



NATURALLY CONNECTED

Winter 2023



PRESCHOOLERS ENJOY NATURE-BASED PLAY IN NEW CAHOON ROOM

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is welcoming more preschoolers and their families to classes this year with the addition of our fourth preschool space, the Cahoon Room.

Donations from visitors and businesses in the community totaling more than \$50,000 made possible the renovation of a former retail space into an engaging and lively learning environment for preschool children. Filled with natural light, the Cahoon Room offers plenty of space for social interaction and nature-based play, including a children’s restroom and an extra sink for many fun hands-on activities.

“The community’s generosity is helping the Center serve children and families with the Cahoon Room renovation project, which was entirely funded by donations,” says Executive Director Catherine Timko. “We are truly grateful for the many families and visitors for their support of our mission to connect people to the natural world.”

As one of the first nature-based preschools in the region, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center’s programming is designed to build on children’s inherent curiosity. Our renowned preschool

programs serve children ages one to six where they participate in hands-on activities to support social, physical, and academic development.

Frogs & Polliwogs, a class for toddlers with one adult, relocated to the Cahoon Room to utilize the extra space available. In this class, children meet an animal, create a simple craft, and connect with nature through the Center’s live animal exhibits.

“Our goal is to create a nurturing environment for unstructured play and exploration, mixed with a routine agenda of activities and learning opportunities,” says Preschool Coordinator Teece Lester. “Each of our preschool offerings is fun, engaging, and age-appropriate, while building the necessary skills for well-rounded preschool development.”



Cahoon Room renovations were completed by CPK Construction. View the Center’s preschool offerings, and register at www.lensc.org/preschool-programs.

WOMEN'S BOARD HOSTS *FLY ME TO THE MOON* TO SUPPORT ASTRONOMY INTERNSHIP



Members of the Women's Board and their guests enjoy refreshments at Fly Me to the Moon fundraising event.

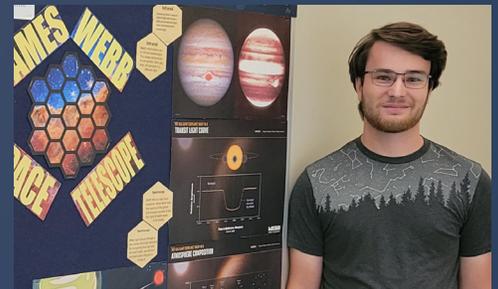
The Women's Board of Lake Erie Nature & Science Center held a fundraising event *Fly Me to the Moon* on October 9, 2022 with proceeds benefiting the Center's astronomy internship. Guests enjoyed a program about Humans in Space in Schuele Planetarium presented by Planetarium and Program Coordinator Katy Downing, and a bountiful post-program reception.

The Women's Board has a long history of supporting and advocating for the Center's mission through service, community awareness, and fundraising. Funds from the *Fly Me to the Moon* fundraiser will support a stipend for a future astronomy intern.



An inside look at Schuele Planetarium

The Center's Astronomy and Space Science Education Internship offers a unique opportunity for college students to gain career experience in the Schuele Planetarium. Working alongside program staff, interns assist with public astronomy education, learn about current mission news and astronomical research, and become familiar with planetarium technology. The combination of an opti-mechanical star projector and digital projector in Schuele Planetarium provides an immersive learning experience through high-resolution, 360-degree images and a realistic, breathtaking display of over 3,000 stars.



"The highlight of my internship experience at the Center was the wide variety of programs offered that allowed for space science education to happen both inside the planetarium and outdoors," shares former intern Ethan Willis of Bowling Green State University.

Applications are currently being accepted for the Center's Astronomy and Space Science Education Internship. To learn more and apply, please visit www.lensc.org/internship-programs. To become involved with the Women's Board, please contact 440-871-2900.



Pictured (left to right): CCBDD Community Inclusion Specialist Jimmy Lowe, Good Will Ambassadors Shaye and Will, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Executive Director Catherine Timko, and CCBDD Community Development Specialist Stefanie Galbreath.

ALL MEANS ALL

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center recognizes that every employee is responsible for inclusion, and ensuring that the organization's mission is accessible and relevant to everyone. In 2022, our employees participated in an All Means All workshop led by the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCBDD). CCBDD supports organizations in becoming more inclusive and connecting with new audiences. The Center is proud to have met CCBDD All Means All standards and is appreciative of their guidance and educational resources. Read the Center's values statement and learn more about accessibility and accommodations at www.lensc.org/hours-admission.

CONTINUING A LEGACY OF LEARNING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



You can use your will or living trust to extend your support of Lake Erie Nature & Science Center by making a specific or residuary bequest. Through a specific bequest, you can name a particular dollar amount or percentage of your estate to be given to the Center. Through a residuary bequest, you can give all or part of what remains after you provide for your loved ones. Bequest contributions support the Center's Endowment Fund which helps to ensure learning opportunities for future generations. Please consult your legal or financial advisor. Learn more at www.lensc.org/endowment-fund.



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

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

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND FUNDERS



Akron Zoo
Bay Village Early Childhood PTA
Bay Village Foundation
Bay Village Women's Club and Foundation
Blackbird Fund of the Cleveland Foundation
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The Helen F. Stolier and Louis Stolier Family Foundation
The Clara Weiss Fund
Westlake-Bay Village Rotary Club

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Statement of Activities

For the year ended June 30, 2022

Prepared by Card, Palmer, Sibbison & Co.

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	TOTAL
SUPPORT AND REVENUE			
Program and class fees	\$ 435,291	\$ -	\$ 435,291
Government grants	98,487	-	98,487
Contributions and grants	504,849	428,198	933,047
Membership	1,500	-	1,500
Donated services and supplies	8,646	-	8,646
Facility rent in-kind	324,000	-	324,000
Investment income for operations	183,411	33,486	216,897
	1,556,184	461,684	2,017,868
Net assets released from restrictions	120,097	(120,097)	-
Total support and revenue	1,676,281	341,587	2,017,868
EXPENSES			
Salaries, payroll taxes, and benefits	666,729	-	666,729
Other employee costs	58,153	-	58,153
Fundraising	12,712	-	12,712
Educational programs and services	28,466	-	28,466
Capital renovations	27,211	-	27,211
Wildlife rehabilitation and animal care	45,895	-	45,895
Building maintenance and utilities	122,080	-	122,080
Insurance	13,121	-	13,121
Technology	71,555	-	71,555
Marketing	15,931	-	15,931
Professional fees	13,833	-	13,833
Facility rent in-kind	324,000	-	324,000
Total expenses	1,399,686	-	1,399,686
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS	276,595	341,587	618,182
OTHER CHANGES			
Unrealized loss on split-interest trusts	-	(189,901)	(189,901)
Investment return (loss) in excess of amounts designated for operations	(195,579)	(513,614)	(709,193)
Total other changes	(195,579)	(703,515)	(899,094)
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	81,016	(361,928)	(280,912)
NET ASSETS, JULY 1, 2021	1,383,275	5,221,479	6,604,754
NET ASSETS, JUNE 30, 2022	\$ 1,464,291	\$ 4,859,551	\$ 6,323,842

Board of Directors

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Candid Platinum Seal of Transparency

Charity Navigator Four-Star Charity



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

HEALTHY ANIMALS AND HAPPY VISITORS

Free admission allows for visitors of all ages to experience the wonders of native wildlife at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center. Our indoor and outdoor exhibits feature more than 100 live animals, including many wildlife rehabilitation patients that were non-releasable. Today, these animals serve as educational ambassadors for their species and receive quality care from our highly trained staff.



Loki, one of the Center's resident crows, arrived at our facility as a juvenile that did not learn basic survival skills. American Crows are highly intelligent and social animals, and enrichment activities support their active and healthy minds.

Loki and her puzzle feeder

"Loki quickly solves her puzzle feeders, looks sideways with curiosity when we bring her a novel item, and is always ready for daily training sessions to learn a new behavior," says Animal Programs Coordinator Maggie Watson. "For Loki, enrichment activities are a fun and healthy form of exercise. For our visitors, they offer an incredible learning opportunity to interact with specialists and watch our animals engage in natural behavior."



Marcy, one of our resident Virginia Opossums

Enrichment is an essential part of animal care at the Center, as it helps to satisfy both the physical and psychological needs of an animal. An enriched environment promotes natural behavior by encouraging animals to make different choices that can provide challenges, opportunities, and stimulation. In addition

to up-close views of resident animals, visitors observe a variety of enrichment activities at the Center. Examples may include puzzle feeders that encourage animals to forage for food, climbing structures that enhance habitats, and training sessions where animals interact with specialists.

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center gives children and families a living, breathing connection to the natural world through informal science education.

NEW WILDLIFE EXPERIENCES AT THE CENTER



Junior Keeper, a new program for students ages 8 to 16 with one adult, provides a unique opportunity to work alongside the Center's wildlife staff and experience first-hand how we care for our resident animals. Behind the scenes, students learn about native and domestic animals while providing food, clean housing, enrichment activities, and training. To learn more and register, please visit www.lensc.org/youth-teen-programs.

Free general admission | 7 days a week | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. | Visit www.lensc.org for more details.



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Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

28728 Wolf Road
Bay Village, OH 44140

440-871-2900 | www.lensc.org

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Tax ID #34-0845030

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SAVE THE DATE
Friday, April 28, 2023
at 6:00 p.m.

A NIGHT FOR NATURE



 Lake Erie Nature & Science Center **NATURALLY CONNECTED**

 **THE ONLY**
wildlife rehabilitation
facility in Cuyahoga
County, offering free
wildlife services
7 days a week



 **11,800**
students from kindergarten
through college participated
in field trips, summer camps,
scout programs, wildlife
programs and internships



1 OF 2
public-access
planetariums in
Cuyahoga County
serving toddlers
through adults

 **1,481**
ill, injured, or orphaned wildlife
patients were treated by highly
trained staff

 **9,943**
children and adults participated in
nature-based preschool programs

 **104,194** total people served in 2022

