

includes
2019 Annual
Report



A Diamond Anniversary for a Regional Gem

Celebrating 75 years of connecting children with nature

The curiosity of a child inspired Elberta Fleming to create a nature center for children. While working at the front desk of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, a young boy approached her to ask about the butterfly in his hand. This serendipitous moment sparked an awe-inspiring conversation for the child and demonstrated to Elberta the power of discovery through hands-on learning.

In 1945, Elberta founded a “Junior Museum” in her home in Bay Village, Ohio, with a display of animals in her backyard, nature specimens throughout her home and a compelling vision to teach nature and science to people in the community. As a mother, artist,

and environmental advocate, her vision fueled the early formation of Lake Erie Nature & Science Center from modest beginnings.

Supporting Elberta were dedicated community volunteers who understood and shared her vision. The Women’s Board was founded by a group of six friends who assisted her and the growing museum through service, community awareness and fundraising. In 1950, Elberta and her volunteers began to present programs out of the Bay Village Library, and then approved Articles of Incorporation. The Center gained national attention as one of the first nonprofit children’s museums in the country.

By 1960, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center attracted a large

constituency and raised funds to create a permanent home on Huntington Reservation. Wildlife exhibits and nature walks through forests and

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Elberta Fleming, founder of Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

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meadows created an outdoor classroom for children to build lasting connections with the natural world. A space science program emerged in 1968 when community leaders and the local school district built the Center's planetarium, introducing children to the wonders of the night sky and beyond. Elberta retired in 1977 after fulfilling her dream and impacting thousands of lives.

Today, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center honors Elberta's vision by continuing to offer free admission to indoor and outdoor exhibits, operating one of two public access planetariums in Cuyahoga County, providing wildlife rehabilitation services at no charge to the public and

educating thousands of people each year through nature-based programming for all ages. Four generations of children, families, grandchildren and great grandchildren have come to the Center for timeless lessons and treasured traditions.

Connecting children with nature is more important now than ever and is the heart of our mission at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center. As we reflect on the Center's 75 year history, we look forward to the next 75 years of educating and inspiring children and families to understand, appreciate and take responsibility for our natural world. Children's curiosity about nature has only grown stronger and so has the Center's

dedication to encouraging their curiosity with memorable experiences. Our vision is 2020.



Forest Guardians

This fall, the Center introduced a new program for students in grades 3 – 5 called Forest Guardians. Students meet at the Center monthly, working together as a research team to identify potential threats to our ecosystem and to develop a plan to preserve an area within Huntington Reservation. Incorporating STEM learning and outdoor exploration, this program encourages young nature lovers to become the environmental stewards of tomorrow.

Join us in celebrating 75 years of Lake Erie Nature & Science Center with special events throughout the year! Share your memories using **#LakeErieNature75** or by joining our 75th Anniversary Alumni group on Facebook.



A Sweet Grandparents Day

The cider and cookie café hosted by the Women's Board at this year's Grandparents Day family program was met with excitement from children and their grandparents. All proceeds from the Women's Board café help fund the Center's education programs, wildlife rehabilitation services and animal care.

Those interested in joining the volunteer group are invited to attend monthly meetings at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center on the first Wednesday of each month at noon. For more information, please call 440-871-2900.

New ways to support education for children and help for animals

Donor-advised funds and IRA charitable gifts

Did you know Lake Erie Nature & Science Center accepts grants from donor advised funds? You can recommend a grant from your donor advised fund to Lake Erie Nature &

Science Center by contacting your financial advisor and providing our tax identification number 34-0845030. This simple way to give has a big impact, as it helps us perpetuate our mission to educate and inspire us to understand, appreciate and take responsibility for our natural world.

A gift to Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is a gift to children and families. Donations support our preschool classes, wildlife rehabilitation services, community scout programs and captivating planetarium shows as well as free admission 7 days-a-week!

As an independent nonprofit organization, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is eligible to receive charitable distributions from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). If you are 70 ½ years of age or older, your required minimum distribution can be directed to the Center as a qualified charitable distribution.

You can make a gift through a donor advised fund or an IRA qualified charitable distribution to:

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center
Tax ID # 34-0845030
28728 Wolf Road
Bay Village, OH 44140
440-871-2900



Our Mission

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center educates and inspires each of us to understand, appreciate and take responsibility for our natural world.

Our New Website

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center launched a new website in October 2019 to provide visitors with better access to program and wildlife information. New features include a mobile-friendly design, improved navigation, user-friendly program registration and more.

Thank you to The Lubrizol Foundation for generously supporting this project and to Insivia for helping the Center build an amazing site.



501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
Tax ID #34-0845030

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President, Women's Board of Lake
Erie Nature & Science Center

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Statement of Activities
for the year ended June 30, 2019



Lake Erie Nature &
Science Center

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	TOTAL
Program and class fees	\$478,258	-	\$478,258
Government grants	\$163,723	-	\$163,723
Contributions and grants	\$441,976	\$276,504	\$718,480
Special events	\$74,379	-	\$74,379
Membership	\$22,260	-	\$22,260
Donated services and supplies	\$12,029	-	\$12,029
Facility rent in-kind	\$324,000	-	\$324,000
Miscellaneous income	\$11,648	-	\$11,648
Investment income for operations	\$156,555	\$26,285	\$182,840
	\$1,684,828	\$302,789	\$1,987,617
Net assets released from restrictions	\$200,256	(\$200,256)	-
Total support and revenue	\$1,885,084	\$102,533	\$1,987,617
EXPENSES			
Salaries, payroll taxes and benefits	\$828,306	-	\$828,306
Other employee costs	\$16,457	-	\$16,457
Fundraising	\$40,503	-	\$40,503
Educational programs and services	\$125,481	-	\$125,481
Capital renovations	\$45,532	-	\$45,532
Wildlife rehabilitation and animal care	\$45,768	-	\$45,768
Building maintenance and utilities	\$145,914	-	\$145,914
Depreciation	\$1,832	-	\$1,832
Insurance	\$14,484	-	\$14,484
Technology	\$76,597	-	\$76,597
Marketing	\$32,824	-	\$32,824
Professional fees	\$10,767	-	\$10,767
Facility rent in-kind	\$324,000	-	\$324,000
Total expenses	\$1,708,465	-	\$1,708,465
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS	\$176,619	\$102,533	\$279,152
OTHER CHANGES			
Investment return in excess of amounts designated for operations	(\$24,637)	\$169,143	\$144,506
CHANGES IN	\$151,982	\$271,676	\$423,658
NET ASSETS, JULY 1, 2018	\$901,027	\$3,669,890	\$4,570,917
NET ASSETS, JUNE 30, 2019	\$1,053,009	\$3,941,566	\$4,994,575

REVENUE



EXPENDITURES



COMMUNITY IMPACT

Preschool Programs

DEVELOPING CHILDREN'S CURIOSITY

LARGEST nature-based preschool program in the region

ONLY preschool in the region to specialize in planetarium education for ages 0 – 7

23,295 preschoolers and adults participated in hands-on, nature-based programming



School Age Programs

EXPLORING NATURE'S WONDER

16,349 students from kindergarten through college have participated in field trips, summer camps, wildlife programs, college classes and internships



66 natural science badges offered to scouts in our specialized programs



Family Programs

CONNECTING TO THE NATURAL WORLD

10,992 family program attendees spent quality time together learning about nature at our family programs



Service-Learning Programs

PROJECT WILDLIFE & INTERNSHIPS

ONLY program in our region to offer a hands-on wildlife education program for high school students

Wildlife Program

INSPIRING CONSERVATION



ONLY

wildlife rehabilitation facility in Cuyahoga County, serving one of the state's largest metropolitan areas



5,252 people educated with wildlife inquiries

1,200 ill or injured animals assisted by wildlife staff

190 different species treated in our care

FREE wildlife rehabilitation service to the public



147,286 Total People Served

Planetarium

DISCOVERING THE UNIVERSE

1 of 2

public access planetariums in Greater Cleveland offering interactive programming for toddlers through adults



2,938 hours Project Wildlife teens spent caring for the Center's animals and educating the public through live encounters



31 college interns have gained valuable experience working side by side with the Center's wildlife experts while pursuing degrees in biology, veterinary medicine and related studies



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

28728 Wolf Road
Bay Village, OH 44140

440-871-2900 | www.lensc.org

501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
Tax ID #34-0845030



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is a nonprofit organization funded by donations, class fees and grants including Cuyahoga Arts & Culture through county residents.

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

75^{Years}

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Share your memories using **#LakeErieNature75** or by joining our 75th Anniversary Alumni group on Facebook.



75th Anniversary Brunch

Sunday, April 19

Enjoy brunch and learn about native birds. See bird prints previously owned by the Center's founder, Dr. Elberta Fleming, which will be available for purchase in an online auction.

75th Anniversary Family Celebration

Sunday, August 2

Visit the Center for a fun-filled day of free activities for children and families, live music, planetarium programs and wildlife encounters.

75th Anniversary Gala

Saturday, September 26

Look back on the Center's early beginnings as we look ahead to the next 75 years at this formal dinner event. Our vision is 2020!

75th Anniversary Barbeque

Saturday, June 13

Celebrate with a casual barbeque, live music, stargazing and wildlife encounters.

