

**CATHOLIC
ECOLOGY
CENTER**



2021 IMPACT REPORT



photo by Greta Taxis

BY THE NUMBERS: OUR IMPACT IN 2021

Connecting with over **3200** youth, families and adults

Serving through **2984** volunteer hours of stewardship by
over **300** different volunteers

Educating through over **250** hours of educational programs and retreats



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What an incredible year!!! I am humbled by all the amazing things God has done through our ministry since the purchase of the CEC property in March of 2021, just 9 months ago! I am so very grateful to all the donors, members, volunteers and prayers that make the Catholic Ecology Center a beacon of hope to our world.

It has been fun seeing the property come alive in different ways during all of the four seasons. In addition to our diverse and faith-filled programming, we love being able to keep the trails open everyday for those wanting to explore, relax and enjoy. So many people take advantage of the miles of trails for hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and even the rental canoes we have to explore the Rubicon River!

With a grateful heart and invigorated spirit, I look forward to a blessed 2022!

- Joe Meyer



CONNECTING TO CHRIST AND HIS CREATION

MISSION

To restore humanity's connection to the natural world through education, stewardship and recreation. Deepening faith and fostering a stewardship ethic through hands-on connections with the natural world.

VISION

The Catholic Ecology Center seeks to provide unique encounters with God's handiwork in order to help people integrate their faith and everyday lives with a call to be stewards of creation. We work with people of all ages, with an emphasis on youth, families and underserved populations.

The Catholic Ecology Center is a ministry of Laudato Si' Project, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that began in 2016.



RETREATS



The CEC has deepened my relationship with God and brought me closer to Him. It made me realize that all things are possible with God!

Kate, University Student



Our unique retreat programming integrates the truths of our faith with a love and care for our common home. We challenge people of all ages and backgrounds to live out their faith and grow deeper in their love for Christ, His Church and the world around them. We utilize the beautiful gifts of creation at the CEC as a conduit to draw people deeper into faith, prayer and a greater respect for the gifts God has given us. Within retreats, hands-on stewardship service projects are a way we live out our call to care for creation and deepen our commitment to a life of virtue. Team building, journaling and ecology are also interwoven into many retreats programs.

Our retreats serve people of all ages including youth groups, faculty/staff and all grade levels, taking place all 4 seasons of the year. Many groups utilize our beautiful overnight options that include bunk cabins and tent camping. We were able to run retreats for several dozen parishes and schools in 2021 and look forward to having more adult retreat opportunities in 2022!



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

There remains a symbiotic dynamic between our respect for the dignity of man and the dignity of nature. The Catholic Ecology Center remains wholeheartedly invested in the truth that the more we learn to care for God's creation, the better stewards we will be of the human heart. Inasmuch as we learn to protect and care for what we have been entrusted with, so, too, will we learn to care for the voices in our society that are the most vulnerable, the most marginalized.

The rich, fertile soul of the Catholic Ecology Center is the training ground for the human heart; learning care and protection, in the hiddenness of God's creation, renders us docile to receive what the good Lord provides.

- Fr. John LoCoco



ECOLOGY PROGRAMS

Our time at the CEC has helped my students realize everything God created has a purpose. They are now more attentive to the details in nature and have a greater concern for our common home.

Dave, Youth Minister



Our ecology programming allows for engaging ways to interact with the amazing natural environment at the Catholic Ecology Center. With a pond, creek, river, boardwalk, wetlands, prairies and forests, there are countless opportunities to learn more about interconnectedness through hands-on field science. In 2021, we launched our summer camps and homeschool programs and we are excited to increase opportunities for these and other programs in 2022!

School science classes, scouting organizations and families all come to the Catholic Ecology Center to increase their wonder and knowledge of God's amazing ecology. All seasons of the year present varied opportunities to learn outdoors including plant science, wildlife tracking, water quality, birding, wilderness survival and more! Having the organic farm on-site (Clare Gardens) allows for unique opportunities to learn about growing food, raising chickens, bees, composting and living sustainably. Our great partnership with Wanakia Wildlife Rehabilitation enables us to have live animals at some of our ecology programs and the CEC now has an aviary to be the new home for a small educational bird of prey!



photo by Kim Kreimann



OUR PROGRAM COORDINATOR

It's been seven months since I joined the CEC team as Program Coordinator. In that short time, the change from a Girl Scout camp to the Catholic Ecology Center has been very evident. We have placed religious statuary throughout the property, planted acres of prairie and our partner, Clare Gardens, has just put up their first greenhouse on the property. It is wonderful to run retreats and ecology programs for so many youth and adults. What we do now, the seeds that we plant, will shape the Catholic Ecology Center of the future. The CEC is witness to the fact that our faith is very much alive! It's very exciting to be a part of and I am so thankful for the support of so many good people.

-Theresa Liebert



My service project at the CEC made me recognize our need for God and our role as stewards for the next generation.

Megan, High School Student

STEWARDSHIP



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Todd and Kim Kriemann began volunteering at the CEC in June of 2021. They put in over 200 volunteer hours and were an answer to our prayers for the help with the many daily needs of running our organization. Their love for God and our ministry motivates their work and we are humbled and thankful for the gift they are to the CEC!



*Thank you to all of our volunteers!
We truly couldn't do it without you!*

50+ HOUR FRIENDS

Dave Fulcher	Andrea Meyer
Kim Kreimann	Joe Meyer
Todd Kreimann	Andy Schoofs
Ernie Meyer	Bonnie Schoofs
Karen Meyer	

VOLUNTEER EDUCATORS

Dan Doyle	Denise Murre
Ryan Grusenski	Janice Parker
Andrea Meyer	

MORE GREAT VOLUNTEERS

Paula Beine - Accounting
Angie Cummings - Grant Writing
Fr. Mike Erwin - Miscellaneous
Mic Lacrosse - Carpentry
Andrea Meyer - Design and Marketing
Greta Taxis - Videography

Service Projects

Service Projects are a fun and tangible way to live our faith that is called into service. These projects are also an avenue to involve adults and families and remind us that we are called to care for creation everyday.

Restoration

Stewardship also calls us to better the ecological state of the CEC property we have been blessed with. In 2021, we accomplished this by planting the Elizabeth and Andy Meier Educational Butterfly Garden which highlights 54 native species of wildflowers and blooms from May through October. It was here that we identified the endangered

Rusty Patched Bumble Bee, one of only a few reports in Dodge County. We also seeded 2.5 acres of pollinator prairie and planted over 300 trees!

Ecological Monitoring

Part of our role as stewards at the CEC is to monitor the wild species and health of the ecosystems on site. Dr. Chris Yahnke, professor of mammalogy at UWSP, helped us install a bat monitoring tower which identifies bats using their ultrasonic frequencies used during echolocation. We have already confirmed 6 of the 8 bat species that exist in Wisconsin! Our bird surveys have confirmed 109 species of bird at the CEC.

EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS



photo by Kim Kreimann



It is wonderful to host events and workshops that are open to the public. This allows us to reach people beyond our work with schools/parishes and allows more people to encounter our mission and message of hope.

Our event and workshop offerings present opportunities for youth, families and adults. Our 2021 offerings included: maple syrupin', live owl program, Earth Day stewardship, birding, Bishop blessing of the CEC, monarch butterfly tagging, foraged ink workshop, St. Francis feast day celebration, Women's Advent wreath workshop, and Advent candlelight/moonlight hikes.

We have more great events and workshops planned in 2022! Stay up to date by following us on facebook or visit our website:

CatholicEcologyCenter.org/events



The CEC does a great job connecting families with God and creation. It is so good to see young people laughing, running and able to explore nature.

Bishop Schuerman, Auxiliary Bishop Archdiocese of Milwaukee



"We have a more holistic approach to how people interact with food and creation."

Anna Metscher, Farm Manager Clare Gardens

CLARE GARDENS



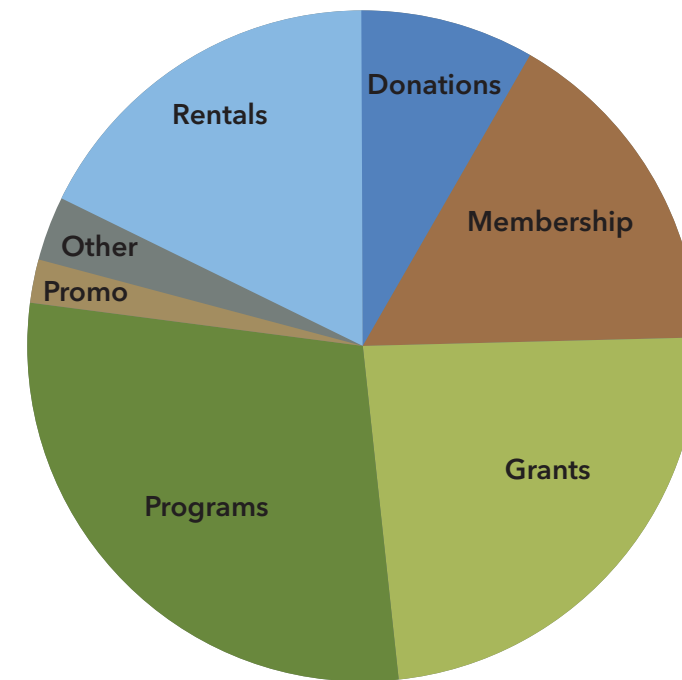
Clare Gardens, a ministry of Milwaukee Catholic Home, is an organic gardening and education ministry that has its new home at the Catholic Ecology Center. They grow organic fruits and vegetables for retirement communities.

In 2021, Clare Gardens opened the Holy Hen House with over 2 dozen chickens, planted a fruit orchard, started bee hives (we have Holy Honey for sale!), planted cover crops on several acres of future vegetable fields and even built a hoop house and greenhouse.

We look forward to having volunteers assist with all levels of growing this amazing food for people, as well as, the educational opportunities that teach us where our food comes from and how to live more sustainably. In 2022, look for our organic produce stand at the CEC which will make some of this amazing food available every day!



FINANCES



2021 REVENUES

Membership and Donations	\$ 22,206.38
Building Addition Fund	\$ 416,560.48
Grants	\$ 18,239.00
Program Fees	\$ 20,331.46
Rentals	\$ 11,581.50
Promotional Items	\$ 2,927.29
Other	\$3,395.24

Total Revenues **\$495,241.35**
Pledges '22 (\$27,000)

2021 EXPENSES

Programs	\$ 3,523.36
Operational and Administrative	\$ 50,384.36
Supplies and Office	\$ 5,598.87
Fundraising and Marketing	\$ 4,614.49
Other	\$ 436.42

Total Expense **\$64,557.50**



BUILDING PLANS

We are excited to move forward with the building addition which includes a chapel, welcome area, retreat breakout room, handicap accessible bathrooms and a viewing deck. These spaces will increase our ability to fulfill our mission of connecting people to Christ and His creation. With 70% fundraised, we are targeting breaking ground in 2023!! Naming gifts are still available.

Thank you to all our donors!!!

2021 SUPPORTERS

CORNERSTONE (\$10,000+)

Platinum

Anonymous
 Jerry and Mary Batzner
 In Memory of Al & Gloria Batzner
 and Tom & Del Jurkiewicz
 Keith and Monica Everson
 Milwaukee Catholic Home
 Wheaton Franciscans

Gold

School Sister of Notre Dame

Silver

Budnik Family Foundation
 Franciscan Sisters of Chicago
 Bruce and Becky Milne
 Milne Family Foundation

Bronze

Anonymous
 In Memory of Jeanette & Louis DeMers
 In Memory of Colleen Meyer

LIVING STONE (\$500 - \$9,999)

Friend of Francis

Gerardo and Cindy Cabellero
 Elizabeth and Andy Meier
 Joe and Andrea Meyer
 Midwest Province of Jesuits

Laudato Si' Legion

Andy and Julie Gusho
 Knights of Columbus Kettle Moraine
 Council 3562

Stewardship Squad

William and Cheryl Davies
 Paul and Paula Eberle
 In Honor of Fr. Mike Erwin
 Suzanne Falvey
 Rachel Formolo
 Calvin Gander
 Kelly and Ken Hemauer
 High Wind Association
 Dr. Joseph and Robin Lasnoski
 Ernest and Karen Meyer
 Paul and Anne Miller
 Pere Marquette Foundation
 K of C Council 524
 Brian and Michele Savoie
 Dr. Jame Schaefer
 Dave and Judy Scharfenberger
 Jean Schlidt
 Michael Schobert

Aaron and Christy Schoofs
 Andy and Bonnie Schoofs
 Frank and Terrie Stangl
 St. John's Congregation
 Devin and Amy Wolf

Caretaker Club

Scott and Madeline Cayo
 Carlene D'Amato
 Michael and Renee Gratz
 Connie and Dan Holzmilller
 Frank and Kristine Jaeger Imp
 Michael and Denise Kenealy
 Kevin and Patricia King
 Rehana Absar and Alec Lothert
 Allen Miller
 Don and Mary Monteleone
 Tim and Sarah Ozimek
 Mike and Yvonne Piefer
 Melissa and Greg Schumacher
 Wayne Schwister
 Senglaub Financial Group
 Jim and Sue Siepmann
 Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi
 St Anthony on the Lake
 St. Catherine of Alexandria
 St. John XXIII
 Lee Turay
 Tom Winkel

BUSINESS SUPPORTERS (\$1000+)



BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP (\$100 - \$999)



GRASSROOT SUPPORTERS AND MEMBERSHIP (\$35 - \$499)

Steven and Melissa Abitz
 Elizabeth Allbright
 Julie and Rich Allen
 Nicole Antonneau
 Diana Armstrong
 Joel and Amy Baisden
 Keith and Terri Baisden
 Catherine Barrett
 Renee Barthel
 Lucille Becker
 David and Paula Beine
 Deanna Bell
 Jodyanne Benson
 Bill and Jean Bosenbecker
 Jeanne Braby
 Michael Brauer
 Chris and Wendy Brown
 Susan Buchanon
 Peter and Ariel Budnik
 Madeline and Scott Cayo
 John Conrad
 Lee and Melodee Curtes
 Lee Curtis
 Rebecca Curtsinger
 Erik Daczko
 Kathleen Daily
 Virginia Dalbke
 Michael and Heidi David
 Christine and Kim Dax
 Arlyn Dayton
 Nora De Lise
 Frank DeGuire
 Cathy DeMers
 Jerry Dequardo
 Nancy Kay Dlouhy
 Daniel Doyle
 Margaret Dunn
 Tim and Renni Dunne
 Linda Feutz
 Jennifer and Chris Fisher
 Sharon Flannick
 Nichole Foreman
 Matt and Eva Fortini
 Carla and Terry Frantz
 Sarah Freiboth
 Dave and Chris Fulcher
 Christina Garni
 Karianne Gliniecki
 Amy Golden

Wende and Matt Gorniak
 Mark and Julie Goyette
 Cory Gritzmacher
 Michael and Jule Groh
 Nathanael Grusenski
 Ryan and Beth Grusenski
 Paul Grzeszczak
 Ben and Lisa Guido
 Faith Halaska
 Kathleen Hansen
 Jennifer Harnack
 Andrea Hart
 Jennifer Hawkins
 Sean Hegarty
 Kathy Hein
 Heidi Heistad
 Bob Hendrickson
 Steve Herro
 Darlene Hibbard
 Kathleen Horkheimer
 Mike and Judy Howden
 Daniel and Joann Huck
 Pat and Charlie Hummel
 Paul Hundt
 Jen Husz
 Carolina Itsines
 Carrie Jensen
 Alicia Jilling
 Jon and Kate Jirschele
 Angela Johnson
 Jennifer Jones
 David and Emily Kang
 Mary Beth Katorski
 Scott and Mary Kenitz
 Kevin and Patricia King
 Kyle Kopp
 Ricahrd and Debra Korpela
 Vince Kostos
 Trina Kovac
 Kim and Todd Kreimann
 Bob Kreuser
 Chip and Sarah Kubly
 Michael and Jo Ann Kuenn
 Patricia Kujawa
 Carol Lacrosse
 Kim and Scott Lapcewich
 Mike and Sara Larson
 Nate and Heidi Lasnoski
 Tasha Likavec

William Lipscomb
 Melissa and Brian Magliocco
 Stacy and Mike Mangione
 Dave Marcello
 Diana and Chirs Mathews
 Michael McCourt
 Patrick and Julie McDevitt
 Meghan McKale
 Tom and Elaine McKean
 Jeffrey and Lori McKean
 Rhonda and Ray McKenna
 Thomas Meitner
 Joseph and Peggy Mentink
 Anna Metscher
 Katie Meylink
 Amy and Doug Miller
 M.C. Miller
 Tom Mlada
 Sarah Montee
 Don and Mary Monteleone
 Kevin Mulligan
 Andrew Mulloy
 Sue Munger
 Denise Murre
 Elisa Neckar
 Linda Nelson
 Walter Nelson
 Jodie and Kenneth Neu
 Tobey and Mike Neuberger
 Emily Orgovan
 Don Patnode
 Paxam Foundation
 Margaret Payant
 Colleen and Bill Pedersen
 Katie Pedriana
 In memory of Ray & Judee Pfarr
 Carol Pinter
 Kathleen Plaisance
 Maureen Pohle
 Bill Polacheck
 Nancy Preston
 Cathy Rakers
 Chris and Linda Reis
 Molly and Scott Reynen
 Brian and Stephanie Rinke
 Kim Rusch-
 In honor of Father Mike Erwin
 Jon and Dawn Sagrillo
 Mark and Sue Scaduto

Patricia Scanlon
 Elizabeth Schatz
 Wendy Scherwenka
 Kim Schippers
 Karen Schlidt
 Eric Schmidt
 Paul and Debra Schneider
 Christopher & Deborah Schroeder
 John and Leah Sealey
 Jim and Peggy Senglaub
 Megan Sheehan
 Brian Shimon
 Linda Sigrist
 Adela and Mark Silbernagel
 Cheryl and Steven Simon
 Teri Sippel
 Chris Slowinski
 Kathy Smith
 Laura Smreck
 Katie and Marc Steele
 Linda and Kevin Steiner
 Tracie Stracka
 Rebecca Taalbi
 Lance and Angie Tappa
 Martha Thompson
 Rebecca Torhorst
 Connie Trahar
 Redmond Tuttle
 Megan and Greg Tzanoukakis
 Laura Ustanovska
 Michael and Megan Van Dusen
 Alicia Van Hecke
 Margaret Vandenberg
 Matt and Brenna Vogel
 Mary Von Rueden
 Nicholas and Sally Wahl
 Nancy Walls
 Kathleen Waters
 Mark and Anne Weitenbeck
 Taliali Westerby
 Monika Wiese
 Heather Wiesner
 Michael Williamson
 Tom and Carol Winkel
 Maria and Johnny Wright
 Ed and Mary Zywiec

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN - NATHAN LASNOSKI

V.P. of Technology - *Concurrency*

TREASURER - ANDY SCHOOFS

Arborist and Landscaper - *Andy's Plantcare*

SECRETARY - RYAN GRUSENSKI

Teacher - *Marquette University High School*

KEITH EVERSON

CEO - *Sussex IM (Joining board 2022)*

MONICA EVERSON

(Joining board 2022)

TOM MLADA

E.D. - *Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership*

MATT VOGEL

Attorney - *Quarles and Brady LLP*

STAFF

JOE MEYER

Executive Director

THERESA LIEBERT

Program Coordinator

FR. JOHN LOCOCO

Chaplain

FR. MIKE ERWIN

Archdiocesan Advisor

catholicecologycenter.org

info@catholicecologycenter.org

262-419-8558

W1468 COUNTY RD NN

NEOSHO, WI 53059

CATHOLIC
ECOLOGY
CENTER

