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Mailing address: 518 S 7th Ave, Wausau, WI 54401
Gardens address: 1800 N. First Ave, Wausau, WI 54401

THANK YOU for giving to the Gardens in 2021!

Supporters of Monk Botanical Gardens are making an impact in our community.

"I bring them here so they can be in a safe space, do things like get dirty, get wet, and be away from screens for more time each day."
—Parent

"It's a beautiful, tranquil and educational garden. Each time I visit I discover something new. It is a 'must see' when you are in Wausau WI."
—Teacher, HeadStart

www.monkgardens.org



Experience the beauty. Share the vision. **Grow with us.**

www.monkgardens.org

Monk Gardens are located at 1800 N. First Ave, Wausau, WI 54401



WAUSAU'S HAPPY PLACE

2021

Gratitude Report

Growing Wausau's Happy Place

A Year of Connection, Growth, and Learning



Trees use mycorrhizal networks to work together and communicate with each other. They work together, ensuring that each plant remains healthy and fruitful. These mycorrhizal networks can even help facilitate tree resilience to stressors like predators and forest disturbances. This allows the trees to send out warning signals to others, showing that they truly act as a community with the well-being of each other front of mind.

In 2021, Monk Botanical Gardens created its own mycorrhizal network. You, and other donors, members, visitors, and volunteers, joined the Gardens' network and helped us have a successful year that benefited the entire community. Thanks to you, we established a secure and robust root system mirroring the trees in the Gardens. This root system brought a year of hands-on learning opportunities to children and adults, engaging events, new staff members, enhanced garden spaces, and the launch of this area's first-ever Garden preschool.

With your help, we look forward to cultivating well-being in people, communities, and the environment with experiences that engage, educate, and inspire. This year will be even more significant, full of nature engaging programming, including; After-School in the Gardens, Sprouts Garden Preschool, Theatre in the Gardens, and a brand new event, our first ever botanical light show - Blossom of Lights.

With stable roots and a supportive network, we'll continue to grow, ensuring we are Wausau's Happy Place, a place you can come to for natural beauty, the opportunity to reset and unwind, or finding a moment for joy.

These moments of joy can be as simple as a walk-through on your lunch break, connecting with a friend at one of our hands-on plants workshops, or witnessing a child climb the treehouse! One day, our horticulturist Marissa was pressure washing the treehouse when a class of children climbed on to explore. As she greeted the children, one stopped in her tracks, looked up with her big eyes, and said, "Miss Marissa, thank you for washing our castle!" Marissa smiled back and said, "You are so welcome. Enjoy your stay in the castle!"

The entire Board of Directors and staff extend our heartfelt thanks to you, our network. We hope you'll make more memories with us at Wausau's Happy Place.

See you in the Gardens,

Darcie Howard
Executive Director, Monk Botanical Gardens

From the Board President

It is a great honor to serve on the Board of Monk Botanical Gardens. 2021 has been a year of strengthening, tightening, aligning, and clarifying the work of our board and committees. We have been building capacity and working on what you hear a lot about these days, “infrastructure”. We have focused on board development, governance and have benefited from

learning together, gaining wisdom and feedback from consultants,

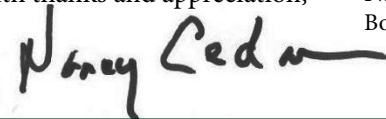
other botanical gardens or nature centers, our volunteers, local donors, and stakeholders. We have new faces on the board and are fortunate to have two members who have been with this since its inception. We have added new staff positions that take operations to a whole new level and comprise what I call a “dream team” led by our top-notch Executive Director, Darcie Howard.

We recently updated our mission statement, and the dialogue that ensued with this process served to deepen our energy, sense of purpose and commitment. This past summer we started including a “mission moment” in our monthly board meeting agenda, where a staff member shares a story or an experience in their work that served as a defining moment for them. It is evident that this is everyone’s favorite part of the agenda. It centers and reinforces the importance of the shared work and investment in the organization. For me this “battery charge” also happens when I visit the Gardens and see volunteers erecting a yurt for the pre-school in the heat of the summer, encounter a volunteer snow blowing trails on a frigid winter day, participate in a family pizza night with a local chef (harvesting vegetables from the Kitchen Garden), talk with children excitedly showing me a miniature “Barbie” cucumber, or meet a group of employees from a local business volunteering a day of service, with their hands in the dirt. This is what community looks and feels like, and makes this everyone’s garden, working in harmony with nature.

Monk Botanical Gardens cultivates well-being in people, communities, and the environment with experiences that engage, educate, and inspire.

We enter 2022 in a spirit of sincere gratitude and great excitement for all that is to come. Thank you to all who have brought us to this point, and continue with us on this journey, and welcome to all who will join us.

With thanks and appreciation, Nancy Cedar
Board President, Monk Botanical Gardens



Board of Directors

President — Nancy Cedar
Vice Pres. — Susan Lang
Secretary — Paul Whitaker
Treasurer — Jon Plisch

Members

Sheila Rossmiller
Holly Koepfel
Vickie Richmond-Hawkins
Sue Matis

Staff

Executive Director - Darcie Howard
Development Director - Tiffany Rodriguez-Lee
Education & Events Manager - Elise Schuler
Horticulture/Grounds Manager - Marissa Ashbeck
Volunteer Coordinator/Admin. Assistant - Marin Kniskern
Lead Sprouts Garden Preschool Teacher - Krysta Post
Environmental Educator - Kaytie Roettiger

100+
volunteers provided
2554 hours of service

4252
adults & children
served by programs

600
spring-blooming
bulbs planted

103
field trips hosted

Financials

INCOME

Grants	\$	254,829
Memberships	\$	32,410
Contributions	\$	251,282
Program Fees	\$	114,510
Sales	\$	16,695
In-Kind Contributions	\$	14,198
	\$	683,924

EXPENSES

Program	\$	224,699
Core Mission Support	\$	326,450
Capital	\$	83,512
	\$	634,661

NET

\$ 49,263

ASSETS (as of December 31, 2021)

CASH	\$	384,708
PROPERTY	\$	2,769,461
TOTAL	\$	3,154,169



Individual
donations
increased by
119%



130
hostas planted
in the new Hosta
& Shade Garden

Our success in 2021 was only possible because of our generous donors.

* indicates a fund from the Community Foundation of Northcentral Wisconsin.
^ indicates funding from the B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation & Wisconsin Arts Board.

Corporate & Foundation Donors

\$75,000+

B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation

\$25,000+

Dwight & Linda Davis Foundation
May Family Foundation Inc.
Ronald & Janet Klimisch Fund*
William M. & Mary Nell Reif Family Fund*

\$10,000+

Bell Family Charitable Foundation
E.F. Jablonski Family Foundation Inc.

\$5,000+

Community Arts Grant*^
John & Mary Hartwig Foundation*
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James E. Dutton Foundation

\$2,500+

Albert R. Olson Charitable Trust
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Ruder Ware
D.J. & Mary Clare Freeman Fund*
Saint Andrew Lutheran Church
Thomas Allen David Memorial Fund*

\$1,000+

Harvey J. Nelson Charitable Trust
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Nsighttel wireless, LLC DBA Cellcom
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Raymond & Marie Goldbach Charitable Foundation, Inc.
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Wisconsin Public Service Foundation
George L. Geisler Trust Fund*

\$500+

Evolutions in Design
Great Lakes Coca-Cola Bottling
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Caroline S. Mark Legacy Fund*

\$250+

AbbyBank
Fred Mueller Automotive
Jim Kryshak Jewelers
Maher Water Corporation
Red Eye Brewing Company
Verve Salon
North Central Health Protection Plan Fund*
Maher Water Corporation

\$100+

Green Lawn Underground Sprinklers
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\$99 & Under

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Janke Book Store
Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum
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Marathon County Health Department
Midwest Professional Planners
Now and Zen Massage, LLC
The Grand Theater
Walkowski Photography
Ruby Coffee Roasters
Siren Shrub Co.
The Grand Theater
Milk Merchant



Awarded
Honorable Mention
for Creating an Urban
Oasis from All-American
Selections “Diversity
in the Gardens”
Landscape Challenge

Visit us online, at:
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