



FortWhyte Alive  
HUMAN. NATURE.

# THE NATURE OF HOPE.

2019 Impact Report



*(L-R) Joya and Arizona  
harvesting fresh vegetables  
at FortWhyte Farms.*

## Because of you!

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, FORTWHYTE ALIVE CONTINUES TO BE A BEACON OF HOPE FOSTERING A DEEPER CONNECTION BETWEEN PEOPLE AND NATURE.

Time in nature grounds us and gives us hope. Thinking about the future in today's world can be overwhelming. Now more than ever, we know that spending time outside is crucial for our health and the health of our communities.

Because of you, more people are finding hope and peace in time spent outside at FortWhyte Alive. In 2019, inner-city youth found safety in nature and in their

communities through our trailblazing Strong Roots program. Children built resilience through outdoor, four-season play and learning at FWA's Forest School. And, passionate volunteers gave their time to help connect more visitors with new nature-based hobbies.

Thanks to your support as a donor, volunteer, member or partner, you have made it possible for more visitors to get up close with nature in many different ways. Offering formative experiences in nature to kids of all ages offers countless mental and physical health benefits. Connecting with the natural world, be it a walk through the trees, learning to grow food, or listening to

the sounds of wildlife, eases anxiety and depression and fosters a sense of well-being.

Your generosity makes FortWhyte a place of comfort and connection for so many. Your generosity makes a more hopeful future possible.

**Thank you!**

With gratitude,



**LIZ WILSON**  
PRESIDENT & CEO





## Strong roots for youth and community.

BECAUSE OF YOU, INNER-CITY YOUTH HAVE THE CHANCE TO EXPLORE AND PLAY IN A SAFE AND PEACEFUL OUTDOOR SPACE AT FORTWHYTE ALIVE.

The act of connecting with nature yields many benefits. It's an opportunity to establish connections, gain new perspectives, and simply play.

The Strong Roots program brought a group of inner-city youth from Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata to FortWhyte Alive for facilitated outdoor experiences. Youth tried their hands, mostly for the first time, at nature-based activities like canoeing, wilderness survival, and campfire cooking

while building a positive connection with volunteer mentors from Winnipeg's civic unions.

Your investment is building a future where more youth feel safe and comfortable outside exploring a connection with nature that will last a lifetime.

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*Special thanks to our partners in Amalgamated Transit Union 1505 (ATU 1505), United Fire Fighters of Winnipeg (UFW), and the Winnipeg Police Association (WPA), and to the Bear Clan Patrol.*

THANK YOU!

Over 110,000 people visited our trails and experienced a **connection with nature** right here at FortWhyte Alive in 2019.



**“The opportunity for youth to have meaningful experiences outdoors is just so important, and not always accessible.”**

**KYLE MUSWAGON**

Program Coordinator,  
Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata

*(L-R) Jayna, Tempest, and Teanna taking in summer at FortWhyte Alive.*

*Photo Credit: Danielle Da Silva*

**“Play based learning  
is the most powerful  
source of education in  
early years and beyond.  
I wish everyone had  
access to this experience  
for their child.”**

**DANA BAXTER**  
Forest School parent

*(L-R) Tessa and Dana  
at Forest School pick-up.*



# Forest School, where nature is the best teacher.

THE GIFT OF HOPE THROUGH PLAY!

Children running carefree through the forest. Conversations on tree stumps. Balancing atop fallen logs. Forest School paints a picture of a magical childhood in the woods.

And it's donors like you who make magic like this possible. Your support helps educate the next generation of environmental stewards from preschool at Forest School, and up to grade 12 through our immersive environmental education programming.

Your generosity helps students challenge themselves to learn the impact nature and

humans have on each other and change the way they interact with the planet for the better.

Dana Baxter has already seen these changes in her own daughter, Tessa, during weekly visits to Forest School. Tessa's personal connection with the environment has grown, her decision-making skills have improved, and her physical and mental health has strengthened.

These opportunities are signs of a hopeful future, with kids taking their passion and knowledge about the planet home to inspire others!



THANK YOU!

**107 preschoolers** experienced outdoor learning through three seasons. Each Forest School student spent approximately **66 hours outside** per session.

## Birds of a feather flock together.

A RENEWED INTEREST IN BIRDING POINTS TO AN INNATE DESIRE TO EXPERIENCE NATURE.

Connecting with nature is an important step to finding a sense of place and hope in the world. Because of your contributions, people from all walks of life experience outdoor recreation opportunities.

Many of our best educators are part of our team of over 480 volunteers who are endlessly dedicated to our mission, passionate about nature and generous with their time.

Anne McKean and Blair Reid felt that FortWhyte Alive was the right place to put their passion for birding into action.

Each spring and fall, Blair shares his knowledge leading Birding and Breakfast programs, while Anne's role at the Info Desk often makes her the face of FortWhyte Alive.

Together, they deepened their impact by working with other volunteers to make our windows more bird-safe. From initial concept to installation, this innovative project is completely volunteer-led and integral to "walking the walk" of environmental protection.

THANK  
YOU!

**489 volunteers** found meaning and discovered new passions, contributing **22,321 volunteer hours** - a value of over \$260,000!





**“For us, most importantly,  
volunteering provides us  
with the feeling that we  
are still contributing to  
the world.”**

**ANNE MCKEAN AND BLAIR REID**

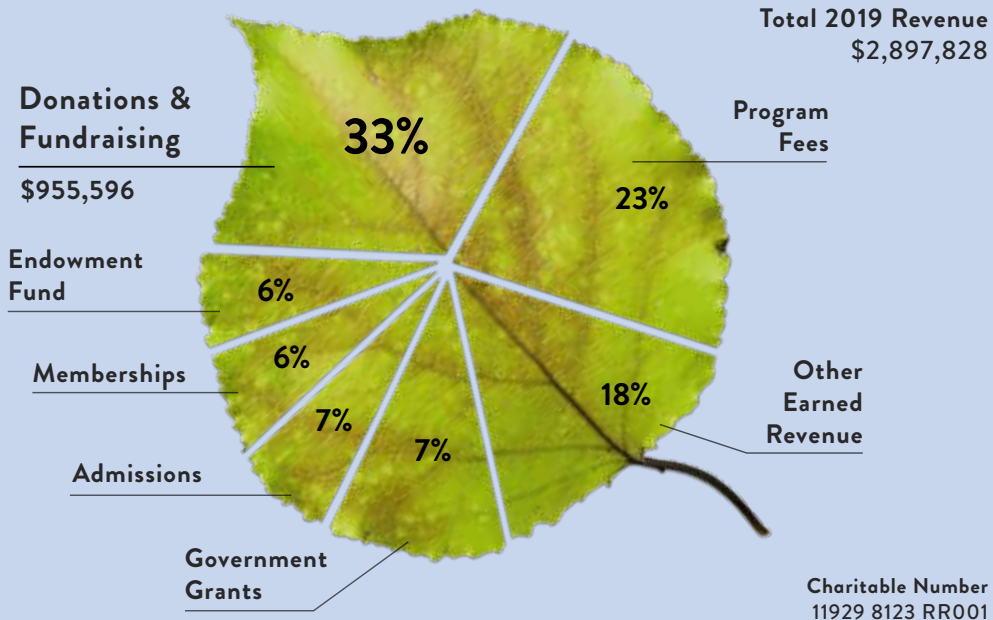
Volunteers since 2014

*(L-R) Blair and Anne walking  
FortWhyte Alive's winter trails.*

THANK  
YOU!

“Whether you are a donor,  
member, volunteer or  
corporate supporter,  
you are the reason  
FortWhyte Alive has the  
deep impact in Winnipeg’s  
community that it has.”

LIZ PRALL  
Chair, Board of Trustees



# Planting the Seeds for a Sustainable Future.

YOU CREATE THE FERTILE SOIL THAT SUSTAINS FORTWHYTE ALIVE.

Through your support, FortWhyte Farms partners with high schools and community organizations to bring youth into nature to learn about food and wellness while gaining employment and leadership skills.

And it's the stable support of monthly donors, like Pam and Kathy, that make this work possible and sustain FortWhyte's environmental education programming.

Pam and Kathy have a life-long relationship with FortWhyte. Pam first visited over 30 years ago as a grad student in natural resources management; and Kathy began visiting 25 years ago as a

mental health counselor for teens, where visits to FortWhyte served as nature therapy.

They share a mutual love of FortWhyte Alive and engage in every way: as members, volunteers, snowshoers, donors, and CSA farm shareholders.

**“We became monthly donors for convenience, plus we know it helps FWA plan. We're committed to this place.”**

**PAM HOMENICK AND KATHY CARLSON**

Monthly donors since 2019





FortWhyte Alive

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FortWhyte Alive acknowledges our place on Treaty 1 Territory, the traditional territory of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene Peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation.