

LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

TO PLANT A GARDEN IS TO BELIEVE IN TOMORROW. - Audrey Hepburn

You are the reason we can celebrate a successful 21st year in the pages of this annual report. You understand that the vital work of planting a better tomorrow requires persistence, patience, and people today. It takes the kind of time, talent, and treasure you have so generously shared. It was a small group of visionaries who recognized the need for a green space in our beautiful lake community that started this journey in 2000, but it is you, our loyal members, volunteers, and donors who will see these Gardens through the next twenty years and beyond.

For a timeline of major events as well as interviews with individuals that were involved in the beginning of Central Gardens, visit our website at www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com.

Come inside and review the final projects that were completed with the 2020 Upgrade capital campaign. It's because of you the campaign was so successful. Your money, combined with the sweat equity of a devoted volunteer force, allowed us to accomplish twice the number of projects on our wish list. Because of you, the Gardens are even more beautiful than the early visionaries may have imagined.

This site was home to four schools over a one hundred year period from 1888 to 1988 and, true to its origins, Central Gardens is on a mission to provide educational opportunities for you. After careful consideration due to COVID again this year, we resumed children's programming on Friday mornings, provided a series of educational lectures, offered the HUGS program to older youth, and so much more. An educational chicken coop housed three visiting hens that delighted youth of all ages and was the showpiece of the Bee Happy Discovery Garden. We offered over 70 free events to you and, along with an estimated 20,000 others this year, you turned out. Turn to the Headlines and Highlights section to find out more about events and programs that made 2021 an incredible year at the Gardens.

Did you know you can plan your visit to the Gardens, renew your membership, donate, inquire about a wedding rental, explore an interactive map that provides information about more than 20 themed gardens, and read What's Growing On and the Strategic Plan by visiting our website?

Your financial support is essential to keep this garden flourishing. Memberships, memorials, and rentals help cover operational costs such as water, insurance, plants, and they support our ability to offer free admission to the grounds and to the many programs and events we offer each year. Grants provide additional support for projects that enhance programming and beautify the grounds. Your support in 2021 made it possible for the Gardens to achieve the positive financial results detailed on page 3. Thank you! We are grateful.

I want to thank the members of the board of directors for their commitment to Central Gardens. They each bring unique gifts to their roles and together provide thoughtful, careful decision-making skills that make Central Gardens beautiful, welcoming, calm, educational, recreational, and fun.

Becke Dorenbush. Board President, Chair of Marketing/

Membership and

Chair of Design Committee

BOARD OF **DIRECTORS:**

Ciar Carnall Donna Dull, Secretary Ann Grochala, Treasurer & Chair of Finance Committee Andrew Johnson

David Burgart

Vernon Johnson Barb Leonard Roy Markwardt Jennifer Merfeld **Barb Nicholas** Gary Nyhus

Brianna Sholly, Chair of Horticulture Committee Leigh Trembath, Chair of Events Committee



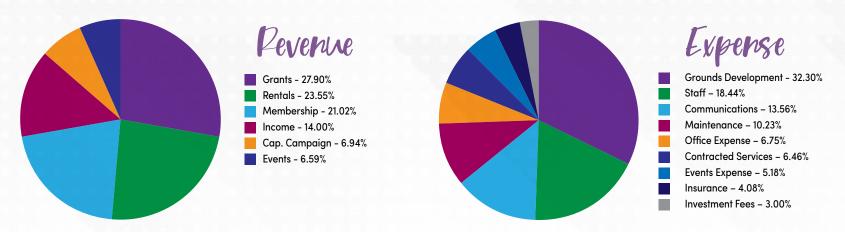






Financial Summary

"In 2021, Central Gardens had strong financial results and continued to shore up its financial position to prepare for future times of financial stress and ensure the gardens are properly cared for, programs continue uninterrupted, and staffing needs are met. By yearend, Central Gardens had surpassed its long-term goal of a \$1 million endowment." – Ann Grochala, Treasurer



Central Gardens experienced strong operating results in 2021 due to the return of rental income, increased membership dollars, significant donations, continued strong receipt of grants, and a \$6,657.95 forgiven loan received from Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program:

Net Ordinary Income: \$223,897.19

Net Ordinary Expenses: \$178,337.80

New Income: \$ 45,559.39

The balance sheet remains strong:

Total Assets: \$1,851,378.08 - Total Liabilities: \$862.18 = Total Equity: \$1,850,515.90

By yearend 2021, Central Gardens' endowment stood at \$1,017,123.08 while the reserve for future structural repairs started last year stood at \$13,665.53.









Headlines & Highlights from 2021 at Central Gardens

"It is amazing the long term committed volunteerism- and such a valued beauty and jewel in North lowa. We appreciate our partnership over the years ... and for years to come." ---- member of the Mason City Rotary

Design Committee oversees the grounds

- Official Butterfly way station.
- Little library bench provides seating to sit and read, the littler library added.
- Expanded the cutting garden providing a consistent supply of flowers for Fresh on Friday.
- Bridge rails sanded and treated.
- Each entrance has a sign with QR codes and each of our 20 + gardens have a sign identifying it.
- Redesigning of SW corner and NW corner to include all four seasons.
- Addition of Council Ring ramp walkway to increase access to the new area.
- Barrier screen was added to decrease line-ofsight to work areas.
- Ash trees were treated for Emerald Ash Borer to increase longevity.

Events and Programs to all residents in North Iowa

- Corn hole, golf croquet, line dancing, a drum circle, and a four session educational speaker series were added in 2021.
- A successful plant sale and gardening fair provide an opportunity to update personal gardens.
- Rain caused the Summer Garden Party to be rescheduled to Sunday afternoon, a new favorite time for the event in 2022.
- Collaborations with the Clear Lake Public Library, The Surf Music Enrichment Center, Healthy Harvest of North Iowa, ISU Extension, Lime Creek Nature Center, Clear Lake Arts Center, Iowa Waste Exchange, Landfill of North Iowa, and Agriculture in the Classroom.
- The Fiesta and the Preservation Celebration returned.

- Garden Explorers and coffee and refreshments returned to Fresh on Friday after a year off due to Covid-19.
- Approximately 21 pounds of fresh produce from the Bee Happy Discovery Garden was donated to the local food pantry along with some mini flower bouquets.
- The 6th season of Picnics and Performances was attended by over 1000 people.













Headlines & Highlights from 2021 at Central Gardens

Positive Financial Results

- Final Upgrade 2020 Capital Campaign pledges were received bringing the total raised to \$356,331.58, \$136,333 over goal.
- Half of the funds raised by the campaign went into the permanent endowment.
- A portion of extra campaign funds started a "rainy day" fund for operations as called for in the strategic plan.
- Strong rental revenue contributed to operating results.
- Membership revenue increased in 2021.
- Another Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program forgiven loan helped the bottom line.
- Grants and donations were strong.

See revenue and expense breakdowns on page 3

Membership, Marketing and Outreach efforts expand the reach of Central Gardens

- Added new "Peony" individual membership level total of 6 levels available.
- Launched campaign to collect email addresses for event notifications.
- Launched Central Gardens new website April 2021.
- Central Gardens placed first in fall decorating main street light pole display.
- Membership survey sent to all members: 31% response—1. How would you explain to others why they should become a member of Central Gardens of North Iowa? Central Gardens is a huge asset to NI and its mission is beneficial to our community and the beauty of the grounds is worth supporting and provides a peaceful retreat for all.
 What most impacts your membership decision? The beauty of the grounds is worth supporting

- and provides a peaceful retreat for all.
- Rack cards were updated promoting Central Gardens.
- Membership brochures were updated.
- Created and promoted QR codes as an easy, convenient way to donate or become a member.
- lowa Arts Council grant allowed us to reach out to 10,000 individuals in surrounding counties promoting events at Central Gardens.
- Spoke to Clear Lake and Mason City service groups and clubs, expanding their knowledge of Central Gardens.
- Hosted a volunteer appreciation reception for our generous, hard-working volunteers.
- Visitor log registered guests from 34 states including Hawaii and the Philippines.



Joni Frederick – part-time development coordinator
Nikki Johnson – hired as part-time office coordinator
Drake Tiedeman – hired as part-time groundskeeper
Contracted Services for bookkeeping, lawn mowing
and accounting continued







Upgrade 2020 Capital Campaign Highlights

"What beautiful grounds! You all are doing a fabulous job with the site and Clear Lake is lucky to have the gardens as an additional attraction. We strolled around for an hour taking it all in ... the hardest part was narrowing down all the pictures!" –editor of the gardening website Flowerchick.com

The original plan for the Upgrade 2020 Capital Campaign included twelve projects.

Due to the generosity of many donors, we accomplished many more projects on the wish list because volunteers stepped up to do most of the installation work on these and our original projects. **Over 70 trees, 200 shrubs and 400 perennials were planted.**



UPGRADE 2020 Capital Campaign Funded Projects

- Purchase and hanging of banners on utility poles adjacent to the grounds on 8th street
- Addition of soil amendments and turf mixes and new irrigation and drainage systems for Ceremonial Lawn
- New irrigation system on the hillside that houses the Sentinel sculpture, correction
 of drainage problems in front of the Mother Earth's Workshop, and addition of drip
 irrigation system
- Installation of Central Gardens arch, installation of two finials on south entrance pillars, addition of permanent donor's plaque on donor wall behind fountain, reconstruction of the water fountain jets and landscape enhancements, upgrade to the welcome center and extension of brick "staging" area of the Gazebo, all at the main South entrance
- New lighting of Nature Education Pavilion building exterior and for bridges and Central Gardens' sign on SW corner of the property
- Remodeling of pond water fall feature at headwaters of stream and redesign of Cutting, Ornamental Grass and Wildflower gardens
- Addition of extensive plantings to add aesthetic backdrop to Moon Gate area

- Expansion of the Bee Happy Discovery Garden with visual enhancement
- · Construction of a mulch center on the east side of Activity Lawn
- Construction of a Council Ring meeting area and purchase of shade structure for the Council Ring on the Activity Lawn
- Addition of 8th St buffer landscaping to provide audio and visual screening, and landscaping enhancements to the Reunion and Naturalist Terraces
- Installation of new signage and landscaping at the NW and NE corner of the property, and installation of a flag pole by the Hero's Walk and Sentinel sculpture on the NE side of the property
- Addition of QR codes for plant identification purposes
- Installation of shade awnings for both the Nature Education Pavilion and Mother Farth's Workshop
- Purchase of additional terrace tables and chairs, and addition of two new bench areas
- Contribution to the Central Gardens of North Iowa, Inc. permanent endowment of \$179,318

























Upgrade 2020 Capital Campaign Highlights

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS COMPLETED:

- Two tables and eight chairs were added to the seating of the Nature Education Pavilion.
- A brick surround expanding the staging area of the Gazebo & two new bulletin boards & a new guest registry.
- Each entrance has a sign with QR codes and each of our 20 + gardens have a sign identifying it.
- A new limestone path leads from the main path to the Council Ring.
- The Cutting Garden was redesigned to enable more sales at Fresh on Friday.

We were able to stretch our capital campaign to enhance the beauty of the Gardens and significantly increase our permanent endowment.

Thank you for your continued support of Central Gardens. We are deeply grateful. The Board of Directors

Scan QR Code to View the Upgrade 2020 story or go to our website or YouTube

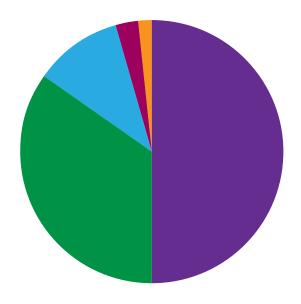
(https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=ivmR6qsQOpU)



Central Gardens celebrated the completion of its very successful capital campaign having received final multi-year pledges and completed nearly all projects. Total donations of \$356,331.98, far exceeded the campaign target of \$220,000. As promised at the start of the campaign, half of receipts went into the permanent endowment. Central Gardens began a "rainy day" fund, as called for in the strategic plan, aided by some of the additional donations; it now totals \$46,000.







Capital Campaign

- Endowment 50%
- Grounds Development 34.94%
- "Rainy Day" Fund 10.78%
- Replacement Reserve 2.77%
- Office/Communications 1.51%



2021 Corporate & Individual Members

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIPS

GARDENER (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Hearing Associates, PC CL Tel

CARETAKER (\$500 - \$999)

Bonnie Hall, Realtor Clear Lake Bank & Trust Don's Body Shop Rahm Investments First Gabrielson Agency Larson's Mercantile Sail Inn

PLANTER (\$250 - \$499)

ControlPrint Creative
Farmers State Bank
Hansmeier Mowing, LLC
Images Photography
Lake Liquors
Laurie Cook Photography
McQuaid Agency
Metalcraft, Inc.
Pla-Ground Family Farms
Schupick & Associates, PC
The Basic Birder

"BEAUTIFUL GARDEN! THANKS TO ALL WHO TAKE CARE OF THIS"

Visitor from Rochester, MN

INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

ROSE (\$1,000 OR MORE)

Mike Frank Steve & Cathy Lacy Myron Lupkes Paul Barnds & Shawn Sabin Mike & Madelyn Tetmeyer Charles Walker

LILAC (\$500 - \$999)

David & Jeanne Burgart
Barry Cory
Mark & Becke Dorenbush
Deb Groath & Troyce Fisher
Jane Fogg
Ann M. Grochala
Corine Hadley
Kathy & Randy Ingram
Tom & Jan Lovell
Jim & Cindy Niemants
Gary & Sandy Nyhus
Jody & Connie Plagge
Robert Snyder

TULIP (\$250 -\$499)

Bob & Elaine Braun
Anne Eldridge
Scott & Bo Flory
Barb Hirsh & Harvey Giller
Joni Frederick & Dean Hanson
Gary & Diane Laabs
Doug & Laura Marty
Chris & Debbie Mitchell
Kirby & Joyce Schmidt
Dave & Jacque Ward

DAISY (\$100 - \$249) Al & Margarite Atwell

Karen & Iim Beckwith Chyrl Bergvig lean Casey & Matt Berry Carol & Bill Casev Joanne Cutler Stacy Doughan Martha Easter Wells Tom & Toni Ebeling Joan Eness Ellen Fox Harold & Flaine Fratzke Stephen & Chris Hensley Virginia Holmes Ellen landeheur Lora & Michael lans Craig & Mary Jensen Vernon Johnson Andrew Johnston Susan R. Kennedy Robert (Chip) & Kathy Kinsey Kirk & Beth Kraft lim & Ann Kuhlman lim & Barb Leonard Becky & John Lessard lames Locher Gary & Karen Loos Jim & Judy Lyster Roy & Patty Markwardt Gordon & Jill Martens* **Becky Menning** Bob & Jennifer Merfeld Joan Middleton Irene Murphy Pauline Nickerson Bill* & Fran Osmundson Pat & Robert Peterson Dean & Susan Pierce

Molly Rennbohm Wood Charles Rohde Carla Salmon Joan Sawyer Ken & Carol Smith Pollv & David Suntken Cathy Swager Diana Symonds Sharon Taylor Merlyn & Julie Tiedemann Stuart & Leigh Trembath Wilma (Billie) Vantuyl Gene & Kathie Vix Lori Wickman David Solberg & Diane Wilson Mary Brush Young Paul Pistek & Julie Zahner

LILY (\$50 - \$99)

Kaye Allison Barbara Amosson David* & Carol Backus Esther Bender Barbara Bever Alice & Kenneth Blomstrom Marie Boge Iane Broghammer Donna Boul lames & Cheri Clark Phyllis Cox Nelson & Darlene Crabb Sandra Davis Charla DiCamillo Donna Dull Jeffrey Ebeling Mike & Sherri Eddy Valerie Edison Denise Essman JoAnn Geving

Erma | Haarup Patricia Hagen Robert Halford Gabe & Carolyn Haugland Rich & Jane Hein Russell & Ellen Henry Gary & Linette Heydt Terry* & Trudi Hoil Rhonda Holmauist Naomi Nowland & Scott Iohnson Michael & Susan Keefe Gerry Kennedy Roger & Mary Kopacek Doug & Rosie Lindaman Pam Loeckle Dennis & Nancy Marsh Candice & Pat Marshall Mary Moeller Russ & Marsha Mott Ray & Terri Mulford Stu & Julie Oltrogge Mariah Piippo lim & Amanda Ragan Donovan & Diana Reinsmoen Colleen Rhodes Ann Schurtz Steven & Cheryl Schurtz Larry & Cathy Shaffer Bri & Jim Sholly Jacque Simon Al & Marian Tompkins Nancy Turk Margo & Dave Underwood Brenda Winter Barbara Wood-Koenigsfeld Dianne Woodard Steve Wright

*Deceased

2021 Cube, Brick & Paver Ponors

CUBE DONORS

- Carol & Sarah Backus
- Deb Groath & Troyce Fisher
- Sue Golly (2)
- Roger & Gail Harringa
- Kathy Hendricks
- Chris Larsen
- Mason City Noon Rotary
- Michael Tetmeyer
- Jamie & Nancy Zanios

FACULTY WALK

• Harriet Winter by Craig Shayer

GARDENER'S WALK

- David & Jeanne Burgart by Teresa Wallace
- Roger Harringa
- Chris & Debbie Mitchell by Donna Dull
- Pat Roed by Donna Dull
- Dan & Patty Skokan

ROTARY WALK

- David Backus, Garner Rotary
- Adam Fichter, Mason City Noon Rotary
- Mark Lundberg, Mason City Noon Rotary

VICTORIAN TERRACE (PAVILION)

• Barb Nicholas by CGNI

WEDDING WALK

- Karen & Jim Beckwith
- Jeff & Julia Meints by Jeffrey Buseman
- Jason & Melita Nyhus by Gary & Sandy Nyhus
- Gene & Pat Roed by Donna Dull
- Cheryl & Vince Zrostlik by Donna Dull















Memorials and Honoraria

IN HONOR OF,

Jim & Ann Kuhlman by, John & Myra Greve

IN MEMORY OF,

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Anderson by, Alyce Wilson

Russel Borchardt by, Pauline Nickerson

Faye Buckels by, Mark & Becke Dorenbush

David Backus by, Susan Backus Mark & Jill Bale Norma Barnhart Donlad & Joyce Benes Russell & Judith Borchardt John & Kathryn Bozdech Ioseph Bozdech lane Broahammer Bradey & Renee Davis Mark & Becke Dorenbush Sherry Eddy Tom & Mary Fey lackie Fieseler Dennis & Susan Firschina Deb Groath & Troyce Fisher Bob & Lonnie Foell Lucille & G. Ronald Franks Travis & Theresa Glidden Douglas & Marcia Grabinski Robert & Judy Gross

Joni Frederick & Dean Hanson Elizabeth Hayaski Trudi Hoil Brad & Cathy Isaak James & Rhonda Juhlin Dennis & Lillie Keith Robert & Kathy Kinsey lim & Ann Kuhlman Kathryn Lindsay Tom & Jan Lovell Charles & Judy Madson Mark & Marcia McNulty Mrs. John Miller Mary Moeller Sean Moran John Mikelson Irene Murphy Chris & Laura Nicholson Pauline Nickerson lody & Connie Plagae **Prairie View Apartments** loseph & Pamela Pritchard Dennis & Julie Reidel Randy & Laura Rinnels Pamela Roberts Gordan & Carol Rosenthal Kirby & Joyce Schmidt Schoneman Realtors Steven & Kelly Schnieders Debbie Schupanitz John & Sharon Spragle Stellar Industries Elda Stone Mike Taylor Douglas & Sarah Thein Leigh & Stuart Trembath Dennis & Denise VanDenBroke Mary Ann Watson Nancy Watson Hope & David Wheatcraft Brenda Winter Barbara Zrostlik Beyer David Zrostlik

Barbara Dwyer by, Ken & Carol Smith

Duane Fabin by, Deb Groath & Troyce Fisher

Terry Hoil by,
David & Jeanne Burgart
Mark & Becke Dorenbush

David Hopper by,
Donna Dull
Bill & Fran Osmundson
David & Jeanne Burgart
Leigh & Stuart Trembath

Cally Larsen Huey by, Merlyn & Julie Tiedemann

Ron Huntley by, Alyce Wilson

Kathryn Jones by, Kirsten Finstad

Gordan & Jill Martens by, Donna Dull

Janice Nelson by, Laurie Evans Nina Grarelle David & Kay Kofoed David & Carolyn Luscomb Diane Parks Dorothy Prunty A.E. & G.J. Schloemer

William Nicholas by,
David & Jeanne Burgart
Mark & Becke Dorenbush
Deb Groath & Troyce Fisher
Jim & Ann Kuhlman
Pauline Nickerson
Joseph & Pamela Pritchard
Ken & Carol Smith

Dick Nickerson by, Julie & Robert McPherson

Bill Osmundson by, Joanne Cutler Donna Dull Deb Groath & Troyce Fisher Joanne Sargent

Doug J. Ranson by, Richard & Jane Walls

Pat M. Roed by,
Dale & Linda Berhow
The Roed Family

Joanne Simmonds by, Deb Groath & Troyce Fisher

Darlene Smith by, Donna Dull Dr. John Utne by, David & Jeanne Burgart Donna Dull Deb Groath & Troyce Fisher

Dwight Williamson by, Harold Beckner Iane Broghammer Scott Cochran Jerry & Susan Currie Larry & Kay Day Perry Hoefker Bradley & Loree Huntington Don Jackson Randy Kunert lim Lyster Grea Maloney Gary & Sandy Nyhus **Dorothy Prunty** Bob Purrell Connie Scherber Mike Secory Kermit, Judy, & Brent Studer Dave & Polly Suntken Richard & Jane Walls

"Noticed this garden and how the founders and other leaders rallied to protect the green space. Keep on going! Thank you for stewarding God's creation!" -visitor from Schaumberg, IL



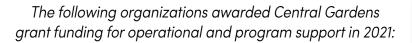






2021 Grant Support For Central Gardens





- Ag Ventures Foundation
- 2. AvanGrid Renewables
- 3. Bertha Stebens Charitable Foundation
- 4. Beth E. Reinhart Charitable Trust
- City of Clear Lake
- 6. Clear Lake Noon Lions
- 7. Clear Lake Parks & Rec
- 8. Clear Lake Rotary
- 9. Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation
- 10. DM Dull Fund
- 11. Elizabeth Muse Norris Charitable Fund
- 12. Farrer Endowment Foundation
- 13. Iowa Arts Council Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
- 14. John K. and Luise V. Hanson Foundation
- 15. John Ruan Foundation Trust
- 16. MiracleGro GroMoreGood Grassroots Grant
- 17. Thrivent Action Grants
- 18. Worth County Development Authority















800 Second Avenue North • PO Box 735 Clear Lake, IA 50428

www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com

It is the mission of Central Gardens of North Iowa to provide a public, intergenerational garden environment that is welcoming, beautiful, calm, educational, recreational, and fun.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

- (1) Promoting horticultural and environmental stewardship;
- (2) Building the infrastructure of our free, public garden space;
- (3) Enhancing learning opportunities for members and guests;
- (4) Being inviting to all;
- (5) Being responsible stewards of our resources; and
- (6) Achieving excellence in all that we do.



WE WILL ACHIEVE OUR SIX COMMITMENTS THROUGH THESE STRATEGIC GOALS:

- (1) Beautifying the grounds;
- (2) Providing creative events and programming;
- (3) Practicing rigorous stewardship of all our resources and ensuring financial stability; and
- (4) Increasing engagement with our various publics through strategic marketing, communication and outreach