Dear Friends,

While 2020 brought immense challenges that impacted our communities, country, and world, we have also seen resilience, hope, imagination, connection, and change that will guide us in the years to come. The stories and photos shared here highlight the power of both human connection and connection to the outdoors — two core tenets of Wilderness Inquiry’s mission that are as important as ever.

We look to the future with gratitude for a strong foundation and the collective engagement and support of our Wilderness Inquiry community — adventurers, learners, donors, volunteers, staff, and partners across the country and around the globe.

Thank you for paddling together with us!

Kim Keprios
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Bill Schmoker
BOARD CHAIR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Bill Schmoker  CHAIR
Kate Hartfiel  VICE CHAIR
John Butler  TREASURER
Ed Spencer, Jr.  SECRETARY
Cecile Bedor
Jack Driscoll
Beth Finch
Paul Fischer
John Grady
Hunt Greene
Mary Hanley
John Hinck
Louis Lambert
Doug Moore
Hon. Dan Moreno
Craig Peterson
Steve Wells

WE BELIEVE THAT EVERYONE BELONGS

OUR MISSION
CONNECTING PEOPLE OF ALL AGES, BACKGROUNDS, AND ABILITIES TO EACH OTHER AND THE NATURAL WORLD THROUGH SHARED OUTDOOR ADVENTURES.

CORE VALUES
Paddling TOGETHER
Seeking THE EXCEPTIONAL
Finding A WAY

2,231 PEOPLE JOINED US FOR IN-PERSON ADVENTURES
3,974 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN CONTENT-RICH VIRTUAL EVENTS
1,254 PEOPLE ACCESSED ONLINE LEARNING RESOURCES

IN 2020
7,459 TOTAL PEOPLE SERVED

Due to the challenges of travel and photo collection this past year, some of the images featured in this annual report are from years prior to 2020.
Connection to the outdoors can be a powerful thing. It can stir the heart and free the mind, and can heal the body and lift the spirit. Yet opportunities to connect to the outdoors are not created equal for all people.

At Wilderness Inquiry, we believe that everyone belongs in the outdoors. In this, our programs are designed so that people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities are supported, encouraged, and equipped to experience the outdoors.

In 2020, the outdoors provided a place for safe escape and a space for investing in physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. Through our mission, Wilderness Inquiry provided opportunities for outdoor engagement and exploration through small group and family trips, virtual programs for youth and families, and hands-on educational activities for people of all ages to explore the natural world close to home and further afield.

“The beauty of Mother Nature is beyond what anyone could imagine. The trip inspired and opened my mind about the importance of preserving the environment for the future generations.”

- LA, YOUTH PARTICIPANT
For 43 years, Wilderness Inquiry has facilitated inclusion and community integration, providing outdoor experiences for people with differing abilities and identities, those of all ages, and individuals from different backgrounds.

2020 was a challenging year for connection. COVID-19 brought social distancing and isolation, and limited our ability to gather together as we once had. Through it, we learned that when physical connection may be hard, the spirit of connection to community is a resilient and powerful force.

Whether joining together in a virtual space to learn about the history of a place or setting out with family for a shared paddling adventure, Wilderness Inquiry continued to provide opportunities for connection for our community of participants in 2020.

“The trip reminded me how powerful a community can be and what we can all accomplish when we help one another. I also came back with my spirit recharged and with the desire to keep in touch with those I just began to get to know.”

- KIM, PARTICIPANT
Wilderness Inquiry is committed to becoming a better partner in building a more just, diverse, equitable, and inclusive outdoors. To realize this commitment, Wilderness Inquiry has been working across all internal departments to make structural and cultural changes to our organization through our JEDI Initiative, focused on justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. In 2020, we signed the In Solidarity Project’s Outdoor CEO Pledge and the Board of Directors established a DEI committee as part of our long-term, multifaceted strategic plan for the advancement of diversity, equity, and inclusion at Wilderness Inquiry.

As an organization, we acknowledge the systemic barriers and structures of oppression that limit access to outdoor spaces for many, including: black, indigenous, and people of color; people with disabilities; people who identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community; and other people who face barriers to outdoor participation. We also acknowledge the responsibility we hold as an organization of privilege in doing our part to break these barriers down.
2021 ADAPTED PROGRAMS

Through the uncertainties driven by the impact of COVID-19, our team has embraced adaptability and a new lens on our programs and services. We have strengthened and expanded our program offerings to provide connections for those experiencing social isolation, opportunities for youth and adults to explore the outdoors close to home, and small group trips that ensure the outdoors remain accessible for everyone.

VIRTUAL EXPLORERS

Wilderness Inquiry’s virtual programs provide connections to community and the outdoors. Through these programs, we provide opportunities for youth and adults to explore the outdoors close to home, and create connections for those experiencing social isolation.

SMALL GROUP & FAMILY TRIPS

In 2020, Wilderness Inquiry adjusted our in-person trips to provide small group outdoor experiences that rekindle our relationships with nature and each other, while upholding the safest health standards. These experiences promote social connection, invest in the physical and mental health of our participants, and connect individuals that may not be able to travel on their own to the outdoors.

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ON GOING CORE PROGRAMS

We are also committed to our long-standing programs that connect people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to inclusive adventures and educational opportunities in the outdoors, including Canoemobile, Families Integrating Together, Gateway to Adventure, and Share the Adventure.

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CANOEMOBILE

Our “floating classroom” engages youth on public lands and waterways in communities around the country to improve school performance, cultivate a stewardship ethic, and create pathways to pursue educational and career opportunities in the outdoors.

FAMILIES INTEGRATING TOGETHER

By providing adaptive strategies, specialized itineraries, scholarships, and added staff to support individuals with differing abilities, all families can experience the wonders of the natural world together.

GATEWAY TO ADVENTURE

These supported experiences for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities break down barriers to outdoor participation and promote social integration and connection.

SHARE THE ADVENTURE

Wilderness Inquiry adventures across the country and around the globe bring diverse groups of people of all abilities together to discover our common humanity and explore new places in the outdoors.
Wilderness Inquiry ended 2020 on sound financial footing while delivering on its mission to provide outdoor opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. Thanks to a generous community of supporters, donors, and partners, as well as prudent fiscal management, the organization finished the year with a small budget surplus.

Wilderness Inquiry was awarded the highest rating from Charity Navigator for an impressive 6th consecutive year, demonstrating a commitment to trustworthiness, transparency, and efficiency. The organization is committed to fiscal responsibility and good stewardship of donor and stakeholder resources, and is in a strong financial position to continue to deliver its mission in the years to come. Audited financial statements are summarized below and were prepared by Carpenter, Evert & Associates, Certified Public Accountants.

### Financial Summary

#### Balance Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>$791,293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Term Investments</td>
<td>$1,158,879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Current Assets</td>
<td>$380,026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>$1,774,833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowments &amp; Investments</td>
<td>$2,096,557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,201,588</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>$311,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
<td>$575,993</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$907,733</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Term Liabilities</td>
<td>$499,913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,793,442</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,201,588</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Statement of Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support &amp; Revenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants, Contributions, Gifts</td>
<td>$2,129,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Grants</td>
<td>$503,558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Fees</td>
<td>$371,366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>$60,777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>$68,776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support &amp; Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,132,801</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$2,171,592</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share the Adventure</td>
<td>$810,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Engagement</td>
<td>$1,088,633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiv. &amp; Family with Disabilities</td>
<td>$452,857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>$712,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$228,268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,112,103</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Wilderness Inquiry, Inc., as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

- Carpenter, Evert & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, March 2021

#### 2020 Earned Revenue and Contributions

- **13.1%** Corporate & Other Grants
- **22.1%** Government Grants
- **2.2%** Donations & Gifts by Indvs.
- **43.3%** Endowments & Special Events
- **16.0%** Program/Participant Fees

#### Annual Growth in Contributed Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$1,924,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$1,504,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$1,442,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$1,280,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$1,024,343</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Donors Make Our Paddling Possible – Thank You to the Following

- **$100,000+**
  - Jim and Mary Frey
  - Mary and Raymond Mithun
  - Bill and Brenda Fischer
  - John and Betty Hinck
  - Mary Lou Barton
  - Margaret Rivers Fund
  - Patrick and Aimee Butler
  - Hugh J. Andersen Foundation
  - Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

- **$75,000-$100,000**
  - midnight:14 Foundation
  - The Fredrick Fund
  - The Murphy Family
  - The O’Neil Foundation
  - Joe and Karen Guerin
  - The Reimann Foundation
  - The Shaker Fund
  - Tom Nelson and Martha Dayton

- **$25,000-$74,999**
  - Mr. and Mrs. Wallis
  - Anonymous (2)
  - The Nitschke Family
  - The Office of the First Lady of Wisconsin
  - The Schmoker Family
  - The Smith Fund
  - The Thompson Family
  - The Wilding Family

- **$2,000-$24,999**
  - The Acheson Peterson Louise Fund
  - Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
  - The Chasity Fund
  - The Helgen Foundation
  - The Hoff Family Foundation
  - The Murphy Family
  - The Reimann Foundation
  - The Whitaker Fund

- **$1,000-$1,999**
  - The Anderson Family
  - The Belcher Family
  - The Bott Family
  - The Carlson Family
  - The Frey Family Foundation
  - The Helgeson Foundation
  - The Schmoker Family

- **$1,000-$249**
  - The Anderson Family
  - The Belcher Family
  - The Carlson Family
  - The Frey Family Foundation
  - The Helgeson Foundation
  - The Schmoker Family

#### News & Updates

- Wilderness Inquiry was awarded the highest rating from Charity Navigator for an impressive 6th consecutive year, demonstrating a commitment to trustworthiness, transparency, and efficiency. The organization is committed to fiscal responsibility and good stewardship of donor and stakeholder resources, and is in a strong financial position to continue to deliver its mission in the years to come. Audited financial statements are summarized below and were prepared by Carpenter, Evert & Associates, Certified Public Accountants.

- We make every effort to ensure accurate listings. If we did not attribute your donation correctly, or if you have any other questions or comments for us, please contact Development Director Willy Tully at 612-676-9430 or willy@wildernessinquiry.org.
“Marta enjoyed all the sessions so much! It was so great to have something for her to look forward to in addition to usual school activities we do at home. Your staff did a wonderful job facilitating the sessions, keeping kids engaged, and providing meaningful educational content. We are a family who loves the outdoors and Marta has especially loved nature, so this was a perfect fit for her. It was really fun to see her get a ‘deeper dive’ into the ecology and history of places we enjoy.”

- JULIE, PARENT OF MARTA
FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

WILDERNESS INQUIRY

Shannon Andreson and Jason Anonymous (17)

$100-$249

Louise Ziegler

Michael and Barbara Woolsey

Lynelle Wood

Rufus and Elizabeth Winton

Gwen Wilson

Rob and Anne Wight

Mary Wahlstrand and Mark Wahlstrand

Louis and Linda Wagner

Philip Von Ruden

Harold and Pamela Ulvestad

Topaz Fund of the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona

Susan Talbot

Debbie and Gordon Stofer

Barb and Art Stock

Paul Sitz

and explorers.

For 28 years the Minnesota Environmental Fund has been a generous supporter and close partner in our work to share Minnesota’s great outdoors with future generations of outdoor lovers, stewards, participants, and explorers.

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WILDERNESS INQUIRY

create equitable outdoor opportunities for youth!

for all of the sponsors and partners who joined us to

backgrounds and abilities to learn, explore, and grow

virtual celebration to raise support for Canoemobile

get outside and share their own experiences in the

The 2020 Great River Race looked a little bit different,

Gloria Boersma

Margaret and Robert Boatz

Karen Blachowiak

Elizabeth Benn

Tess and Ryan Beebe

Ronald and Christy Bateman

Greg Bartz

Jessica Balter and James

Nancy and Ken Ballard

Gail Baker

Patricia Bartosz

Boston Scientific Matching Gift Program

Penny Buell

Cullen Brenn

Janet and Leon Brenn

Amy Brooks

Mary Brooks

Cynthia Brown

Jeanne Cunningham

Dave Cunningham

Caitlin and Aaron Bulthuis

Jr.

Andrew Gustafson

Cargill

David Carroll

Phil Cass and Laura Weisel

Lisa Cassoipp

David Collins

Cindy Dicicco-Schneider and Jason Maloney

Amy Dorno

Aiko Dyer

Deborah Dora

Sheri Douglaugh and Joe Lauson

Sue Dyer

Dan Dressler

Casey and Sarah Dubois

Holly Dunn and Alex Dubois

Susan Eckstein

Jonathan Ertken

Karen Elos

John and Ann Elward

Jaxen Ely

Gael Emerich

Muah Emmel-Duke

Josephine Estrada

Patrick Evander

Rosemary Everett

Howard Evergreen

Hannah Fieg

Jane and Kevin Fields

Robin and Nancy Farver

Amanda Flynn

Jami and Erg Foggelmen

Rose Ann Forbush

Anita Fox

Laura Fox

Michael and Molly Frank

Chuck and Kristy Fremstad

Laurel Fried

Barb and Zita Friedman

Joyce and Norman Friedman

Joyce Gannon

Peggy and Glen Booth

Patrick Bonzemi

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Cynthia Brown

Jeanne Cunningham

Dave Cunningham

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Jr.

Andrew Gustafson

Cargill

David Carroll

Phil Cass and Laura Weisel

Lisa Cassoipp

General Mills Matching Gift Program

Sara and Gary Gelberg

Cheska and Nick Gillham

Mark Giorgini

Jamie Glover

Marlene Goldenberg

David and Mary Goldenstein

Jeff and Lon Goldenstein

Amura Gomos

Robert Gorkin

Gary Grable

Eric Grandpe

Ann and Steve Graeveth

Barb Greer

Matthew Greble

Sally Granen

John Guile and Andrea

Grodz

Wendy and Dean Gustafson

Rochelle Haffke and Allan

Hunt

Dave and Nancy Hall

Kathy Hall

Lois and Phil Mor Horton

Rhielle Hallam

Rachel Hampton and Darius

Sweeney

Anne Hamilton and David

Rosenblum

Patty Hendrickson

Laura Hansen

Torsten and Anne Hansen

Claude Hanson

Jeff Hanson

Carol and John Hardingham

Carol Harrison

Suan Harstad

Robin Hasenfelder and Lester

Blumberg

Katie Halt

Hannah Hafeldt

Megan Hellkamp

David and Glenda Hennings

Anne Hickman

Clairissa and Mike Hirsch

Tylee Hoffman

Tristead

Linda and David Horns

Rick and Karen Hornd

Ann, Chuck and Oliver Howard

Chris and Karen Hoy

Katherine and Bruce Huymre

Kathryn Humphrey

Jason Jarchow

Emily Jane

Julie Larson

Gary Lauren and Laurie

Chaseen

Roy Lay

Joan and Eric Linck

Onalde Lindborg

Stan and Jean Lowell

Hannah Linton

Duffy Lullof

Jerry and Yvonne Lorenz

Steve Lubin

Sarah and Adam Luckhardt

Gretchen Lustkle

Paul Lukons

Brad Ludovet

William Lul

Beth and David Lyman

Jim Lynch and Melissa Draper

Maggie Maddon

Kevin Madson

Bessy and John Maher

Denise and David Manor

Elise Mai

Jane and Mark Martin

Dorina Martinuk

Andy Martinez

Jen Martindall

John and Connie Martz

Laura Mauro

Jeff May

Cindy and Jack Mayeron

Heidi Mcclay

Helen McClure

Steve Mcclusky

James and Kathleen

McFarland

Lisa Mcclan

Julie Megon

Waran Melton

Janet Meredith

Mike Misulka

Nonone Moon

Mare Moetets

Sheila Monk

Krinen Montag

Kara Morgan

Ryan Morgan

Michael Morley

Donald Morrow

Grace Mortenson

Pepenke Mikus

Brian Miles

Guphan Namboodiprad

Godam Namboodiprad

Nancy Nebles

Catherine Hedge

Neuger Communications

Group

Ann and Bob Newharding

Charles Noble

Harriet Norgren

Tange OBrien

Kely ONe

Thosi and Anne Sabiston

Arson Olson

Erik and Sarah Olson

Ron and Mary Olson

Korey Opland

Rita and Morgan Ortiz

Elena Osuk

Phyllis Flicke

Gary Patison

Lisa Pearson and Tony Clark

SUSAN, PARTICIPANT

Kevin Kring, Great River Race

Wilderness Inquiry is known for bringing people together – and no one did that better than Whiney Uevedot. Whiney began as a Wilderness Inquiry Outdoor Leader in 2013, leading trips for hundreds of participants to the Apostle Islands, Boundary Waters, and on the Mississippi River. Her adventurous spirit, cooking and paddling skills, and ability to bring together diverse groups of people led an indelible mark on the Wilderness Inquiry community.

Whiney passed away on May 8, 2020 after a brave and tenacious battle with brain cancer. Her family and loved ones created the Whiney Uevedot Memorial Endowment Fund to honor her legacy and we are honored to share that love with future generations of adventurers.
Wilderness Inquiry’s endowed funds honor some of our most passionate and long-time participants, while providing ongoing support for inclusive outdoor programs for years to come. We are grateful to the families listed here who share the spirit of adventure through these dedicated endowments, and to the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation for their sustaining support.

- LORI, PARTICIPANT

Amanda and Mark Tempel
Jamelle Thunes
David and Lyn Thompson
Alison Tokunaga
Sharon Tollef
Mary and Matthew Tomback
Sarah Tron
Eric Trudel
Julia Twaddle
Laura Wetzel
Lisa Verven
Camille Vezien
Allisa Vogt
Pam Vrub
Scott Wade
Maia Wahlberg
Nancy and Thaddeus Wielkie
Jeanne Walling
Everett Ward
Thomas Barth
Jen and Mike Washington
Shawn Watchorn
Laura Werthraus
Chris Weinert
Robbie Wesel and Britt Robson
Alexandra Wernberg

- MATT, SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Wilderness Inquiries financial supporters

GIVING FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

Sustaining support.

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Pam Vrub
Scott Wade
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- MATT, SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

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thank the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation for their through these dedicated endowments, and to provide ongoing support for inclusive outdoor programs for years to come. We are grateful to the families listed here who share the spirit of adventure through these dedicated endowments, and to the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation for their sustaining support.
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ENDOWMENTS
Our endowments help us fulfill our mission in perpetuity. We are especially grateful to the families of the following individuals for their support.
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WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON TRAIL AND ON THE WATER AGAIN IN 2021!

“It just reminded me how powerful a community can be and we can all accomplish when we help one another.”
- KIM, PARTICIPANT

“I appreciate so much that we have opportunities to give our kids a break from the everyday chaos of life and remind them that they can find calm by going outside.”
- JOHN, TEACHER

St. Croix, Photo by Tom Bierlein
23
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