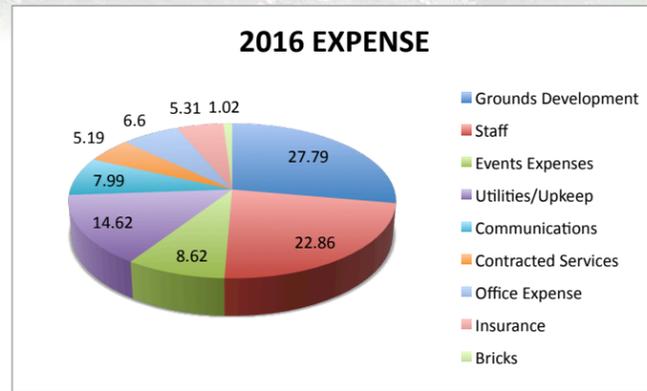
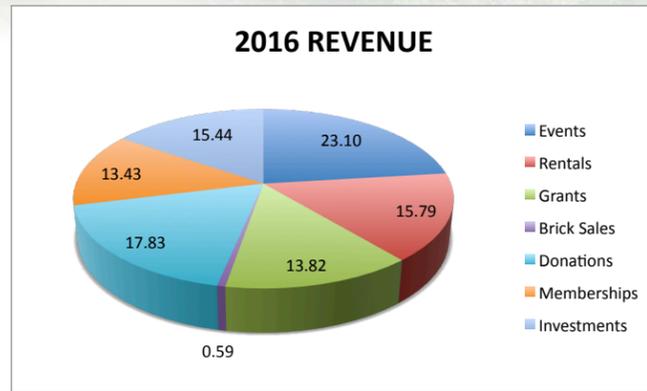


CENTRAL GARDENS BY THE NUMBERS



Employee: Jody Hamilton, executive director, 0.5 FTE - Contracted Services: Brenda Winter, bookkeeper

MAJOR DONORS AND GRANT AWARDS

Maintaining and enhancing a public garden space and offering quality programming to our guests from April through October require much financial backing. We are grateful to the following donors who provided us with generous support:

Alan and Margherita Atwell
 AvanGrid Renewables
 Clear Lake Noon Lions
 Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa
 Farrer Foundation
 Sally Frudden

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
 Sharon Jorgensen
 Beth Reinhart Charitable Trust
 Bertha Stebens Foundation
 Superior Lumber, Clear Lake
 Trees Forever
 Woodford Lumber Company, Clear Lake

SPONSORSHIPS



Support for various CGNI events was provided by:

BeWellness, Brakke Implement, Cabin Coffee, Clear Lake Education Association, CL Tel, Demro Orthodontics, Donna Dull, Farmers State Bank, Friendly Garden Club, Hall Realty, Hearing Associates, Gary Heydt, Hosmer Toyota, Tony Kockler-DuraDocks, Kramer Hardware, Lake Coffee & Ice Cream, Marquart Concrete, North Iowa Collision Center, North Iowa Co-Op, Dr. Hillary Reynolds, Ken and Carol Smith, Staples, Starboard Market, Stillman Law Firm, Dean Synder, Thrifty White Pharmacy, Wes Tremmel, Unique Boutique, We Care Chiropractic.

CENTRAL GARDENS of NORTH IOWA

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The mission of Central Gardens is to create an intergenerational environment for the 21st century that is beautiful, safe and secure, calm and reflective, educational and recreational—a setting that tells the story of our changing seasons, our pride in our past, the uniqueness of our present, and the hope of our future.

*“This is a beautiful space filled with the love of the earth by devoted gardeners”
 - Comment in Visitor Log from Golden Valley, MN Guest*

This annual report is dedicated to Bob Bartlett and Robert S. (“Chip”) Kinsey, long-serving members of the board of directors who resigned this year. Both served Central Gardens selflessly and we will miss their dedication and wisdom.

*“So lovely. The coneflowers are wonderful. You can tell a lot of love and care goes into these gardens. Thank you.”
 - Visitor from Minneapolis*

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Since assuming the role of executive director of CGNI in 2015, I have been in awe of the gift the Gardens are to all of north Iowa and beyond. Welcoming an estimated 15,000 visitors through our gates (from at least 39 states and 12 countries) this past year alone, the Gardens is living out its mission as a place of beauty, education, and recreation. We've made many additions and improvements in 2016, none of which could have been possible without the support of members, donors, volunteers, and our dedicated board. We hope you'll enjoy reading about those many accomplishments in this annual report.



Jody Hamilton,
Executive Director

BEAUTIFYING THE GROUNDS



Five major improvements to the grounds were completed in 2016. The first was a complete overhaul of the rose and shrub garden on the east side of the Moongate arch. (See cover photo). Over 70 rose bushes and shrubs were planted, the hillside re-built to prevent erosion, and a new limestone border constructed to frame the space. A second improvement was to expand the Children's Bee Happy Garden to include four new raised cutting beds, adding a succulent table, and constructing a new limestone border. Third, five more raised cutting beds were built that will allow expansion of our Fresh on Friday bouquet offerings (and save the backs of our garden volunteers!). The railings on the Nature Education Pavilion and the bridges were all powder coated. And finally, trellises were added to the north side of the Mother Earth Workshop space as an aesthetic screen between the restrooms and the Nature Education Pavilion.

"WOWZERS!" - A Young Visitor from Sioux City

HOSTING EVENTS

CGNI provided north Iowans and others many opportunities to enjoy formal programming and events on our grounds during 2016.

Among those were:

Annual Plant Sale and Gardening Fair, Summer Garden Party, Library Story Hour, Fifteen Fresh on Fridays Bouquet Sales and Coffee Hours, Twelve Fresh on Friday's Children's Programming Events, Parks and Recreation Summer Youth Programs, Nine Picnics & Performances Free Concerts, Clear Lake Library High Tea & Book Discussion, Chamber After Hours Gathering, North Iowa Artists' Studio Tour, Seven Bus Tours, Two Worship Services



"Coming here every Sunday night for Picnics and Performances is a dream come true for the community." - Mason City Attendee

RENTING OUR FACILITIES

Twelve couples exchanged wedding vows on our grounds this season. Groups rented the Nature Education Pavilion for baby showers, graduation receptions, family and class reunions, anniversaries, and other special occasions. The Gardens also offers one "free" rental to any church group per year that wishes to have a worship service in the Gardens.



COMMUNICATING WITH OUR PATRONS

Because so much is happening at the Gardens it was decided to move from a semi-annual newsletter to a monthly newsletter from April through November and a bi-monthly newsletter from December through March. "What's Growing On" is sent to over 700 recipients, either through email or US Mail. We also have a presence on social media with our revamped web site:

www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com and our Facebook page, Central Gardens of North Iowa.

"I really enjoy the new look, content, and frequency of the newsletter. Keeps me in the loop!" - Clear Lake Recipient

CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Central Gardens depends upon a huge cadre of dedicated volunteers who adopt gardens, weed, seed, water, and prune the plants, decide where to place the plants, drive the tractor and build stone borders, pick and arrange flowers for Fresh on Fridays, organize and host special events, conduct tours, format and proof the newsletter and grant applications, supply goodies for many occasions, police the grounds, fold newsletters and do other clerical tasks, and a myriad of other things that make the Gardens operate smoothly. We are indebted to their generosity and faithfulness.

"You volunteers have not only created a beautiful Garden, you have also created a studio, a sanctuary, a classroom, and a community for our guests." - Board President Troyce Fisher in remarks at the Volunteer Luncheon, October 2016



CENTRAL GARDENS OF NORTH IOWA, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Troyce Fisher
Vice-President: Connie Plagge
Treasurer: Jim Kuhlman
Secretary: Donna Dull
Past President: Robert S. Kinsey
Bob Bartlett
Volunteer Grounds Manager: Roger Harringa

Gail Harringa
Linette Heydt
Barb Nicholas
Bob Rennebohm
Mary Stealy
Mary Woerner