

GRATITUDE REPORT 2021



Five Oaks

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LETTER FROM THE E.D.

We hope that you enjoy this new format, which shares our achievement with words, clear financial information and photos from the past year.

Thank you for your continued support of Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre. We wouldn't be here without you.

I invite you to close your eyes and imagine that you are at your favourite spot at Five Oaks Centre, acknowledging that you likely have not had the chance to be at this sacred place in a few years. Whether your favourite spot is the dip in the road as you enter the centre, the confluence of the Grand River and Whiteman's Creek, the cedar grove on the trail, the Upper Room, or even that bedroom you love - the essence of this place remains in your hearts and minds.

2021 was a year like no other, a year fully entwined with our global experience of COVID-19, wave after wave challenged staff to reconsider programming and how the space is shared. Caring for migrant workers arriving to Canada remained our focus through spring, summer, and early fall. We welcomed 256 guests into isolation

care, and over 80 guests for an 85-day long term stay. Our Acorn Adventure Day Camp offered a second, nearly sold out season, with children enjoying the property and building friendships with campers and day camp staff. Community relationships were strengthened by enhanced partnerships with the Grand River Rafting and Brave Waves, and the centre continued to deepen relationships with other partners like the Grand River Bookstore.

Our intercultural program team continued to offer deep, meaningful programming online and safely onsite despite the many restrictions on gathering. We hope that you found a program that spoke to your heart, and hope that in the coming year you will find a new program offering to rejoin the programmatic work of the centre.

Our Dining Room and Main Building kitchen received a much-needed upgrade, with thanks primarily to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, who provided over \$148,000 to make this a resilient space for current and post-COVID operations. Alongside this update, changes were made to the washrooms in the Chalet and Summer Centre, as well as upgrades to our septic pump, the interior of House on the Hill, and much more. We look forward in 2022 to other new capital projects: including a new roof on the Main Building, updated accessible washrooms, and much more.

We give thanks that through the ongoing support of people like you we are able to continue to offer space for many to come for rest, retreat, and renewal. The pandemic transformed how we offered these moments - creating less opportunities for volunteer days and a shift to online programming. However, because of you we were able to vision a way forward. Your gifts of time and financial donations made sure Five Oaks will continue to be a place of learning and respite in the future.

Thank you!

Michael Shewburg

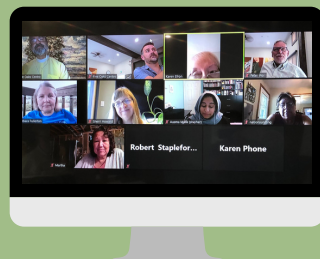
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting for the 2021 fiscal year will be held on Sunday June 5th, 2022 at 2:00pm. It will be hosted both in-person at Five Oaks and virtually over Zoom to support however you feel the most comfortable attending.

The meeting will be held from 2pm-4pm, followed by tours of the site. There will then be a fundraising dinner that begins at 5pm, which we would love for you to join us for.

Registration for our 2022 AGM is now live, visit www.fiveoaks.on.ca/agm-2022



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Like many of you, I was able to actually 'keep' Easter this year - being 'in' church, small gatherings with family and friends. After these last two years of such tremendous ups and downs, unforeseeable obstacles, and such unprecedented realities, it certainly feels good to be able to think that things might just return - however haltingly - to some new kind of normal. While we all need, still, to be very careful and to hold in mind all those things that we have learned about keeping ourselves and others safe, there is a glimmer of hope on the horizon. For that we are all so grateful!

I am also so grateful, on behalf of the Board of Directors, the Staff, and the entire Membership of Five Oaks for the deep and abiding generosity shown by so many for this wonderful place. We have pivoted, adapted, caught up to ourselves, slipped back into lockdowns, caught up again, and continued to adapt! We have developed new business and programming models, have deepened our relationships with our neighbours, taken advantage of some quiet items to repair and renovate much of our property; we have also welcomed exciting and gifted new staff members. So much of this is because of the exemplary leadership of Michael Shewburg, our Executive Director, and his senior management staff. We salute Michael and all the staff!

But so much more is because of the commitment of you, our members - your financial support, your work as volunteers, your belief in what Five Oaks is and can do - those are the things for which our gratitude is unbounded. We have a new Strategic Plan which we will be sharing far and wide, along with exciting plans for its implementation. I urge you to drop in sometime and see our new look and explore the wonders of our magnificent property.

We on the Board consider ourselves so privileged to be able to walk with you on our collective journey. Thank you for all that you do!

Sincerely,

Peter Wall

BOARD CHAIR

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Strategic Plan

IN SEPTEMBER 2020 FIVE OAKS LAUNCHED ITS STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS, WHICH WAS FINALIZED IN 2021. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE MORE THAN 60 CONTRIBUTORS WHO OFFERED THEIR TIME, INPUT, AND EXPERTISE TO THE PROJECT.

YOU CAN VIEW THE DOCUMENT AT
WWW.FIVEOAKS.ON.CA/MISSION-VISION/

Acorn Adventure Camp

THIS SUMMER, CHILDREN AGES 5-12 PARTICIPATED IN A WEEK OF DAILY FUN ACTIVITIES SUCH AS GAMES, CRAFTS, SWIMMING, RAFTING, CREEK STUDIES, NATURE SCIENCE, CAMPFIRES, HIKES, AND MORE. OUR ACORN ADVENTURE DAY CAMP SOLD OUT ALMOST EVERY AVAILABLE SPOT THIS SUMMER, WITH 236 CHILDREN ATTENDING CAMP OVER NINE WEEKS.

Community Partners

WE DEVELOPED TWO NEW PARTNERSHIPS THIS PAST SUMMER. BRAVE WAVES OFFERED 1:1 SWIM INSTRUCTION FROM JUNE TO AUGUST IN THE FIVE OAKS POOL, WITH 850 CHILDREN ATTENDING THIS SUMMER. GRAND RIVER RAFTING, ONE OF OUR LONG-TERM PARTNERS, BEGAN OFFERING A SHORTER TUBE RUN ON THE RIVER THAT SAW 10,669 PEOPLE USING FIVE OAKS AS AN ACCESS POINT.

Dining Hall Renovation

THIS FALL WE COMPLETED OUR RENOVATIONS ON OUR DINING HALL, WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF A \$148,400 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES FUND GRANT, THROUGH THE ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION. OUR 65-YEAR OLD BUILDING GOT A BEAUTIFUL UPGRADE, WITH A FULL INDUSTRIAL KITCHEN (PERFECT FOR OUR NEW CHEF!)

Migrant Care

FIVE OAKS HAS CONTINUED OUR IMPORTANT WORK IN SUPPORTING MIGRANT WORKERS WHO CONTRIBUTE TO ONTARIO'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. WE HOUSED 256 MEN DURING THEIR 14-DAY ISOLATION PERIODS, AND THEN HOUSED 80 MEN OVER 85 DAYS FOR LONG-TERM CARE, AS THEY COMMUTED DAILY TO A LOCAL FARM.

Program Highlights and Growth

Meet our Program Team

(Left to Right)

Hafsa Mehmood

Newcomer Partner Program Coordinator

Stephanie Hill

Indigenous Partner Program Coordinator

Tanya Dyck Steinmann

Settler Partner Program Coordinator



2020 Program Stats

8 Five Oaks Programs

71 Acorn Camp Participants

667 Total Participants

2021 Program Stats

21 Five Oaks Programs

236 Acorn Camp Participants

750 Total Participants



HOSPITALITY RE-OPENING

As restrictions have lifted and Five Oaks has moved back to operating at full capacity, more guests are excited to be back on-site. Find below a note of gratitude from a recent guest who, among other things, is reassuring that despite all the changes and uncertainty of the past two years, Five Oaks remains a sacred, welcoming place for all to come and experience.

I wanted to thank you and the entire Five Oaks team for such a wonderful weekend of creative writing with Nora Savage. It was my first overnight away from family or close friends since the pandemic began. I have missed Five Oaks so much, and when I arrived, I just sat in the parking lot soaking up the atmosphere. Linda and Mallory made me feel welcome from the moment I registered. Linda showed me to my room, helped with my bags, and even helped make my bed. She did so without making me feel awkward about my mobility challenges. Mallory graciously helped with the elevator key when I forgot to remove it from the inner console! Colleen continued the kindness at dinner Saturday evening.

I am amazed at how Five Oaks has a new face without losing its essence. I love what you have done to redecorate and improve the overall appearance of the Centre. It is clean, efficient, yet still very homey. The new deck and stairs are terrific. Having the availability of rapid tests and the presence of sanitizers throughout made us feel safer even though many of us had just met.

We were blown away by the incredible cuisine and attention of Chef Murray Zehr! What a talent and personality. Can you believe he came in at 5:00 am Sunday to bake us exquisite croissants? We all left vowing to diet for the next week

Linda joined the group for a spontaneous chat Saturday evening and arranged for a Talking Circle the next day with Pat Green. It was a gift we all appreciated and learned from.

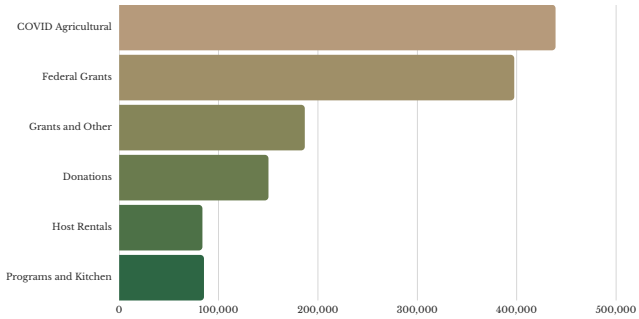
Please let the team know that their passion and kindness are much appreciated and were a wonderful way for me to emerge from my pandemic bubble.

- Ruth Mcquinter

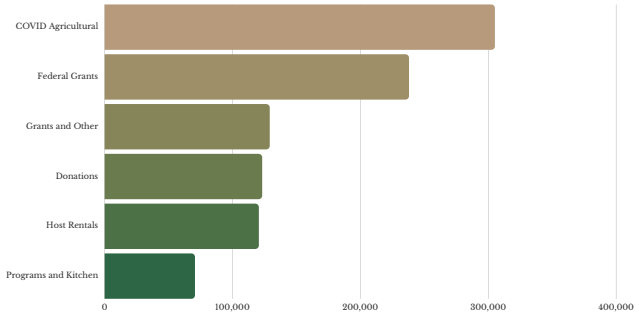
2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2021
2020
2019

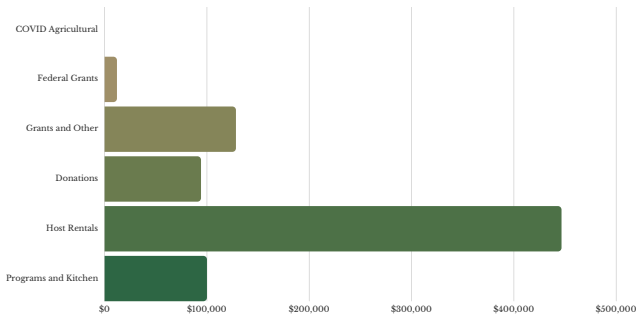
OPERATING REVENUE



\$1,340,377



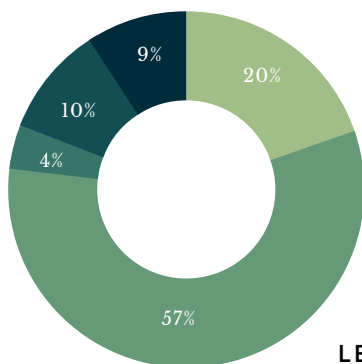
\$985,047



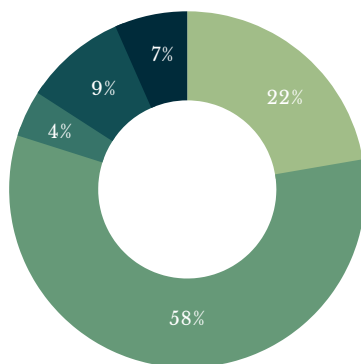
\$779,655

OPERATING EXPENSES

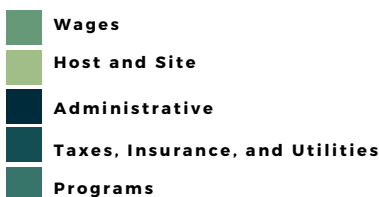
2020
\$857,080



2021
\$1,067,108



LEGEND



2021 CAPITAL INVESTMENTS \$339,000

\$52,000
additional
investments were
made in 2021



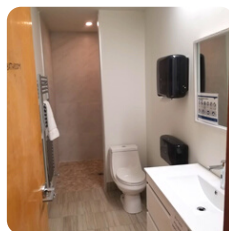
\$166,000

Complete Renovation to the Dining Hall, including upgrades to our industrial kitchen, partially funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.



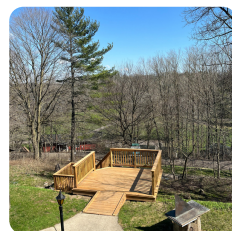
\$13,000

House-on-the-Hill received fresh paint, new carpet and flooring and new shower liners.



\$100,000

Both our Outdoor Washrooms and the Chalet Washrooms received upgrades, funded partially by New Horizon for Seniors Grant



\$8,000

The TD Friends of the Environment Grant provided funding for upgrades to our walking paths, including a new set of stairs down to the lower campus.

STRATEGIC PLAN

At a Glance

Vision

To cultivate an affirming, vibrant, and inclusive community where people of all backgrounds and traditions can gather on the land to live, work, learn, pray, play, heal, and act for justice.

Mission

To offer renewing and transformative individual, group, and community experiences through meaningful reflection, deep connections, and joyful expression

Values

- Radical Hospitality
- Diversity
- Environmental Stewardship
- Right Relations
- Social Justice

Promise

- Principled Programming
- Sacred Space
- Partners for a Better Future

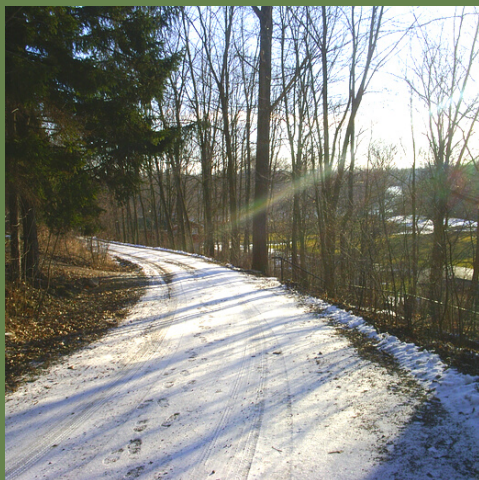
Key Success Factors

- Authentic Relationships
- Compassionate Co-Creation
- Inclusive Governance
- Inspired Storytelling
- Experience Design Excellent



Strategic Objectives

- Expanding Five Oaks' Community
- Extending Radical Hospitality
- Curating Transformative Experiences
- Revitalizing Key Spaces
- Pursuing Peace, Justice, and Equity



DONATIONS

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

I wish to be added to the Five Oaks Newsletter

DONATE ONLINE www.fiveoaks.on.ca/donate

DONATE BY MAIL

I am enclosing a cheque

OR

Please charge my Visa Mastercard Amex

Card #: _____

Expiry (mm/yyyy): _____

CSC (3 digit code): _____

I want to know more about **FAITH BONDS**

I want to know more about **Legacy Giving**

Five Oaks will be a good steward of the personal information gathered. We do not sell, share or rent this information to a third party, and secure or destroy it accordingly to PIPEDA guidelines.

I wish to make a gift at the following level:

- CAD \$50
- CAD \$100
- CAD \$150
- CAD \$200
- CAD \$500
- Other: _____

I wish to make this gift recurring:

- Annual
- Semi-Annual
- Quarterly
- Monthly
- Weekly



Thank You

We are incredibly grateful for your generosity this past year, which has helped to keep the centre alive and thriving. With the COVID-19 pandemic limiting much of our resources and capacity throughout the 2021 year, your support, both financially and through other means, has been a lifeline to us. Your continued gifts throughout 2022 will continue to make a difference as we begin to get back to our usual programming and community engagement.

Five Oaks is thankful to funders like you who shared financial gifts with the centre, including: The County of Brant, Brant Community Foundation, Brant United Way, Participants in our Walkathon Fundraiser, Erie Presbytery Mission and Development Council, The United Church of Canada, The United Church of Canada Foundation, The Government of Canada (including the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy), KAIROS, Ontario Small Business Support, Canada Summer Jobs, The Ontario Trillium Foundation and many generous individual donors, dedicated United Church congregations and United Church Women's groups.

Designations of life insurance policies, such as the generous givings of Robert and Margaret Torrance, planned legacy giving, transfer of stocks, purchase of faith bonds and participation in the monthly donation program all ensure that this sacred place continues. Your physical support through tending to the property, caring for staff, attending our programming, participating in committees and working groups, and everything else makes such a difference.

