



# NEW PIONEERS

FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



IMPACT REPORT 2023



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FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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Wren Smith.....	Director

## Staff

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## New Pioneers for a Sustainable Future

127 W. Main Street, Springfield KY 40069  
(859) 336-5070  
newpioneers.org



## 2023 by the Numbers:

- 31 new members
- 3 counties served: Nelson, Marion, and Washington
- \$47,797 invested in local, environmental literacy
- 618 individuals reached with sustainability education
- \$19,000 received in grant funding

## Director's Note



Dear New Pioneers Members, Friends, and Supporters,

This year has harkened new beginnings for New Pioneers in many ways. We have finalized our 2024-2026 Strategic Plan, transitioned Executive Leadership, launched a renewed Fall membership drive, and expanded public education and communications. In this publication, we're excited to share our first annual Impact Report, which we hope will reconnect many and introduce many more to the pivotal work of New Pioneers.

The release of this report prompts me to consider what New Pioneers means when we reference "impact". Do we "make" an impact when we host programs that serve the community? Do we quantify our impact by the dollars we raise or the members we welcome? Impact can be difficult to define and measure, especially when our successes sometimes begin as "seeds planted", requiring years to grow into action.

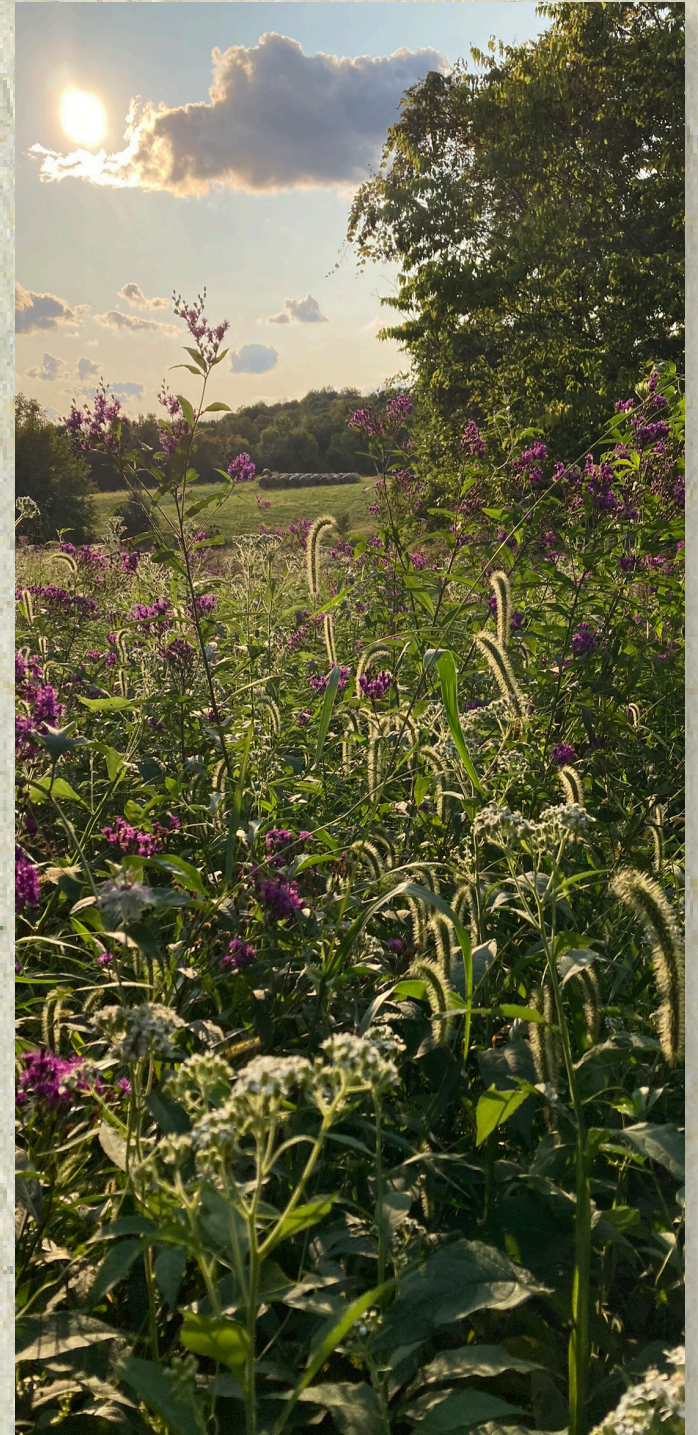
One thing I've always loved about New Pioneers is that we see "impact" as a verb. Everything that New Pioneers offers - community education, demonstrating sustainable living practices, advocacy and empowerment, and more - is living, breathing work driven by a small team of dedicated leaders (Staff and Board) and realized through an expansive network of passionate changemakers (Members) and community. While we do have numbers and programmatic evaluations to report, our work sustains itself through an intentional balance of meeting immediate needs and working toward systemic change: a dance of sorts.

Like the beautiful and interconnected ecosystems in which we live, New Pioneers thrives with the support of our partners, donors, and Members, and is able to educate, demonstrate, and advocate alongside our communities, in turn. Truth be told, no other organization is doing the work that New Pioneers does where we do it. This year has taught us that we have the remarkable potential to grow this "impacting" (as a verb) alongside our community.

We hope you'll (continue to) join us!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia Gerwe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julia Gerwe



## Who We Are

New Pioneers for a Sustainable Future is a non-profit organization promoting sustainability in rural, central Kentucky. Since New Pioneers' founding in 2005 by Sr. Claire McGowan, our vision has been to build and foster a sustainability movement throughout our region and state.

## Our Why

We believe that living sustainably is the key to a healthy future for all: Ourselves, our communities, and generations to come. To live sustainably, we must respect the environmental limits of our natural world and embrace social equity and economic vitality to create thriving and resilient communities.

New Pioneers promotes sustainability in rural, central Kentucky because we know that inspiring individuals to connect with the world around them motivates us all to embrace sustainable lifestyles already embodied within our communities.

## What We Do

To meet our mission, New Pioneers strives to do the following:

- Educate local communities through a variety of programs, resources, and communications;
- Demonstrate sustainable living practices alongside our network of members; and
- Advocate for strategies to support healthy ecosystems, locally and globally.

While our efforts are focused in Nelson, Marion, and Washington counties, the ripple effects of our efforts often reach even further.

## How We Impact

As a community-based nonprofit, we see our work come alive through community engagement. We achieve this by hosting independent environmental education programs, partnering with local community partners to represent the voice of sustainability at community events, and by building local connections to advance our mission and work. We rely on the support of our member network, specifically, to fund and fuel our ongoing growth.

## Education Highlights

Our mission came to life through many educational initiatives this year; centering around building connections to the natural world and inspiring sustainable actions.

We were thrilled to offer our annual **Springfield Green Festival**, which engaged 400 community members and grew to include some new faces and stations to engage community members young and older. This Summer, New Pioneers hosted our second annual **Space Night**, in which we "took to the skies" with over 100 attendees to observe the Perseid Meteor Shower. We also co-led nature explorations



**NEW PIONEERS**  
FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

**Springfield**

# GREEN FESTIVAL

**Saturday, April 22 9am-2pm**  
Farmers Market Depot, 101 Depot Street, Springfield, KY



Creek Exploration · Plant & Meat Vendors · Electric Car Test Drives  
Live animal exhibits including birds from Raptor Rehab of Kentucky  
Tree Giveaway · Solar Energy Display · Food & Music  
*PLUS: educational activities, sustainable living demonstrations, and more!*

Learn more at [newpioneers.org](http://newpioneers.org) or (859) 336-5070

during the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth's "Spirit of the Wild" day camp for local youth. Finally, New Pioneers launched a "Winter Nature Series" in partnership with the three local libraries in our tri-county region, offering a "Storytime Takeover" with the Washington County Public Library and a "Web of Life: Nature Homeschool Afternoon" program with the Nelson County Public Library, serving twenty five (25) youth total. We were also proud to represent sustainability at **Springfield's Sorghum Festival**, the **Loretto Motherhouse "Ag Bash"**, and **Springfield's Downtown Trick or Treat."**

## Demonstration Highlights

New Pioneers' mission guides us to demonstrate sustainable lifestyles for our community, and we were thrilled to **strengthen and build relationships** with key community partners such as the City of Springfield, Springfield Tourism, the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, the Sisters of Loretto, and the Dominican Sisters of Peace this year. We also built connections between our Members and friends at this year's **Empty Bowl Supper**, our annual fundraiser designed to connect, inspire, and uplift local artists and voices.



We also found new ways to **engage local business partners** and industries this year by including local business outreach in our Fall membership drive and building connections with business and industry leaders, including Heaven Hill and Diageo Distilleries, as we bridge our vision for a healthy future into the work of our communities.



In addition, we've built a renewed **public engagement strategy** this year, including a social media strategy to guide our online presence and community relevance with goals to connect, educate, advocate, and inspire. We've also inaugurated the release of a seasonal newsletter, Seasons of Sustainability, to keep our following engaged and up-to-date on our work and growth.

And finally in 2023 we also wrapped up our oral history project: **"Upstream Downstream"** with the support of the Kentucky Oral History Commission. We collected twenty two interviews from local community members recounting informative and entertaining stories of their experiences growing up in the Beech Fork Watershed.

## Advocacy Highlights

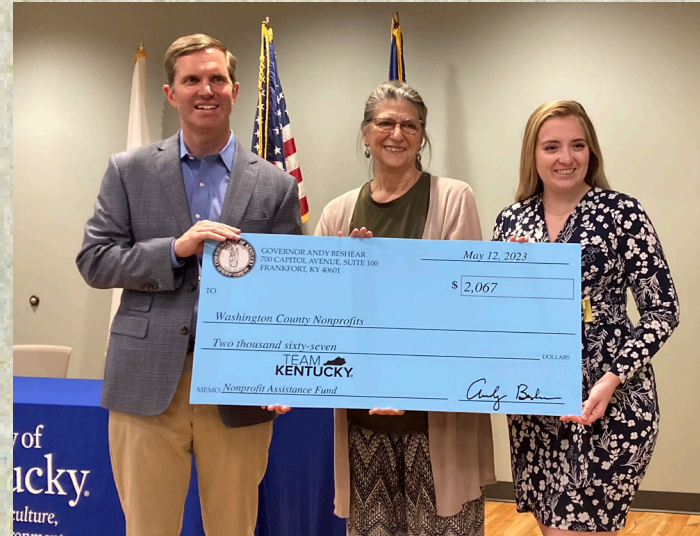
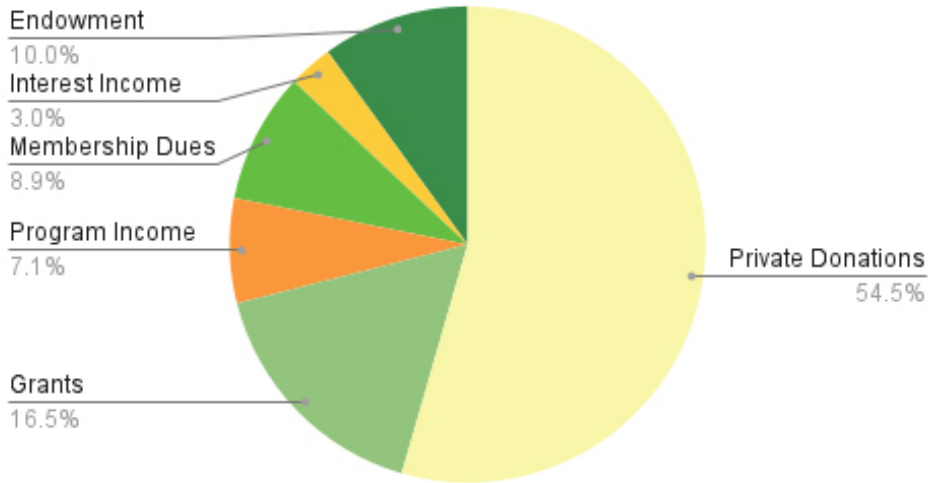
Our organization has a rich history of advocating for environmental conservation, and our strategic planning process this year has reinforced our community's desire for New Pioneers to embody the role of a local environmental advocate. As the sole organization doing so in our region, it is our hope to both **directly leverage our organizational presence and mobilize and uplift our network** to advocate for the issues that will ensure a healthy future for all.

This year, New Pioneers remained engaged in the **Save Bernheim Now Coalition** to stop construction of the proposed LG&E gas pipeline as one of the few local organizations participating in the Coalition's steering committee. New Pioneers also continued to support **Kentuckians for Energy Democracy** and the **Kentucky Conservation Committee** this year by uplifting and participating in relevant calls for action and maintaining organizational relationships. In addition to this direct support and action, New Pioneers has continued to follow other local, regional, and state-wide advocacy efforts and has promoted an array of opportunities for engagement among our following in newsletters, on social media, and while engaging with our communities.



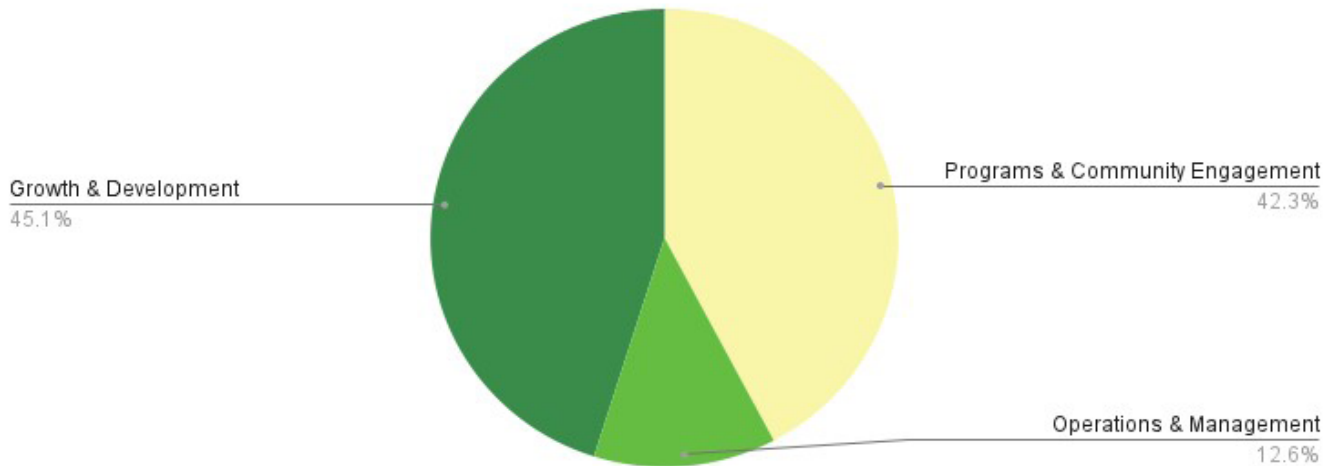
# 2023 Financial Summary

## Sources of Funds



(left) New Pioneers was one of two local non profits honored by Governor Andy Beshear in 2022 and recognized during an awards ceremony in 2023. Lana Gits (center) accepted the award on behalf of New Pioneers.

## Use of Funds\*



\*Please note that all reported categories include percentages of staff time spent on key initiatives in each category, including program development, capacity building, and internal operations.

## Looking Ahead to 2024

### 2024-2026 Strategic Plan

As New Pioneers looks toward a new year of greater community engagement, partnerships, and impact in 2024; we remain grateful for the support and dedication of so many who made 2023 such a success. We can't wait to jump into our 2024-2026 Strategic Plan, which was developed through a series of intentional community listening sessions to best assess and respond to local needs. You can preview this strategic plan on our website, and we will be hosting a formal introduction to the strategic plan during our 2024 Empty Bowl Supper. We hope you'll join us!

# Members

Thank you to our Members and Donors who support and drive our mission in many ways, inspiring "impact" locally and regionally!

## Corporate

Advanced Surveys, Inc.  
Central Kentucky Optometric Association  
Mattingly, Simms, Robinson & McCain  
Michter's Distillery LLC  
Springfield State Bank

## Pioneer

Martha Alderson  
Whitney Wurzel & Casey Hammett  
John Issacs, Jr.  
Britta and Adam Maciuba  
Trudi Maish  
Len & Susan Spalding

## Supporting

Cole Alexander  
Randy Banks & Eileen O'Donohue  
Bardstown Mills  
Big 3 Tractor Company  
Margaret Crowley  
River Fuchs  
Marilyn Fox and Elizabeth Gore  
Susan Gatz  
Judy Gerwe  
Julia Gerwe and Jonathan Nicholson  
James and Pam Grundy  
Joe Pat and Nell Haydon  
Pat Hennessey, OP  
Rowena Holloway  
Theresa and John S. Hundley  
Spalding and Jennifer Hurst  
Kentucky Association of Environmental Education  
Haley Kirtley  
Claire McGowan, OP  
Susan Mercke  
Joyce Minkler  
Eldon Morgan  
Mary Nelson  
Kris and Ed O'Daniel  
Barbara Rapp, OP  
Jessie Rathburn and Andy Dyrsten  
Jackie Roberts  
Bill and Angela Robinson  
Will Rosenbaum  
Hamilton and Elaine Simms  
Simms & Montgomery Inc.  
Susan Simpson  
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Office of Ecological Sustainability  
Sisters of Loretto  
Steve and Wanda Smith  
Solar Energy Solutions, LLC

Springfield Animal Clinic  
Kathleen Vonderhaar, SL  
Winebrenner Financial Services

## Family

All Paws Veterinary Clinic  
Phyllis and Bobby Bastin  
Phil and Sue Billings  
Angela Benz and Anne Chaney  
Elizabeth Coulter  
Sr. Elizabeth Croom  
David and Lynn Foster  
Lana Gits  
Joye Gros, OP  
Kenny and Joyce Hamilton  
Carolyn Jaramillo  
Bob and Ann Karsner  
Charles Logan  
Maurice and Amanda Manning  
Mike and Susan McCain  
Laurie Smith  
James Spragens and Wendy Smith  
Logan and Fran Spaulding  
Bobby and Belle Sutton  
Marsha Wilson and Nancye McCray  
Kathy and Laura Wood  
Ashton Wurzel

## Individual

Bud Blair  
Johanna Brian  
Daniel Carney  
Anna Carrico  
Susan Christensen  
Bob and Sharon Ernst  
JoAnn Gates  
Marina Gibbons, OP  
Earl Grigsby  
Carolyn Hardin  
Jerry Hardt and Diane Yoder  
Charlie Haydon, State Farm Insurance  
Maggie Hettinger  
Jimmy Higdon  
Mary Beth Irvine  
Joy Jensen  
Marsha Lanham  
Sarah Legett  
Tresine Logsdon  
Adam Mattingly  
Sr. Jeanne Moore  
Susan Morris, OP  
Myrna Page  
Joshua and Monica Primer  
Jerri and Billy Riney

Beverly Roberts  
Jane Rudnick  
Bob and Sylvia Tatum  
Todd and Terra Taylor  
Leo and Gussie Thompson  
Rev. Gary Young  
Joe and Pam Zaranonello

## Senior/Student

Janet Ballard  
Ballard, OP, Sr. Mary  
Narcisa Barreto-Perez, OP  
Alida Coughlin  
Cummins, OP, Rose Marie  
Mary Louise Edwards, OP  
Nancy Barbara Endres  
Brenda Gonzales, SCN  
Rose Goodlett  
Joel Gubler, OP  
Tommy and Pat Hart  
Rosemary Hoppe, OP  
Ron Hustedde  
Barth and Pamela Johnson  
Rosemarie Kirwan, SCN  
Theresa Knabel, SCN  
Barbara Lammers, SCN  
Mike and Dianne Lutz  
Mary Catherine Medley  
Nang Nguyen, OP  
Joseph Leo Pietrowski, OP  
Tillie Polin  
Patricia Robinson  
Sr. Anthony Mary Sartorius  
Mary Schmuck, RSM  
Angie Shaughnessy, SCN  
Jessica Shelton  
Jim and Evelyn Silliman  
Marie Surette, OP  
Teresa Tedder  
Tuyet Tran, OP  
Ron Voss  
Terry Wasinger, OP

## Donors

### Donations \$1- 499.00

All Paws Veterinary Clinic  
Mary Otho Ballard, OP  
Sisters of Loretto  
Phil and Sue Billings  
Central Kentucky Ag Credit  
City of Springfield, KY  
Sr. Elizabeth Croom  
Flaget Memorial Hospital

Susan Gatz  
Judy Gerwe  
Julia Gerwe  
E. Gregory Goatley  
Pam Grundy  
Pam Grundy  
Rowena Holloway  
Rosemarie Kirwan  
Barbara Lammers  
Sarah Legett  
Maurice and Amanda Manning  
Mattingly, Simms, Robinson & McCain, PLLC  
Claire McGowan  
Mary Catherine Medley  
Joyce Minkler  
Eldon Morgan  
Kris and Ed O'Daniel  
Chuck Polin  
Jessie Rathburn  
Beverly Roberts  
Patricia Robinson  
Mary Schmuck, RSM  
Jessica Shelton  
Jim and Evelyn Silliman  
Simms & Montgomery Inc.  
Wren Smith  
Bob and Sylvia Tatum  
Teresa Tedder  
Leo and Gussie Thompson  
Toyotomi America Corporation  
Tuyet Tran, OP

### \$500 +

Martha Alderson  
Diageo Distillery  
Dominican Sisters of Peace  
Heaven Hill Distilleries  
John Issacs, Jr.  
Michter's Distillery LLC  
Owsley Brown II Family Foundation  
Sisters of Loretto  
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth  
Len & Susan Spalding  
Springfield Rotary  
Springfield Tourism  
Steve and Susan Wurzel





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