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*deceased

*deceased
Dear Friends,

Change at Acadia is perpetual—but also relative. Fortunately we’ll never experience upheaval like these lands did 420 million years ago, when volcanoes created the park’s pink granite and confetti-like “shatterzone” rock. Nor will we see the tremendous glacial abrasion that shaped Acadia’s lovely mountains and valleys. That said, Acadia experienced a lot of change in 2015, with the retirement of park superintendent Sheridan Steele, the gift of the Schoodic Woods property and campground to the park, and the number of visitors leaping upward—with a context of greater changes caused by climate instability and shifting cultural and economic forces, even as Acadia celebrates its centennial.

Through all of this, Friends of Acadia is a constant. As Acadia National Park changes and grows, we’re ready to grow alongside—at the same time, park managers and park lovers know they can depend on us as a rock-steady source of funding, person power, leadership, advocacy, and initiative. That’s why Friends of Acadia’s partnership is so highly valued—so much so that the National Park Service asked us to take part in the search for Acadia’s new superintendent; so much that Congress invited us to testify on park-related legislation (see page 11); so much that a donor requested we manage their gift of start-up funds and an endowment for the Schoodic Woods property (see page 5). Along the way, as you’ll see in this report, we continue to innovate in the areas of natural resource protection, connecting young people to Acadia, and addressing transportation and visitation challenges. Meaningful solutions will require long-term investments—which the park can confidently make, knowing that Friends of Acadia will be here to carry through.

Also in 2015 we took critical first steps for the Second Century Campaign, an ambitious philanthropic campaign that will be publicly launched at our Annual Meeting on July 8, 2016—Acadia National Park’s 100th birthday. We look forward to sharing the plans and welcoming broad participation by our members, friends, and neighbors.

We couldn’t make the promise of long-term support without confidence in your commitment to our beloved park. With thanks to our members, donors, and volunteers, Friends of Acadia ended 2015 on solid ground, fiscally and organizationally, and we are working to reinforce that strength in important ways as we enter Acadia’s second century. Thank you for being part of our work at this historic moment.

With appreciation,

Edward L. Samek, Chairman of the Board

David MacDonald, President and CEO
“We knew that we would be doing substantial work at Sieur de Monts, but without the Wild Acadia contribution from FOA we would not have had the monitoring and modeling basis to be able to inform that work in a scientifically well-grounded way.”

Rebecca Cole-Will, Acadia National Park Chief of Resource Management
Many influences, from a changing global climate to a long history of local development, are changing Acadia’s ecosystems. We cannot stop these changes, but we can increase the park’s ability to weather them so that it still ranks among our country’s natural treasures in the years to come. Resilience is the key to keeping Acadia healthy as it changes. A person who eats well and gets enough sleep and exercise will recover more quickly if they catch a cold or break a bone. Likewise, a resilient ecosystem can bounce back when it is stressed by unusually hot temperatures, a sudden rainstorm that washes away plants and topsoil, or the arrival of a non-native plant or animal.

In partnership with Friends of Acadia and our Wild Acadia initiative, with support from Canon U.S.A., the park has adopted a watershed-based approach to natural resources with the Cromwell Brook watershed—which includes the Tarn, Sieur de Monts, and residential areas and town parks in Bar Harbor—as the first area of focus. Why Cromwell Brook? It is more threatened than many other places in the park, it is historically important and a destination for many park visitors, and it provides opportunities to engage partners like the Town of Bar Harbor and private landowners. Plus, the park had already planned to invest federal funds to upgrade Sieur de Monts. Why watersheds? Water flowing downhill from a mountainside to the sea connects all of the habitats it passes through, so the different areas of a watershed will tend to share nutrients, soil, and water chemistry—and also problems like invasive species and water flow issues.

In 2015, Friends of Acadia funded the hiring of Brian Henkel as the Wild Acadia Project Coordinator. Brian has been working with park staff, Bar Harbor town officials, and research scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey, College of the Atlantic, MDI Bio Lab, University of Maine, Schoodic Institute, Maine Natural History Observatory, and others on projects including invasive species management and native plant restoration, water and wetlands monitoring, and sea-run fish passage between Cromwell Harbor and Great Meadow. This work will inform a park-wide Resource Management Plan that can be scaled down to the level of Cromwell Brook but will also apply to other priority watersheds.

By integrating and extending these collaborations, Friends of Acadia’s support takes what might otherwise be routine work and makes it exceptional. Rather than working independently, these agencies and organizations are collaborating, leveraging each other’s work and expertise, and sharing data and thinking in a way that is unprecedented at Acadia and most other national parks. As a result, the Wild Acadia initiative is not only important to Acadia but has the attention of the entire National Park Service as we explore ways to support ecosystems in the face of unprecedented change.
“Acadia has made a major commitment to ramping up to manage the new Schoodic Woods property. We could not have done it without a close and trusted partner like FOA handling the private funds to ensure a successful start-up and long-term sustainability.” Mike Madell, Acadia National Park Deputy Superintendent
Do you recall when the vast tract of forest and wetlands separating Acadia’s Schoodic District from the rest of the Schoodic Peninsula was called “the biggest single threat to Acadia” by then-superintendent Sheridan Steele? That 1,400-acre property, now encompassing a beautiful campground and thoughtfully routed trails and bike paths—not to mention protected habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife sustained by it—has been transformed from Acadia’s greatest threat to its newest asset. Following almost two decades of advocacy and deal-brokering spearheaded by Friends of Acadia and key partners, the land and facilities were donated in 2015 by the National Park Foundation to the National Park Service, to become part of Acadia National Park.

When it came time to plan for the long-term sustainability of the project, the donors and the National Park Foundation turned to Friends of Acadia to manage a $597,400 fund to cover start-up expenses for the campground and a $1.5 million endowment (with an additional $1.5 million expected in 2016) to support the care of this extraordinary land and facility in perpetuity. Our track record, our close relationship with the park, and our understanding of Acadia’s operations and needs made Friends of Acadia the clear choice of fiscal agent. And given our long investment in protecting the Schoodic Woods property, we were happy to help.

We are looking forward to learning how the public begins to use this property in the coming months and years so we can work with the park to match FOA resources with Acadia’s needs throughout the enlarged Schoodic District. And we’re looking forward to watching the intact natural environments there thrive for many, many years to come.
“Our ability to perceive quality in nature begins, as in art, with the pretty. It expands through successive stages to the beautiful to values yet uncaptured by language.”  Aldo Leopold
What do bats have to do with those gorgeous scenic vistas you take in as you drive the Park Look Road or pedal the carriage roads? Both are busy around sunset; but more significantly, long-eared bats were listed last year as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act, giving Acadia’s vista team an unexpected challenge in their ongoing effort to prune overgrown trees from historic roadside views.

At issue were stringent restrictions on treework in places or at times that might disturb the bats. So Acadia’s arborist, Jeff Grey, worked closely with park biologist Bruce Connery to ensure that his team followed the new cutting rules. Section by section, vistas were surveyed for roosting young bats; that information had the practical effect of shifting the vista team’s activities toward the fall and winter seasons. This caused a domino effect of adjustments: losing stewardship volunteers and seasonal employees in the fall, purchasing equipment to allow for winter work, and shifting focus from carriage roads to motor roads when a lack of snowfall meant they couldn’t bring that equipment on the unpaved roads. In spite of these hurdles, the team opened up nearly 60 vistas in 2015.

The park received $85,000 from the Centennial Challenge program, funded by Congress, to cut vegetation and restore vistas along the carriage roads. Key to Acadia’s successful application for the grant was Friends of Acadia’s ability to provide the required matching funds. The paddle raise at our 26th Annual Benefit raised $221,059 from more than 65 generous donors for this important initiative, to cover the match and also offer a reliable source of funding for the park to continue this major restoration project in the coming years.
25 YEARS OF PRIDE IN ACADIA

On the first Saturday in November, the 420 volunteers who turned out for the 25th year of Take Pride in Acadia Day knew they were part of something great. More than 15 student groups, youth organizations, and clubs from across eastern Maine fielded work crews, raking side-by-side with kids, retirees, and individuals of all ages—plus staff from every division of the park. Also essential to the day’s success were local businesses that lent their buses and vans to carry work crews, feed lunch to the volunteers afterward, and sponsor the event. Altogether, fallen leaves were cleared from nine miles of roads—including ditches and culverts—in 19 locations. The capricious winter weather that followed made this work all the more important for protecting a beloved historic resource from water and ice damage.

CAR-FREE AND CAREFREE

Imagine enjoying Ocean Drive as the early rusticators did—by virtue of your own physical effort. Acadia experimented with two Saturday mornings in 2015 that offered park users a different experience on the motor roads. During the spring “car-free” morning, no vehicles were permitted on the closed sections of road; in the fall the Island Explorer and park concessions bus operators were allowed to operate as usual. Anticipating increased demand, FOA funded extra Island Explorer service that day on the Loop Road; in fact, that day’s ridership more than doubled over the previous year. FOA also surveyed park visitors to gauge public response to the experiment and help the park improve on the model in the future. The feedback from a great majority of respondents was very positive. Said one cyclist, “I have been [to Acadia] numerous times in my car, but biking the entire Park Loop Road was such a unique way to see, smell, feel, and hear the park! I wish there were more car-free days.”
SCHOODIC FERRY STUDY
Prompted by expanded visitor opportunities and the National Park Service’s transportation planning process, as well as a shared interest in encouraging alternative transportation options in and around Acadia, Friends of Acadia commissioned a feasibility and management study to look at ways to enhance ferry service between Bar Harbor and Winter Harbor. After the study was completed, FOA made the results public so that anyone interested in adding ferry service—whether the current operator or someone new—could make use of it. In fact, the existing operator has already implemented some of the recommendations from the study, and a new service has been launched in spring 2016 to expand options for travel—in both directions—between the park’s two largest districts.

CADILLAC VISITOR USE MODELS
Friends of Acadia has been spearheading a number of pilot programs and studies focused on the Cadillac Mountain summit, to help park managers address the transportation and visitor experience issues that share the summit as a focal point. To develop an interconnected set of road, parking, and pedestrian models for the summit, FOA hired a research consultant who collected traffic data and trail usage numbers on four trails (Summit Loop, North and South Ridge trails, and Gorge Trail) last summer. The models will enable park managers to predict summit conditions such as level of parking, crowding at the interpretive platforms on the loop trail, or number of people off the trails, based on the number of people arriving at the summit by vehicle, bus, or foot. The park will also then be able to use the models, together with previous research, to test a variety of management scenarios for desirable outcomes atop Cadillac.

Clockwise from top: Volunteers rake fallen leaves near Eagle Lake during Take Pride in Acadia Day; educational signs on the Cadillac Summit Loop; cyclists pause for a photo at Otter Point during a car-free morning; a boat trip between Schoodic and Bar Harbor affords a great perspective on Acadia

Facing Page: Duck Brook passing under the Duck Brook carriage road bridge
**Accomplishments**

**YELLOW BUS FUND**

Acadia represents a unique hands-on learning opportunity for kids—where they can uncover Maine’s glacial history, explore the homesteading life of early Mainers, discover a broad range of shoreline and forest habitats, do real science side-by-side with entomologists, biologists, and phenologists, or discover the health benefits of outdoor recreation in a beautiful natural environment. But many Maine schoolchildren have never visited their national park, and teachers who would like to plan a field trip with their students may find transportation costs prohibitive. With the launch of the Yellow Bus Fund in 2015, Friends of Acadia is bringing more K-12 classes for day trips to Acadia. Schools from four Maine communities—Eastbrook, Union, Prospect Harbor, and LaGrange—took advantage of the transportation scholarships in the fund’s inaugural year. Building on that initial success, already nine schools from as far away as Fort Kent have signed up for the program in 2016.

**CENTENNIAL PARTNERS**

With a mission to “celebrate our past and inspire our future,” the Acadia Centennial Task Force, led by Friends of Acadia, set out in 2013 to enlist community members to be part of the celebration as Acadia Centennial Partners (ACPs). With the help of an enthusiastic corps of volunteers, the Task Force engaged Acadia’s surrounding communities on what has turned out to be a momentous scale: by the end of 2015 more than 300 businesses, organizations, and individuals had committed to benefit Acadia and its centennial by hosting an event, producing or selling a product, or making a donation.

To celebrate Acadia’s past, the community approach just makes sense: this park was created by donations of private land owned by many individuals and families. And it makes sense, too, that to inspire Acadia’s future we need to strengthen ties between park and towns, between this special landscape and the people who will care for it—into Acadia’s second century, and beyond.
ACADIA QUEST
With a fun new theme and new activities each year, Acadia’s own experiential scavenger hunt continues to inspire more kids to discover Acadia for the first time or deepen their relationship with this special place. A new “Sensory Trail” along the Jesup Path at Sieur de Monts provided a starting point for the 2015 Quest, which encouraged 217 teams made up of kids and their families or mentors to explore the sights, smells, sounds, and feel of Acadia National Park as they worked their way through the Quest activities. The completion rate for Quest teams reached its highest level yet, with more than 25% of registered teams finishing the required activities to earn their Quest badges.

A VOICE FOR ACADIA
Friends of Acadia has a reputation among park friends’ groups as a small organization with a big impact. One thing that makes that impact possible is strong relationships: relationships with park personnel, with like-minded organizations, with area residents, or—in the realm of advocacy—with elected officials. Last year FOA president David MacDonald traveled three times to Washington, D.C., to visit Capitol Hill. Twice he met face-to-face with Maine’s Congressional delegates, sharing information and concerns relating to Acadia; on the third trip he gave testimony before Congress on proposed legislation for national park centennial challenge funds. The visits are part of building a relationship; the invitation to testify is the result.

Relationships with Acadia-area communities were equally important as FOA worked to elicit public participation in the park’s Transportation Planning initiative. FOA helped to publicize public input meetings, reached out to our Advocacy Network and members, and also submitted our own comments as an organization.

Clockwise from top: An Acadia Quest team explores a tide pool through touch and sight; David MacDonald testifies in Washington, D.C.; a school group learns about habitats at Sieur de Monts with a park ranger; the Acadia Centennial logo

Facing Page: Sunset from Cadillac’s Blue Hill Overlook
## 2015 DONOR LIST

### INDIVIDUALS

Friends of Acadia is deeply grateful to each and every individual who made gifts and purchases in 2015. Whether you gave $1 or $1,000,000, you provided the foundation for our work to preserve, protect, and promote stewardship of Acadia National Park. Because of space limitations, we have listed only those who made gifts of $100 and above.

### CADILLAC MOUNTAIN SOCIETY

- Elevation: 1,330 feet
- $30,000 +
  - David Rockefeller
  - Beverly and Peter Orthwein
  - John Little
  - Nora and Robert Leary
  - Josephine and John Ingle
  - Donna and William Eacho
  - Bobbie Burdick and Joanne Kurts
  - Hope Aldrich
  - Anonymous ($20,000 - $49,999)
- Elevation: 1,248 feet
  - Sandy Wilcox and Jack Russell
  - Lila Bennett and Mark Fucito
  - Daniela Bell and Eric Foster
  - Tanny Clark
  - Hannah and Tim Clark

### PEMETIC MOUNTAIN SOCIETY

- Elevation: 1,248 feet
- $10,000 - $19,999
  - Beverly and Peter Orthwein
  - John Little
  - Nora and Robert Leary
  - Josephine and John Ingle
  - Donna and William Eacho
  - Bobbie Burdick and Joanne Kurts
  - Hope Aldrich
  - Anonymous ($20,000 - $49,999)
- Elevation: 1,373 feet
- $20,000 - $49,999
  - Beverly and Peter Orthwein
  - John Little
  - Nora and Robert Leary
  - Josephine and John Ingle
  - Donna and William Eacho
  - Bobbie Burdick and Joanne Kurts
  - Hope Aldrich

### SARGENT MOUNTAIN SOCIETY

- Elevation: 1,373 feet
- $20,000 - $49,999
  - Beverly and Peter Orthwein
  - John Little
  - Nora and Robert Leary
  - Josephine and John Ingle
  - Donna and William Eacho
  - Bobbie Burdick and Joanne Kurts
  - Hope Aldrich

### BEECH MOUNTAIN SOCIETY

- Elevation: 1,248 feet
- $10,000 - $19,999
  - Beverly and Peter Orthwein
  - John Little
  - Nora and Robert Leary
  - Josephine and John Ingle
  - Donna and William Eacho
  - Bobbie Burdick and Joanne Kurts
  - Hope Aldrich
  - Anonymous ($20,000 - $49,999)

### ACADIA MOUNTAIN SOCIETY

- Elevation: 681 feet
- $1,000 - $2,499
  - Beverly and Peter Orthwein
  - John Little
  - Nora and Robert Leary
  - Josephine and John Ingle
  - Donna and William Eacho
  - Bobbie Burdick and Joanne Kurts
  - Hope Aldrich

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  - Beverly and Peter Orthwein
  - John Little
  - Nora and Robert Leary
  - Josephine and John Ingle
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  - Bobbie Burdick and Joanne Kurts
  - Hope Aldrich
  - Anonymous ($20,000 - $49,999)

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  - Donna and William Eacho
  - Bobbie Burdick and Joanne Kurts
  - Hope Aldrich
George B. Dorr Society

The George B. Dorr Society recognizes those members and friends who have documented provisions for Friends of Acadia in their estate plans. The Dorr Society honors George Bucknam Dorr—gentleman, scholar, and lover of nature—whose dedication to preserving Mount Desert Island helped create Acadia National Park. The society was established in 2005 with 18 founding members and has grown to 67 member families.

Each year Friends of Acadia hosts a special appreciation event for the George B. Dorr Society. In late July, members of the society, park leaders, and FOA staff gathered at a fellow society member’s Northeast Harbor home to celebrate Acadia with a garden picnic along Somes Sound.

If you have made provisions for Friends of Acadia in your estate plans or some other deferred gift vehicle, or would like information about joining the George B. Dorr Society, please contact Lisa Horsch Clark, director of development and donor relations, at 207-288-3340 or lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org.
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Judith and Lou Zawislak
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Marie and Barry Zuckerman
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Elevation 282 feet
$100 - $249
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Edwin Aiken
Leslie and John Akula
Jane and Abbas Alavi
John Alber
Judith and Clif Albee
Cynthia Albert
Heather Albert-Knopp and Erich Reed
Linda and Bruce Alexander
Rachael Alford
Joan and Donald Allen
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Membership Table Volunteers
Office Volunteers
Resource Protection Committee
Wild Gardens of Acadia Committee

Want to become more involved at Friends of Acadia? Consider volunteering on one of these essential committees. Call the office at 207-288-3340 or visit http://friendsofacadia.org/get-involved/ to learn more.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acadia Trails Forever Trail Maintenance</td>
<td>410,000</td>
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<td>Schoodic Woods Startup</td>
<td>334,569</td>
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<td>Carriage Road Maintenance</td>
<td>259,475</td>
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<td>Cadillac Summit Initiatives</td>
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<td>Wild Acadia Cromwell Brook Initiatives</td>
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<td>Wild Acadia Natural Resource Initiatives</td>
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<td>Youth and School Programs</td>
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<td>Volunteer Program</td>
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<td>2016 Centennial</td>
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<td>Wild Gardens of Acadia</td>
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<td>Acadia Winter Trails</td>
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<td>Acadia Teacher Fellows</td>
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<td>Acadia Youth Conservation Corps</td>
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<td>Take Pride in Acadia Day</td>
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<td>Car-Free Mornings</td>
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<td>Acadia Ski and Bike Patrol</td>
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**TOTAL ANP GRANTS:** $1,735,297

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<table>
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<th>Program</th>
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<td>Island Explorer Bus System</td>
<td>199,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle au Haut Ferry</td>
<td>131,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islesford Museum</td>
<td>39,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centennial Book Projects</td>
<td>36,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schoodic Ferry Study</td>
<td>21,686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Day Roadside Cleanup</td>
<td>4,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acadia Night Sky Festival</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acadia Wildlife Foundation</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acadia Birding Festival</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL OTHER GRANTS:** $434,549

**TOTAL ALL GRANTS:** $2,169,846

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A cinnamon fern frond unfurls in the Wild Gardens of Acadia.
Statement of Activities
for the Year Ending December 31, 2015

OPERATING REVENUE
Contributions, grants, and events (net) $16,850,396
Other revenues 10,086
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE $16,860,482

OPERATING EXPENSES
Programs Services
Resource preservation and protection $2,596,378
Education and outreach 532,528
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES $3,128,906
Supporting Services
Development, fundraising, and membership $709,596
Management and general 296,084
TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES $1,005,680
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES $4,134,586
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS $12,725,896
NON-OPERATING GAIN (LOSS)
Contributions $4,277,096
Net investment income (612,190)
TOTAL NON-OPERATING GAIN $3,664,906
TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS $16,390,802
NET ASSETS
Beginning of year $27,831,698
End of year $44,222,500*

*Of this total, $41.6 million are endowments and funds restricted to specific projects, such as trails and carriage roads.

Friends of Acadia Financial Statements

TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES $3,128,906
Acadia Trails Forever Grants 18%
Education and Outreach Programs 17%
Schoodic Woods Project 14%
Wild Acadia Initiatives 12%
Carriage Road Grants 11%
Other Resource Protection Grants 11%
Island Explorer Bus System 9%
Acadia Youth Internships 6%
Volunteer Program 2%

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES $4,134,586
Program Expenses 76%
Fundraising Expenses 17%
Management and General Expenses 7%

FUNDRAISING EXPENSES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL REVENUE* 4.2%

TOTAL OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE $16,860,482
Individuals and Membership 64%
Grants from Foundations 28%
Events 4%
Corporations and Businesses 3%
Bequests and Memorial Gifts <1%
Miscellaneous Revenue <1%

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Friends of Acadia is a nonprofit, tax exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, a publicly supported organization as defined by Section 170(b) A-6. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.
An independent auditor’s report is available upon request.
MISSION
Friends of Acadia preserves, protects, and promotes stewardship of the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and distinctive cultural resources of Acadia National Park and surrounding communities for the inspiration and enjoyment of current and future generations.

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Carol Potter: 2, 8 • Julia Walker Thomas: inside front cover, 3, 7, 9 (bottom), 11 (bottom), 12, 15, 16, 18, 24 • Josh Winer: 11 (top)

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