

Annual Report



2016

COMMUNICATION HIGHLIGHTS

Fostering a caring community

Mission

Torch Conservation Center, Inc. is a local nonprofit organization helping ensure a sustainable future for the Torch Lake Watershed by conserving land and promoting freshwater stewardship.

Vision

We envision a well-informed community in the Torch Lake Watershed working together to ensure safe drinking water, safe local food and fish to eat, and clean water for swimming and boating on Torch Lake.

Milestones

- Our TRUE BLUE NEWS e-letter carried tips for water-friendly living to more than 90 households in 2016.
- Nearly 10,000 visitors have responded to our photos and posts on Facebook.
- More than 3,800 people have visited our website to learn more about caring for the Torch Lake Watershed.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to our Board of Directors for their leadership and commitment.

Peg Comfort, Chair
Trish Narwold, Vice Chair
Bonnie Drick, Secretary
Emilee Syrewicze, Treasurer
Barb Lockrey, Director
Dave Peterson, Director
Keith Ross, Director

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

Partnering to maximize impact

LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM

"What matters most is not who protects the land, but that the land gets protected from future development, so the rural character of the Torch Lake Watershed is preserved for generations."

-Keith Ross, TCC land specialist

- With the Grand Traverse Land Conservancy, we discussed opportunities for future cooperation and agreed to share responsibilities in our Watershed. TCC will work with projects of 80 acres or fewer, and GTRLC will deal with projects on parcels over 80 acres.
- Walloon Lake Land Trust & Conservancy shared their experiences with conservation. They have focused on a single watershed for almost 40 years. Their success is an inspiration.
- Heart of the Lakes, the collective voice for Michigan's land conservancies, provided assistance and useful guidance. We participated in their two summits and benefitted from information on effective land conservation practices and programs.
- Our land specialist Keith Ross met with interested landowners to discuss first steps in land conservation. He also educated our Board about land conservation tools and provided additional information for our website.
- Antrim County forester Mike Meriwether, provided suggestions for our new program. Since 62% of our watershed is covered by forest, learning more about the condition of our woods is critical to our mission.
- Heart of the Lakes sponsored a Forest Conservation & Stewardship Workshop in the fall. Three of our Board members attended and began developing a forest stewardship plan for the Torch Lake Watershed with assistance from the U.S.D.A.

- Torch Conservation Center assisted John Fosgitt, Compass Land Consulting, in organizing the Northern Michigan Forest Initiative. The initiative is interested in forming a large group of forest landowners who can be certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. The goal of this certification is to ensure that Michigan forests are sustainably managed now and in the future. Regional land conservancies will continue exploring this exciting opportunity.

“Our watershed has a legacy of landowners managing their woodlands with an eye to the future. We’re looking forward to sharing their stories with our larger community in the Torch Lake Watershed.”

-Peg Comfort, TCC Board Chair

FRESHWATER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- The Antrim Conservation District and TCC developed a plan to eradicate the invasive species purple loosestrife at 15 sites around Torch Lake. The sites had been identified in a survey conducted by Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council in 2015. In 2016 the Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, Emmet Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CAKE CISMA) contacted landowners and removed plants on half of the sites.
- The Elk River Chain of Lakes Watershed– Watershed Plan Implementation Team (WPPIT) meets monthly to update partners on their various projects. Our Board members participate in these meetings.
- Through the Torch Lake Coalition, TCC Board chair Peg Comfort met regularly with the executive directors from the Three Lakes Association and the Torch Lake Protection Alliance to discuss ways our organizations can collaborate to work more effectively within the Torch Lake Watershed.

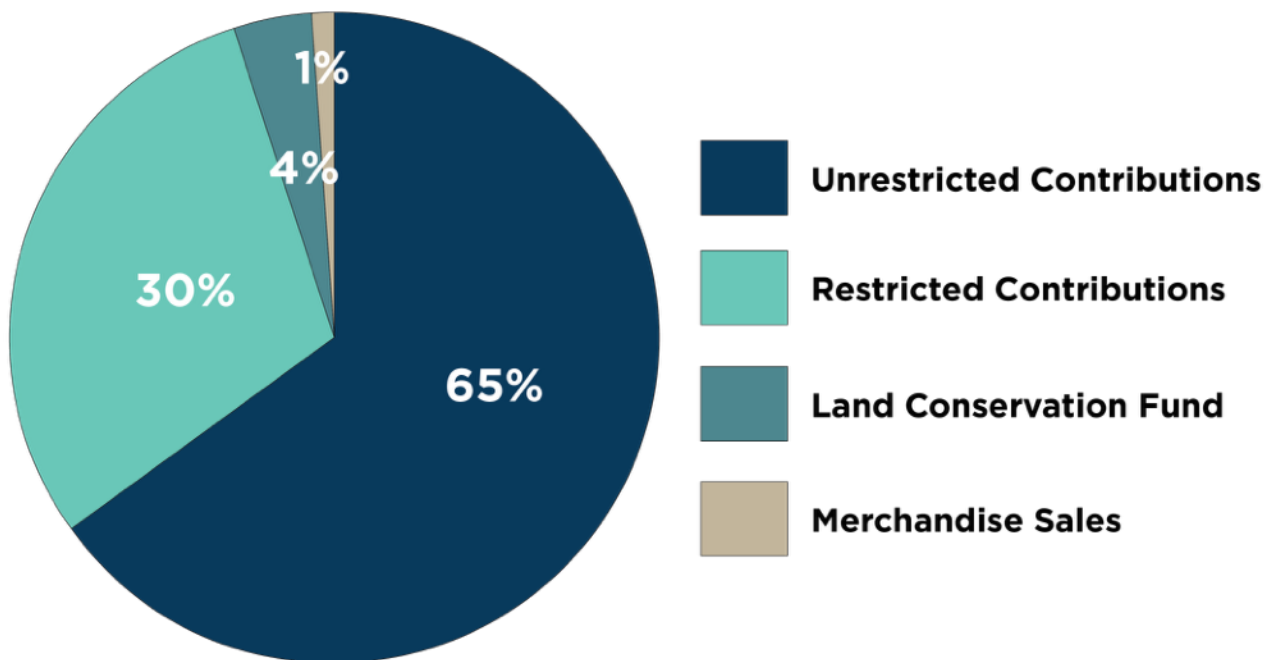
“We’re excited by the opportunities to work collaboratively to increase our impact in this wonderful watershed.”

-Trish Narwold, Board Vice- Chair

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

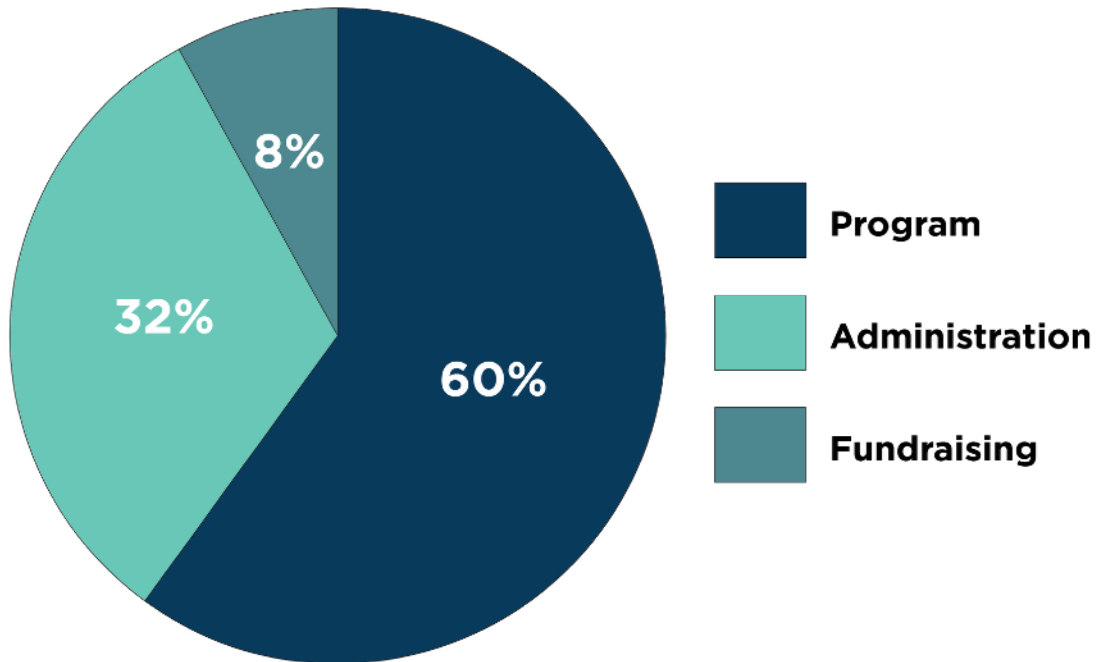
Building a sustainable future

2016 Income



Unrestricted Contributions	17,445
Restricted Contributions	8,000
Land Conservation Fund	1,200
Merchandise Sales	360
TOTAL Income	27,005

2016 Expenses



Program	9,320
Administration	5,117
Fundraising	1,335
TOTAL Expenses	15,772

TOTAL Net Income	11,233
-------------------------	--------

Financial Partners

Thanking our generous donors

Member- \$25+

Jim & Roberta Amstadt

Ed & Judi Anderson

Randy Anderson

Jack & Chris Armstrong

Awakening Health Counseling

Steve & Lisa Bain

Bill Beaupre

Fay Blix

Gary & Linnea Brunk

Pete Byron

Roger & Jan Byron

Mary Cheney

Mary Chenoweth

Todd Collins

Judi Comfort

Mark & Maureen Cooper

Kit & Julie Coulter

Jim & Nancy Cox

Pete Daily

Bob & Jamie Davidson

David Domina

Jim & Susan Farrington

Ryan Ferguson

Jessie Foley

Steve & Sallie Foley

Meredith Grider

Nancy Gump

Mike & Mary Haley

Bruce & Paula Hilby

Bob & Jeanna Honer

Dick Hoxie

Craig & Ginger Hupp

Ted & Caroline Jacob

Pete & Mary Johanson

Trish Jones

Kirby & Nancy Keller

Ron & Bonnie Kershner

Joan Lambert

Barb Lockrey

Bob Logee

Jan Loveland

Terry Malone

Kate Malone

Joe & Norma Mariage

Ed McDuffie

Dan & Sarah McNamara

Ann Melfi

Don Murphy

Member- \$25+ (Continued)

Gregg & Carolyn Nowfel
Tripp & Deedie O'Donnell
Pat Pellett
Nan Podurgiel
George & Nancy Powell
Gil & Mary Richards
Sue Robert
Rodger's Grass Fed, LLC
Dan Roketentz
Tom & Vickie Ross
Debbie Ross
Bill Ross
Dexter & Kathleen Ross
Judy Ross
Claire Scheibner
Sue Schuler
Max & Ann Schwandt
Rodman Smythe
Beth Straebel
Emilee Syrewicze
Steve & Gina Volle
Bill Weiss
Kathy Wheeler
Bill & Joni Wilson

Aqua \$250+

John Buell Jr.
Phil & Bonnie Drick
Nottingham North Family
Kent & Suzanne Walker

Turquoise \$500+

Wayne & Mary Ellen Breece
Ed & Kathy Brown
Tom & Peg Comfort
Herrington Fitch Family Foundation
John Ross
Keith Ross
Tom & Cottie Volle Sr.

Indigo \$1,000+

Jerry & Drieka Bloom
Albert Cash
Hilby Family Foundation
John Lambert
Andrew & Trish Narwold
Lynn White