



# End of Year Report

## 2014 Highlights and Accomplishments

# Farewell!



Photos: Kent Sweitzer Photography

Our resident staff, Susan and Kevin Corrado are leaving their positions as Farley Center Facilitator and Natural Path Sanctuary Coordinator at the beginning of 2015. It is their guiding hand that has shaped the foundation of the Farley Center and Natural Path Sanctuary. We will miss their leadership, creativity, sense of humor and welcoming presence. They are leaving with our deep gratitude.

Upon completion of the USDA Gaining Ground Project, Janet Parker, who was Project Director, left the Farley Center this November. Her vision for developing our farm incubator is what set the Farley Center ship a-sail. We owe most of the

success of the farm incubator to her networking and grant writing skills, and her passionate vision to connect farmers to the land, especially those who frequently don't have access to land ownership. *Nuestro más profundo agradecimiento.*

We also said goodbye to other project staff: Mrill Ingram, Yimmuj Yang, and Mariela Quesada who made it possible to offer workshops around the State to farmers of Hmong, Latino and Native American Indian cultures due to their hard work in reaching out to ethnically-diverse beginning farmers. Focusing closer to home next year, we are looking forward to the continuation of the Farley Center farm incubator growing with a couple more farmers participating in the program in 2015, along with some new ventures, under the steady hand of our farm managers Cella Langer and Emmet Fisher.

*"Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement and success have no meaning."  
-Benjamin Franklin*

# Hello!



We are thrilled to announce that Shedd Farley will become Farley Center Director/ Natural Path Sanctuary Facilitator. Shedd is Linda and Gene's third son, and brings a birth-right passion to the future development of the Farley Center and its programs as well as to the nature preserve burial grounds where Gene and Linda are buried.

Caroline Farley (married to Shedd) will take on the role of Peace and Justice Program Facilitator, bringing years of experience in the social justice arena. This will enable the Farley Center a chance to deepen its vision for a

just and peaceful world and extend relationships already formed in the community, to strengthen and expand Gene Farley's vision for ecological justice. Shedd and Caroline will be relocating from Ft. Collins, Colorado to a new home in Madison and will begin their new jobs in January. Welcome Shedd and Caroline!

We also welcome Lindsey Lund, who became a part-time administrative assistant in July and brings a wealth of needed administrative support and experience.



# Farm Incubator



Farmer Juan



Photos: Kent Sweitzer Photography

The hard work of seven family-farm businesses put food on the table for 150 CSA members, dozens of WIC clinic recipients, hundreds of employees and patients shopping at the St. Mary's, VA and Meriter Hospitals' farm stands, and at the Hilldale and North side Farmer Markets! This year the farmers were organically certified which is no simple accomplishment. Farmers attended the Immigrant and Minority Farming, and the MOSES Organic conferences, as well as a series of trainings and workshops. The Farley Center has been a sponsor for most of these events and activities. Monthly farmer meetings, with work day and training elements, provided a fertile format for the challenging task of collaborative decision-making, neighborly growing, and cooperative marketing. And as if the demanding work of farming wasn't enough, several of the farmers have helped host four farm open-houses and toured over a hundred visitors interested in the farm incubator. Two Land-Link events were held to connect aspiring farmers with area land owners. Phew! We have such abiding respect for the amazing love and care for the land and the hard work the farmers put in to producing vegetables.



Farmers Jarucha and Gary



Farm Manager Cella at Farm Stand



Farmer Fadey



Farmer Yee



Farmers Oscar and Ian

## Improvements

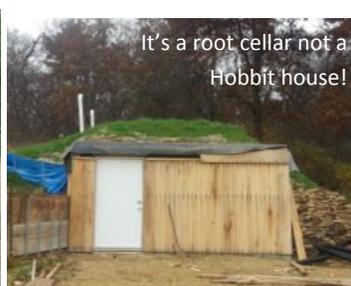
2014 was a busy year for farming infrastructure improvements. To complement the two coolers already in place, we added a root cellar to keep produce cool year round using the natural benefit of underground cooling. It maintains a steady temperature around 50 degrees, just right for potatoes, onions and squash!



Farmers and staff ready the ground for the equipment shed built this year. We now can move the tractors out of the packing shed and farm equipment out of the elements!



Farmers building a retention wall



It's a root cellar not a Hobbit house!

We partnered with Operation Fresh Start who designed and built the equipment shed, much of it using re-purposed wood generously donated by Gene's friend Bob Samuelson from his demolition company.



Operation Fresh Start crew

# Peace and Justice, Events



Seeing the world's problems and solutions through the lens of art provides a new way of looking at things like climate change, environmental justice and care of the earth. Our six part community conversation series offered this year, in collaboration with the Witness Tree Artist Collective, attempted to draw out people's creativity and move from a polarized view of environmental issues to one of global concern, compassion and motivation. With the generous support of Bradshaw-Knight Foundation we were able to offer interactive sessions at multiple locations around Dane County focusing on different concerns. The series included looking at the role artists and others can play in raising awareness and impacting policy around environmental protection; the Beehive Collec-

tive engaging participants through their giant murals that depict the impact of mining and extractive industries on communities; creating a giant nest that needs tending in response to a DNR presentation on endangered species; using the Silverwood County Park corn silos to hold art while discussion looked at the need for diversity in nature, agriculture and society; a nature-based art exhibit in conjunction with poetry readings to evoke tender feelings and concern for the world around us; and finally on January 24th there will be a session on creating future social scenarios led by Yahara 2070 to envision what our future could look like.

*"We need artists to help us come together and share our voices and build community around powerful issues concerning our roles in the world and our planet's survival. Compassion must be translated into action."*

*-Natasha Mayers*



Earth Day was celebrated this year in partnership with Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice. About a hundred people came and joined in fun, peaceful and earth-loving activities that set this day apart. We shared a pot-luck trail mix, learned, sang, talked and enjoyed being in community.



Other community building events in 2014 included our Feast from the Fields dinner featuring the farmer's produce mainly cooked by farmer Yee, Jarucha and Reyna. It was a delight being in such good company with such fabulous food in such a glorious setting!

In the Fall we had an invitation Apple Cider event that picked off the remaining apples in the orchard which were turned into tasty cider.



## Natural Path Sanctuary

We continue to feel privileged to serve families by offering a sustainable burial option. We have been touched by the many stories told by people going through a death of a loved one. New additions to the cemetery include refreshed landscaping and gathering space around the Burr Oak tree at the entrance. Graves continue to be hand-dug and many ask what we do in the winter. Several strategies are used: pre-digging a few graves, covering some grave sites with insulating material to keep the soil soft, and lighting a fire over the grave lot to make it diggable. Come visit year round.



# Volunteers



We are so grateful to all of the individuals and groups who have volunteered this year chipping paths, tending the orchard, helping at events, helping the farmers, landscaping, and doing computer work. We couldn't have done it without you!

*"We don't accomplish anything in this world alone ... and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something."*

- Sandra Day O'Connor



# Legacy to Vision



Gene Farley was recognized at the 2014 Martin Luther King Jr. celebration in January. His grandson--and Farley Center board member--Chad Farley, accepted the award for Gene.

*"An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."*

- Martin Luther King Jr.

This year the Board participated in a strategic planning retreat led by UW Extension staff outlining areas of need to focus on this year. These were our top four priorities:

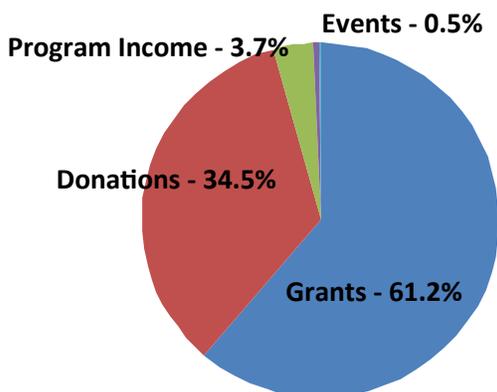
1. Better defining and promoting the Peace and Justice focus of the Farley Center
2. Discerning the future direction of the farm incubator
3. Ensuring an effective and sustainable staffing pattern
4. Keeping the Farley Center financially healthy and sustainable

Organizationally the Farley Center is in its infancy and yet has had a fantastic number of accomplishments and has been very fortunate to have tremendous community support both financially, in program participation, and in the sharing of our vision. We see ourselves as being a voice for a way of life that lifts up the highest ideals of our society based on respect for the land

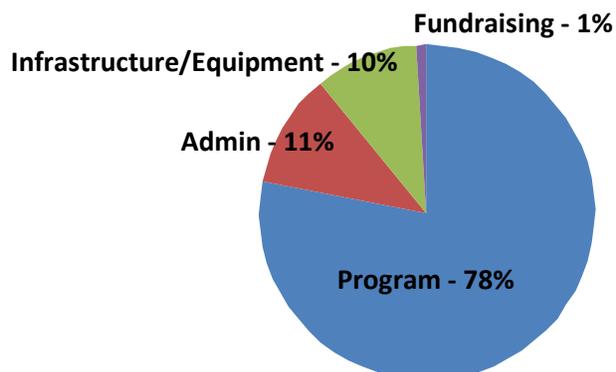
and the life that inhabits it. Gene Farley's recognition that "without justice, there is no peace, without peace, there is no sustainability, and without sustainability there is no future" keeps us focused on the connection between the ideals of peace, justice and sustainability. We are incredibly grateful to your support and for joining with us in continuing the Farley legacy.

# Financial Picture

## 2014 Sources of Funding



## 2014 Expenses



*Thank you for your generous support!*

We look forward to joining Community Shares of Wisconsin in 2015