

PATHWAYS TO PROGRESS

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

FREDERIK
Meijer
GARDENS
& SCULPTURE
FOUNDATION





A LETTER FROM THE FOUNDATION'S PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation,

As I hand over the reins of my office to the very qualified John Baab, I'm reminded of the pensive tone of Robert Frost:

"Nature is always hinting at us. It hints over and over again. And suddenly we take the hint."

Frost's words reflect the theme of this year's Annual Report, "Pathways to Progress." The report paints a powerful picture of our beloved Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, which entices with so many delectable options for the 750,000 who visit us annually.

I'm proud of the growth we've realized and welcome John's willingness to step in and continue nurturing what has emerged over the years as a true national treasure, wooing visitors in from all corners of the planet.

Since its inception more than 22 years ago, Meijer Gardens has had a hand in transforming our area, contributing not only in ways that can be measured through horticulture and sculpture, but by providing intrinsic rewards that inspire the hearts and souls of you who support us.

Indeed, gifts from donors to the Foundation now provide nearly a fifth of the revenue necessary to operate Meijer Gardens. Key players in that support are our growing Perennial and Bonsai Societies.

Those funds help make possible the perpetual sustenance of signature touchstones like the Lena Meijer Children's Garden,

the Richard and Helen DeVos Japanese Garden, the Fred & Dorothy Fichter Butterflies Are Blooming exhibition, and year-round educational programming.

The Foundation will also play an integral role in the creation of significant new and expanded facilities that will include a new Welcome Center, the new Covenant Learning Center, a new entry plaza, an upgraded amphitheater and additional parking.

From a personal standpoint, I took the hint when friends made more gifts to the Foundation in memory of my wife than I could comprehend. Overwhelmed, I talked to David Hooker about what I could do with a matching gift. In my first year as President, Vickie's Garden was installed behind Fred and Lena on their bench. In the first year of a garden, it sleeps (2015); in the second year, it creeps (2016); and in the third year, it leaps (2017). It will be fun to see this year!

In closing, please join me in a warm welcome of John Baab as he blooms and grows into his new position as Foundation president, helping us all to follow the pathways that define Meijer Gardens.

Warmly,

Dirk C. Hoffius,
President

2016 ANNUAL DONOR EVENT

Tom and Evelyn Kapteyn invited their friends, Fred and Susan Cooper, as guests at the Frederik Meijer Garden's & Sculpture Foundation's annual Donor Recognition Event in 2015. Thanks to their generous support, the Kapteyns already were members of the Foundation's Bonsai Society.

This year, it was the Coopers' turn to be honored for their support at the 2016 Donor Recognition Event, which earned them membership in the Foundation's Perennial Society.

"We like to support it (the Foundation) by getting other people to join," Tom Kapteyn said.



"I like it (the Gardens) because it's the most successful thing I know of in Grand Rapids. There's always a crowd of happy looking people out here." – Pat Davis, Perennial Society member.

The Coopers said it was their experience as guests of the Kapteyns that prompted them to make their own pledge of support.

"It's just such a good cause," Susan Cooper said, adding, "I enjoy the Gardens."

This year, the Coopers invited their own guests, Erica and Jim Samoley, who recently moved to West Michigan and were enjoying their first visit to the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park.

"They've opened up a whole new adventure for us. We're taking it all in," Jim Samoley said, adding that the couple will consider making their own donation.

"That is a possibility for sure," he said.

Philanthropy has a way of begetting philanthropy, said Michael Julien, treasurer of the The Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation and a member of its Bonsai Society.

"I got to work for Fred Meijer, and I saw him discover the joy of philanthropy," said Julien, a former vice president of Meijer, Inc. "That joy of philanthropy is contagious. Giving to the Gardens, whether it's money or time, makes me smile."

As in the past, several Perennial and Bonsai Society members brought guests to the 2016 Donor Recognition Event, including many of whom likely will become members themselves, either by making cash donations or by including the Foundation in their estate plans.

"To all our members, please accept our appreciation for your support ensuring that Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park will be here for future generations to enjoy," Foundation Executive Director Susanne Veeneman told the Bonsai and



Perennial Society members and their guests.

The Foundation was created with the single purpose of supporting Meijer Gardens. Benefactors are assured that their donations will be well managed as a perpetual fund with only the interest going for the Meijer Gardens. With its own board of directors, the Foundation is designed to provide a continuing source of funding for the Gardens into perpetuity while creating legacies for its supporters.

“I sit on the Foundation’s board, and I can tell you this Garden is going to be here a long, long time,” said Richard Morton, a long-time supporter.

In the 21 years since its founding, Meijer Gardens has become one of the top cultural destinations in the country, drawing nearly

800,000 visitors a year and earning an international reputation.

This year’s Fred & Dorothy Fichter Butterflies Are Blooming exhibition alone drew 190,000 visitors, said David Hooker, president and CEO of the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. That annual event is supported by a donation Fred Fichter and his family made to the Foundation.

“To have the support of the Foundation is essential,” Hooker said. “Your gifts make a lot of great things happen.”

Dirk Hoffius, the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation board president, recalled the early days when the Gardens was little more than a dream.

“Talk about a leap of faith,” he said. “Frequently Fred (Meijer)



“What’s there not to like? We feel this is something that if we give to this, it’ll go on forever – for our children, our grandchildren, our great grandchildren.”
– Chuck Bloom,
Perennial Society
member.

would say, 'Let's do it,' and somebody would ask, 'Well, where's the money going to come from?'"

While the Meijer family gave generously to Meijer Gardens, much of the support came from the community through the Foundation.

"The one thing that defines Meijer Gardens is continuous improvement," Hoffius said. "Every year it gets better and better, and more and more visitors discover it. The Foundation brings that extra margin of continuous improvement.

"We're all in this together," he added, "so that the Gardens will grow and bloom forever."







A LETTER FROM MEIJER GARDENS' PRESIDENT

It is my good fortune to know Dirk Hoffius. Through his leadership, Dirk has played a significant role in inspiring people to support Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. Dirk is now stepping down as Foundation President and, fortunately, continuing his service as a board member. On behalf of Meijer Gardens' board, members, guests, volunteers and staff, we extend our appreciation for a job exceedingly well done.

The Foundation's role is to provide Meijer Gardens with financial resources to care for and update our facilities. Annual visitation continues to grow as does exposure to wear and tear on the facilities. As a result, renovations are necessary from time to time. In 2016, The Grace Jarecki Seasonal Display Greenhouse was expanded and renovated, making our horticulture displays even better. The James & Shirley Balk Gallery, Holton Gallery, and Bank of America Gallery were all completely renovated. Years of accumulated paint needed to be removed, the wood floors needed refinishing, and the HVAC and lighting needed updating. These important and necessary updates were completed thanks to the annual support we receive from the Foundation.

People have countless reasons for visiting Meijer Gardens. I believe high on most visitors' list is our exhibitions. Fred & Dorothy Fichter Butterflies Are Blooming is our largest exhibition, as measured by attendance. 180,000 people came out to visit during the 61 days of the exhibition in 2016. The exhibitions Christmas and Holiday Traditions Around the World, Chrysanthemum and More, Mimmo Paladino: Present into Past and Almost Home: Grand Rapids in Focus were also popular and attracted thousands of people. We have a brand statement that requires us to present each exhibition as "Always growing. Always beautiful. Always

new." Each year as you enjoy these exhibitions, take time to discover what is new about them.

The Fifth Third Bank Summer Concerts and the Tuesday Evening Music Club were once again popular. Our Master Lecture Series featuring the Secchia Garden Lecture, Great Authors Lecture, Physician as Writer Lecture, Wege Environmental Lecture and C. Schoenknecht & W. Paul Sculpture Lecture are amazing opportunities to learn about and understand our mission. We look forward to presenting them again in 2017.

A three-year planning process to develop a site master plan was also accomplished in 2016. This major effort calls for a dramatic expansion, upgrade and renovation of our facilities. A capital campaign called Welcoming the World: Honoring a Legacy of Love has been initiated so we can realize these plans. We hope you learn more about these plans and consider joining us on this special journey.

Please accept our appreciation to the entire board and leadership of the Foundation. Your work and stewardship of the gifts given to sustain Meijer Gardens is very important. I also extend a special welcome to our friend and Foundation President, John Baab. We look forward to working with you in the coming years.

Gratefully,

David S. Hooker
President
Chief Executive Officer

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS OF DECEMBER 31	2014	2015	2016
Investments at Market Value	\$100,069,673	\$98,126,845	\$101,831,583
Pledges, Gifts, Other Receivables	\$3,758,600	\$929,600	\$800,529
Total Assets	\$103,828,273	\$99,056,445	\$102,632,112
Less: Liabilities	\$2,004,818	\$1,867,584	\$1,729,768
Total Net Assets	\$101,823,455	\$97,188,861	\$100,902,344
Restricted Funds	\$34,919,970	\$34,545,503	\$36,522,912
Unrestricted Funds	\$66,903,485	\$62,643,358	\$64,379,432
Total Net Assets	\$101,823,455	\$97,188,861	\$100,902,344

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

AS OF DECEMBER 31	2014	2015	2016
Contributions Income	\$5,068,741	\$1,732,429	\$1,144,300
Investment Income or Loss	\$3,382,359	(\$1,917,033)	\$7,076,910
Total Revenues and Gains/Loss	\$8,451,100	(\$184,604)	\$8,221,210
Distributions to the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park	\$4,233,897	\$4,354,208	\$4,419,278
Other Expenses	\$77,483	\$95,782	\$88,447
Total Distributions and Expenses	\$4,311,380	\$4,449,900	\$4,507,727
Increase (Decrease) to Net Assets	\$4,139,720	(\$4,634,594)	\$3,713,483

THE FOLLOWING DONORS HAVE MADE CUMULATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FOUNDATION AND QUALIFY FOR PERMANENT RECOGNITION:

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\$1,000,000 or more

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In Memory of Seth S. Thomas

JON FERGUSON

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THE MELTING POT RESTAURANTS, INC.



WELCOME TO
THE LENA MEIER
CHILDREN'S GARDEN

Please observe
our rules of etiquette.

Children must be
accompanied at all times.

No Climbing

Feeding
Animals is allowed
in the designated area.





STORIES OF GIVING





A PATHWAY TO SOLACE, JOY AND INSPIRATION

Get lost in Meijer Gardens!

That's the humble advice of Glen Johnson, who speaks with uncommon eloquence and a clear passion about the fixed objects of art that inhabit the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park.

But sometimes, he maintains, it's enough to simply walk the expansive acreage and let the sculptures wash over you in ways that can't always be expressed in words or images.

In a word, wander.

Johnson knows the positive effects of this first-hand, because when he was transplanting himself from the Ann Arbor area to West Michigan some 15 years ago, he needed something to help temper the shock of trading out one culture for another.

The sculpture at Meijer Gardens turned out to be the perfect salve.

At the same time in his life, Johnson was introduced to Tom Merchant, and their mutual appreciation for sculpture on a wide-scale basis both ignited a friendship and fuels their marriage.

Today, both men consider Meijer Gardens a significant touchpoint in their lives, to such a dynamic degree that they've made enduring gifts to the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation in ways that will allow Meijer Gardens to grow and enhance the lives of future generations.

"I would say that for both of us, a core value would be philanthropy," says Johnson. "We have no children and we're very fortunate to have great jobs, so we were very purposeful in that giving would be our legacy."

Merchant leads human resources for Fifth Third Bank, while Johnson manages the same institution's Mirador Family Wealth Advisors division.

That means long hours for both, and in Johnson's case, plenty of travel. But they can always count on a place of solace in returning time and again to Meijer Gardens, where they enjoy not only formal events, but also the opportunity to simply meander and mull the grounds and artwork.

As world travelers, both men have visited key exhibits and other sculpture gardens in virtually every corner of the globe. And they can't underscore enough the role that Meijer Gardens plays among that international medley.

"This is a phenomenal place," says Merchant. "Fred Meijer's vision for the gardens and the sculpture demonstrates so much research and planning, and of all the places we've visited, this is over the top compared to many gardens throughout the world."

Merchant and Johnson have come to embrace not only Meijer Gardens, but ripple effects that it's helped foster – a philosophy of community that's imbued in a host of organizations and non-profits where people can go to be nourished, inspired.

And what's particularly delighting to them is that Meijer Gardens is being tended with an eye on perpetuity. "You know by the way things are being done here, that Meijer Gardens will be here for a hundred years if not for hundreds of years," says Merchant.

That helps them grow comfortable with investing significantly as donors, qualifying them for the Bonsai level, which honors gifts of \$100,000 or more.

They also make regular gifts to the Foundation. And both have served on boards and committees to help steer the direction of Meijer Gardens, its sculptures, and programs.

It's also not unusual for them to host gatherings that pay tribute to artists whose work is displayed at Meijer Gardens. Their home just outside Grand Rapids reflects a love of sculpture, including a commissioned piece in their front yard by West Michigan designer-artist Brian Alexander.

Far from being "sculpture snobs," however, they encourage anyone with an inquisitive mind to simply contemplate pieces intuitively. "So many people we know come here to just walk and think and get lost in Meijer Gardens," says Merchant. "It's different and it's outside and it's art and it's landscape all in one place."

They wouldn't argue with the notion, however, that it's easy to get hooked. And from there, one might go from a casual observer to someone who's willing to invest in the arts for the sake of others to follow.

"Some of the gifts we're making today, and then there are gifts that will happen after we depart," says Johnson. "But in either case, we have a sense of satisfaction that Meijer Gardens -- and the Foundation -- will be here and remain sustainable long after we've gone.

"It's a bright star with a bright future, and we're very humbled to be a part of it."





A PATHWAY TO THE “A-HA!” MOMENT

Years ago, when visiting his daughter in Chicago, Dale Atkinson often made a side trip to the Chicago Botanic Garden and thought it would be nice if Grand Rapids had a place like that.

That was before the West Michigan Horticultural Society and Fred Meijer created Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, which rapidly is becoming among the most renowned facilities of its kind in the world.

“I thought, man, this is a great thing for Grand Rapids,” Atkinson recalled.

Several years ago, he met Ray Loeschner, longtime president of the Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation, and they got to talking about Meijer Gardens.

“Of course, he was pretty excited, and I guess some of it rubbed off on me,” Atkinson said. “I got to thinking I ought to do something.”

As a retired vice president of a Grand Rapids construction equipment company, Atkinson wanted to give something back to the community.

“I guess because I felt pretty happy that I’d been able to accumulate some extra dollars, I wanted to leave something,” he said, “so I chose Meijer Gardens.”

Several years ago, he designated the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation as a beneficiary of a portion of his IRA, which earned him membership in the Foundation’s Bonsai Society, created to honor those who donate \$100,000 or more.

In 2013, Atkinson changed his commitment to a charitable gift annuity with the Foundation. During his lifetime, he will receive payments based on his age at the time of the gift from the annuity and will leave the principal to the Foundation, to be used however it deems appropriate for Meijer Gardens. Making that change was easy, he said, requiring a meeting with the Foundation’s officials and the filling out a little paperwork.

These days, his old habit of visiting the Chicago Botanic Garden has been replaced by a new tradition. When friends and family visit, he takes them to Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park.

He looks forward to watching Meijer Gardens grow as it did in 2015 with the Richard and Helen DeVos Japanese Garden.

“This Japanese Garden is out of this world,” Atkinson said. “I watched it come along. I think it’s one of the greatest things.”



A PATHWAY TO PERSONAL ENRICHMENT

It was love at first sight.

At very first sight, in fact - not only was she among the first visitors when Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park opened in April 1995, Valerie Peacock signed up to volunteer the very next week.

“When I first started, I think (my husband) thought it would be a passing phase, and I would get it out of my system,” she said. “Twenty-one years later, it’s still a phase.”

But the Grand Rapids couple’s support goes beyond the thousands of volunteer hours (over 5,500, in fact). Over the years, Valerie and her husband, Richard, have donated to a variety of Meijer Gardens’ capital campaigns, and last year they made a generous commitment in their estate to the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation, qualifying them for membership in the Foundation’s Bonsai Society.

When Valerie first proposed the idea, “I loved it,” Richard said, sitting on a bench next to Meijer Gardens’ waterfall. “When I’m around her, and she starts talking about this place, her face lights up.”

Valerie pointed to a group of school children standing beneath Aria, a 42-foot-tall piece by sculptor Alexander Liberman.

“They can get inside it and look up at the sky,” she said. “For those kids to see the bright color and experience it is something they’ll remember for the rest of their lives.”

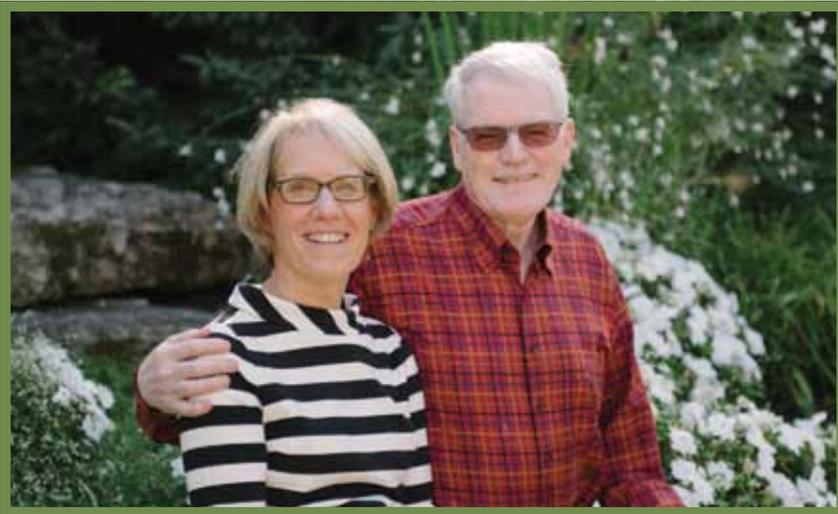
Richard listened and smiled. “Now you know what it’s like for me, I have my own personal docent.”

They know that their gift to the Foundation will help keep Meijer Gardens going for countless years to come and is a gift that will grow and bloom forever.

“What Fred (Meijer) started here is certainly worthy of support,” Richard said

“I love this place so much that I want to see it go on forever,” Valerie added.





CHOOSING A PATHWAY TO HELP OTHERS

When Cheryl and Steve Wonch re-wind the story of their lives, the tape settles on a time and place from nearly four decades ago, revealing a preschool in need.

“Our kids were attending there, and the school required funds for a special project, and it appeared they weren’t going to get it unless someone stepped up,” Cheryl remembers. “It was a true need, and it intersected with our interests.”

Fast-forward some 40 years, and this West Michigan couple is still reaching deep to create momentum for organizations that include the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation.

For them, the reason is tied to the visceral relationships they’ve cultivated, beginning with an invitation from David Hooker, President and CEO of Meijer Gardens, to become involved with efforts to ensure that the Foundation remains sustainable.

The Wonches eventually responded by signing up with the

Foundation’s “Perennial Society,” designed for those who have cumulative monetary gifts, pledges or estate gifts of \$10,000 or more.

Intrigue turned to fascination, especially for Cheryl, as she immersed herself in Master Gardener classes and, while volunteering, observed from behind the scenes how employees and swarms of volunteers work to keep Meijer Gardens looking beautiful year after year.

Steve, originally from the Lansing area, and Cheryl, whose roots are in Flint and Grand Blanc, have been investing in each other and in others ever since they met on a blind date while attending the University of Michigan. He eventually earned an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley, and she a master’s in audiology from Wayne State University.

They married in 1976 and moved to the Grand Rapids area two years later. Five years after landing here, the first of four children was born. Steve embarked on a career in finance, and administered programs for Wolverine Worldwide, Care Corp., USF Holland, and Aquinas College. He’s also served in like capacities for two not-for-profits – SpringHill Camps and the National Christian Foundation.

Early on in their marriage, the Wonches decided to reserve time on a regular basis to discuss giving. A turning point surfaced after both of Steve’s parents died, leaving them with a sizeable inheritance.

“At one point, we discussed giving 10 percent away,” says Steve, remembering how their donations during that period were tied to faith-based tithing. “But Cheryl challenged the both of us to give it all away,” he says, noting that the amount was well into six figures.

“It was a very substantial amount of money,” says Steve, “but we had savings. We weren’t wanting for our next meal.”

They split the amount among three beneficiaries – their church, Young Life and SpringHill Camps.

“It was fun from the standpoint that none of the groups was soliciting us,” says Steve.

Though much of the couple’s gifts are provided anonymously, they’ve learned that allowing their name to be tied in a public way can inspire others to action. It gives them a chance to have open conversations about why they choose to include the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation as one of their primary beneficiaries.

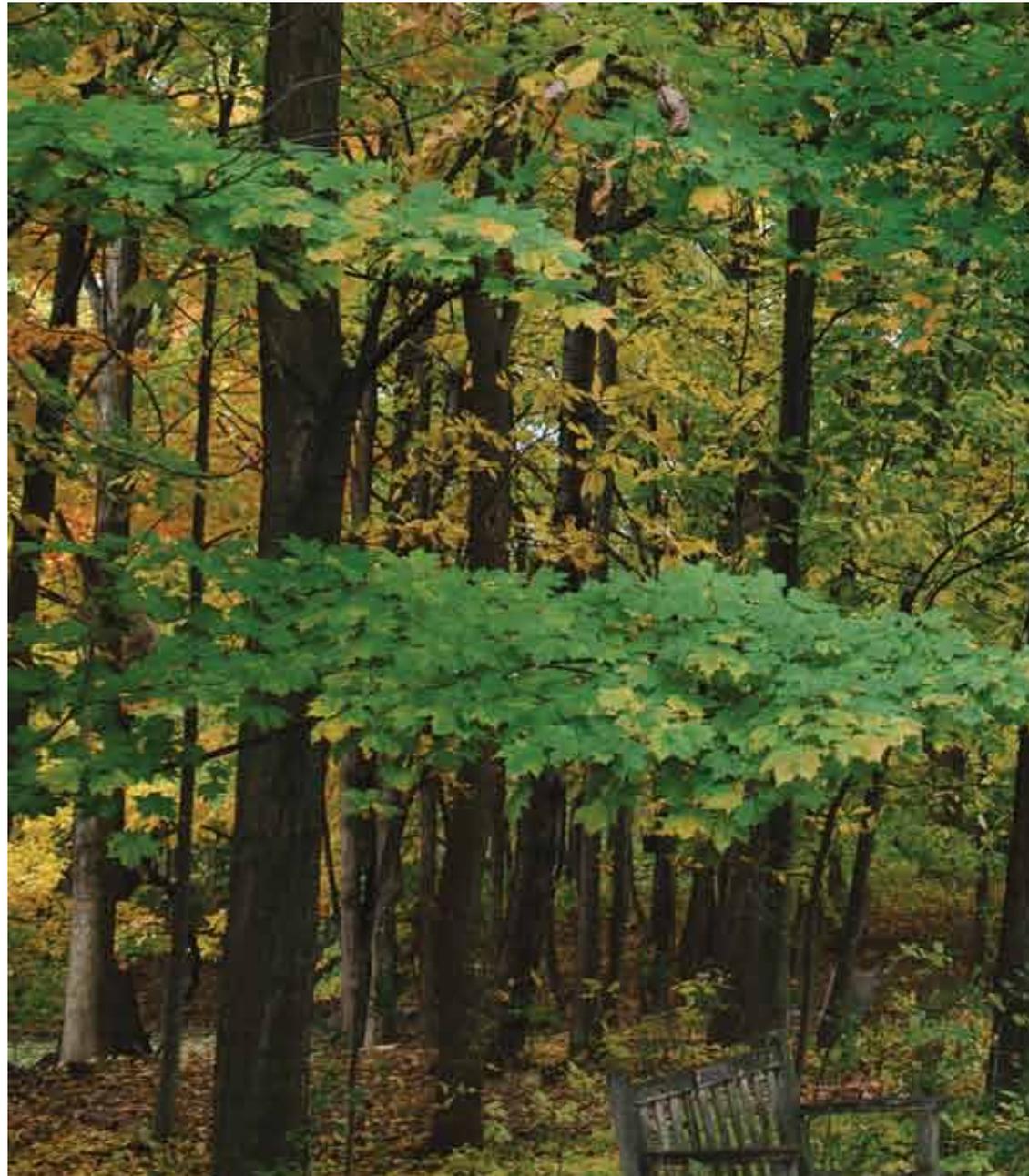
They’ll gently counter arguments that the Meijer family should shoulder most or all the expenses, pointing out that “a foundation should be broad-based in support, because people seek and deserve an opportunity to belong.”

Balance is also a key, says Steve, emphasizing that they donate to marginalized populations struggling in and around West Michigan, as well as educational and artistic endeavors. That tapestry includes Meijer Gardens, which they describe as “an important community asset, so representative of God’s beauty, and something that should continue long-term.”

Both Cheryl and Steve recommend that for those exploring ways to become involved, focus on organizations where a relationship might flourish. When Steve was diagnosed with cancer in 1988, he eschewed national initiatives, instead zeroing in on a local support group that had helped him on his journey.

“That was something I could see and touch,” he says, and draws parallels to Meijer Gardens to explain their decision to be involved there as well.

“We’re not just writing checks,” says Cheryl. “This is a place where we can get involved, as a volunteer, as a worker, feeling a part of it. And you don’t have to be a gardener; there are a lot of roles to fill.”



Toward that end, Steve enjoys attending the summertime concerts, where he helps patrons with seating options.

“We’ve been blessed,” says Cheryl, “and we believe in passing that on.”

“I don’t think anyone could have predicted the sort of satisfaction we would get from giving back. In every instance, we’ve been rewarded with a sense of joy. And that just makes you want to do it again.”



RESTRICTED & UNRESTRICTED NAMED FUNDS

Named funds, restricted or unrestricted, are established by making cumulative gifts and/or pledges of \$10,000 or more.

Karl F. & Patricia Betz

For support of Vickie's Garden in memory of Victoria Johnson Hoffius

John D. & Marian F. Bouwer Fund

Bird collection and maintenance in the Lena Meijer Conservatory and throughout Meijer Gardens

Molly Bradshaw Wetlands Management Fund

Management of Wetlands embraced within Meijer Gardens

Rich & Sheri Brolick Fund

Horticultural maintenance

Brooks Family – Holland Fund

Maintenance of the Brooks Conference Center

Thomas B. Cornell Fund

Care and maintenance of the Water Lilies Sculpture and surrounding planting area

Eunice L. Corp of Cadillac

For the promotion of learning experiences in the art of bonsai

Daniel & Pamella DeVos Foundation (Visitor Center) Fund

Maintenance of the DeVos Visitor Center

Abby J. & Milo R. DeVries Fund

Bird collection and maintenance in the wetlands, Lena Meijer Conservatory and throughout Meijer Gardens

Harry & Elin Doehne Wildflower Meadow Fund

Support Meijer Gardens which contains the Wildflower Meadow and sculpture site

The Sallie Peterson Ferguson Fund

Support the ability of underprivileged children to visit Meijer Gardens including transportation, admission and materials

Fred & Dorothy Fichter Fund

To provide title sponsorship of Meijer Gardens' annual exhibition, *Butterflies Are Blooming*

Gardens Maintenance Fund

General Meijer Gardens maintenance

Grace F. Jarecki Seasonal Display Greenhouse Maintenance Fund

Maintain high-quality and memorable displays on a monthly basis within the Jarecki Greenhouse

Grace Spears Chadwick Memorial Garden Center Fund

Purchase of library books

Gwen & John Hibbard Fund

For support of sculpture

Dirk & Victoria Hoffius Fund

For support of the Varnum Families Log Cabin, Hoffius Hill and the Children's Garden

Hoffman Family Fund

Modernization and technological updates of the Hoffman Auditorium

Hoffman Family Maintenance Fund

Meijer Gardens & exhibit maintenance

Humanities Council Lecture Series Fund

Writers & poets themed lecture series

Japanese Garden Fund

Benefit of the Japanese Garden

Miner S. & Mary Ann Keeler Fund

Purchase sculptures created by living artists

Keller Endowment Fund

Provide transportation & scholarship admission to Meijer Gardens for underprivileged children

John & Nancy Kennedy Fund

For support of the annual summer camps at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

Kent Garden Club Fund

Ram's Garden maintenance

Dale & Pamela Larson Fund

Maintenance of the Children's Garden

Lecture Series Administration Fund

Administrative support of the Frederik Meijer Gardens' Lecture Series

Lawrence & Katherine Lemmen Atrium Fund

Maintenance of the Lawrence & Katherine Lemmen Atrium

Ray & Nancy Loeschner Annual Art Competition Fund

Annual Art Competition inspired by the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

The Marsilje Fund

For support of the many educational programs at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

Fred & Lena Meijer Amphitheater Fund
Support of the Amphitheater

Frederik & Lena Meijer Sculpture Acquisition Fund
Support acquisition & installation of sculpture

Lena Meijer Children's Garden Maintenance Fund
Maintenance of the Children's Garden

Meijer Sculpture Fund
Support & enhance sculpture exhibits & programs, Curator's salary & sculpture acquisition

Meijer Sculpture Maintenance Fund
Maintain & repair any sculpture exhibit of Meijer Gardens as well as its base & pedestal

Ed & June Prein Family Fund
Maintenance of the Children's Garden

Ram's Garden Maintenance Fund
Ram's Garden maintenance

Leonard & Dora Rosenzweig Orchid Wall & Exhibit Fund
Perpetual care of the Orchid Wall & exhibit

Constance Z. & Hilary F. Snell Fund
Support the annual Connie Snell Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Vickie's Garden Fund
For support of Vickie's Garden in memory of Victoria Johnson Hoffius

John & Lynn Vinkemulder Fund
Creek & Plantoir sculptures

Volunteer Tribute Garden
Maintenance of the Volunteer Tribute Garden

Peter M. Wege Library Endowment Fund
Library materials & maintenance

Wege Environmental Lecture Series Fund
Environment lectures

Restricted named funds demonstrate some of the ways members have chosen to make their gifts to the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation "*gifts that grow and bloom forever*". If you are unable to establish a named, restricted fund for \$10,000 or more, but you wish to designate your gift to the Foundation for a specific purpose, it is possible. You can designate your gift to a specific area of interest by indicating that preference on the enclosed gift envelope.

L. Dale & Jean Atkinson Fund

John & Janet Baab Fund

Batts Foundation Fund

Ken & Judy Betz

Fred Bogaert Fund

Jim & Joan Buchanan Fund

Helen Bull Fund

Gilbert R. & Patricia K. Davis Fund

James & Judy DeLapa Fund

Daniel & Pamella DeVos Foundation Fund

First of America Bank Fund

Nancy McKenzie Frost Fund

Gillette Family Foundation Trust Fund

John & Nancy Gordon Fund

Sid & Elizabeth Harkema Fund

Earl & Donnalee Holton Fund

Marilyn & Dave Hunting Jr. Fund

Sarah & Michael Julien Fund

Jim & Amy L. Keane Fund

The Korff Foundation Fund

Wayne & Vicki Korson Fund

Douglas & Raymonde Kramlich Fund

Harvey E. Lemmen Fund

Deborah Hoffman Meijer Fund

Linda & Dave Mehney Foundation Fund

Fred & Lena Meijer Fund

Jack H. Miller Fund

Richard G. & Maureen J. Morrison Fund

Richard & Jeanenne Morton Fund

John & Gail Nowak Fund

Stuart Padnos & Jean Barkin Fund

The Richard A. Rasmussen Family Fund

Chuck & Stella Royce Fund

Arthur & Elizabeth Snell Fund

John & Judy Spoelhof Fund

Bill & Norma Sprague Fund

Chris & Charlotte Southwick Fund

Tassell-Wisner-Bottrall Foundation Fund

Roger & Luella Warnshuis Fund

WAYS TO GIVE

BONSAI SOCIETY

The Bonsai Society is made up of individuals who have made cumulative monetary gifts and/or pledges, including pledges in estate plans, of \$100,000 or more. Members of the Bonsai Society will be recognized on the Foundation's Donor Recognition Plaque, located in the foyer at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. They will also be presented a sterling silver bonsai pin and certificate of membership at the Annual Donor Recognition Event.



PERENNIAL SOCIETY

The Perennial Society is made up of individuals who have made cumulative monetary gifts and/or pledges, including pledges in estate plans, of \$10,000 or more. Members of the Perennial Society will be recognized on the Foundation's Donor Recognition Plaque, located in the foyer at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, and will be presented a certificate of membership at the Annual Donor Recognition Event.



To qualify for membership in either the **Bonsai** or **Perennial Society** with estate plan gifts, donors must submit a copy of the gift provision in their estate plan, or have other written documentation, verifying that the minimum for a particular society has been met. Not all donors specify a dollar amount in their estate plan. If the plan calls for a percentage of the estate's remainder, and the amount will be over the minimum for a particular Society, a written statement from the estate planner, tax consultant or attorney would meet the requirement for membership.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY:

Tax Savings and Guaranteed Income for Life to Donor

A charitable gift annuity is part gift and part purchase of an annuity and results in an income tax deduction. Contributions are generally, but not exclusively, cash or securities. With this option, a donor can transfer cash or an asset to the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation and, in return, the Foundation will agree to make regular fixed payments to the donor for life. Regardless of market fluctuations, the donor will continue to receive fixed income payments from the Foundation. The annuity is paid out of the Foundation's unrestricted funds. The donor may also name a second beneficiary to receive payments at donor's death.

A charitable gift annuity offers attractive tax benefits including a charitable income tax deduction for a portion of the gift and deferment of capital gains tax (if funding the annuity with appreciated property). If a donor funds a charitable gift annuity for a third party with appreciated securities, the donor will have to pay the capital gain tax in the year of the gift.

Younger donors may benefit from a deferred gift annuity (i.e., as a way to prepare for future retirement).

Charitable Gift Annuity Rates: The charitable gift annuity rates are approved by the American Council on Gift Annuities. They change periodically, but the following rates were implemented in 2012 and were in effect when these materials were printed.

AGE	SINGLE RATE	RATE FOR HUSBAND/WIFE THE SAME AGE
60	4.4%	3.9%
65	4.7%	4.2%
70	5.1%	4.6%
75	5.8%	5.0%
80	6.8%	5.7%
85	7.8%	6.7%
90	9.0%	8.2%

* Individual federal income tax rates vary.

**Capital gain taxes are deferred. Capital gains taxes are paid as income is distributed to the donor.

GIFT OF CASH: Income Tax Savings

A lifetime gift of cash is the most immediate and simple way to give to the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation. This donation may be claimed as a charitable tax deduction by those taxpayers who itemize their deductions. Non-itemizers do not benefit from a charitable

deduction. The deduction for contributions to qualifying charitable organizations is limited to 50% of the donor's adjusted gross income ("AGI"). Subject to certain limitations, the excess amount of the donation over the AGI ceiling may be carried forward over the next five years.

GIFT OF APPRECIATED SECURITIES: Double Tax Savings

A lifetime gift of an appreciated asset to the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation can serve as an attractive tax savings to the donor. If assets have been owned for more than twelve months and have appreciated in value, they generally result in long-term capital gains tax. When transferred as a gift, these long-term appreciated assets:

- Give the donor a charitable income tax deduction for the full market value of the asset.
- Avoid the capital gains tax that would have occurred if the donor had sold the asset (a double benefit!).

Gifts of long-term appreciated assets provides a greater benefit to a donor who may otherwise be considering selling the asset and contributing after-tax proceeds. Gifts of short term capital gain property (i.e., property held one year or less) provide a deduction for only the donor's cost basis in the property.

GIFT BY BEQUEST: Estate Tax Savings

A bequest is a popular way for donors to leave a significant gift to the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation. A bequest is an excellent choice for those who want to assist the Foundation but cannot make an immediate gift. Donors who choose this type of gift will reduce their estate subject to tax.

There are different types of bequests, all which are made at the donor's death:

Specific Bequests – outright gifts of money, securities or property. Example: A supporter bequeaths \$10,000 to the Foundation without restriction. The funds would be added to the Foundation's endowment in the name of the donor.

Residuary Bequests – allow the remainder of an estate to be left to designated persons or charities after all bequests have been made. Example: A donor bequeaths 50% of the residue of his entire estate to the Foundation for the creation and

maintenance of a rose garden. The fund would be used to create a rose garden named for the donor, with the balance put in a named endowment fund to maintain that garden.

Contingent Bequests – are effective only in the event that all other bequests fail. Example: A supporter leaves his entire estate to the Foundation, provided his wife, children and grandchildren fail to survive him.

Tax Tip: If you make a bequest to the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation, your taxable estate is reduced by 100% of the value of the bequeathed property. The tax savings could be as high as 40% of the value of the bequest, depending on the size of your taxable estate.

Benefit to the Foundation: The Foundation adds the gift to its endowment fund which provides annual support to the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST: Tax Savings and Guaranteed Income for Life to Donor

A charitable remainder trust provides the donor with a specified annual lifetime income and immediate tax savings. Donors receive a tax deduction for a portion of the charitable contribution and avoid payment of capital gains tax on contributed appreciated property. The underlying gifted assets go to the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation upon the donor's death. (Note: A charitable remainder trust can also be funded at death to benefit one or more persons during their lifetime(s) with the remaining gifted assets going to the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation upon the death of those individuals.)

There are two types of Charitable Remainder Trusts:

- 1 Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust (“fixed income”):** An annuity trust pays a fixed dollar amount of the initial fair market value of the trust, for life or a term of years (up to 20). Once the annuity terminates, the remainder passes to the charitable organization. The annual distribution amount cannot be less than 5% or greater than 50% of the trust assets' initial fair market value. For example, a 6% annuity trust funded with \$500,000 would pay the donor(s) \$30,000 per year for life. Subsequent gifts to an annuity trust are not permitted.
- 2 Charitable Remainder Unitrust (“variable income”):** A unitrust pays a fixed percentage of its principal, which is revalued annually, for life or a term of years (up to 20). Similar to the annuity trust, once the unitrust terminates, the remainder passes to the charitable organization. Most donors and charities prefer unitrusts invested for growth so that if the investments are successful, both the income increases for the donor and the remainder value increases for the charity. Older donors often prefer the security of a fixed annuity for the rest of their lives. Flexibility is often a key incentive in deciding to create a unitrust. Unlike the annuity trust, subsequent gifts to the unitrust are permitted.

Your personal needs will determine which type of trust provides you with the greatest benefit.



Tribute to James Hopewell

The Foundation would like to express its sympathy to the friends and surviving family members of James L. Hopewell – especially wife Kishna and young daughters Jamison and Kendall – on the passing of their husband and father.

Mr. Hopewell died in September 2016, not long after being appointed to a term on our Board, a position he embraced with the same zest and enthusiasm he brought to his job as Assistant General Counsel at Steelcase Inc., and to his role as family man.

Prior to his duties at Steelcase, Mr. Hopewell served as a lawyer for the Grand Rapids law firm Miller Johnson, and for Meijer, Inc. and Herman Miller, Inc.

A native Grand Rapidian who graduated from City High School, Adrian College, Syracuse University and University of Cincinnati College of Law, Mr. Hopewell was devoted to the mission of the Board and Meijer Gardens.

Over the years, his community involvement extended not only to Meijer Gardens, but to initiatives that included the Kent County Literacy Council, Dispute Resolution Center, Arbor Circle and Pine Rest Christian Rehabilitation Services, among others.

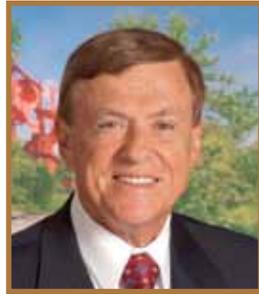
Of Meijer Gardens, he was quoted as saying shortly after his appointment that “The Gardens bring such a great aesthetic value to Grand Rapids – it’s the chance for people to enjoy something world class right here in town.”

We will miss Mr. Hopewell’s smile, his positivity, and the many gifts he bestowed upon those who loved and admired him.

2016 FREDRIK MEIJER GARDENS & SCULPTURE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dirk C. Hoffius
President



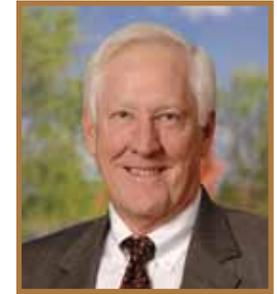
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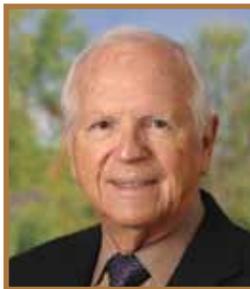
FREDRIK MEIJER GARDENS & SCULPTURE FOUNDATION HONORARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Fred Meijer
1919-2011



Lena Meijer



Earl Holton



NEW BOARD MEMBER THRIVES ON THE OUTDOORS

Our newest board member just acquired a 100-acre farm to indulge his growing interest in horticulture, which sounds to us like perfect fit for a foundation that supports acres of gardens and a sculpture park!

Please join us in extending a hearty welcome to Randy Damstra, who lives with his wife Julie and their children in Ada, and who gets outdoors at every possible opportunity to enjoy the benefits of West Michigan, where he was born and raised.

Randy is the senior managing director and head of global private equity for Ottawa Avenue Private Capital, LLC, an affiliate of RDV Corporation, a multi-generational family office located in Grand Rapids.

Randy earned his bachelor's degree in finance and economics from Grand Valley State University in 1982, and was a member of the Laker football team. Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder recently appointed him to an 8-year term on the GVSU Board of Trustees. He holds an MBA from the University of Iowa.

Randy has a long history of reaching out to assist West Michigan organizations. He serves on numerous community boards, including Ada Township Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board, Goodwill Industries of Grand Rapids, Hope College Endowment Board, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation, and the GVSU Foundation.

In addition to gardening, Randy also enjoys fly-fishing, snow skiing and mountain biking.

He embraced the opportunity to serve the Foundation because "I like to do things that affect a lot of people, and last year over 750,000 people visited Meijer Gardens."

He also praised the legacy established by Fred and Lena Meijer, characterizing Meijer Gardens as "a great community asset that does so much to define and enhance the West Michigan culture."



MISSION STATEMENT

Founded in 1993, the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation is a single-purpose foundation with the goal of building and maintaining an endowment fund to support the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park.

Visit the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation: fmgf.org

FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS & SCULPTURE FOUNDATION
2929 Walker NW Grand Rapids MI 49544

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