater Burlington YMCA

To support a capital campaign.

Habitat for Humanity International

To support the Habitat Americorps Alumni association.

King Street Center

To support a capital campaign.

Lambi Fund of Haiti

To support general operations and a health project.

Michigan Science Center

To provide general operating support.

Milwaukee Marathon, Inc.

To support the Milwaukee Running Festival.

Milwaukee Film

To provide general operating support.

Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design

To support a special project.

Milwaukee School of Engineering

To support a robotics program.

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra

To provide a challenge grant.

The Minneapolis Foundation

To support the Re-AMP network.

Montshire Museum of Science

To support youth programs.

The Museum of Science— Boston

To support general operations.

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health

To support a reproductive rights program.

The Nature Conservancy—Colorado

To support a Colorado River project.

North Carolina FIRST

To support a robotics program for youth.

(over)

GRANT PAYMENTS OVER \$20,000

(continued)

Nursing Students for Choice

To support general operating expenses.

Oklahoma FIRST

To support a STEM project for youth.

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains

To support reproductive health education programs.

Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin

To support health programs.

Preservation Trust of Vermont

To support an environmental program.

Radio Milwaukee, Inc.

To support the Cultural Commons project.

RENEW Wisconsin

To support an environmental project.

River Revitalization Foundation

To support environmental restoration efforts.

Rocketship Education

To support an education program.

Rocky Mountain Institute

To support an environmental project.

Schools That Can Milwaukee

To support general operating expenses.

Shelburne Museum

To provide support for general operations.

United Performing Arts Fund

To support Milwaukee arts organizations.

United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County

To support a youth health project.

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Foundation

To support WUWM.

Urban Ecology Center

To support education programming.

Vermont Foodbank

To support general operating expenses.

Washington FIRST

To support a youth STEM project.

Western Resource Advocates

To support a clean energy project.

Wisconsin FIRST

To support STEM efforts.

