

# *Inspired*

TODAY...



**IMPACT**

**TOMORROW**

## President's Letter



DR. RICHARD HERMAN

I am often asked what I enjoy the most about serving as President of Wheat Ridge Ministries. Since joining the Wheat Ridge staff 21 years ago, my answer has always been the same—mission and inspiration. Wheat Ridge has an awesome mission! What could be better than helping and encouraging new ministry ventures that impact the lives of people and bring health and hope?

And, what could be more inspiring than to support people who respond to God's love by caring about—and for—their neighbors by developing new ways to help them experience the fullness of life made possible in Christ? (John 10:10)

I am continually inspired by the dedicated and sacrificial efforts of leaders to create sustainable new health and human care ministries and by others whose generosity makes it possible for Wheat Ridge to help seed these efforts. I hope you will be inspired as you read about some of the wonderful people highlighted in this year's annual report. Indeed, they are inspiring us today as they strive to make an impact tomorrow!

By God's grace, our 2013 fiscal year was truly amazing. Our Board of Directors and staff, encouraged and assisted by "thought-leaders" from around the country, completed a strategic plan for the future that provides a road map for increasing our impact as an organization. We are so excited to venture into some creative ways of enhancing our seeding efforts—using new tools such as crowdfunding and new methods to help new ministries scale and grow their impact. Even as we were "up to our eyeballs" in our planning and discernment process during the past year, God abundantly provided for our work through the support of thousands of faithful donors whose generosity helped us to significantly increase the number of new ministries we seeded and, thus, increased the number of lives touched through these new ministries.

If you are currently part of the Wheat Ridge family of friends and supporters, thank you so much for your prayers, your encouragement and your generous support during the past year! If this report is your first exposure to the joyful work of seeding new ministries of health and hope, I pray that the stories and information included will encourage you in your efforts to share health and hope with others!

In the name of our healing Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Herman".

DR. RICHARD HERMAN

### OUR MISSION

*Wheat Ridge Ministries is "Lutherans seeding new ministries of health and hope in the name of the healing Christ."*

# Board of Directors

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**RAE FANGMEIER**, Community Volunteer, Davidson, NC

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**LOIS PEACOCK**, Former Executive Director, Bay Area Health Ministries, San Francisco, CA

**KAY SIEBERT**, Clinic Director, Christ Cares Clinic, Inc., Scottsdale, AZ

**ANDREW STEELE**, Manager, Donor Relations—Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Chicago, IL; Founder, Bloom Africa, Lesotho, Africa

**BRUCE STRADE**, Former Executive Director, Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries, Portland, OR

**KARIS THOMPSON**, Strategist for Community Development, Redeemer Center for Life & Redeemer Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN

**ANNE WENZEL**, President and Executive Director, Western Colorado Community Foundation, Palisade, CO

***“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.”***

*1 Corinthians 16:13–14*

## Staff

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**BRIAN BECKER**, Senior Vice President

**HOLLY HARRISON FIALA**, Vice President of Advancement

**RICK ALLMON**, Special Gifts Officer

**ANN BRANDT**, Director of Annual Giving and Advancement Services

**STEVE BRUEGGEMAN**, Director of Finance

**REBECCA DAVIS**, Website Coordinator

**ANYA KNOTT**, Assistant Director for Ministry Programs

**GAIL MAHER**, Ministry Programs Assistant

**ABIGAIL MILLER**, Manager of Crowdfunding and Social Media

**JOANNE OTTE**, Director of Programs

**PATRICIA RUSH**, Bookkeeper

**ANNE SCHOENHERR**, Director of Communications

**MARK SCHOEPP**, Director of Congregation Engagement

**JENNIFER SIEVERS**, Prospect Management Associate

**PAM TEDESCO**, Assistant to the President

**CATHERINE WERNER**, Constituent Management Associate

**Inspired** TODAY...

# IMPACT

**TOMORROW**

**We are inspired by courage.** We are awed by strength. And sometimes we are amazed to learn that the strongest, bravest people we know rely completely on **God's strength** to do what must be done.

Joshua was one of those people. As Moses' young aide, Joshua endured the slavery of the Israelites and witnessed the plagues suffered by the Egyptians. Joshua experienced the parting of the Red Sea that allowed the Israelites to escape Pharaoh's armies. Only Joshua was allowed to accompany Moses up to the holy mountain where the tablets of law were received. Strengthened by his experiences and inspired by his mentor, Joshua led armies into many battles in service to God.

When Moses died, the Lord named Joshua his successor. Was Joshua afraid? Was he uncertain? We don't know what Joshua felt, but we read what God told him: "Be strong and courageous, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9) Armed with this certainty, this blessing, Joshua went on to lead many successful missions, making an impact in the name of the Lord.

Joshua's story serves as an inspiration to all of us. Likewise, Wheat Ridge Ministries is inspired by the courage of the ministry leaders we support. And we are inspired by benefactors like you who rest in the strength of the Lord to offer your prayers and financial gifts.

Recently, Wheat Ridge committed to a new strategic plan with the potential to quadruple the number of organizations and projects impacted annually by our grant programs. The plan promises to reach more leaders, fostering the development of cutting-edge health and wellness ministries by sharing successes and best practices. It includes the bold steps of forming partnerships with other funding organizations to ensure that individual ministries have greater impact. It will build community among donors by offering opportunities for stronger relationships and engagement.

Wheat Ridge is grateful for your commitment to bringing Christ's healing and hope to people who desperately need it. It takes courage and strength to take the next step, and we appreciate your partnership as we make this important transition. **As we move forward, we want to share several inspiring stories from 2013.**



## Bridging the Gap

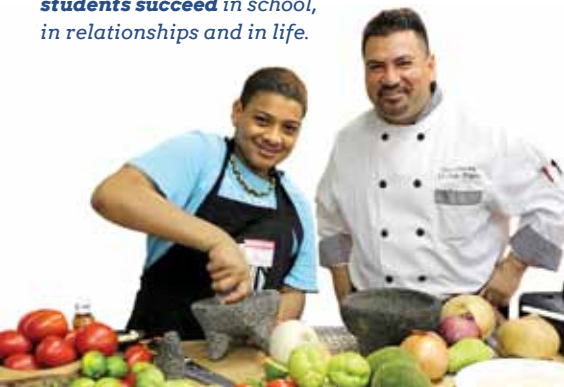
Before The Bridge Teen Center in Orland Park, Illinois, opened in 2010, Chicago's southwest suburbs lacked meaningful after-school programs for teens. It was a void that threatened the future of the area's young people. During a meeting of local officials and church leaders, a high school superintendent remarked that there was "no hope" for his students after their freshman year.

Youth Ministry leader Priscilla Steinmetz was struck by the starkness of his message and the need inherent in his warning. Inspired, she founded The Bridge Teen Center to give students a safe place to engage in purposeful activities during unsupervised hours.

Today, innovative programs at The Bridge help students from 86 communities succeed in school, in relationships and in life. In 2013, Wheat Ridge provided a \$15,000 grant to support the center's Healthy Living programs, including culinary arts classes that teach youth how to prepare healthy snacks and meals, and yoga classes that engage young people in caring for their bodies and their minds.

High school student Amber Holup loves her time at The Bridge, especially the Healthy Living programs. But acquiring healthy eating habits as well as tools for dealing with stress aren't the only reasons she hangs out there.

***Your support is helping students succeed in school, in relationships and in life.***



"I keep coming back because of the people I've met and the relationships I've created with both students and volunteers," Holup says.

Steinmetz emphasizes that the Center's partnership with Wheat Ridge goes beyond the grant money provided. "Just knowing that an organization like Wheat Ridge cares about us makes all the difference," says Steinmetz.

## Caring for the Poor

The congregation of Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix, Arizona, was seeking a way to impact its community and spread the love of Jesus.



As they searched, members were inspired by the story of another inner-city congregation that founded a medical clinic with the help of Wheat Ridge Ministries.

Christ Church members deliberated, prayed, studied demographic details closely and—through a three-year, \$35,000 startup grant from Wheat Ridge—established Christ Cares Clinic, which provides well-care services for the working poor. Their clients range from unemployed professionals to previously incarcerated individuals. Every client is treated with respect and compassion.

"They did not care about my background or ability to pay," one patient says about the Christ Cares staff. "They cared about me."

In a community where many patients don't meet Medicaid's narrow qualifications, the clinic fills a need for affordable healthcare among uninsured and underinsured people without the bureaucracy.

“Our partnership with Wheat Ridge has been perfect,” says Clinic Director Kay Siebert. “Wheat Ridge is focused on health and the whole person.” With your support, Wheat Ridge helps congregations like Christ Church Lutheran make an impact in the lives of people struggling to make ends meet.

## Filling a Need

Inspired by a Sunday Christian Education class, the congregation of Triumphant Love Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas, created Water to Thrive, a non-profit organization dedicated to funding the construction of clean water wells in developing countries while raising domestic awareness about the water crisis. In four years, Water to Thrive funded 270 water projects benefitting approximately 150,000 people—mostly in Ethiopia. Not content with their rapid impact, Water to Thrive wanted to expand its efforts into Tanzania, where the World Health Organization estimates that 10% of children die before the age of 5 because of contaminated water. And it isn't just about disease: villagers and their children often spend up to four hours a day travelling to and from water sources, time that could be spent earning money or participating in school. The nonprofit also wanted to expand domestic awareness of the water crisis under its new Wells for Wellness campaign. Wheat Ridge

*Wheat Ridge donors will help Water to Thrive impact the future of developing countries.*

was ready to help, providing a \$50,000 grant over three years. Mary Clare Rodriguez, past program director of Water to Thrive, expressed appreciation of Wheat Ridge's connection to her organization. “Everyone can relate to the work in the field—finding the water sources, building the wells, etc.—but Wheat Ridge truly understands the challenge of creating operations funding,” she said. The grant is allowing Water to Thrive to develop new marketing materials, improve website functionality and increase on-site visits to schools, churches, individuals and other groups. The support of Wheat Ridge donors will help Water to Thrive expand its water education programs, allowing even more people to impact the future of developing countries.

## Inspiring Leaders

In summer 2013, Wheat Ridge celebrated the strength and courage of 11 recipients of Wheat Ridge grants at its first Burst Convening



Weekend, a gathering specifically designed to equip, connect and affirm young adult Lutheran leaders. Over three days, these leaders shared the challenges and victories of their ministries and built relationships for the future. Participants also highlighted best practices about their Wheat Ridge-seeded ministries.

Cheryl Lafferty of Rhawnhurst Turning Point, which serves youth in the Pittsburgh area, appreciated the weekend's combination of practical and spiritual elements. She emerged rested, restored and secure in the knowledge she was not alone in trying to make the world

a better place. "Meeting other young, like-minded ministry leaders was encouraging and inspiring," Lafferty noted. "There was an instant sense of community."

It takes a community to turn things around, just as it takes every single Wheat Ridge supporter to do the work that God has called us to do. In fiscal year 2013, more than 20,000 Wheat Ridge contributors made this possible, from individual gifts to consistent giving over time to careful planning for a legacy of support.

## Giving Generously, Giving Faithfully

Careful planning was evident in the life of Cordula "Corky" Lueker. Her capacity to love children and teenagers from the inner city neighborhoods of Long Beach, California,

was evident in her strong commitment to the after-school ministry established by her congregation, First Lutheran Church. When Corky passed away, she left a legacy



**"Corky" Lueker**

to ensure her compassion for young people would continue. Her \$1.4 million estate gift to Wheat Ridge Ministries will enable the seeding of more ministries to enrich the lives of youth and young adults.



**Dr. Mabel Brelje**

researcher, Dr. Brelje saw a connection between agricultural chemicals and the

The courage to blaze new trails was a hallmark in the life of Dr. Mabel Christine Brelje of Hutchinson, Minnesota. An obstetrician-gynecologist and

**49 grants** awarded totaling **\$647,400**

**93 total** active grants

**3,786 volunteers** engaged through our projects

**750 hours** of phone and email coaching and consulting

**20,071 donors** supporting our work

**50,858 people served** through our projects

FY2013 Highlights

premenstrual syndrome in her patients. She urged her family to refrain from chemical use on their Minnesota farm—to no avail. Undaunted, she continued her research and upon retirement converted the family farm into a certified organic facility. Brelje's family says she appreciated Wheat Ridge for its commitment to wellness. When she passed in September 2011, she left a substantial estate gift in support of our work.

Your inspired partnership with Wheat Ridge Ministries supports our mission "to seed new ministries of health and hope in the name of the healing Christ." From modest monthly amounts to planned estate gifts, every gift is an important part of our impact around the world, bringing the hope of a Savior to those who need it most. As Joshua answered God's call to continue the work of Moses, trusting the Lord to support him, we see our faithful supporters showing similar courage, strength and trust. You continue to respond to the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians as he challenged the early church: *Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.*

# Financial Summary

**June 30, 2013**

## ASSETS:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 328,500
Other current assets	138,067
Net furniture and equipment	17,189
Long-term investments	546,093
Funds held in trust by others	1,632,840
Endowment assets	8,870,912
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 11,533,601</b>

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:

Current liabilities	\$ 77,866
Grants payable	585,800
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 663,666</b>

Unrestricted net assets	7,406,616
Temporarily restricted net assets	1,007,355
Permanently restricted net assets	2,455,964
	<u>10,869,935</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 11,533,601</b>

## REVENUES:

Contributions	\$ 4,106,337
Investment income	1,120,418
Other income	172,192
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 5,398,947</b>

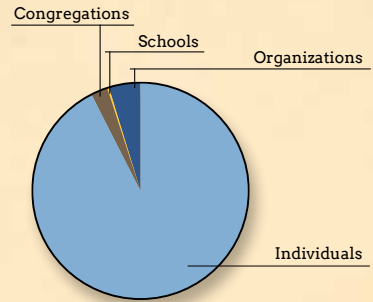
## EXPENSES:

Program activities	\$ 2,037,708
Management and fundraising	944,728
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,982,436</b>

<b>Increase (decrease) in net assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,416,511</b>
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	<b>\$ 8,453,424</b>
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 10,869,935</b>

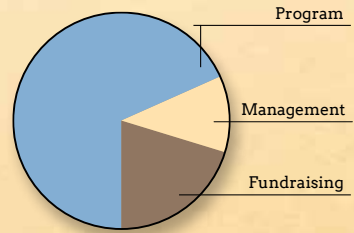
## Sources of Contributions

Individuals	3,801,720	92.6%
Congregations	104,957	2.6%
Schools	12,313	0.2%
Organizations	187,347	4.6%
	<u>4,106,337</u>	



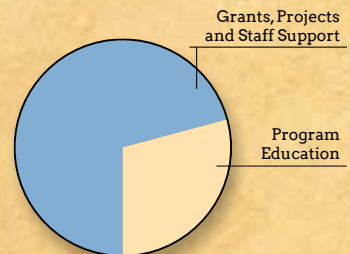
## Breakdown of Operating Expenses

Program	2,037,708	68.4%
Management	338,776	11.4%
Fundraising	605,952	20.2%
	<u>2,982,436</u>	



## Breakdown of Program Expenses

Grants, Projects and Staff Support	1,444,462	70.9%
Program Education	593,246	29.1%
	<u>2,037,708</u>	



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A full copy of the audit report for FY2013 is available on our website at [www.wheatridge.org](http://www.wheatridge.org).