



Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead

2020 Annual Report



TO COLLECT, PRESERVE AND INTERPRET

THE HISTORY OF CARVER COUNTY

The Carver County Historical Society is a private, not-for-profit 501(C)3 organization serving the residents of Carver County and beyond. We are located across the street from Bayview Elementary School in downtown Waconia. We have five affiliate groups: Chaska Historical Society, Chanhassen Historical Society, Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America, the Watertown Area Historical Society and the Waconia Heritage Association. In 2015, it celebrated its 75th anniversary. That same year, it added the Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead to its collection.

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A Message from the President

Greetings to my Fellow Carver County Historical Society Members,

I want to first wish you a Happy New Year! I am optimistic 2021 will be a less challenging year for not only the Historical Society, but for us all.

Last year was a challenge for the CCHS. Unfortunately, much of the year the building was closed to museum visitors and our staff was challenged to find creative ways to work safely. Staff rotated working in person to one person at a time, while the rest of the staff worked remotely. Initially, this was a struggle because it took some time for the County to procure proper technology to allow a smooth transition to virtual work. Once these wrinkles were worked out, it became a seamless process. I want to commend the staff of CCHS for not only accepting this challenge but, rising above it. As many of you know, it is not always easy to make this type of change.

Not surprisingly, the CCHS's fell below our budgeted amount by \$4000, as a direct result of being unable to be open to the public, our inability to hold any events, such as Springtime on the Farm, and hosting virtually no educational classes. We were fortunate to apply for and receive a PPP loan/grant for \$38,400 which bridged that budget shortfall. It should be noted that the shortfall does not include funds received for designated projects such as the Jeffris Challenge Campaign.

Despite the challenges 2020 presented, we were still able to continue making progress on the Peterson Farm. Construction drawings are nearing completion on the house, granary and south barn. Once completed, it will mark an important milestone for the project. Fortunately, the cost of the drawings is covered by a Legacy Grant. As of this writing, we are at \$225,903 of our \$500,000 Jeffris Challenge Campaign goal for the Peterson Farm, with 18 months to go. I think this is very encouraging given the fact we were unable to hold any fundraisers this year. The Fundraising Committee continues to be busy working on ideas for these events, keeping in mind that the ability to host large scale events is unclear currently.

Despite the challenges we have all faced this past year, I choose to be very optimistic about the CCHS's future and know that we have the staff, membership and board to meet any, and all trials we may be presented with.

Thanks for your continued support of CCHS!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Willems". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark Willems
Board of Directors President

Executive Director's Report



We have had a lot of ups and downs in 2020, but are not alone. Everyone has felt the impact of Covid. It took the steam out of our school programs and it completely closed our wonderful traveling exhibit. We have had some impressive ups, however. Those positive notes have kept us moving forward. These moments need to be credited to a Board of Directors who have made some hard but very wise decisions.

The saying is, “Do you want the good news or the bad news first?” I have always chosen the bad news, for the simple reason of getting it over with. The good news ends everything on a positive note.

The year 2020, is one for the history books in a way we could never have planned for, but due to the excellent planning of our current and past boards, we have done better than many other businesses. We had a financial loss in 2020, of \$4000. Now the good news. Compared to many businesses we are very lucky to not lay off any employees. This was due to the help of Board member Barbara Swenson from MidCountry Bank who worked with us to apply and receive a \$38,400 PPP loan during the summer of 2020. This loan became a grant in January, 2021.

Due to state shutdowns from Covid, our visitation numbers were all but gone for nine months of 2020. This included school programming. Miles has been diligent about working with the schools for distance learning programming. It has not been easy for him nor the schools, but I continue to be impressed with his positive and can-do attitude. While we were closed, he has done exceptionally well putting together the Coney Island of the West exhibit. If you haven't seen it, please stop by. It is well worth your time.

The library has been severely hampered by the closure as well. Marilyn and her volunteer staff have done well working from home, but they are anxious to get back inside the building. We are blessed to have a fabulous research website where members can find much of what they are looking for.

The biggest change has been our move from PastPerfect software to Proficio. The change has moved the inventory/collection to the cloud. With Proficio, we are now web based in QuickBooks, Salesforce and collections (Proficio). All this means that we can work from home almost 100%. Dalene, at the front desk, works in the office 4 hours a week. Miles and Jeremy need to come into the office to do their work. I come in 2 to 3 days a week and plan to keep this schedule until the Governor determines otherwise.

All in all, we have come through 2020 in a very good condition. We are a little bruised, but not nearly as bad as other places. For that, we are greatly appreciative.

One final note. The Jeffris Challenge Campaign has somehow managed to stay on track. We ended the year at donation/pledges of \$225,903. That is \$903 above our goal. We have a year and a half to work on the other \$274,097.

You can be proud of your County Historical Society and its Board of Directors. I cannot thank all of them enough for their positive encouragement and joint efforts.

Wendy Petersen Biorn

Executive Director

Willkommenn Heritage and Preservation Society

The year 2020 started out like any other year. We had our Annual Meeting on February 13th at the Heritage Center. Karen Hallquist, Economic Development Marketing Director for the city of NYA, was the guest speaker. New Board members were elected, the meeting ended with cookies, hot cider and coffee.

The Heritage Center observes anniversaries of local businesses and organizations each year. This year anniversaries were observed by Smith Oil – 130 yr., Edward Born Legion Auxiliary – 85 yrs., Norwood Electric – 65 yrs., Trailer Court – 50 yrs.

A private collection of salt & pepper shakers were displayed, the shakers included Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Another private display was that of a Silhouette collection, which was on display for the summer, fall and winter. The history of two local photographers was highlighted, the photographers were Henry Heinen and Thomas Burfield. Along with this a private collection of vintage cameras were available for visitors to check out.

When Stiftungsfest was cancelled, we felt it still needed to be remembered. A minimal display of festivals past and local musicians were on display July – October. Fall thru Christmas a display of vintage baby quilts along with minimal Christmas decorations were on display. A chart of the Coronavirus timeline is on display with updates as they happen. Highlight of the year was the donation by a city resident of a Band Shell that once stood in the Norwood Park, now known as The Legion Park.

Submitted by Lavonne Kroells

Affiliate Reports

Chanhasen Historical Society

Happy new year from the Chanhasen Historical Society.



Our new physical home is shown at left. We not yet open yet, but will be soon. For updates about an opening follow us our website: www.chanhistorical.org

Below right is our refurbished display case, which was given to us by the Excelsior Historical Society. It was used at Leech's Resort in Chanhasen on the shoreline of Lake Minnewashta. The bottom is steel and held ice to keep fresh bait for sale. Later it was used to display candy.

Work is continuing our first display which will feature a timeline of Chanhasen's history. We are grateful for the extra financial support in 2020 from our members and friends. Hope to

see you all this Spring for our Grand Opening.

Submitted by Paula Atkins



Greetings from the Chaska Historical Society!

Despite being “closed to the public,” the members of the Chaska Historical Society have a lot to feel good about in 2020, and we are looking forward to 2021! Our team of volunteers, while staying safe, have continued to fulfill our mission of stimulating community engagement in history by collecting, preserving, recording and sharing Chaska’s past and evolving history.

We’ve continued our historic newspaper quips and photographs in the Herald, we’ve beefed up our Facebook presence, we’ve completely revamped our website, we’ve added a virtual newsletter, and we’ve created a virtual exhibit available through our website that has enabled us to reach people across the nation and around the world who are interested in why people have chosen to live in Chaska through the years.


...And those are only the highly visible accomplishments! Our volunteers have also continued to add artifacts, photographs, library items and genealogical information to our collections, organizing and cataloguing new materials for present and future researchers. Our researchers have created scripts for cemetery tours, have answered emails and phone calls requesting information, and have been busily writing the next volume of Chaska’s history, *Chaska: A Minnesota River City, 1950-2000*.

As we look forward to 2021, we do so with hope of a world without masks, without wildfires and hurricanes, without social injustices. We hope also for a world where we learn from our history, a history that we painstakingly record and share.

As always, our accomplishments could not have happened without our volunteers and our members and supporters. Thank you for your continued interest in local history!

Kind regards, Lisa Oberski, President

Waconia Heritage Association

 Waconia Heritage members are working to promote the rich history of Lake Waconia and Coney Island during the Regional Park planning.

A member took current pictures of sites pictured in our history of Waconia books. Some of these photos with brief descriptions are on display in Waconia City Hall. Interviews were begun before the pandemic and at this time, eight have been written.

Two members have written a short article with picture about Waconia history for the Waconia Patriot every month since 2017.

Our display case in City Hall is a good location for showing history of Waconia through pictures and/or collection items. Indexing of photos, information, and updating of downtown businesses and owners by lot site continues. Submitted by Joann Gorman

Watertown Area Historical Society

Like so many others, the Watertown Area Historical Society was affected by the Covid shutdowns. Organization scheduled meetings were either not held, held via phone conference or held with social distancing. They would like to thank everyone and look forward to a better 2021.

Researcher's Report



I have been on staff in the CCHS Research Library since May 2014.

On March 14th of 2020, Covid19 sent everyone home. When I left on that day, I packed up enough items to work on from home to last for a month—which ended up being 3 months. Since that time, I’ve worked 1/3 of my scheduled hours at CCHS and 2/3 from home. During the week, I worked on that “month’s worth” of items I’d brought home. Eight of our volunteers questioned whether they too could bring tasks home to work on. This was confirmed.

Task one for me was to decide what should be sent home with each of the 8 volunteers. I felt it would be productive to have each work on a portion of just one overall project. Each has different skills and preferences so I wanted each to have a task they’d get satisfaction from doing. On Saturday’s, I made up specific packages for each to work on from home. They brought in what they finished the week before and picked up the new packages for the week ahead. Every week, I took the work each had completed home with me to verify that all was correct. When I returned the following Saturday, I brought it all back for moving it onto the next steps and the process was repeated.

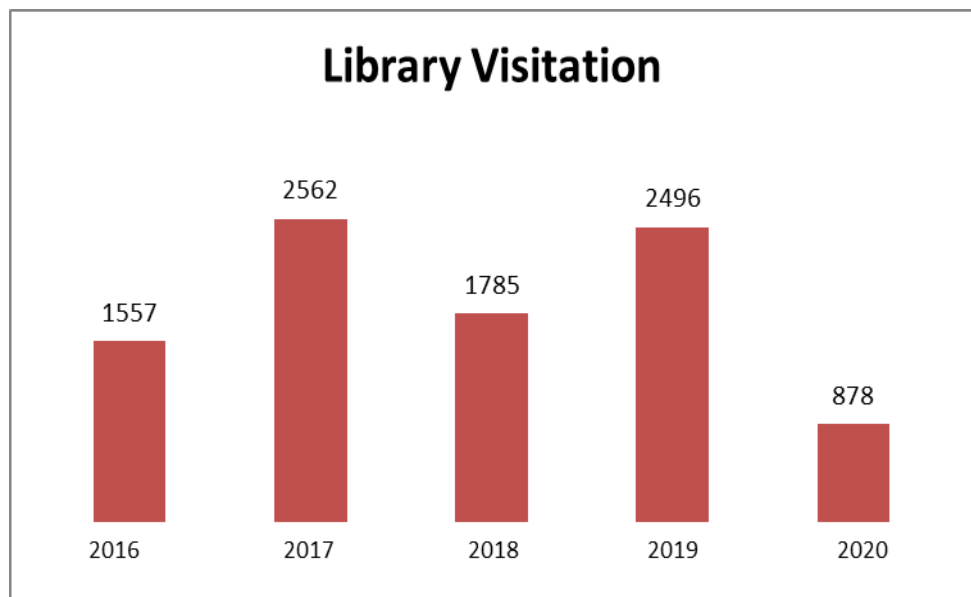
Also on Saturday, I checked the Library computer to stay on top of requests coming in. I’d then work on completing client requests in the order they’d been received. As time went on, we had a spell where a volunteer researcher was able to be in the building during the week to help keep up with the requests.

Research clients have made note of how much easier it is to find information when searching for an ancestor or for particular subject matter in our online newspaper website. Their comments verify the value of the chosen project being worked on during Covid19.

The silver lining to our Covid19 cloud is that if we had not been locked down, all that was accomplished may not have gotten completed for years ... one gets few interruptions when working from home.

The dedication of our volunteers during this unusual year amazes me. I am most grateful for every one of them... including those that have been unable to assist during these many months. Be sure to check page 12 for a full list of the volunteer names and hours worked. The volunteer of the year is Cindy Shatek who worked 562 hours!!!

Marilyn A. Braun



Curator of Education and Exhibits



It has been a very wild year as the CCHS transitioned to presenting school and adult programming virtually. Most of the in-person programs, camps and public events were cancelled due to the public gathering limitations. Understandably, this resulted in our visitation numbers being reduced substantially.

Despite these challenges we still managed to connect with the public through a partnership with the Carver County Parks and the Carver County Library Hooked on Books event. We also continued to connect through smaller gatherings which met the state, federal and CDC safety guidelines. Some of the highlights included tours of the Andrew Peterson Farmstead and a Civil War event. We also managed to create some educational content that will be presented virtually, including videos and other interactive content.

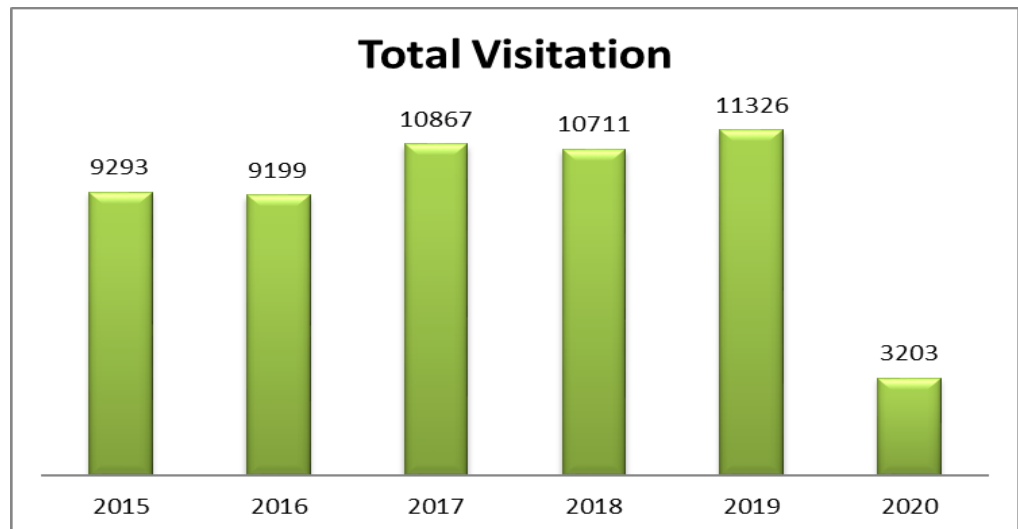
Our newest exhibit is the traveling exhibit, *Coney Island: Visions of an American Dreamland*. The Mid America Arts Alliance has graciously extended the run until March 16th. The second new exhibit is, *Coney Island of the West*. The exhibit explores the unique history of our local Coney Island through historic objects and artifacts.

It is years like this one that makes us especially appreciative of our volunteers, friends, coworkers and partnerships we have throughout our community. Here is to a busy 2021.

Miles Jewell



Civil War re-enactors—Andrew Peterson Farmstead- fall 2019
photo courtesy of Al Lohman—Waconia Patriot



Curator of Collections



The big collection news for 2020 was the transitioning of collection management software used at the CCHS. For years, the CCHS had utilized management software known as, PastPerfect. Recent work on the collection inventory created such a vast amount of additional information pertaining to collection items, that the available storage space for the data on the Carver County IT network became insufficient. That lack of additional data storage meant PastPerfect was unable to properly manage the additional data.

Our new Proficio Elements provides the CCHS with Cloud-based storage that can easily be expanded as inventory efforts continue and as the CCHS collection grows. Proficio Elements is also web-based software, meaning it does not require any physical data storage on the Carver County network. Being web- & cloud-based, Proficio allows staff to work outside their offices, in collection storage areas, in exhibit halls, or even from home as long as they can connect to the internet. With the new software came a new webpage for members to access the CCHS photograph collection.

Regardless of the restricted public access for most of the year, donations continued to be made to the CCHS collection. While there was a slight decrease in the number of individuals donating (33), there was an increase in the number of items accepted from each of those donors (284). A large portion of those items (92) came from a single donation of photos and archival records pertaining to Herbert Bloomberg's development of Chanhassen, Hazeltine National Golf Course, and the Bloomberg families' operation of the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre. The Bloomberg materials, a quilted artwork by Carver County artist/quilter, Audree Sells, and the Carver County Commissioner Minutes, 1872-1971, are some of the highlights of 2020's additions.

# of Items Accepted (By Category)		
	2019	2020
3D Objects	18	14
Archive	72	177
Photographs	106	91
Library	19	2
Total	215	284

In Pursuit of the Past,
Jeremy Murray

At left, a favorite donated 2020 artifact. The quilted wall hanging was made by Audree Sells and hung at a Park Nicolette clinic until the clinic was remodeled.



Office Manager



Happy New Year, everyone! My favorite part of being at the Historical Society is the people I work with and those I meet when they come to visit our museum. We have been blessed with extraordinarily talented people who have found new ways to make it possible for us to share the museum, the exhibits, and many of our educational offerings with the public despite the lockdowns and restrictions.

In an odd sort of way, the quiet year has given me time to learn parts of my work very well, while giving me time to explore the museum and the ways it contributes to the community. I'm blessed to be able to work remotely all but four hours a week, via cloud based QuickBooks and SalesForce. These programs allow me to work remotely with memberships and the accounting. If you have ever gotten a thank you letter, membership renewal, or virtually any mail from us, it has originated with me.

As we hopefully get back to normal in 2021, I will be spending more time at the museum getting the inventory and office supply cabinets organized. You can look forward to seeing the revamping our gift shop to make it more appealing for our many visitors looking for a keepsake. We have so many interesting things to take home to enjoy or to give as gifts. Don't forget you can also visit our online store for many of these items, if you prefer to shop from home.

Looking forward to seeing you often in the new year,

Dalene Woods

Membership breakdown including affiliates



■ CCHS ■ NYA ■ Watertown ■ Chaska ■ Chanhassen ■ Waconia



Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead

On July 1, 2019, the CCHS entered into an agreement with the Jeffris Family Foundation. If the CCHS was able to raise \$500,000 in three years, the Jeffris Foundation would donate an additional \$250,000. It is an all or nothing deal. The funds must first be used to rehabilitate the Andrew Peterson farmhouse following the construction drawings being completed by Miller Dunwiddie. Once the house is complete, any funds left may be used for rehabilitation on the granary and/or the south barn.

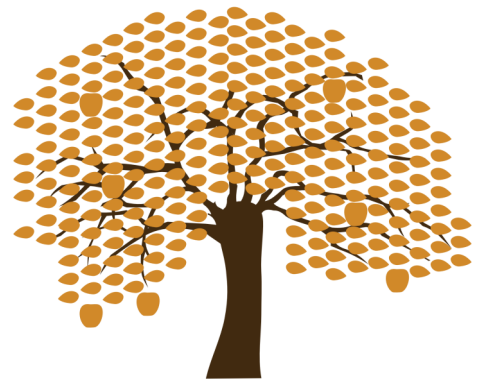
The project seems straight forward enough, and at the end of 2019 we had raised \$177,000. Then Covid hit. Our goal had been to reach \$250,000 at the half way point, which was the end of 2020. It soon became apparent that we needed to readjust our goal to \$225,000.

The GiveMN event was a turning point for us. A donor offered to match donations up to a total of \$5000 during the event. The morning of the event, our computers were not working, making access to the contact list impossible. How can you call people to make the donation if you don't have access to the data base. This is where a handy cell phone with a contact list comes in handy. A few calls and a few emails later, it was apparent that all that could be done, was.

That night after work, the donations had only hit about \$2000 Not anywhere close the \$5000 we needed to receive the match. As the night wore on, a periodic check revealed that funds were coming in. Soon we were at \$2,000. A person called had come through with a \$2000 donation. Several more donations of amounts between \$25 and \$100 came in, then a donation of \$2500. In the end, we not only hit the \$5000 but exceeded it by over \$1,000. We ended the year at just over \$225,900.

We still have 18 months to raise the remaining \$274,100. Tom Jeffris made a call to the CCHS at the end of the year. He said, of the four organizations in the class of 2019 (those who started in 2019), we had finished the strongest. In fact, of the four who started, two had dropped due Covid and the inability to raise funds. He said we were the highest fundraiser of the four. That says a lot for a small organization. We could not ask for a better cheerleader than Tom Jeffris.

At right, is a sneak peek at the donor tree for the Peterson Farm. If you would like more information about how you can add your name to the tree, contact Wendy at the CCHS. 952-442-4234.



Thank you Volunteers!

Volunteer of the Year

Cindy Shatek– 562 hours

1-50 Hours

Jayden DeBuss, *Library*
 Gladys Wolter *Library*
 Mary Loehrs, *Library*
 CJ Dietzel, *Library*
 Orville Machenthun, *Library*
 Dorene Murphy, *Garden*
 Mark Smith, *Library*
 Aurora Feuerborn, *Library*
 Daniel Scharfenberg, *Collections*

51-99 Hours

Craig Eiler, *Fundraising*

101-199 Hours

Ann Soderstrom, *Library*
 Delora Wallner, *Library*
 Judy Aarness, *Library*

200-300 Hours

Mary Lou Teubert, *Library*
 Elaine Wischnack, *Library*
 Marc Johnson, *Fundraising*
 Bryce Johnson, *Fundraising*
 Liam Gunderson, *Collecitons*

300-400 Hours

Lowell Dammann, *Library*

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE 2020

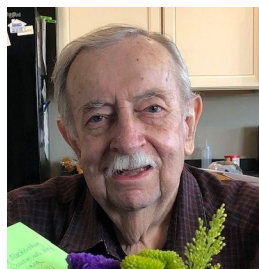
BOARD of DIRECTORS

Mark Willems , *President*
 Dan Lund, *Vice-President*
 David Lavin, *Treasurer*
 Marta Beckett *Secretary*
 Mathew McDougall
 Mike Coleman
 JJ Norman
 Burton Johnson
 Mike Fahey
 Randy Maluchnik, *County Liaison*
 Barbara Swenson
 Lin Deardorff

Total 2020 VOLUNTEER HOURS

2020 Total	2,846
2019 Total	2,747.15
2018 Total	2138.50
2017 Total	2071.75

By the Numbers



Orville Mackenthun

If you ever came into the research library and notice just how neat the index cards were, you can thank Orville Mackenthun.

Orville took great pride in his work.

In late 2019, Orville informed his CCHS family that he had cancer and he had about six months to live. He died on July 18, 2020.

Orville had been a volunteer at the CCHS for 10 years. He is greatly missed in “his” space.

Carver County Historical Society
Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 2020

2020 Statement of Financial Position - unaudited

	Total	
	As of Dec 31, 2020	As of Dec 31, 2019
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
100 Old National	0.00	75,970.23
101 Building Fund	12,158.31	12,158.31
10100 Petty Cash	0.00	42.36
102 Museum Collection Fund	3,359.97	3,814.97
105 Thrivent Financial	78,759.94	70,865.15
107 MidCountry - Operating Account	11,360.88	
201 Home Town- Jeffris Challenge fund	82,968.60	23,783.76
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 188,607.70	\$ 186,634.78
Accounts Receivable		
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Other Current Assets		
12100 Inventory Asset	630.96	130.96
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 630.96	\$ 130.96
Total Current Assets	\$ 189,238.66	\$ 186,765.74
Fixed Assets		
14000 Peterson Farm	258,649.99	258,649.99
15000 Furniture and Equipment	40,202.17	40,202.17
15001 ScanPro2000	10,604.34	10,604.34
Total 15000 Furniture and Equipment	\$ 50,806.51	\$ 50,806.51
15050 Exhibits	19,789.50	19,789.50
15900 Leasehold Improvements	197,028.92	197,028.92
17100 Accumulated Depreciation	-104,501.58	-104,501.58
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 421,773.34	\$ 421,773.34
Other Assets		
1021 Acquisitions	0.00	316.25
10900 Endowment Fund Investment	176,751.00	176,751.00
Total Other Assets	\$ 176,751.00	\$ 176,751.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 787,763.00	\$ 785,324.08
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Total Accounts Payable	\$ 0.00	\$ 8.97
Other Current Liabilities		
18900 Damage Deposit A. P. Farm	760.00	760.00
24100 Accrued Leave and Payroll	9,227.62	4,106.05
25800 Unearned or Deferred Revenue	278.00	
Minnesota Revenue Payable	0.00	-1,120.00
Sales Tax Payable-		
25500 Sales Tax Payable	58.42	1,162.97
Total Sales Tax Payable-	\$ 58.42	\$ 1,162.97
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 10,324.04	\$ 4,909.02
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 10,324.04	\$ 4,917.99
Long-Term Liabilities		
27200 Other Liabilities		
27210 PPP - COVID19 Loan/Grant funds	0.00	
Total 27200 Other Liabilities	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Total Liabilities	\$ 10,324.04	\$ 4,917.99
Equity		
30000 Opening Bal Equity	-3.78	-3.78
31300 Perm. Restricted Net Assets	159,901.00	159,901.00
31500 Temp. Restricted Net Assets	17,259.00	17,259.00
32000 Unrestricted Net Assets	579,349.54	601,165.23
45200 Unrealized Loss on Investments	24,200.36	24,200.36
Net Income	-11,161.95	-21,815.69
Total Equity	\$ 769,544.17	\$ 780,706.12
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 779,868.21	\$ 785,624.11



555 West First Street Waconia, MN 55387 952-442-4234

1/15/21/WPB