Shadowcliff Impact Report

November 2020

A Message from Our Executive Director
Kathy Baldwin-Heitman

It's been an incredible year! Through the intensity of COVID 19, significant national unrest, the drama of the elections, and of course the extraordinary fires and other natural disasters, I near the end of the year feeling stretched, and also warmly inspired by the resilience of the Shadowcliff Community in the midst of it all. We have faced incredible challenges together, and in sharing the burdens, we have helped each other adjust. We have experimented with new ways to connect, and learned from our experiences together. We have locked arms to ensure Shadowcliff continues to provide the healing, growth, connection, and community so needed now. In this Impact Report we will recap the details of the year and share our future plans. Without your generous contributions, our future could have been quite bleak. However, with your ongoing commitment, I firmly believe Shadowcliff will soon be reaching further and more creatively than ever before. Thank you for your encouragement and support as we walk forward firmly focused on our mission, vision, and values for 2021 and beyond.

Kathy Baldwin-Heitman

Board of Directors

The Shadowcliff Board of Directors meets virtually once a month (and as needed), usually with two in-person board retreats: One at Shadowcliff over Memorial Day Weekend and one off-site in the fall. If you are interested in exploring board service, please contact Board Development officer, Terry Woodbury at woodbury57@gmail.com

Michael Dorosch   Jamie Frazier   Ariana Friedlander   Larry Leblang   Jay Liebenguth

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Sue Rempel   Chris Van Roekel   Skelly Warren   Terry Woodbury   Kelly Yarbrough

When we received the first warnings about the possible impact of COVID 19, as with so many other organizations, we were already in full swing for the summer season – our calendar was full with over 20 groups, all staff had been hired, and volunteers were being recruited for our annual Memorial Day Volunteer Weekend. As we began to hear of the possible gravity of the situation, we quickly formed a committee of board and staff members. Our first task was to analyze the daily updates provided by Grand County, the state of Colorado, and the CDC. Secondly we brainstormed possibilities for how we could proceed. We soon realized that Shadowcliff could not safely open the lodges. Fortunately, after much discussion, we determined we could safely offer a "cabins only" season.

In short order we created a workable scenario with Shadowcliff General Manager, Emily Cesca, managing operations remotely with Alanah Rempel and Brandon Goober as on-site coordinators. New check in and cleaning protocols were instituted, certifications through Grand County were obtained, a small group of volunteers opened the cabins, and reservations for individual and family retreats filled the summer calendar.

East Troublesome Fire

The East Troublesome Fire was aptly named. Just about two weeks after Shadowcliff was closed for the season, we started to receive information about a fire near Kremmling, CO about 40 miles southwest of Grand Lake. At that time, the fire had burned about 14,000 acres. Of course there was concern, but the summer had already been filled with record-breaking fires in Colorado and in several other states. Often Grand Lake had smoky summer days. We paid close attention, but could not have dreamed of what would transpire over the next few days.

On Wednesday evening, October 21st, the town of Grand Lake received evacuation orders. Fear of high winds and dry conditions, in addition to limited exit routes made this prudent. The fire was moving and had by then grown to 25,000 acres. Residents were evacuated safely and the fire still seemed far enough away not to panic. However, by the next morning, the fire had grown by over 100,000 acres and was within a half mile of Shadowcliff. Needless to say, the Board and staff were on high alert for several days as weather conditions worsened.

Due the extraordinary efforts of the fire fighters, and to improved weather conditions, Shadowcliff was spared, along with the village of Grand Lake itself. Unfortunately, much of the west side of the Grand Lake sustained significant damage. An ad hoc committee of Board and staff was immediately formed to look at ways Shadowcliff can participate in the re-building of the Grand Lake and Grand County communities.

Continuing Community in Virtual Spaces

Virtual Meetup

June 5. The date for this informal meetup happened to fall just after the death of George Floyd, and ended up being a crucial outlet for meaningful discussion among participants.

Building the Fire

July 7-18. A pilot program for 2020, this small group virtual event series offered time for interpersonal connection through facilitated conversations.

Gala & Auction

August 23-30. Our traditional silent auction was adapted to a virtual format, raising more than ever. A first-ever Gala gave us a chance to celebrate through stories and song, connecting to our community around the world.

Virtual Volunteer Weekend

May 22-24. Our first ever community-wide virtual event! We kept the Memorial Day Weekend tradition alive with happy hour, board updates, and even a yoga session led by Shadowcliff's GM, Emily Cesca.

Shadowcliff Signature Event: Gift of Story

June 30 - July 28. This favorite Shadowcliff program was adapted to an online format and extended over the course of several weeks to deepen the experience.

Communiversity

July 15-August 15. A variety of educational topics and entertainment sourced from our extended Shadowcliff community and offered online in 15 different sessions.

East Troublesome Fire Update

November 11. Online meetup to provide updates from Shadowcliff leadership and neighbors on the conditions surrounding the recent East Troublesome Fire events.

Diversity Task Force

A sub-team of the Values Committee, this new task force was formed in 2020 with the purpose of ensuring that Shadowcliff is living out our values as they relate to diversity, equity and inclusion. This team is working with staff and the board to assess existing policies and barriers to entry, identify opportunities and recommend next steps.

Gen Z Advisory Group

The Council began its work in 2020 by analyzing research about Generation Z attributes and surveying over 100 Gen Z to confirm the research and identify unmet needs. The results point to four key areas of collective concern (climate change, racism, gender equality, LGBTQI justice) and personal and interpersonal concerns like general anxiety, financial concerns, general stress, lack of deep personal connection and lack of connection to nature. The Council has been meeting virtually, and is hoping to meet at Shadowcliff in 2021 to continue new program planning.

Areas of Focus:

• What are the current unmet needs of Gen Z (under 25 years old)?

• Do the Shadowcliff core values address these unmet needs, and if so, in what ways can Shadowcliff help address the needs through new or partnered programming?

Facilitated by Bill Lepentis (Advisory Council) & Kathy Baldwin. Learn more on Shadowcliff.org

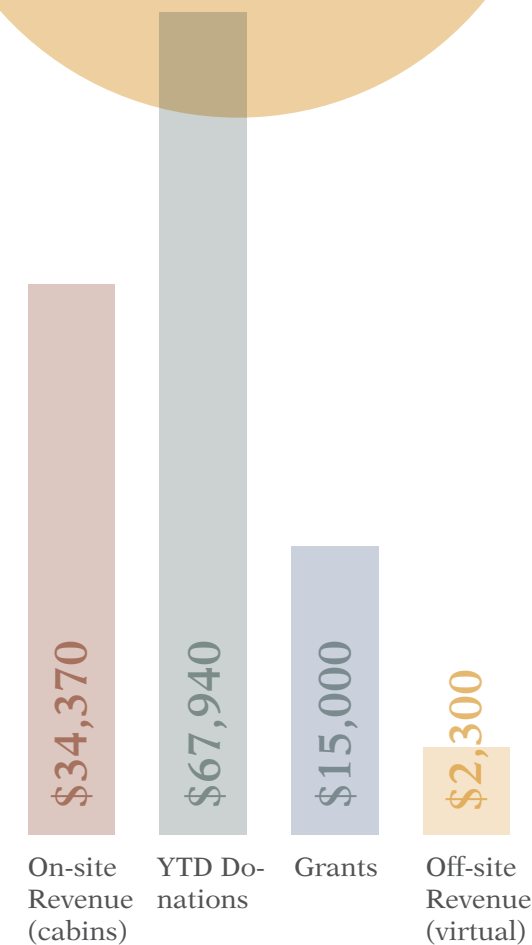**Chidinmma Egemonu**

Sydney Sirken

Amy Maltz

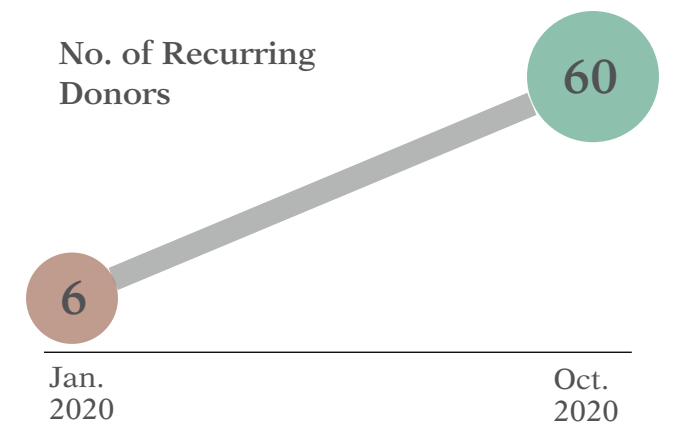**Becca Krasky**

Joseph Baldwin

August 2020
1st Virtual Auction & Gala

• Total income $12,445
• A portion of funds also supported the Grand Foundation and Mountain Family Center

$34,370 — On-site Revenue (cabins)
$67,940 — YTD Donations
$15,000 — Grants
$2,300 — Off-site Revenue (virtual)

Recurring Giving
Saves Time & Money

How much time did you spend thinking about money this year? A lot? So did we. A shared burden, however, can be made lighter. Shadowcliff is a safe and inspiring place for many. The truth is, if 300 recurring donors give $30 a month we would meet our basic annual operating costs. That means more time to focus on our mission.

No. of Recurring Donors

60

6

Jan. 2020

Oct. 2020

Shadowcliff365

This year has certainly shown how beloved Shadowcliff is to many people. We grieved the lack of on-site fellowship due to COVID-19, and we grieve the impacts of the East Troublesome Fire on our Grand Lake friends and neighbors. These events and others have forced us to ask hard questions about our priorities and our future as an organization. We all love the mountain sanctuary that has been known as Shadowcliff, but does our mission only exist between May and September? How can we live out our mission and values when our physical infrastructure isn't accessible? How do we model our values of Healing, Community, Interconnection, Affordability, and Growth at this moment in our history? How do we move beyond trying to sustain a year-round organization with only four months of operations? The effort to answer these questions is what we are calling **Shadowcliff365**. It involves program development, funding, emergent planning, communication and a bit of trial and error.

How do we move beyond trying to sustain a year-round organization with only four months of operations?

This effort is evolving and ongoing, so stick with us. Financial sustainbility is a must, and the best way you can help support that is by considering a recurring or one-time donation to Shadowcliff. Giving online is easy at **Shadowcliff.org/Support**.

Thank You

An extra shout out to those making a special contribution to our success in 2020 and beyond. We couldn't do it without you.

Advisory Committee

Judith Christy
Randy Friesen
Bill Lepentis
Doug MacClaymont
Bob Mann
Susan Miller
Richie Nelsen
Carl Sniffen
Eric Ziegenhorn

Communiversity Facilitators

Emily Cesca
Michael Dorosh
Ariana Friedlander
Ken Fucik
Brandon Goober
Andrea Kurth
The Lean Family
Luke McKinney
Lindsay Morrow

Kelly Parker
Harvey Stone
Gabriel Vidal
Skelly Warren
Kelly Yarbrough

2020 On-site Volunteers

Judith Christy
Michael Dorosh
Shawn Dowman
Kevin Frasier
Caleb Gusloff
Creg Horn
Doug MacClaymont

Bob Mann
Adrian Veloz

Our forever gratitude to the First Responders who worked the East Troublesome Fire, particularly Sue Rempel's nephew, Ben Timock, who texted photos and updates of Shadowcliff whenever he could!