
1000 Friends of Iowa



Stone City, Iowa 1930

Grant Wood, 1891-1942

Citizens United for Responsible Land Use

2008 Annual Report

A Message from the Board President

“Cause and Effect”

The theme of this year's annual meeting is "Recognizing and Supporting Sustainability: Transportation, Food, Farm and Schools." I've been thinking about how much I've learned about all of those topics since I became involved in 1000 Friends of Iowa, and particularly during the four years I have served as president of the Board of Directors.

Having lived in cities where we didn't need to own a car, my husband and I experienced some "culture shock" when we moved back to Iowa. But I thought alternatives to driving were only available in large urban centers. I learned through 1000 Friends of Iowa how mixed-use development and simple things like sidewalks and "complete streets" can make neighborhoods of any size walkable and bikeable. I also learned that public transit isn't just for big cities. Express buses and vanpools can serve small towns, and buses or even light rail can provide transit options in small cities.

I've gradually changed the way I cook and eat for more than a decade. But before I became involved in 1000 Friends of Iowa, eating local and seasonal food was for me mostly about health, taste and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. My colleagues, especially LaVon Griffieon, have educated me about building demand for local food as a way to make it economically viable to keep farmground in agricultural production.

Speaking of that farmground, I grew up in the Des Moines area with no concept of Iowa's rich topsoil as a non-renewable resource. After moving out of state, I knew that I didn't like seeing more and more farmland west of Des Moines paved over every time I came home to visit. But I didn't understand how public policy and tax incentives can accelerate those trends, at the expense of taxpayers in older residential and business districts.

And schools? Supporting them was part of my family's culture. We bought what the neighborhood kids were selling to raise money for the PTA. We voted "yes" on every school district bond issue. My mother served on the local school board, and my father was a trustee for his alma mater. Despite all that, I never realized schools had any connection to land use.

Through 1000 Friends, I've learned that decisions on where to locate new schools can fuel sprawling development. Conversely, suburban sprawl can be used to justify closing older schools, which harms residents and businesses in historic neighborhoods. I've also been inspired by the way some Iowa communities have reused old school buildings. We've given Best Development Awards to several such projects, including the renovation of Sioux City Central, from which my father graduated in the 1940s.

Whatever prompted you to join 1000 Friends of Iowa, I hope that our

Message from the president continued

activities and publications have educated you about the connections between the way we live and the way we use our land.

As I prepare to step down as Board President, I encourage you to step up and support the causes that matter to you with your time, energy or resources. I'm living proof that you don't need to be an expert on the issues in order to volunteer for or serve on a non-profit's board of directors.

I've learned a lot from 1000 Friends of Iowa's incoming Board President, Mary Ellen Miller. I look forward to continuing to serve on this board under her leadership. In my new role as chair of our Development Committee, I would appreciate ideas from any of you about ways to reach out to potential supporters of 1000 Friends' mission.

All best wishes,

Laura Belin

In Remembrance

Sadly, death claimed two members of our Advisory Council during the past year. Jeannette Eyerly was an acclaimed writer and member of the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame. Former State Senator Mary Lundby's wit, wisdom and willingness to hear all sides of an issue made her a force to be reckoned with at the Iowa Capitol. They will both be missed.

Financial Report

As of December 31, 2008

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Metabank	<u>30,225.61</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>30,225.61</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>30,225.61</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
2400 – Payroll Liabilities	<u>755.33</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>755.33</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>755.33</u>
Equity	
3000 – Opening Bal Equity	<u>36,015.68</u>
3200 – Unrestricted Net Assets	-2,714.54
Net Income	-3,830.86
Total Equity	<u>29,470.28</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>30,225.61</u>

2008 Staff and Contractors

Stephanie Weisenbach, *Program Coordinator*
Barb Morrill, *Office Manager*
Crystal Leto, *Contractor*
LaVon Griffieon, *Interim Executive Director*

Acknowledgements

1000 Friends of Iowa appreciates the generous in-kind contributions of office space from the Merle Hay Mall Corporation, arranged by Elizabeth Holland, and graphic design services from Susan Koch Bridgford at Koch Brothers.

Annual Meeting Sponsors

John Morrissey
Sue Ravenscroft

Thank you to all of our 2008 Members, Donors, Volunteers and Allies!

2008 Program Report

1000 Friends of Iowa Board of Directors

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1000 Friends of Iowa Advisory Council

Ed Fallon, Des Moines

David Hurd, Des Moines

Stu Huntington, Ames

Fred Kirschenmann, Ames

Lee Kline, Des Moines

Andy McKean, Anamosa

Jon Muller, Des Moines

The Board of Directors of 1000 Friends has focused programming on:

Farmland Protection

1000 Friends supported Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey's plans to create a working group on farmland protection, which he announced at our 2008 annual meeting last August. 1000 Friends co-founder LaVon Griffieon and Board of Directors member Erv Klaas were appointed to the working group, which met for the first time in December 2008.

We played a small part partnering with Practical Farmers of Iowa to help find a storefront in Merle Hay Mall for Iowa's first online farmer's market, The Iowa Food Cooperative. The cooperative presently boasts 221 members since it opened in October. Finding new markets for farm products (many grown in the rural-urban fringe) builds the economy and offers small farmers a viable means to start or continue to farm, thus protecting farmland and increasing community food security.

We supported a new tax law for the 2008 tax season, which provides Iowa residents a generous state income tax credit for donating land or land rights to a qualified conservation organization.

Sustainable Development

1000 Friends of Iowa annually accepts nominations for Best Development Awards in six categories. The awards recognize quality development and redevelopment projects and leadership in Iowa that upholds our mission. The *Program report continued*

2008 winners were: Upper Mississippi Valley Redevelopment Company for New Residential, City of Dubuque HEART Program's Washington St. Project for Renovated Residential, RDG Planning and Design Marian Arts and Environmental Center at Lowe Park for New Commercial/Civic, M+ Architects ISU Design West Development for Renovated Commercial/Civic, LADCO Development Village of Ponderosa for Mixed Use and The City of Iowa City for their Iowa City Subdivision Code for Leadership.

We supported legislation creating a sustainable community development initiative at the Iowa Department of Economic Development. The initiative is helping align IDEED's programs to enable Iowa communities to become more sustainable through redevelopment of vacant properties, controlling storm water and improving existing infrastructure.

1000 Friends was a voice at the table during Climate Change Advisory Council meetings to address how development and transportation decisions influence climate change. A report issued in January 2009 outlines what Iowa's leaders need to do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Balanced Transportation

Our input on the Iowa Climate Change Advisory Council helped include language on transportation policy in the council's final report, released in January 2009, which will influence transportation options determining how people and produce moves throughout

Iowa while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

1000 Friends has encouraged input into the Statewide Passenger Transportation Funding Study by IDOT. Action Alerts about transportation funding decisions being made in various regions of Iowa are sent periodically as needed.

Citizen Engagement

1000 Friends continues to educate citizens on fundamentals to effectively advocate for responsible land use at the local level and work cooperatively with local groups to achieve success. This year we have achieved success in Polk, Lyon, Johnson, Dallas, Marshall and Black Hawk counties.

We continue to offer Action Alerts and Public Policy Updates by e-mail to members who supply their e-mail addresses. Our newsletter, The Land Use Bulletin, is published quarterly and our website keeps our important issues in the public eye.

Mission

1000 Friends of Iowa promotes responsible development that:

- Conserves and protects our agricultural and natural resources
- Revitalizes our neighborhoods, towns and cities, and
- Improves the quality of life for future generations.

Recognizing and Supporting Sustainability

Transportation, Food, Farm and Schools

2009 Annual Meeting Agenda

- 7:30 a.m. Come and Enjoy the Iowa City Farmer's Market**
Chauncey Swan Park (market is held under cover in parking facility directly adjacent to the Recreation Center, music and activities in-adjacent park.)
- 9:00 a.m. Registration, Coffee, Exhibits:** Social Hall, Robert A. Lee Community Recreation Center
- 9:45 a.m. Welcome by KFOI President Laura Belin**
- 10:00 a.m. "Expanding Passenger Rail: Is It a Reality in Iowa?"**
Brad Neumann, Johnson County Council of Governments
- 11:15 a.m. Break**
- 11:30 a.m. KEYNOTE "Living Well in Place: Recognizing & Supporting Healthy, Sustainable Local Food Systems in Iowa"** Linda Barnes, EDA Program Coordinator & Associate Professor of Biology, Marshalltown Community College & co-owner High Hopes Gardens
- 12:15 p.m. All Iowa Luncheon by Chef Mickey's Catering**
Buffet Style Roast Beef Menu
Acknowledgement of 2008 Best Development Awards
- 1:00 p.m. Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Officers**
- 1:40 p.m. "Local Efforts at Saving Neighborhood Schools"**
Representatives from Iowa City, Ames, Des Moines and Dubuque will discuss efforts to preserve and protect neighborhood schools.
- 2:45 p.m. Break**
- 3:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions (select one)**
- a) **"What's Up With TIF?"** Jon Muller, Muller Consulting, Des Moines
 - b) **"Clear Creek Women Landowners Watershed Project"** Mary Sommerville
 - c) **Downtown Iowa City Walking Tour**, Karen Howard, Iowa City Planner
- 4:00 p.m. Adjourn**