



In 2023 Friends of the Earth Members like you won some big victories for people and the planet—including working alongside tribal allies to protect precious lands around Grand Canyon National Park, pictured below.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023





Erich Pica, President



Jeffrey Glueck, Chair of the Board

# CHAMPIONING A MORE HEALTHY AND JUST WORLD

## FRIEND,

Thank you for being a Friends of the Earth Member and supporter.

Friends of the Earth’s advocacy rests on three foundational pillars. Pillar one is our 50-plus-year history of cutting-edge research and campaigning that has built a powerful reputation in the halls of Congress, in corporate board rooms, and alongside allies across the country.

Pillar two is our staff and board of directors. We have some of the smartest, most dedicated and talented people on the planet propelling the organization to realize our vision of a more healthy and just world.

Pillar three—our most important pillar—is you. You and the millions of Members and supporters across the country like you provide us with moral authority to act; grant us with legal standing to litigate; and demonstrate that millions of people care about the shared environment that we all depend on. And it is your generosity that provides the means to continue our work each year.

These pillars provide hope, people power, and a mandate to address the poly-crisis of climate change, species and biodiversity loss, and racial injustice. And we are making progress.

In California, we are making a generational dietary intervention. More than 75 school districts—with nearly two million students—have added plant-based menu offerings. Our work with the California DoD Fresh Program has resulted in more than 800 California school districts purchasing over one million pounds of organic produce.

In the Gulf South, partnering with groups like RISE St. James in Cancer Alley, we are resisting Formosa Plastics’ proposed Sunshine Petrochemical Project by pressuring JP Morgan Chase to stop supporting the project. We hand-delivered 60,000 petitions demanding that the bank denounce, defund, and divest from Formosa Plastics.

Globally, we successfully convinced the Asian Development Bank to draft new safeguards to protect free-flowing rivers and World Heritage sites from harmful financing.

In February 2024, President Biden announced a pause on the construction of liquefied natural gas terminals, a major win for the needed transition away from fossil fuels. As a result of the Inflation Reduction Act, we are witnessing an acceleration in renewable energy deployment. And some of the strongest pollution reduction regulations in a generation are being drafted by the Biden Administration.

We see hope in these and many other wins for people and the planet, but also humbly recognize we need to make change faster than at any other point in our history. We need to create more change over the next decade than what was accomplished in the previous five.

This is why we are encouraged by our victories—many resulting from your direct engagement—and we ask you to persist with us in this urgent effort to shape a healthier, more just future for people and the planet.

  
Erich and Jeff



## You are the secret to our success!

For more than 50 years, Friends of the Earth has been fighting for people and the planet. And at our side through every battle, we've had dedicated environmentalists like you.

The loyal support of our Members is the secret sauce that makes our work possible. Some of these battles can take years, and environmental champions like you, whose passion and commitment are unwavering, keep us going—even in the face of steep odds or seemingly no-win fights.

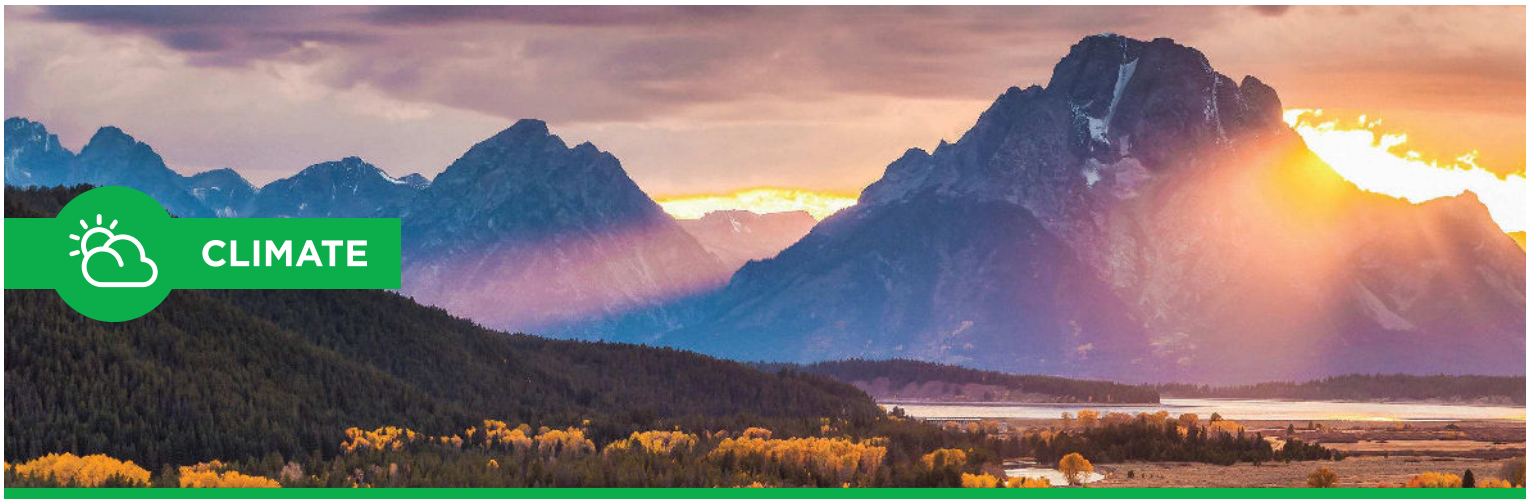
From working to halt fossil fuel leasing on public lands, to convincing 13 of the top 25 grocery retailers to issue pollinator protection plans, and suing the Department of Interior to protect public lands from oil and gas drilling, **Friends of the Earth and Members like you scored huge victories for our planet in 2023.**

- You helped us successfully aid in the passage of the Birds and Bees Protection Act in New York State—the **strongest bill in the nation aimed at protecting people and pollinators** from toxic neonic pesticides.
- You helped us convince **Kroger—one of the nation's largest food retailers—to commit to take actions to reduce the use of toxic pesticides** in its fresh fruit and vegetable supply chain.

- You helped us successfully push the International Maritime Organization to **route shipping lanes away from biodiverse and ecologically important areas.**
- You helped us enable more than 75 California school districts—including most of the largest in the state – to add new plant-based menu offerings this school year, **benefiting more than 1.9 million students.**
- You helped us push President Biden to use his executive authority through the Antiquities Act to **designate Baaj Nwaavjo l'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument.**
- You helped us **win a years-long battle when EPA announced its final determination to regulate aircraft lead pollution**, the largest source of airborne lead emissions in the country.

You can read about all these victories and more in our 2023 Annual Report. **Take a moment to celebrate, knowing the difference you've made for our planet this year.**

Our successes were only possible because of our secret weapon: YOU and your fellow Members. And with you by our side in 2024, we'll continue to be a bold and fearless voice for the planet...to demand systemic change...and to fight for a more healthy and just world for us all.



## WINNING VITAL CLIMATE PROGRESS

**The climate crisis is escalating, with 2023 clocking in as Earth’s hottest year on record. Friends of the Earth is going toe-to-toe with climate criminals—and with help from Members like you, we’re tackling this existential challenge with every tool in our toolbox.**

### **Preserving the Endangered Species Act**

2023 marked the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act, one of our most successful pieces of wildlife legislation. In the face of Big Polluters’ efforts to decimate the law and open up more habitats for climate-destroying drilling, almost 300,000 Friends of the Earth Members like you submitted comments to the Biden Administration demanding increased protections for gray wolves, grizzlies, beavers and other iconic animals.

When Senate Republicans—and Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV)—launched an attack on the endangered lesser prairie chicken to advance dirty energy projects in the bird’s habitat, Friends of the Earth immediately rallied more than 40,000 Members to oppose this dangerous resolution, which President Biden vetoed.

### **Tackling taxpayer-funded climate chaos**

We relaunched our Green Scissors database this year, highlighting over \$350 billion in wasteful and environmentally harmful federal spending.

We worked with Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Representative Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) on the “Clean Energy Minerals Reform Act of 2023,” a bill that would update the antiquated hardrock mining law that has governed public lands mining operations in the United States for 151 years. This has been a huge Friends of the Earth goal and we aim to win this legislation in 2024.

We won a major victory after two years of campaigning against the EPA’s misuse of the Renewable Fuel Standard to support false climate solutions like biomass and incineration—which are dirtier than coal. Our organizing persuaded the EPA to reject a proposal to allow electrification compliance credits (e-RINs) for charging electric vehicles using dirty biomass energy. Meanwhile, a major exposé in the Washington Post—sparked by Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) documents uncovered by Friends of the Earth—revealed the incinerator industry’s attempt to grab millions of dollars in clean vehicle subsidies.

We led the environmental community in defeating an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that would have expanded federal loan subsidies to the Alaska LNG Project boondoggle. Additionally, more than 300 organizations from over 40 countries signed our letter urging the Biden Administration to abandon its support for LNG at COP28. Our campaigners further shined a light on the influence of a former gas executive working on LNG in the Biden Administration. Friends of the



Earth several months later celebrated a huge win when President Biden paused the approval of new liquefied natural gas (LNG) export terminals.

### **Protecting our public lands and waters**

Members like you helped us strongly oppose fossil fuel leasing to protect public lands and waters. With your help, we generated over 255,000 signatures opposing new lease sales and more than 410,000 signatures opposing the Willow project in Alaska.

We successfully pushed for major reductions in fossil fuel leasing in Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming—slashing their initial proposed acreage by 50 percent. The Biden Administration’s final offshore five-year plan also has the fewest lease sales ever, and cancelled the remaining leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We’ll continue to fight until the number of these climate-killing sales is zero.

Thanks to our work with a coalition of tribal allies and others, and nearly 35,000 actions taken by our Members, in August President Biden designated the Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument in Arizona. And in March, President Biden designated Avi Kwa Ame and Castner Range as National Monuments. We continue to push for National Monument land protections for areas like Bears Ears National Monument, San Gabriel, Berryessa Snow Mountain and others.

After two years of our advocacy, the Department of Interior announced plans for a 20-year halt on mineral extraction near New Mexico’s Chaco

Canyon. We are continuing to fight for further protections.

In August, backed by tens of thousands of supportive comments from our Members, the proposed designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary on the California coast moved forward; we will keep pushing to secure the final sanctuary designation in 2024. If approved, this will be the first sanctuary co-managed by the Chumash Tribe, who proposed the sanctuary, and the federal government.

### **Battling climate denial**

Our Climate Disinformation campaign is curbing climate denial content on social media. We won a big victory in March when TikTok announced an overhaul to its community guidelines that adds climate misinformation to its misinformation policies and improves user transparency.

**With Members like you beside us, Friends of the Earth will continue to fight to protect our climate in 2024.**





## OCEANS & VESSELS

# CONSERVING THE WORLD'S GREATEST RESOURCE

**Friends of the Earth is working to protect oceans and ocean communities from threats such as oil spills, sewage releases, and plastic, noise and air pollution.**

### Protecting wildlife

The Arctic is home to an array of wildlife, much of it endangered by shipping. We successfully pushed the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to designate Areas To Be Avoided (ATBA), routing shipping lanes away from ecologically important areas.

We're leading efforts to pressure the U.S. Coast Guard to back protections around Diomed Island in the Bering Strait—home to North America's largest concentration of breeding waterfowl, over 80 percent of the world's breeding female polar bears and other vulnerable species. Nearly 22,000 Members like you submitted comments urging the Coast Guard to act.

In the Pacific Northwest we are fighting to protect the critically endangered Southern Resident orca. The noise from ships speeding through orca habitat disrupts the echolocation orcas rely on to find food and family members. With Members like you at our side we advocated for the implementation of a Quiet Sound program which slows ships down in key areas in Puget Sound when whales are present. We also continued

working to stop polluting projects that would disrupt the whales' habitat, joining the campaign to urge Liberty Mutual insurance company and other private insurers and funders to avoid the dirty, dangerous Trans Mountain tar sands pipeline expansion, and fighting construction of the Roberts Bank T2 container terminal.

### Cleaning up the cruise industry

Our 2023 analysis found that cruise ship vacations produce eight times more carbon than land-based vacations. Along with our Cruise Ship Report Card, this work is ramping up pressure to improve cruise ship regulations at the regional and federal levels and support communities working to reduce the cruise industry's impact on their local environments.

### Fighting for clean ports

We continued working with frontline communities on hyperlocal air quality monitoring, helping communities and ports tap into funding from the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act to remedy dirty port air emissions. In one example, our support helped the South Ward Environmental Alliance in Newark, NJ deploy nine low-cost air sensors in the area.

**With Members like you at our side, we'll continue to fight for cleaner oceans and coastal communities in 2024.**



## DEFENDING OUR PLANET IN COURT

**Friends of the Earth's legal team is making big progress as we harness the power of the courts to fight for our planet.**

### **A victory years in the making**

Friends of the Earth successfully pushed the EPA to regulate aircraft lead pollution, the largest source of airborne lead emissions in the country. This years-long battle will ensure healthier air for more than five million people—including more than 360,000 children under the age of five.

### **The fight for wildlife**

To protect pollinators, we sued the California Department of Pesticide Regulation for failing to regulate and track neonicotinoid-treated seeds in the state.

We are continuing our fight to protect the Rice's whale, polar bears and other marine species imperiled by drilling in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska.

### **The battle for our public lands**

We successfully blocked attempts to roll back the country's bedrock environmental law, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

We filed several suits against the Department of Interior:

- For issuing drilling permits in Bakersfield, California based on faulty NEPA review.
- For holding oil and gas lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico in violation of NEPA.
- For approving the Willow oil and gas exploration plan in violation of NEPA, the Endangered Species Act and the Reserves Act.

### **Combating nuclear power**

We sued Pacific Gas & Electric over a breach of contract to retire the outdated Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, and we are doubling down against the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's decisions to provide loopholes to keep Diablo running.

**With Members at our side, we will continue to fight in court for a healthier and more just world.**

## Create a Legacy for Our Shared Earth

A gift in your will to Friends of the Earth helps us fight for a more healthy and just world for the next generations. We have partnered with FreeWill to provide you a free online tool to write your will so you can support the people and causes you cherish. **Visit [freewill.com/foe](https://freewill.com/foe) to get started today.**

Here is suggested wording you can use in your will or trust if you are already working on your plans:

"After taking care of all expenses, debts, and other specific provisions, I give, devise, and bequeath \_\_\_% of the rest and

residue [or \$\_\_\_ if a specific amount] to Friends of the Earth, a Washington, DC charitable organization [Tax ID# 23-7420660] currently having offices at 1101 15th St. NW, Washington, DC 20005."

Have you already included us in your plans? Let us know so we can thank you and welcome you to the Shared Earth Society!

### **Questions? Contact**

Caroline Bruder, Gift Planning Advisor  
📞 202-222-0726 ✉️ [cbruder@foe.org](mailto:cbruder@foe.org)



## FOOD & AGRICULTURE

# CREATING A JUST AND EQUITABLE FOOD SYSTEM

**Friends of the Earth and its Members are committed to rapidly transitioning our food system to one that is healthy, sustainable and just. In 2023 we won several victories moving us toward this vision.**

### **Fighting for climate-friendly school food**

We made huge progress in California, where more than 75 school districts—with nearly two million students—added new climate-friendly plant-based menu offerings. Our advocacy work with the California DoD Fresh Program has led to more than 800 California school districts purchasing over one million pounds of organic produce.

With our partners at Chili on Wheels, we organized the first-ever fly-in to Washington, DC for students who serve on our Youth Steering Committee. These young leaders met with elected officials, USDA and the White House about the need to expand plant-forward K-12 menus.

### **Fighting factory farming**

We generated a wave of grassroots resistance to the EPA's proposed Renewable Fuel Standards that would have expanded harmful support for factory farm gas—leading to the proposal's elimination in the final rule.

We acted as the global secretariat for the Stop Financing Factory Farming campaign, building opposition to at least six multilateral development

bank loans funding factory farming in Latin America, Africa and Asia. We also spearheaded grassroots actions at numerous international meetings, highlighting the major climate impacts of industrial animal agriculture.

In Ecuador, we supported environmental and Indigenous partners as they successfully sought accountability for the harmful community health and environmental impacts of the Inter-American Development Bank's loan to PRONACA, Ecuador's largest pig and poultry agribusiness.

### **Fighting at the state level**

In a big win, we organized with frontline community members to prevent the release of billions of genetically engineered mosquitoes in California's Central Valley. Members were integral to this success, signing countless petitions and pressuring regulators to protect California's communities and environment from this risky experiment.

As a member of the Food Chemical Alliance, we helped persuade Governor Gavin Newsom to sign the California Food Safety Act into law, banning four harmful food chemicals from various processed food produced and sold in California.

**With your support in 2024, Friends of the Earth will continue campaigning for a more sustainable and just food and agriculture system.**





SOUTHEAST



Photo: Blue Ridge Parkway, North Carolina

## STANDING WITH SOUTHEAST COMMUNITIES FOR JUSTICE

**Across the Southeast, Friends of the Earth is supporting communities fighting to protect themselves from polluters.**

### Combating plastic pollution

We teamed up with RISE St. James in Louisiana's Cancer Alley to resist Formosa Plastics' proposed Sunshine Project—a massive petrochemical complex that would emit 13.6 million tons of greenhouse gas pollution each year. The air, water and plastic pollution from the facility would harm communities, the environment and wildlife.

We helped RISE St. James and community representatives travel to Formosa's annual general meeting in Taiwan to oppose the project; secured meetings for them with JP Morgan Chase and Bank of America to educate them on why funding the Sunshine Project would be disastrous; and helped Justice for Formosa Victims organize a congressional briefing to raise awareness of the company's environmental violations in Vietnam. We also hand-delivered 60,000 petitions to JP Morgan Chase headquarters demanding that the bank denounce, defund and divest from Formosa Plastics. Today, the proposed Formosa plant is still on hold and has not received financial backing.

### Rallying communities in North Carolina

We're working with North Carolina environmental justice communities to fight the expansion of factory farms and methane digester infrastructure, including pipelines that could mix animal-derived methane gas with fossil gas.

Across Eastern North Carolina, we're rallying community members to resist Duke Energy's Piedmont Natural Gas pilot program for factory farm methane gas; and in Person County, we're helping communities—including the previously excluded Sappony tribe—resist Dominion Energy's factory farm methane gas expansion.

We're also working with North Carolina communities, including the Meherrin tribe, to campaign against a forest-destroying Enviva biomass facility. We successfully forced the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality to delay its air permit expansion for the company, giving the community more time to combat this harmful project.

Our democracy campaign continued its fight against partisan gerrymandering, teaming up with local organizations calling for a fair redistricting process through an independent, community-led redistricting commission.

After years of advocacy with North Carolina's impacted communities, we succeeded in pushing North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper to issue an executive order to advance environmental justice in the state.

**We will continue to empower Southeast communities in 2024 to fight for a clean, green and just environment for all.**



# ENDING DIRTY FINANCING

**Our financial and economic systems play a crucial role in creating a more environmentally sustainable and socially just world, which is why Friends of the Earth and our Members advocate for policies that minimize environmental and social harm and fund a brighter future.**

### Fighting for forests

We continue to win victories in our longstanding campaign to prevent deforestation and land grabbing. In August, we successfully convinced Kellogg to become the tenth consumer goods company to drop its supply contract with Astro Agro Lastari (AAL), a major global perpetrator of deforestation. Giant asset manager BlackRock also recently voted against AAL's board of directors and Dutch pension fund PFZW divested completely due to AAL's land grabbing and illegal environmental destruction.

In another victory, we worked with allies to help persuade the Indonesian government to return to communities 900 hectares of land that was grabbed by a subsidiary of AAL.

Closer to home, Friends of the Earth helped the Tropical Deforestation-Free Procurement legislation pass both chambers of the New York legislature. The bill, which Governor Kathy Hochul unfortunately vetoed, would have prevented

state and local government procurement from driving tropical deforestation, forest degradation, or associated abuses of Indigenous and local communities. While we are deeply disappointed by Governor Hochul's veto, we will be back in 2024 with an even stronger coalition to pass an amended version of the bill.

### Stopping the financing of dangerous products

We successfully convinced the Asian Development Bank to draft new safeguards protecting free-flowing rivers and World Heritage sites from harmful development financing.

In Mexico, we worked with Reuters to expose the Export-Import Bank's (EXIM) potential support for Pemex, an irresponsible oil and gas company—resulting in EXIM withdrawing its support.

And we convinced the International Finance Corporation to cancel its engagement with Chan May LNG in Vietnam, a project that would have cemented Vietnam's dependence on gas and discouraged a transition to renewables.

**With help from Members like you, we'll continue to work globally to create finance and economic systems that put people and the planet first, instead of polluters.**



## PROTECTING POLLINATORS FROM PESTICIDES

**Friends of the Earth and our Members are making real progress in our campaign to save pollinators from neonicotinoids (neonics) and other toxic pesticides.**

### On Capitol Hill

More than 100 local elected officials signed our letter opposing the plans in the Farm Bill to take away local governments' ability to protect people and pollinators from toxic pesticides. We continue to work with allies to keep these harmful provisions out of any new legislation.

### In statehouses

In New York, we helped pass the Birds and Bees Protection Act—the strongest bill in the nation aimed at protecting people and pollinators from toxic neonic pesticides. Thousands of supporters from New York signed petitions urging Governor Hochul to sign the bill, which bans the sale, distribution and purchase of neonic-treated corn, soybean and wheat seeds, the largest use of these bee-toxic pesticides. This is part of a broader strategy to restrict neonics in states across the U.S. and build momentum for similar wins at the federal level. Governor Hochul signed this bill into law in December 2023.

In Maryland, we helped pass a bill requiring a study testing pesticides for contamination of PFAS—a class of highly toxic “forever chemicals” that have been linked to serious health impacts including cancer, kidney liver disease and more. This will help inform state and federal policies on PFAS moving forward, particularly in agriculture, where farmers spray millions of acres of land with pesticides containing PFAS chemicals.

### In corporate boardrooms

Thanks to years of advocacy and all-in support from our Members, Friends of the Earth achieved a big win for biodiversity, the climate and our health when Kroger Company became the latest major U.S. grocer to commit to take actions aimed at reducing the use of toxic pesticides in its fresh fruit and vegetable supply chains. As one of the nation's four largest food retailers, with more than 2,700 stores, Kroger's commitment is expected to positively impact pollinators, soil health and people in communities across the country.

**Together, we will push this campaign even further in 2024...and we won't rest until we save pollinators, people and the planet from toxic pesticides.**

# FINANCIALS

## Statement of Activities

For fiscal year ended June 30, 2023

### REVENUE

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Grants, Bequests & Contributions	\$11,605,939	\$4,586,624	\$16,192,563
Other Income	\$5,661,605	(\$4,330,212)	\$1,331,393
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,267,544</b>	<b>\$256,412</b>	<b>\$17,523,956</b>

### EXPENSES

#### PROGRAM EXPENSES

Economic Policy	\$1,913,866	\$—	\$1,913,866
Oceans & Vessels	\$1,422,252	\$—	\$1,422,252
Climate & Energy	\$1,805,132	\$—	\$1,805,132
Food & Agriculture	\$3,265,112	\$—	\$3,265,112
Organizing	\$78,901	\$—	\$78,901
Outreach, Communications, DEIJ & NC Restricted	\$5,641,636	\$—	\$5,641,636
Membership	\$1,288,919	\$—	\$1,288,919
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$15,415,818</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$15,415,818</b>

#### SUPPORTING EXPENSES

Management & General	\$984,537	\$—	\$984,537
Fundraising	\$1,769,351	\$—	\$1,769,351
<b>TOTAL SUPPORTING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,753,888</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$2,753,888</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$18,169,706</b>		<b>\$18,169,706</b>

### NET ASSETS

Net Assets - Beginning of Year	\$15,137,167	\$4,532,705	\$19,669,872
Change in Net Assets	(\$902,162)	\$256,412	(\$645,750)
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$14,235,005</b>	<b>\$4,789,117</b>	<b>\$19,024,122</b>

## Statement of Financial Position

As of June 30, 2023

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$11,811,989	Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$1,480,808
Grants Receivable	\$1,742,166	Lease-related Liabilities	\$4,458,854
Accounts Receivable	\$157,843	Charitable Gift Annuities Liability	\$43,290
Right of Use Asset	\$3,244,346	Loan Payable	\$127,899
Prepaid Expense and Other Assets	\$753,883	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$6,110,851</b>
Fixed Assets, Net of Depreciation	\$618,508		
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>			
Investments	\$6,806,238		
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$25,134,973</b>		
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
Unrestricted			\$14,235,005
Restricted			\$4,789,117
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>			<b>\$19,024,122</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>			<b>\$25,134,973</b>

