



2015 *Annual Report*

walking mountains ™
science center

walkingmountains.org | 970.827.9725

To awaken a sense of wonder and inspire environmental stewardship and sustainability through natural science education.

We are reaching new heights...

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share our annual report for fiscal year 2015 (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015).

It has been an incredible, inspirational year at Walking Mountains Science Center. We've exceeded our goals beyond imagination – from program expansion and a record number of Eagle County students and community members served, to engaging more companies and homeowners than ever in our sustainability initiatives.

Much to our delight, we received numerous awards for these efforts. However, we could not have reached these heights without you: our valued donors, partners and friends. Simply put, thank you!

In this annual report are the results of our successful initiatives and partnerships: a recap of our program areas – Youth, Community, Sustainability & Stewardship – and the far-reaching impact we've made on multiple fronts.

The demand for our programs is far outpacing our ability to meet the requests we receive from schools, the community at large, and the business sector. To all of us at Walking Mountains, this is a welcome challenge and one that we fully intend to address in the coming year and beyond.

We know that our current success and bright future are due to your generosity. Thank you again for your continued commitment to Walking Mountains, and we look forward to seeing you soon at one of our programs or events!

Best regards,

Markian Feduschak
President

Pat Tierney
Board Chair

thanks to you!



A "must-stop" for any family visiting the Eagle Valley. Truly an amazing asset that offers an incredible education center, knowledgeable staff, and wonderful nature trails. All of these factors combine to create the perfect balance of education, fitness, and fun.

Science Center Visitor

Walking Mountains plays an important role in the Eagle Valley, giving children, students, and families endless opportunities to become environmental stewards while learning about and enjoying the great outdoors.

Community Member

Board of Directors As of June 30, 2015

- Pat Tierney, *Chair*
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EMERITUS DIRECTORS

- Kathy Borgen
- Phil Brodsky
- Alan Danson
- Buck Elliott
- Holly Elliott

“We partner with Walking Mountains because of the integrity with which they approach outdoor science education. They adhere to the scientific method and ignite curiosity that is already present in our kids.”

*Dr. Jason E. Glass
Chief Learner & Superintendent
of Eagle County Schools*

Schools Served 2014-15

- Avery Parsons Elementary*
- Avon Elementary*
- Battle Mountain High School*
- Berry Creek Middle*
- Brush Creek Elementary*
- Eagle County Charter Academy*
- Eagle Valley Elementary*
- Eagle Valley Middle*
- East Middle School*
- Edwards Elementary*
- Fountain Valley High School*
- Garfield County Schools*
- Gypsum Creek Middle*
- Gypsum Elementary*
- Homestake Peak School*
- June Creek Elementary*
- Red Hill Elementary*
- Red Sandstone Elementary*
- St. Clare of Assisi*
- Stone Creek Charter School*
- Vail Academy*
- Vail Mountain School*
- Vail Ski and Snowboard Academy*



Youth Programs

Connecting Eagle County students with their natural world.

Field Science School Programs

Students K-12 participated in hands-on, outdoor science programs aligned with classroom curriculum. In accordance with our MOU with Eagle County Schools, this past year all 3rd and 7th grade students participated and we continue to make progress towards serving all K-8 students throughout their academic career.

Summer Science Camps

We offered nine weeks of summer science camps to students of all ages, igniting curiosity for the natural world through hands-on learning, hiking, and exploration! We expanded our overnight camp opportunities, adding a new high school backpacking trip and a hut based overnight exploring and restoring our local ecosystems.

Avon In-School

Each week we taught engaging science units to every student at Avon Elementary. The theme of sustainability was front and center as our Avon In-School Instructor infused sustainable practices and lessons into all K-5 curriculum, which incorporated Eco-Schools program initiatives like a recycling club and school garden.

Girls in Science

We offered the Girls in Science afterschool program to 3rd-5th grade students in six Eagle County Schools. New and exciting units included Colorful Chemistry, Forestry Fun, and Newton’s Laws of Motion. In addition, every school participated in at least one animal dissection as well as outdoor adventure days! In April we hosted the 2nd annual Girls in Science Fair and doubled the number of participating schools!

STEM Leadership Academy

We expanded the STEM Leadership Academy afterschool program during the 2014-15 academic year, now offered to 6th and 7th grade students at the four Eagle County middle schools. Highlights of the newly designed 7th grade curriculum include building and launching rockets, exploring genetics through cross-pollination of plants and extracting DNA, and investigating robotics through coding.

You brought the best out of so many kids – outdoors and learning, together. The sky blossomed!

*Nancy Allen,
1st Grade Teacher*



Making an Impact

9 Years

running, Walking Mountains has increased the number of students in our Field Science School Programs. In 2015 we saw a 4% increase with 3,505 students reached, which totaled 26,640 contact hours.

476 Students

participated in nine weeks of summer science camps, which totaled 10,108 contact hours during 37 camps.

267 Students

served once a week at Avon Elementary totaling over 9,000 contact hours of hands-on science education.

141 Girls

participated in our Girls in Science afterschool program at six schools, totaling 4,972 contact hours.

92 Students

students at four middle schools participated in STEM Leadership Academy for 6th and 7th grade students. This is a 35% increase over last year.

4,481 Students

served through all youth programs, equating to 57,840 contact hours!



Community Programs

Inspiring people
of all ages
to discover...

Science Behind

The Science Behind series continues to grow in popularity, offering monthly opportunities for adults to learn or expand their knowledge on a wide variety of topics. During summer 2015, we partnered with Bravo! Vail to bring Third Coast Percussion. The group performed a concert and explained the science of sound waves. The 100 people in attendance then performed with their own engineered instruments!

The series typically focuses on small-group programs to create more interactive opportunities. The Science Behind Sugar, which explained how sugar affects our health from a chemical viewpoint, was in such high demand that we had an encore program 6 months later. The 30 participants were able to make and eat simple low-sugar snacks!



Walking Mountains Science Center is an innovative science learning campus for residents and visitors of the Eagle Valley. The five acre site, which boasts a stream, wetlands, pond, aspen forests, and National Forest access opened in 2011.



“Great 2pm Nature Walk. We loved looking at organisms in the stream, learning about grasses and micro-environments.”
- Visitor



The Nature Discovery Center is located in a yurt and accessed via the Eagle Bahn Gondola out of Lionshead in Vail. Run in partnership with the USFS and Vail Resorts, its visitors explore an array of natural history exhibits about local wildlife.

“This place is great! We visit every winter as part of our ski vacation. There are things that both my kids and their grandparents can do and enjoy.” - Visitor, Dallas, TX

The Vail Nature Center is a 1940s homestead perched between a mountain meadow and the forested bank of Gore Creek. This seven-acre facility in the heart of Vail is a tranquil gem where you can explore the web of trails along Gore Creek or relax and enjoy the exhibits. Run in partnership with the Vail Recreation District.



Visitors describe their experiences at the Vail Nature Center as “very educational,” “always beautiful,” “a great learning center,” and their “favorite spot.”

Making an Impact

324 Visitors
attended our popular Science Behind and High Country Speaker Series.

6,985 Guests
explored our five acre LEED Platinum Certified Science Center in Avon.

22,373 People
visited the Nature Discovery Center atop Vail Mountain.

5,741 Visitors
explored the Vail Nature Center on Gore Creek.

269 Learners
attended our EarthKeepers and Nature Tykes Pre-K programs.

1,216 Total
programs offered to visitors and locals of all ages.

Walking Mountains' Zero Waste team does an outstanding job. We are proud of our partnership to make this happen."

"The Vail Farmers' Market & Art Show made huge strides this year, increasing our waste diversion rate to 89%!"

Angela Mueller, Executive Director, Taste of Vail and Vail Farmers' Market & Art Show

"We've partnered with Walking Mountains for the past two years to handle the Zero Waste program for our event Reds, Whites & Brews in Avon. They have done an absolutely amazing job helping us achieve zero waste efforts on every level of the event. They are proactive with our vendors and volunteers in providing information on compostable and recyclable products and with pre-event training on zero waste efforts. The Walking Mountains team is extremely professional, reliable and passionate about greening events! We love working with them!"

Jen Radueg
Event Director
Radiate Live Events, LLC

Sustainability & Stewardship

Providing the tools for individuals, businesses, schools and communities to become environmental stewards.



"We'd highly recommend the Energy Smart Program. We added attic insulation and sealed our windows and doors, both cost effective solutions to improve the comfort of our home. The cost savings on our energy bills was an added bonus."

Chris & Stacey Romer, Eagle Valley Homeowners

Expanding Impact
The Sustainability and Stewardship Programs department fosters a culture of sustainability and stewardship throughout the Eagle Valley. We expand and enhance the impact of Walking Mountains' educational programs through action-oriented partnerships with individuals, businesses, governments and schools.

Energy Smart
In partnership with Eagle County and Holy Cross Energy, the Energy Smart program helps our community reduce greenhouse gas emissions while providing a one-stop-shop Energy Resource Center at our Science Center in Avon. This past year we added a customer kiosk to help community members sign up for energy efficiency resources and began offering free home radon test kits.

Actively Green
This innovative legacy project of the 2015 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships Environment Committee trained 100 local businesses and certified 37 of them in sustainability practices. The program will continue to pave the way to help shape the valley into a globally recognized sustainable travel destination. Partners included nonprofit Sustainable Travel International, the Town of Vail, and Vail Valley Foundation.

Our Energy Smart Programs eliminated



Making an Impact

37 Businesses

renewed or completed our Actively Green Sustainability Certification.

49,584 Pounds

of compost and recycling was diverted from the landfill through 40 Zero Waste events.

70% of waste

at 40 Zero Waste events was diverted from the landfill.

43,270 People

were reached though our Sustainability and Stewardship Programs.

700 Watched

five environmental movies at our Sustainable Film Series.

Actively Green

Our Sustainable Business Certification program helps make sustainability actionable in day-to-day operations. The program concentrates on the three P's: People, Planet, and Profit, while creating a culture of sustainability within any organization.





Reach for the Peak

Our Reach for the Peak award dinner on July 10, 2014 honored noted philanthropists Bill and Penny George. The event highlighted the George's transformational support of Walking

Mountains, and also thanked them for their far-reaching philanthropy and commitment to the Eagle Valley,

to Colorado, and to communities around the world. The evening was a truly a night to remember – hosting 250 attendees and raising approximately \$225,000 for Walking Mountains' environmental and science education programs.



EdVentures

Walking Mountains' EdVenture program series offers donors engaging experiences that combine outdoor exploration of the Eagle Valley's unique natural environment with educational components, followed by an elegant reception. Recent events included a guided "Sounds of Nature" hike through the Knapp Ranch and a snowshoe outing, "Layers of Light," held at the Bronfman's property.

EdVenture programs are open to donors who contribute a minimum of \$1,000 annually. For information on joining this donor society, please contact Terri Scales, Annual Gifts & Special Events Manager, at 970.306.0286 or terris@walkingmountains.org.

Our Success is Due to Your Support

This list includes gifts made from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

Individuals & Foundations

Directors (\$50,000 +)

Anonymous
Katherine and Erik Borgen
Kelly and Sam Bronfman
Hugh and Michelle Harvey Family Foundation
Rob Katz and Elana Amsterdam
National Forest Foundation
Jay and Molly Precourt
Jay and Amy Regan
Ann Smead and Michael Byram
The George Family Foundation
Vail Valley Foundation - Donor Advised Funds

Ambassadors (\$25,000 +)

Andrew Sabin Family Foundation
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Harbourton Foundation
Jennifer and Philip Maritz
Tony and Barbie Mayer
Sidney E. Frank Foundation - Colorado Fund
The Tang Family
The Scrooby Foundation

Innovators (\$10,000 +)

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Steve and Amy Coyer
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
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Jay and Gail Mahoney
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Rose Community Foundation
Chuck and Margery Steinmetz
The Precourt Foundation
Pat Tierney and Argie Ligeros
Greg and Sandra Walton
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Women's Foundation of Colorado

Visionaries (\$5,000 +)

Alix and Hans Berglund
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EdVenture (\$1,000 +)

Amgen Foundation Matching Gifts and Staff Volunteer Programs
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The Sidhu Family Foundation
The Swig Foundation
The WinMax Foundation Inc.
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U.S. Bank Foundation
UBS Matching Gift Program
United Way of Eagle River Valley
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Lynda and Jacqueline Waite
Gloria Walker
Susan and Tom Washing
Bob West

Naturalists (\$500 +)

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Explorers (\$250 +)

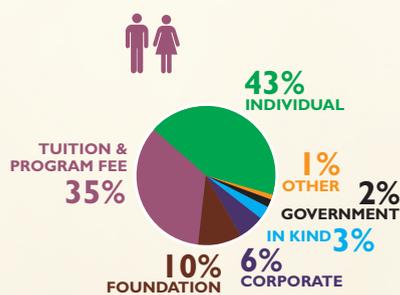
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Pam Timmins
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Observers (\$100 +)

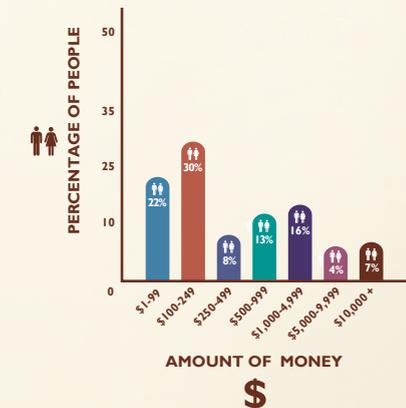
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Giving Snapshot

WHO GIVES?



HOW MUCH?



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Holly Strablizky
Mark Strickland
Kathie Talbot
Debby and Steve Webster
Linda and Jake Wells

Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign
Leila White
Raissa Wodgemuth
Beth Anne Yeager

Government Support

Eagle County
Town of Avon
Town of Eagle
Town of Gypsum
Town of Minturn
Town of Vail

Corporate Partners

Ambassadors (\$25,000 +)
Holy Cross Energy
Vail Resorts

Visionaries (\$5,000 +)
Alpine Bank
Claggett-Rey Gallery
FirstBank of Avon
New Belgium Brewing Co., Inc.

EdVenture (\$1,000 +)
Alan-Bradley Windows and Doors
Avon Riverfront Restaurant, LLC
Beck Building Company
Colorado Mountain College
Eagle County School District
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Highline Sports and Entertainment
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Optimum Event Concessions
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Ruggs Benedict, Inc.
Slifer, Smith and Frampton Foundation
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Vail Honeywagon Enterprises, Inc.
Vail Valley Dental Care, Inc.
Vail Valley Medical Center
Walkin' The Dog

Naturalists (\$500 +)
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Boxcar Restaurant
Conundrum Technologies
Dusty Boot II, LLC
Dusty Boot, LLC
Luigi's Pasta House - Eagle
Mithun, Inc.
Network for Good
River Run Bar & Grill, LLC
River Run III, LLC
Ryan Solutions
The Metropolitan

ThriveMD
Vail/Summit Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine
Wolf Rock Keystone, LLC

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Comerford Insurance Agency, Inc
Eye Center of the Rockies
Green Practices
Wolf Rock Keystone, LLC

Observers (\$100 +)
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Pazzo's West Inc.
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Colorado Document Security
Conundrum Technologies
Gerhard and Robyn Assenmacher
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Mountain Man Fruit & Nut Co.
Pink Monkey Solutions
Providence Apothecary
ReLoad
Sonnenalp Resort of Vail
Starbucks Coffee Company
The Blue Plate
The Parents' Handbook
Ti Amo Ristorante
Ticino
Trout, Raley, Montañó, Witwer and Freeman, P.C.
Vail Catering Concepts
Vail Daily
Vail Mountain Coffee and Tea Co.
Vail Tax and Accounting
Venture Sports
Vin 48 Restaurant
Wear, Travers, Perkins, LLC
West Vail Liquor Mart
Wines 'Til Sold Out
Wolf Property Services, LLC
Zino Ristorante

Legacy Donors

Recognized for making a planned gift to support science education in our community.

Karen Berndt
Montine Hansl
Anthony and Teressa Perry
Susan and Al Pollack
Sherwood and Mary Stockwell
Laura Tumperi

Cornerstone Donors

Recognized for their cumulative contributions that support sustainability and science education in our community.

Mount Elbert Society
Katherine and Erik Borgen
Peter and Patricia Frechette
The Precourt Family
The Tang Family

Mount Massive Society
Elana Amsterdam and Rob Katz
Gates Family Foundation
Bill and Penny George
George Family Foundation
Tony and Barbie Mayer

Mount Harvard Society
Borgen Family Foundation
Kelly and Samuel Bronfman
Eagle County
Buck and Holly Elliott
Craig Foley
Cynthia and Peter Kellogg
Tricia and Patrick McConathy
Amy and Jay Regan
Ann Smead and Michael Byram

Pat Tierney and Argie Ligeros
Laura Tumperi
Vail Resorts

La Plata Peak Society
Alpine Bank
The Anschutz Foundation
Philip and Sunny Brodsky
Daniels Fund
David and Kathy Ferguson
Harry and Susan Frampton
Hugh and Michelle Harvey Family Foundation
Mike and Karen Herman
Robert and Sherry Johnson
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Jay and Gail Mahoney
Jennifer and Philip Maritz
National Forest Foundation
R.A. Nelson and Associates
Joe and Brenda McHugh
Richard and Susan Rogel

Lisa and Lloyd Ruth
Andrew Sabin
Ric and Debbie Scripps
Sidney E. Frank Foundation - Colorado Fund
John Shipp
John and Nancy Snyder
Sherwood and Mary Stockwell
Kristin Tang and Mike Marston
Vail Daily
Town of Avon

Blanca Peak Society
Albert Beedie and Joyce Bennis
Alix and Hans Berglund
Karen Berndt
Priscilla Brewster
Dorothy Browning
Daniel Carroll and Julie Noolan
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George and Rose Gillett
James and Mary Hagen

Gregory and Jane Johnson
William G. McGowan Charitable Fund, Inc.
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The Perot Foundation
Pamela and Ben Peterzell
Susan and Al Pollack
El Pomar Foundation
Michie Slaughter
Slifer, Smith, and Frampton Foundation
Carroll Tyler
Women's Foundation of Colorado
Town of Vail



Financial Highlights



Walking Mountains Science Center is the Eagle Valley's #1 source for books on our local environment including trail guides & maps, naturalist guides, books on environmental science, nature writing and living green. Stop by the US Forest Service building in Minturn or our Science Center in Avon today!

For the Year Ended June 30, 2015

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	
<i>Current assets</i>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$685,530
Restricted cash held for others	12,826
Investments	17,906
Accounts/Pledges receivable	386,115
Bookstore inventory	20,555
Other	49,622
Total current assets	\$1,172,554
<i>Noncurrent assets</i>	
Pledges receivable	\$49,520
Restricted investments	39,345
Total noncurrent assets	\$88,865
<i>Fixed assets</i>	
Land	\$3,850,000
Building	7,609,716
Equipment	82,213
Furniture and fixtures	725,944
Vehicle	35,194
Website	97,516
Less: accumulated depreciation	(1,218,045)
Net fixed assets	\$11,182,538
Total Assets	\$12,443,957
Liabilities and Net Assets	
<i>Current Liabilities</i>	
Accounts payable	\$37,768
Accrued payroll	36,383
Deferred revenue	250,057
Held for others	12,826
Total current liabilities	\$377,034
<i>Noncurrent Liabilities</i>	
Construction loan	372,673
Total noncurrent liabilities	\$372,673
Total Liabilities	\$709,707
<i>Net assets</i>	
Net investment in fixed assets	\$11,182,538
Unrestricted	395,475
Temporarily restricted	116,892
Permanently restricted	39,345
Total net assets	\$11,734,250
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$12,443,957

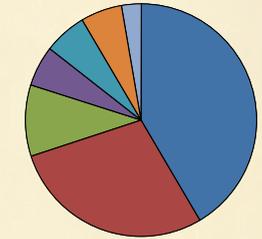
Statement of Cash Flows

Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Cash received from donations/special events		\$1,472,580
Cash received for program fees & tuition		719,344
Cash received from other		34,494
Cash paid to employees		(1,282,894)
Cash paid for interest		(23,377)
Cash paid for goods and services		(780,628)
Net assets released from restriction		—
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities		\$139,519
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
Principal payments on debt		\$(237,327)
Cash received from debt issuance		—
Net Cash (Used) by Financing Activities		\$(237,327)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Payments for purchase of property & equipment		\$(16,160)
Cash paid to purchase investments		(318)
Cash received from sale of investments		—
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Investing Activities		\$(16,478)
Net Change in Cash		\$(114,286)
Cash Balance and Cash Equivalents—Beginning of Year		\$812,642
Cash Balance and Cash Equivalents—End of Year		\$698,356
Reconciliation to Cash on Statement of Financial Position		
Cash and cash equivalents		\$685,530
Cash held for others		12,826
		698,356
Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities		
Operating income (loss)		\$(198,714)
Adjustments		
Depreciation expense		\$327,035
Unrealized (gain) loss on investments		(2,625)
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable		(51,054)
(Increase) decrease in pledges receivable		109,456
(Increase) decrease in bookstore inventory		4,038
(Increase) decrease in other current assets		(26,098)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable		11,632
Increase (decrease) in accrued payroll		5,687
Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue		(44,348)
Increase (decrease) in infrastructure escrow		4,510
Total Adjustments		\$338,233
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities		\$139,519

Income Statement

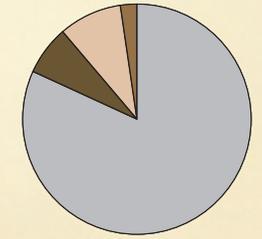
	FY 2015	FY 2014
Revenues		
Individuals	\$974,140	\$730,764
Foundations	\$222,797	\$174,461
In-Kind	\$70,586	\$99,629
Corporate Gifts	\$146,942	\$106,118
Government	\$43,270	\$100,300
Tuition & Program Fees	\$790,721	\$505,379
Interest Income	\$3,493	\$9,523
Other	\$33,625	\$39,852
Total Revenues	\$2,285,573	\$1,766,026
Expenses		
Programs	\$2,062,912	\$1,720,517
Operations	\$174,581	\$145,780
Fundraising	\$246,794	\$234,745
Total Expenses	\$2,484,287	\$2,101,042
Operating Income (Loss)	(\$198,714)	(\$334,416)
Non-Operating Income		
Net contribution from EVAS	—	\$153,668
Change in Net Assets	(\$198,714)	(\$180,748)
Net Assets – Beginning of Year	\$11,932,964	\$12,113,712
Net Assets – End of Year	\$11,734,250	\$11,932,964

The income statement includes revenue and expenses for all Walking Mountains activities, including our capital campaign, the establishment of the science center campus and depreciation. The pie charts to the right reflect fiscal year 2015 expenses and revenues only related to annual educational activities. The financial statements of Walking Mountains Science Center for the period ending June 30, 2015 were audited by McMahan and Associates, independent certified public accountants. A copy of the complete audit report is available upon request.



FY 2015 Operating Revenues

Individuals	43%
Tuition & Program Fees	35%
Foundations	10%
In-Kind	3%
Corporate Gifts	6%
Government	2%
Other	1%



FY 2015 Operating Expenses

Programs	83%
Operations	7%
Annual Fundraising	8%
Special Events	2%



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science center

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Walking Mountains Science Center operates under special use permit from the White River National Forest and is an equal opportunity service provider. All or part of this operation is conducted on Public Lands under special permit from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

CREDITS: Photos and copy: Walking Mountains Science Center staff



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