

# Durango Nature Studies 2005 Annual Report



## From the Executive Director

Dear Friends of DNS,

What a treat it was to close our eleventh year knowing that Durango Nature Studies was sitting on a solid foundation of quality programs, talented staff, and a dedicated board of directors. That foundation developed from year-long efforts to craft new policies and refine existing programming to prepare us for the future.

During 2005, we continued our partnerships with many local neighbors, including Durango Mountain Resort, Trails 2000, and the San Juan Mountain Association. We also provided programming across the region to organizations like Los Amigos in Durango, the Sun Ute Community Center in Ignacio, and the Valley Learning Coop in Mancos.

Our Board of Directors took on new challenges during 2005, putting procedures into place to strengthen the organization. The Board nearly doubled in size and we renewed our Advisory Council. In both groups, community members brought years of nonprofit experience as well as professional expertise, skills, and knowledge to DNS. By the end of the year, the Board of Directors had new recruiting materials, committee charters, and a vibrant vision of our future.

Another notable endeavor was the complete redesign of our Web site. Content is still being added and updated, but the design has enhanced our online capacity tremendously. We also integrated online donation tools and a new Web-based calendar. These changes take

DNS into a new era as an online environmental education resource.

Because volunteer naturalists are vital to the success of our flagship program, *Children Discovering Nature*, we took some time in 2005 to update our *Volunteer Naturalist Training Manual*. This 218-page document forms a cornerstone for our twice-annual naturalist training,

providing critical information about natural history, child development, and site safety. Included are activities and lessons grouped by grade and age level. In the past eleven years, more than 300 people have completed the *Volunteer Naturalist Program*. Each will continue to use this manual as a lifelong resource.

Lastly, while our budget remained constant in 2005, funding sources shifted along lines similar to those nationwide. Government funding decreased 7% and foundation grants decreased 39%, but corporate and individual contributions soared 77%. Generous community support accounted for 9.6% of income in the form of donated goods and services such as Web site design, trail mapping, and accounting services.

As we begin 2006, we hope to build on the foundation set in 2005 with new programs, new ideas, and a bold new partner (see page 3 - The Environmental Center at Fort Lewis College). We look forward to your comments, suggestions, and ideas for ensuring Durango Nature Studies remains vibrant, relevant, and meaningful.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allison Pease".

ALLISON PEASE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Educational Programs

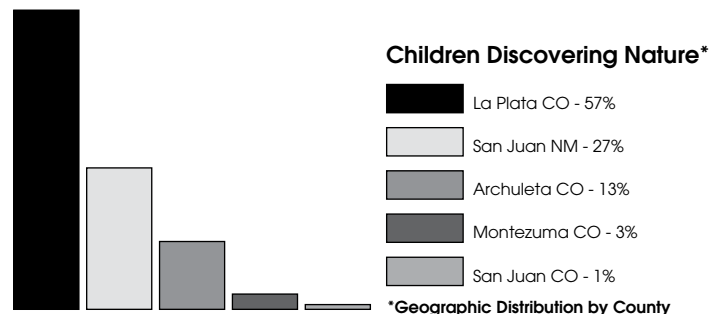
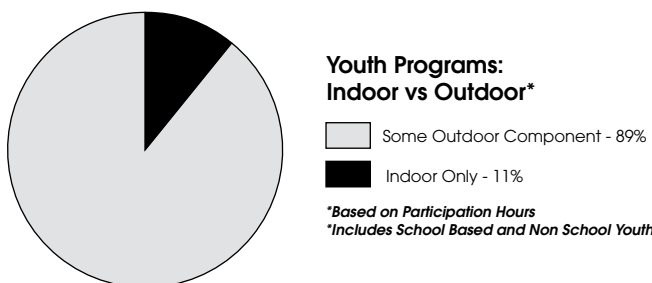
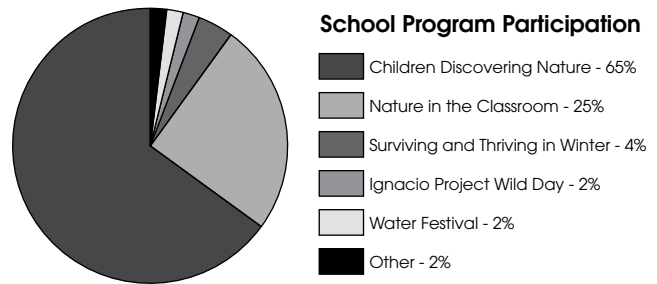
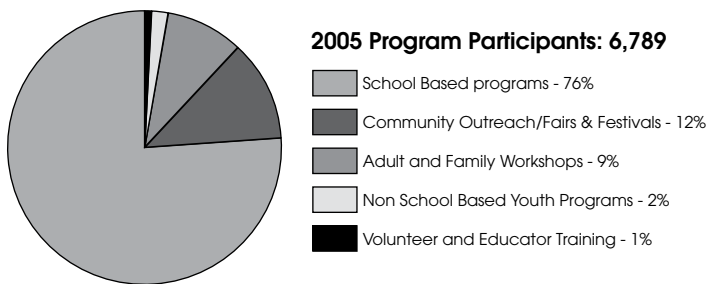
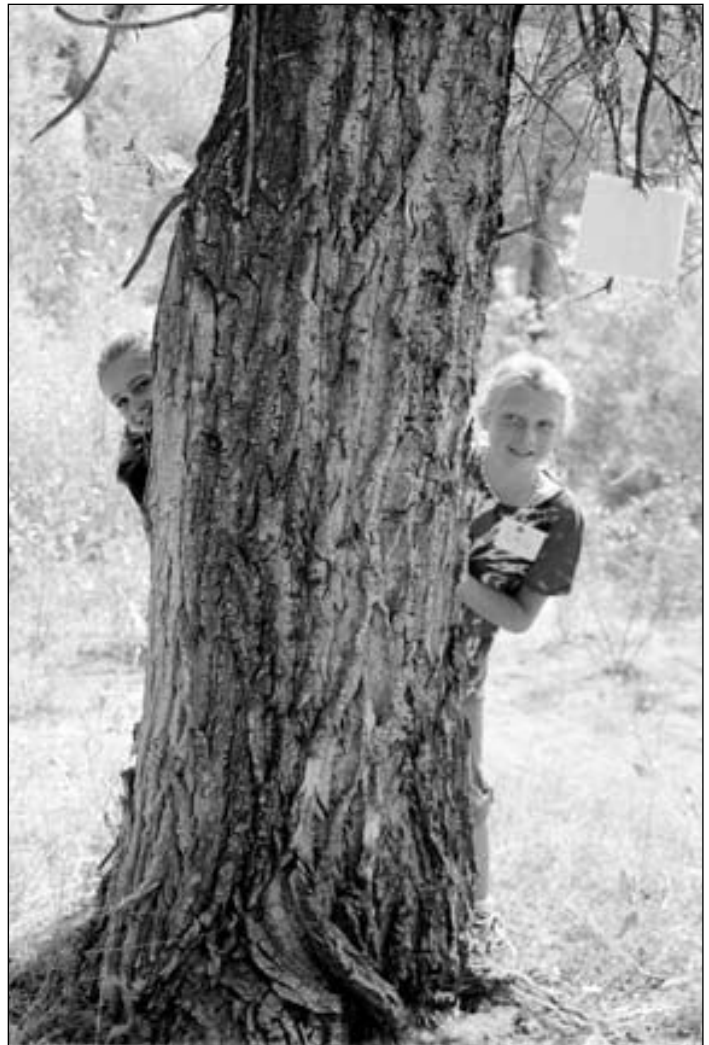
In 2005, Durango Nature Studies made a strategic decision. Rather than simply increasing our numbers, we decided to bolster our education programs by providing more contact hours per student-participant. As a result, we scaled back on low impact programs and focused on community outreach programs with broader reach and greater impact. By the end of the year, we'd served 6,789 participants with 15,580 contact hours - a whopping increase of 17% in the amount of time spent with each participant.

Our flagship program, *Children Discovering Nature*, has been growing strong since our inception and showed a participant increase of 13.9% in 2005 with 3,317 students attending. Overall, 78% of our participants are school children and 89% of our programs contain some outdoor component. By the end of the year, our school-based program numbers had increased 8.4%.

Training teachers is another bedrock foundation of Durango Nature Studies. From our *Volunteer Naturalist Program* to teaching public land agency professionals and parents with toddlers, DNS strives to instill an enthusiasm for nature coupled with tried and true techniques for increasing a child's understanding of the natural world. These programs showed a 12.5% increase in 2005.

Popular adult and family programs continued with full moon hikes, *Wild Words* author readings featuring Ken Wright, Art Goodtimes, and Dolores LaChapelle, and nature film showings of *Deep Blue* and *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*.

"The object of teaching a child is to enable the child to get along without the teacher." - Elbert Hubbard



# Volunteer Naturalist Program

Our *Volunteer Naturalist Program* is recognized for its excellence state wide. More than 300 community members have attended this intensive 17-hour training since its inception in 1994. Volunteers come from all walks of life, including students, parents, and retirees. All bring with them enthusiasm for the outdoors and a belief in the importance of getting children outside to experience nature.

While many of our volunteers move on to other jobs, new families, or other community commitments, their respect and increased knowledge for the land goes with them. Our volunteers' influence and impact are like ripples in a pond, cumulatively making our community a better place. Their impact on our area children is immeasurable.

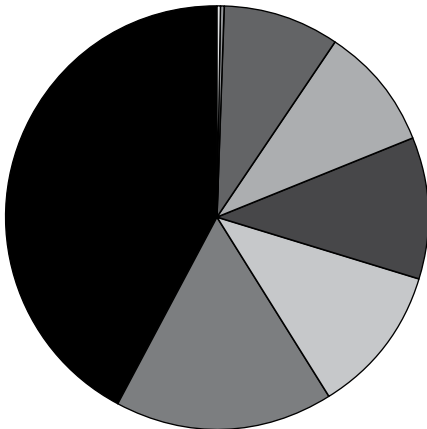











*"Last Thursday was unbelievable. I had the time of my life on the walk. The kids gave me so much energy I was smiling from ear to ear after the walk was finished and all day in fact!"*

**- 2005 Volunteer Training Alum**



## Revenue & Support



-  Contributions\* - 42.1%
-  Program fees - 16.8%
-  Special events revenues - 11.3%
-  Government grants - 10.8%
-  Donated services and goods - 9.6%
-  Foundation grants - 8.8%
-  Interest income - .4%
-  Earnings from endowment - .3%
-  Merchandise sales - .1%

\* Includes Individual Members, Corporate Sponsors and one time donors

## Partnership for the future

### THE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER AT FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

Recognizing our contribution to environmental education across the Four Corners, Fort Lewis College President Brad Bartel initiated a partnership between the Fort Lewis College Environmental Center (EC) and DNS in the fall of 2005.



Our hope is to build a state-of-the-art, green building dedicated to sustainability education. Goals for the center include environmental research, education, and collaboration for the students and faculty of Fort Lewis as well as for the students, teachers, and communities of the Four Corners.

Through the efforts of both groups, the new center will bring together people and ideas to create a healthier, more sustainable community - a community aware of local ecosystems, engaged in resource issues, and active in problem solving.

The ideas cultivated at the center will reach across the community through school programs, events and workshops, and environmental science programs. As a focal point for sustainability in the region, the center will provide a life-long foundation for education and stewardship.

# Board of Directors

**Ali Baird, Officer**—Durango, CO. Environmental Consultant, NewFields International. Formerly GIS/Resource Management for the U.S. National Park Service and State of Texas. Co-President, GIS Colorado Board of Directors. Member Women's Resource Center, Trails 2000, and Society for Conservation GIS. DNS volunteer naturalist.

**Susan Raye Blackman, Treasurer**—Mancos, CO. Self-employed Certified Public Accountant. 30+ years of experience. Former adjunct professor, Fort Lewis College. Member, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Colorado Society of Public Accountants. MS in Accounting from Arizona State University.

**Maggie Bowes, Officer**—Durango, CO. English as a Second Language Instructor, Durango Adult Education. More than 30 years experience in education, including 14 years as an elementary school teacher.

**Liz Cahill, Officer**—Durango, CO and Salinas, CA. Retired. Operated successful family business for 15 years. Member, Seniors Outdoors. Member, Saint Columba Choir. Former DNS Volunteer Naturalist.

**Candice Carson, Officer**—Durango, CO. President, Coultts & Clark Western Foundation. Author, Wildflowers of Durango and High Country Wildflowers. Former Board Member Women's Resource Center and La Plata Electric Association RoundUp Fund. Member, Leadership La Plata Steering Committee. DNS Volunteer Naturalist.

**Cathy Cowles, Secretary**—Durango, CO. Organic Grower and Certified Master Gardener. Former program director for Southwest Youth Corps. Former Instructor and Site Manager for Outward Bound School's Baja Sea Kayaking Program in Loreto, Mexico. Former Ski Instructor, Ski Patroller and River Guide. Certified Wilderness First Responder.

**Gay Grossman, President**—Bayfield, CO. Retired educator of more than 25 years. Co-founder, Durango Early Learning Center. Member, Durango Choral Society & Heartwood Co-Housing Community. DNS Volunteer Naturalist.

**Richard (Dick) Grossman, Officer**—Bayfield, CO. Practicing obstetrics and gynecology in Durango for almost three decades. Writes a monthly column for the Durango Herald on human population and the environment for more than ten years. Feels that the best hope to improve stewardship is to introduce kids to wild areas early in their lives.

**Niki Hansen, Officer**—Durango, CO. Teacher at Sunnyside Elementary School. Extracurricular school programs including writing and character building clubs.

**Kiera Sheehan, Officer**—Durango, CO. Sales and Marketing Manager, Durango Mountain Resort. Former Field Interpreter with Boulder County Open Space. Former Ski Instructor. Extensive sales and marketing experience.

**Laurie True, Officer**—Durango, CO. Teacher at Needham Elementary School. Active in Needham Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization. Regularly integrates DNS programs into classroom curriculum

**Allison Pease, Vice-President**—Durango, CO. Marketing consultant, graphic designer, copy writer. Former engineer, computer applications specialist, and technical writer for Mobil Corporation. Former Chair of Needham Elementary PTO, former chair of PSTA Colegio Internacional de Caracas. DNS Volunteer Naturalist.

# Major Donors\*

\*contributions of \$100 or more

3SLLC	Colorquest Graphics	Foundation	Council	Association
Albertsons	Community Bank Fund	Interpretive Design	La Plata Electric Association	Sandra & Michael Bruce
Ann Rapp	Coultts & Clark Western	Investment Centers of	RoundUp Fund	Ska Brewing
Ballantine Family Fund	Foundation	America - John Hansen	La Plata Energy Council	Steamworks Brewing
Bank of the San Juans	Crane & Tejada	James Mohle & JM Jones	Linda & Randal Jernigan	Steve & Connie Jacobs
Baskin Robbin's	Dalton Ranch	Jedidah DeRuyter	Liz & Paul Cahill	Steve Eccher
Betty Haskell	Dan Peha & Maureen Keilty	Jeff & Brenda Nelson	Lynn Gray	Susan Blackman
Bill Levy	DeeDee Carlson & Michael	Jessie Morgan	Mac & Sandy Thomson	SW Water Conservation
Bitten Skartvedt & Charles	Goldman	Jim & Joyce Erickson	Maria's Bookshop	District's Water Information
Schwaebe	Don & Sharron Gordon	John & Marge Waters	Maureen Keilty	Program
Bob & Mimi Chaput	Durango Herald	John & Nancy Loftis	Michael Schultz	Ted & Jill Wright
Bob's Johns	Ecosphere Environmental	John & Shere Byrd	Moreno Surveying &	Thad & Deborah Barnes
BP America	Services	John Ralph	Geographics	The Wells Group
Brainstorm Community	Eilene Lyon	John Rothwell & Marjorie	National Recreation	Todd & Kate Kearns
Giveback Program	El Pomar EPYCS Grant	Cristol	Foundation	Top Hat Hearth & Home
Bud & Jean Poe	- Durango HS	Julie McCallister	New Belgium Brewing	Tracey McInerney
Burlington Resources	Environmental GIS	Justin & Brad Tafoya	Nini's Taqueria	Victor & Sally Bellerue
Foundation	Four Corners OB-GYN	Ken & Sue's	Peg Rogers & Steve Boos	Wal-Mart
Candice Carson & George	Frank Kenna	Kim Martin & Steve Phillips	Penny O'Keefe	Wells Fargo Bank
Banker	Gail & Richard Grossman	Kinder Morgan Foundation	Peter Butler	William & Michelle Herringer
Carol Solomon & Norman	Gaines Godfrey	KSUT	Richard & Mary Ballantine	William Levy
Broad	H.O. Peet Foundation	La Plata County	Robert & Beverly Danielson	Winston Dines
Charles Foster	Harris Water Engineering	Conservation Trust Fund	Robert Harrington	Wright Water Engineers
City Market Cares program	Hillcrest Junior Golf	La Plata County Energy	San Juan Mountains	

*Thank you all!*

# Financial Statements

The accompanying statement of financial position of Durango Nature Studies (a Colorado not-for-profit corporation) as of December 31, 2005 and the related statements of activities, cash flows, and functional expenses for the year then ended have been prepared by Susan R. Blackman, CPA. I have prepared such financial statements in my capacity as Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors of Durango Nature Studies.

DURANGO NATURE STUDIES  
(A COLORADO NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION)  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
DECEMBER 31, 2005

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>ASSETS:</b>				
Current Assets:				
Cash and equivalents	\$ 16,691	16,964	\$	\$ 33,655
Grant receivables		11,000		11,000
Pledge receivables	250			250
Inventories	<u>1,216</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,216</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>18,157</u>	<u>27,964</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,121</u>
Property and Equipment:				
Land	271,500			271,500
Improvements	40,545			40,545
Furniture and fixtures	8,146			8,146
Habitat play space	4,775			4,775
Web site and nature center maps	8,990			8,990
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(31,687)</u>			<u>(31,687)</u>
Property and Equipment, net	<u>302,269</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>302,269</u>
Investments	<u>3,248</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>13,248</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$ 323,674</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 27,964</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 10,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 361,638</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY:</b>				
Current Liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$ 693	\$ 10	\$ -	\$ 703
Accrued liabilities	<u>2,927</u>	<u>2,796</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,723</u>
Total Current Liabilities	3,620	2,806	-	6,426
Net Assets:				
Unrestricted	320,054			320,054
Temporarily Restricted		25,158		25,158
Permanently Restricted	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>320,054</u>	<u>25,158</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>355,212</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$ 323,674</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 27,964</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 10,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 361,638</u></b>

Unaudited. Prepared by Management.

# Financial Statements

DURANGO NATURE STUDIES  
(A COLORADO NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION)  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>REVENUES AND SUPPORT:</b>				
Grants	\$	\$ 13,000	\$	\$ 13,000
Government grants		16,000		16,000
Contributions	50,208	12,045		62,253
Donated services and goods	13,211	927		14,138
Tuition, fees and other income	24,889			24,889
Special events revenues	15,209	1,471		16,680
Merchandise sales	169			169
Less: Cost of goods sold	(84)			(84)
Earnings from endowment	421			421
Interest income	546			546
Net assets released from restrictions: Satisfaction of program restrictions	<u>69,014</u>	<u>(69,014)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Revenues	<u>173,583</u>	<u>(25,571)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>148,012</u>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>				
Program Services:				
Children discovering nature	59,526			59,526
Nature in the classroom	8,723			8,723
Snowshoe fieldtrip program	6,056			6,056
Children's camp and workshops	3,085			3,085
Adult and family workshops	13,398			13,398
Nature center	13,179			13,179
Volunteer, education and Naturalist training program	<u>4,465</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,465</u>
Total Program Services	<u>108,432</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>108,432</u>
Supporting Services:				
Management and general, including \$4,646 of donated professional services	28,481			28,481
Fund raising	<u>30,222</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,222</u>
Total Supporting Services	<u>58,703</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,703</u>
Total Expenses	<u>167,135</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>167,135</u>
Change in Net Assets	6,448	(25,571)		(19,123)
Net Assets December 31, 2005	<u>313,606</u>	<u>50,729</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>374,335</u>
Net Assets December 31, 2006	<u>\$ 320,054</u>	<u>\$ 25,158</u>	<u>\$ 10,000</u>	<u>\$ 355,212</u>

Unaudited. Prepared by Management.

# Financial Statements

DURANGO NATURE STUDIES  
(A COLORADO NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION)  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

Cash flows from operating activities:

Decrease in net assets	\$ (19,123)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used in operating activities:	
Depreciation	5,940
Donated services, capitalized to fixed assets	(8,990)
Decrease in grant and pledge receivables	14,250
Decrease in prepaid expenses	2,203
Increase in inventories	(101)
Increase in investment from earnings	(125)
Increase in accounts payable	697
Increase in other accrued liabilities	1,161
Increase in payroll taxes payable	(121)
Total adjustments	<u>14,914</u>
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(4,209)</u>
 Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	 (4,209)
 Cash and cash equivalents at December 31, 2004	 <u>37,864</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at December 31, 2005	<u><u>\$ 33,655</u></u>

Supplemental data:

Non-cash investing and financing activities:	
Donation of professional services	\$ 4,646
Donation of capitalized assets	8,990
Donation of supplies	<u>502</u>
	<u>\$ 14,138</u>

Unaudited. Prepared by Management.

# Financial Statements

DURANGO NATURE STUDIES  
(A COLORADO NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION)  
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

	Children Discovering Nature	Nature in the Classroom	Snowshoe Fieldtrip Program	Children's Camp Workshops	Adult and Family Workshops	Nature Center	Naturalist Training Program	Fundraising	Management and General	Total
Salaries	\$ 38,805	\$ 6,347	\$ 4,700	\$ 1,630	\$ 6,561	\$ 6,273	\$ 3,192	\$ 17,020	\$ 13,918	\$ 98,446
Payroll taxes	3,529	574	424	164	609	565	303	1,564	1,416	9,148
Insurance	4,862	99	71	558	328	1,191	53	267	591	8,020
Depreciation	370	102	102	102	205	3,624	102	513	820	5,940
Outside services	3,917	84			1,250			3,050	830	9,131
Office Rent	3,267	553	395	161	717	586	292	876	769	7,030
Utilities	1,226	207	148	61	175		110	329	287	3,129
Supplies	637	236	60	61	329	115	4	117	1,011	2,570
Printing	872	31	39		581	29	72	1,092	422	3,138
Postage					106	2	137	488	1,642	2,375
Professional fees								80	4,231	4,311
Advertising					848		78	774	314	2,014
Public relations								358	360	358
Staff development	601	83	24	112	151		102			1,433
Facility rents	18		180	180	1,448			3,108		4,754
Travel and meals	1,017	407	67	56	90	271	20	436	18	2,382
Bank charges and credit card fees									702	702
License and permits	296					53			328	677
Other expenses	109		26			470		150	822	1,577
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 59,526</b>	<b>\$ 8,723</b>	<b>\$ 6,056</b>	<b>\$ 3,085</b>	<b>\$ 13,398</b>	<b>\$ 13,179</b>	<b>\$ 4,465</b>	<b>\$ 30,222</b>	<b>\$ 28,481</b>	<b>\$ 167,135</b>

Unaudited. Prepared by Management