At Irvine's annual spring luncheon, several horticulturalists advised that one needs to plant and nurture a garden long before it will yield blossoms. As I wandered through our expanded Woodland Garden, I thought that mantra was an excellent metaphor for what has happened since we moved here less than twelve years ago. We truly have blossomed in so many ways, yet, like a garden, we continually need planting and nurturing. And we cannot possibly do that without your support.

The sole purpose of this year’s annual report is to express our deep appreciation to all the generous individuals, foundations, and corporations that have made our work possible. What is different about this year’s annual report is that it is being mailed earlier than usual and does not include a donation request. We are launching a new and exciting way to support Irvine and you will receive all the details in your mailboxes in early November.

You will see in the pages that follow just a slice of the wonderful work we have accomplished this year. On our property, we completed and blessed our Native American site on Bauer Preserve, built Hodgepodge Lodge II in the Outdoor Classroom, and added attractive new signage on our hiking trails. Many of our environmental education programs continue to grow by leaps and bounds. Our dedicated teachers and naturalists work tirelessly every day to educate and inspire young people to explore, respect and protect nature.

The advancements to our property and the success of our educational programs would not be possible without your help. Thank you for believing in our mission and supporting the impactful work we do at Irvine.

Gratefully,

W. Brooks Paternotte
Executive Director
Irvine's mission is to plant seeds, literally and figuratively. We kindle the curiosity of young and old alike by tantalizing them with fun facts and inspiring them to learn more. Last year we enlightened nearly 26,300 people on topics from falconry to forest bathing.

We planted seeds in the Oliver community of Baltimore City, helping students at Dr. Bernard Harris Elementary/Middle School sow their first vegetable garden. Next year they will help design an outdoor science classroom.

We opened the eyes of more City kids to nature through grant-funded summer camp scholarships, overnight camping, field trips, classroom outreach and monthly visits. Participation was 36% higher than in 2018.

“I am truly inspired by the types of programs Irvine offers and their work with children in Baltimore City. When you expose someone to how bees make honey or let them see how a caterpillar becomes a butterfly — someone who has never witnessed these aspects of nature before — it changes their perspective on life and the world around them. I have witnessed firsthand some of our Irvine staff members working with younger children and have seen the expressions of wonderment on their faces as they experience nature. This is important, life-changing work.”

—Harry Holt

Harry Holt was first introduced to Irvine when his son applied to be a spring intern. Soon, Mr. Holt was volunteering and helping with events like Project Clean Stream. Mr. Holt has served on Irvine’s Board of Trustees since 2018.
NURTURE

Our early childhood programs embrace each child's curiosity and innate desire to learn. Child-centered, rather than teacher-driven, instruction distinguishes our education philosophy from most other schools.

“I support and continue to support Irvine because of the enthusiasm of the educators which has been there since the organization’s inception and still exists today. I am particularly grateful to the teachers who have been involved in the New Song Academy partnership and their willingness to take nature on the road and into the classrooms to instill their joy of the natural world with young people.”
—Sandra Naylor

The Nature Preschool crafted a plan to boost enrollments and increase student diversity. A new aftercare option, starting in September 2019, will help parents when a 3:30 PM pick-up is impossible.

Home-school students continued to flock to Irvine, with enrollments increasing the third year in a row. We incorporated our new trail map and wayfinding system into their lessons about constellations, topography, storytelling, science, and art.

Enrollments in our Eco-Explorers afterschool program increased nearly 30%. We added a third site to our grant-funded programs in Baltimore City schools.

Sandra Naylor has been connected with Irvine since its inception back in 1975.

A passionate environmentalist and educator, Mrs. Naylor has been instrumental in supporting Irvine’s partnership with New Song Academy in the Sandtown–Winchester area of Baltimore city for decades.
B L O O M

Every visit to Irvine reveals new plants blooming, new creatures crawling, and new features to fascinate and educate visitors of all ages.

Thanks to a generous grant from Mary and Greg Pinkard, we were able to bring back our popular Tales & Tails Free Family Story Time. Visitors to Irvine at 10:00am on Fridays can hear a story and meet one of our Animal Ambassadors, creating a meaningful connection between children, their daytime caregivers, and nature.

More children spent more time in nature than ever before. Irvine’s Summer Nature Camp enrolled a record-breaking 613 kids ages 2–12.

Elders of the Baltimore American Indian Center gave their blessing to our Native American site. In 2020 docents will begin offering monthly education programs about Irvine's original visitors.

The construction of Irvine’s new, larger aviary will soon provide homes for raptors who have been injured through human contact. New interpretive signs explain how each person can make the world a bit safer for wildlife.
Our donors are like devoted gardeners. They seed our wildest dreams and nurture our growth. Irvine’s Trustees, staff, and more than 95,000 visitors thank each and every one of you!
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- PROGRAM FEES
- RENTAL INCOME
- SPECIAL EVENTS (NET)
- CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS
- INVESTMENTS

TOTAL: $2,609,819.23

FISCAL 2019 SOURCES OF EXPENDITURE (UNAUDITED)

- FUNDRAISING AND ADMINISTRATIVE
- PROGRAM

TOTAL: $2,259,304.23

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