

Nov. 12, 2024



Dear friend of Prairiewoods,

A year full of blessings: There is so much we have achieved in 2024 thanks to the generosity of people like you! We are so grateful to all of you. With your help, Prairiewoods has continued to live its mission by caring for our 70 acres of prairie and woodlands and providing experiences of growth and healing through our retreats, programs and holistic health services. Your support allowed us to serve more than 1,900 people and nourish our guests and neighbors with more than 9,000 meals and 4,000 pounds of fresh produce from our gardens. We planted more than 400 trees to continue to revitalize the woodland and converted to 100% solar for our electricity.

The need is great: Now more than ever people from every generation and every walk of life are looking for opportunities for “becoming, belonging and beyond.” * Your gift helps us to offer the space and the experiences that help each person find these essential elements of human wellbeing—community, purpose and meaning-making. And just as important are the gifts that help us to live our commitment to care for creation and heal Earth.

More is possible: Like you, we believe in creating a world where the human spirit and nature thrive in harmony. In this place of peace and transformation, people and planet can thrive. Year after year, through Prairiewoods' annual appeal, we have sought to grow our community of donors, allies and volunteers who share this commitment to an ecological spirituality that cares for all creation.

Every gift, whether big or small, helps us accomplish even more! Donating is simple and secure, and we assure you that your donation will be utilized wisely and transparently. **To make your donation, visit www.Prairiewoods.org/Donate.**

Once more, we extend our deepest gratitude for your generous support. As we nurture our Earth and each other, we are inspired by the hope for a future where humans cherish, respect and thrive in union with nature. Thank you for being a part of this transformative journey.

Peace and all good,

Leslie Wright
Director, Prairiewoods

* Sacred Design Lab, *Illuminating Spiritual Innovation*, 2024 www.Sacred.Design/Insights



Every dollar you generously donate helps us to achieve our mission. Last year ...



We hosted our third set of Green Iowa AmeriCorps interns who helped restore our prairie, created fun play equipment in our Nature Playscape and established a plant identification tower for the Center.



In July 2023, we began partnering with Drum Iowa to offer monthly drum circles. We have hosted 14 of these fun, relaxing circles for all ages.

“As a woman in leadership, maintaining work and life feels so daunting some days. This retreat was a much-needed opportunity to rediscover the deeper meaning in my life and work. I’m eager to bring home what I’ve learned this week, using it to lead with even more heart and purpose. I genuinely believe Prairiewoods is a place that fosters women who are striving to balance career passion with personal well-being. I can’t wait for my next visit.”
—Clare L., silent retreatant



We planted more than 400 trees. Each tree on our land generates enough oxygen for four people. With several thousand trees and 20 acres of prairie, Prairiewoods contributes oxygen for every person living in Hiawatha and absorbs an estimated 200,000 pounds of carbon every year.

“As the Chair of the Prairiewoods Board of Directors, I’ve had the privilege of joining the dream. The sisters who founded Prairiewoods had a bold vision, which created the stretch of land and many of the buildings you see today on the campus. But the sisters probably didn’t see everything you see today, which includes all the solar panels that make Prairiewoods self-sustaining in terms of energy; the plots of gardens that people are using to feed themselves and their neighbors with good, healthy food; and the wonderful programs that attract people from all over the Midwest. Who would have thought that we could have a retreat with a world-famous scholar like Diarmuid O’Murchu, all the way from Ireland, through a televised connection? More than this is possible through the good work being done at Prairiewoods, which is showing us the way to a sustainable future not only with ecology, but also with and through a profound spirituality that would have made St. Francis proud. Thank you, Prairiewoods, for what you have done, what you are doing and where you are leading us.”
—Charles Crawley, Board Chair



We hosted more than 400 students from area elementary schools, engaging them with land-care projects, creating artwork and planting seeds.

“I took a lot of hikes on the network of trails ... during my stay, and as I did, there was plenty of beauty to be found. The creek running slowly under a thin cover of ice. The hoot of an owl and song of a cardinal. The bark on each tree, grained uniquely like fingerprints. The meadow frosted with snow. The chattering of squirrels and the rustling of rabbits ... And occasionally, when we would meet somewhere in the woods, the smile on the face of a fellow pilgrim taking it all in.”
—Matthew A., private retreatant



In March 2024, we hosted the Civilized Wildlings Exhibition with artist Jill Foote-Hutton and the Iowa Ceramics Center and Glass Studio.

2024 Prairiewoods Gratitude Report



community engagement

We connected with

1,469
new people through

18

booths at community festivals, including Cedar Rapids Pride Festival, Festival Latino, EcoFest and Iowa Women Lead Change.

access to healthy food

4,200
pounds of produce grown at Prairiewoods were shared with those in need through Metro Catholic Outreach's food pantry.

50

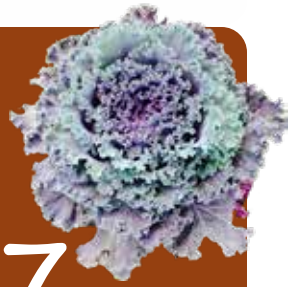
different varieties of fruits, vegetables and herbs were grown in the Green Prairie Garden and in the Four Winds Food Forest.

27

community garden plots were rented by people from

6

different countries around the world, many of whom were able to grow culturally significant produce for themselves and their families.



retreats & programs

1,910

different people participated in

164

unique Prairiewoods retreats and programs and a total of 791 sessions.



restore & renew

504

total holistic services—including massage, reflexology and healing touch—were provided by our holistic service providers.

1,224

total sessions were provided by our on-staff spiritual directors.

time away

282

people came here on personal retreat, contributing to

2,268

total overnight stays in our Guest House and two Hermitages, which are rustic, solar-powered cottages in the woods.

welcoming new groups

In August 2023, Prairiewoods hosted 65 people for an entire week! Gamaliel—an organization who's mission is to empower ordinary people to effectively participate in the political, environmental, social and economic decisions affecting their lives—taught us so much! We learned how to make REAL sweet tea for southerners that MUST be served on ice. We learned just how important Cholula sauce is to EVERY meal for our Spanish-speaking guests. We held space for gospel hymn fests and yoga classes, intense discussions and joyous celebrations. Every square foot of Prairiewoods was brimming with energy! The heat outside never let up—even as some of the air conditioning gave out and we had to double people up in bedrooms. Our staff and volunteers gave it our all, working extra-long days to take on unfamiliar roles as waitstaff and cook's assistants. At the end of the week, the organizer celebrated with us: "You did it! You weren't sure you could, but you did! It was wonderful!"

a place to meet 83 groups

hosted their events in meeting spaces at Prairiewoods. This included **Nonprofits** like Catholic Worker House, Catherine McAuley Center, Trees Forever & Goodwill of the Heartland; **Businesses** like UnityPoint, Mercy Medical Center, Big Grove Brewery, Northwestern Mutual, Thrivent Financial & ITC Midwest; **Religious Organizations** like Episcopal Diocese of Iowa, Quaker Group, Prairie Star District UUMA, Agudas Achim Congregation, Inter-Religious Council of Linn County & Iowa City Women Clergy; **Affinity Groups** like Horizons Flute School, Old Capitol Quilt Guild, Prairie Yarn Over Knitting Group, Children's Writers Group, Toula Yoga, PITCH Iowa, North America Practical Method Training Camp, Delta Kappa Gamma Women Educators & Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement; and **Schools** like University of Iowa, Coe College, Cornell College, Kirkwood Community College & Cedar Rapids Community School District.

going solar

In December 2023, Prairiewoods added 70 solar panels to our existing array. This allowed us to go 100% solar, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and increasing our sustainability. Foundress Nancy Hoffman, FSPA, says, "Many minds, hearts, muscles and donations over the last 30 years have helped to complete this coveted dream to power all of Prairiewoods' buildings with solar energy." In the first six months of relying entirely on solar energy, we offset 21.3 tons of carbon, the equivalent of 2,170 gallons of gas!

volunteers

405

individual volunteers including

19

different service groups contributed

7,210

hours of volunteer time.

volunteers

Our volunteers:

- offer hospitality in the office
- staff our major events
- care for our 70 acres, understanding that the wellbeing of the land and people are connected

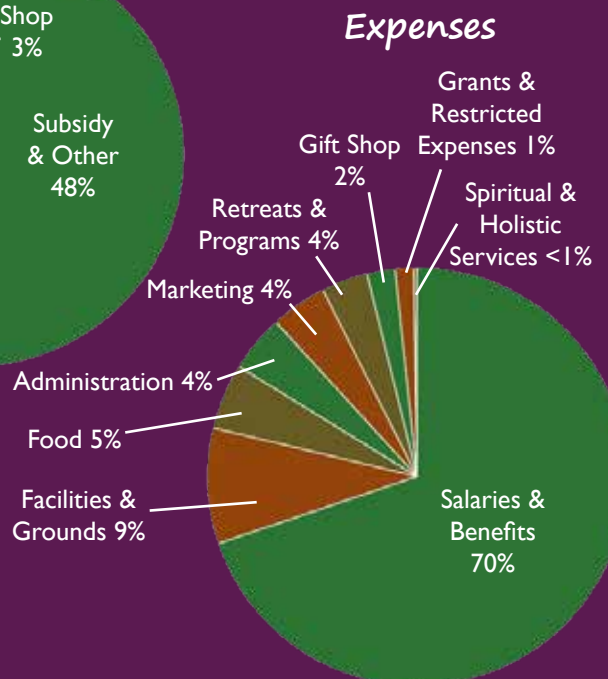
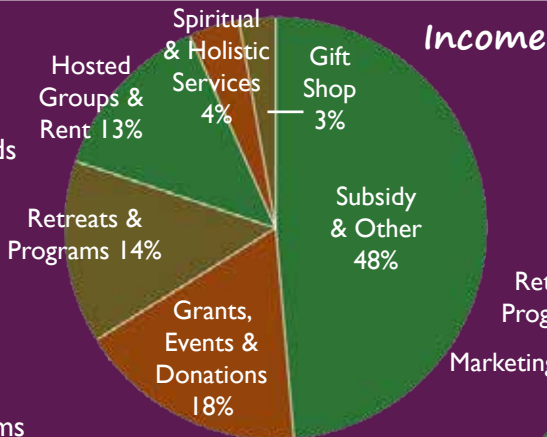
They are family—an essential part of the Prairiewoods' community!



financial report

Income	
Subsidy & Other	\$574,793
Grants, Events & Donations	\$206,723
Retreats & Programs	\$165,644
Hosted Groups & Rent	\$156,104
Spiritual & Holistic Services	\$45,794
Gift Shop	\$33,098
Total Income	\$1,182,156

Expenses	
Salaries & Benefits	\$741,140
Facilities & Grounds	\$94,824
Food	\$53,992
Administration	\$46,770
Marketing	\$46,116
Retreats & Programs	\$37,972
Gift Shop	\$22,971
Grants & Restricted Expenses	\$15,047
Spiritual & Holistic Services	\$2,879
Total Expenses	\$1,061,711



Thank you for being part of the Prairiewoods story!
For a complete list of donors, please visit www.Prairiewoods.org/Donate.