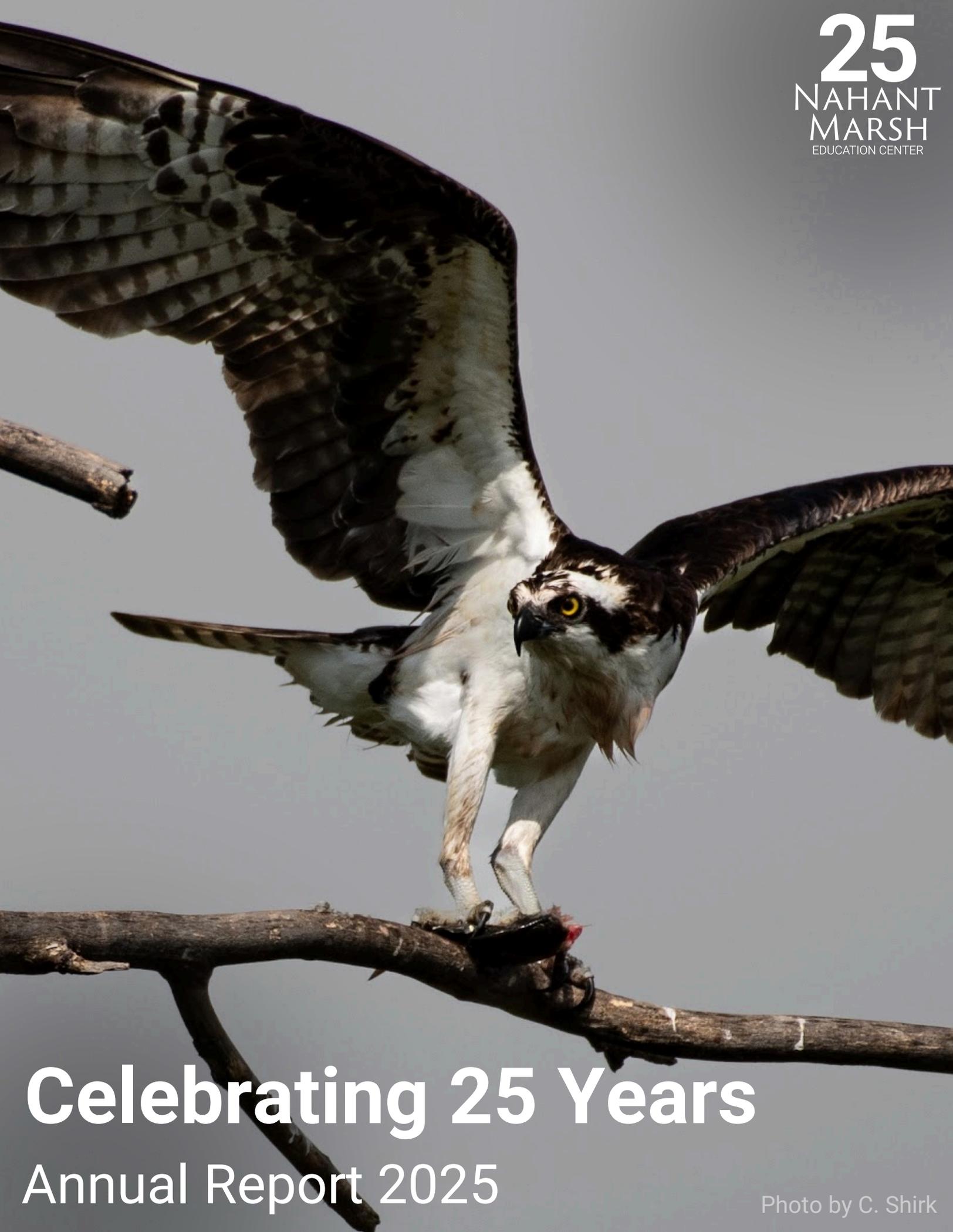


25
NAHANT
MARSH
EDUCATION CENTER



Celebrating 25 Years

Annual Report 2025

Photo by C. Shirk

About Nahant Marsh

Nahant Marsh preserve is one of the largest urban wetlands on the Upper Mississippi River. It is comprised of marshy areas; mesic, wet, and sand prairie; and bottomland forest.

The 382-acre preserve is owned by the Nahant Marsh Board, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and the City of Davenport. Conservation and restoration efforts on the preserve are directed by the Nahant Board. The educational programming is in partnership with Eastern Iowa Community Colleges (EICC).



Mission

To protect, enhance, and restore the Marsh through education, research, and conservation.

Vision

To foster wonder, appreciation, and stewardship of the natural world.

2025 Staff

Executive Director

Brian Ritter

Director of Operations

Elizabeth Schramm

Natural Resource Manager

Kinsey Nielsen

Volunteer Coordinator

Liv Humphrey

Naturalist

Allison Nodurft
Emily Schallert

Director of Education

Amy Loving

Director of Development

Victoria Edwards

Marketing & Events Coordinator

Colin Shirk

Naturalist and Research Coordinator

Jimmy Wiebler

Natural Resource Crew

Madeline Kull
Zach Strong

2025 Board Members

Chair

Curtis Lundy

Secretary

Kathy Wine

Amy Kay

Brock Earnhardt

Bryce Stalcup

Cal Werner

Chris Barnard

Denise Bulat

Ellen Bluth

Vice Chair

Janelle Swanberg

Treasurer

Brock Earnhardt

John Telleen

Josh Hoffman

Kathy Morris

Pete Stopulos

Tim Murphy

Tobey Pribyl

25 Years and Growing

By Brian Ritter, Executive Director



This past year, Nahant Marsh celebrated an important milestone—our 25th anniversary. Over the past quarter century, we have grown from a small but passionate effort into a thriving environmental education and conservation organization. Here are just a few highlights of what we have accomplished together:

- Nearly 300,000 people have participated in a Nahant Marsh program—200,000 of them in just the past 10 years.
- More than 250 college students have completed internships at Nahant Marsh, launching careers in conservation and environmental science.
- Experts have documented over 1,100 species of plants, mammals, mushrooms, insects, birds, reptiles, fish, and amphibians at the marsh.
- Protected land has expanded to 382 acres.
- Our volunteer base has grown from dozens of supporters to hundreds of actively engaged community members.
- In our first year, 2000, just 1,800 people visited Nahant. In 2025, more than 24,000 people attended our programs, including nearly 1,400 who joined us for the Monarch Celebration and Fall Festival this past fall.
- Our staff has grown from one shared employee in 2007 to 12 permanent employees and 14 seasonal interns today.

These accomplishments did not happen overnight. They are the result of years of dedication, generosity, creativity, and passion from our staff, volunteers, board members, partners, and the broader community. Together, we have strengthened the marsh, expanded educational opportunities, and inspired a deeper connection between people and nature.

Looking ahead, our work continues. In the coming years, Nahant Marsh will restore wetland and prairie on a 60-acre farm field, expand our trail network to improve accessibility across portions of the preserve, and continue enhancing and broadening our education programs.

There are challenges ahead, and the work of conservation is never finished. But we have laid a strong foundation and sown the seeds for an even brighter future. I am excited to see how Nahant Marsh will continue to grow, inspire, and protect this special place over the next 25 years. Thank you for being part of this journey.

A Message From the Board Chair

By Curtis Lundy, Board Chair



Nahant Marsh is a teacher and an inspiration. The number and variety of birds, both waterfowl and prairie and woodland dwellers, continue to increase. Weedy prairies are burned, refreshed and reseeded followed by a host of erect native grasses and beneficial pollinators. Other areas are being returned to wetlands providing a rich habitat for a variety of creatures, a filtering operation for compromised water and a place for excess water to go when the flood waters arrive. Nahant is beautiful, restful, and exciting. A place to learn and be inspired.

Aldo Leopold calls for a moral relationship where humans see themselves as part of nature, not separate from it, expanding community to include soil, water, plants, and animals. This relationship is tangible at Nahant. The creatures, the staff, and the board are such a community and welcome you to join.

Theodore Roosevelt said, "Wildlife and its habitat cannot speak, so we must and we will."

In my last year as Nahant chair, I ask you to continue to grow Nahant's community of wild things and habitat. Without reservation, I ask you to consider including Nahant Marsh in your planned giving. It doesn't have to be tons but do include something.

Join Theodore Roosevelt in speaking for wildlife and its habitat at Nahant and elsewhere. Join Aldo Leopold in seeing yourself as part of nature, not above or distinct from nature. Join me in including Nahant Marsh in your planned giving.

By the Numbers

Education

Nahant Marsh continues to grow its impact by offering diverse and immersive programs that connect people of all ages to the natural world. Led by our passionate education team and supported by committed volunteers, we provide engaging on-site experiences including field trips, camps, and workshops.

Through outreach programs, we extend our mission beyond the Marsh, bringing interactive nature programs to libraries, after-school programs, community organizations, and senior living communities. By meeting people where they are, we continue to inspire curiosity, stewardship, and a deeper appreciation for our natural world.



24,577

PEOPLE
SERVED

16

TRAINED
MASTER
CONSERVATIONISTS



15

SCHOOL
DISTRICTS
SERVED



SCHOOLS
SERVED



20,585

TOTAL IMPACT
HOURS



731

PROGRAMS
DELIVERED

By the Numbers

Conservation

2025 was a busy year for Nahant Marsh staff and volunteers! They spent many hours removing invasive species, harvesting prairie seed, and replanting native trees and shrubs. The prairie seed was spread in parts of the stream mitigation bank and sand prairies to increase biodiversity.

 **351**
NATURAL
RESOURCE
VOLUNTEERS



587

VOLUNTEER
HOURS
CONTRIBUTED
TO NATURAL
RESOURCE
PROJECTS

12.5

ACRES OF NEW
PRAIRIE/WETLAND
SEEDED



326

VOLUNTEER
HOURS
CONTRIBUTED TO
INVASIVE
SPECIES
REMOVAL
PROJECTS

107

SPECIES OF NATIVE
PLANTS SEEDED



BAGS
OF
TRASH
REMOVED

 **196**

237

NATIVE TREES
PLANTED

By the Numbers

Research

9

RESEARCH STUDENTS

8

RESEARCH PROJECTS CONDUCTED



1,899

HOURS OF STUDENT RESEARCH

6 LOCAL SCHOOLS REPRESENTED



Nahant Marsh is partnered with the Environmental and Natural Resources Technology Center (EARTH) to provide research internships to students looking to gain experience in wildlife ecology, botany, and related environmental fields. The National Science Foundation generously funds our research programs, which allows us to provide these life-changing experiences for students seeking to go to graduate school or enter the conservation field.

In 2025, eight research students completed the following projects:

- Investigating the Effects of Mass Turtle Mortality
- The Effects of Increased Train Activity on Bat Activity at Nahant Marsh
- Purple Martin Colony Success 2025
- Water Quality Analysis at Nahant Marsh
- Snake Population Survey
- Blanding's Turtle Telemetry
- An Analysis of the Variety and Activity of Bird Species at Nahant Marsh
- Upper Rockingham Bottoms Prairie Evaluation



By the Numbers

Volunteering

913

TOTAL HOURS OF
NATURAL RESOURCE
VOLUNTEER WORK



201

TOTAL
INDIVIDUAL
VOLUNTEERS

1,320

TOTAL VOLUNTEER
HOURS



351

HOURS OF EDUCATIONAL
VOLUNTEER WORK



2025 was a fantastic year, full of passionate and enthusiastic volunteers. Nahant hosted two big trash cleanups and over 290 total volunteer opportunities. We also started to increase our corporate volunteering relationships, bringing in four corporations with almost 50 hard working individuals.

We want to thank each and every volunteer that helps make Nahant Marsh a successful and thriving education center.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE QUARTERS



Winter

Paul
Crosser



Summer

Dick
Potter



Spring

Finn
Broderson



Fall

Curtis
Lundy

Successes in 2025

In 2025, Nahant Marsh turned 25 and we had the opportunity to honor how far the Marsh has come. Our successful year was full of programs, events, and celebration!

In 2025, Nahant ...

- had record attendance for Nahant's special events, bringing in 1,048 adults and 549 children.
- launched a B.A.R.K ranger program at the Marsh.
- lead successful summer camps, bringing in more campers than the previous year.
- raised over \$107,000 at our 6th Annual Oberholtzer Awards.
- received \$430,732 in grant funding.
- sent five of our summer research interns to Washington D.C to present their research posters at the NSF conference.
- burned almost 10 acres of prairie to promote diversity.



Events



Valentine's Day Lantern Hike | February 14th

14 couples enjoyed snacks and the luminary-lit trails for a romantic hike at the Marsh.

Oberholtzer Awards | March 8th

188 people joined us to honor past, present, and future conservation leaders.

B.A.R.K Ranger Launch Party | April 26th

75 people and 35 dogs came out to learn about the B.A.R.K. principles so you and your pet can have a safe and fun visit anytime you go to a park.

Nature Camps | June - August

282 youth enjoyed Nahant's summer camps.

Monarch Party | September 6th

308 kids and 494 adults came to the Marsh to celebrate, learn about, and release monarch butterflies for their fall migration.

Fall Festival and Nahant's Birthday Bash | October 4th

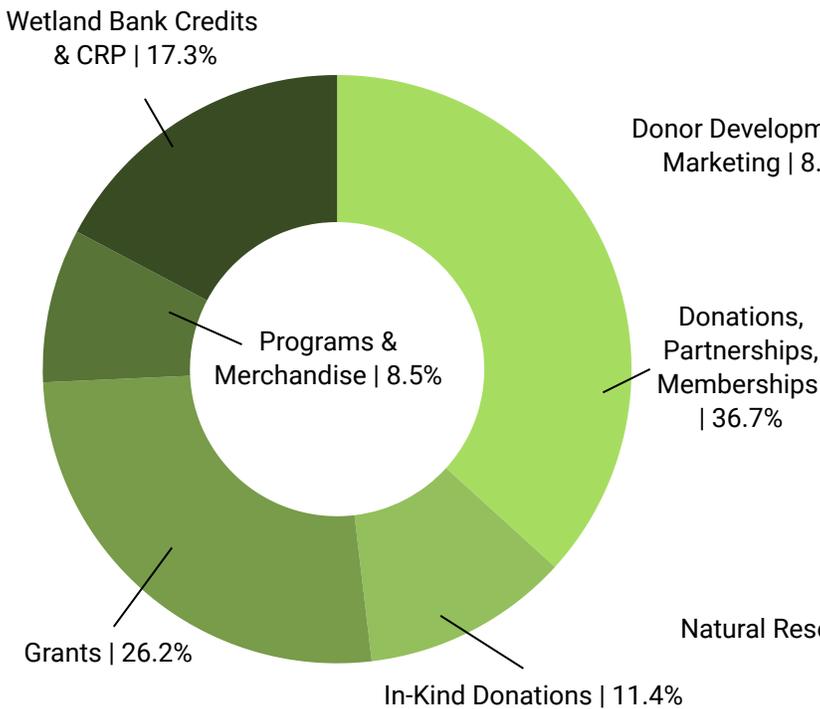
241 youth and 338 adults joined us to celebrate the fall season and Nahant's 25th birthday.

Financial Overview

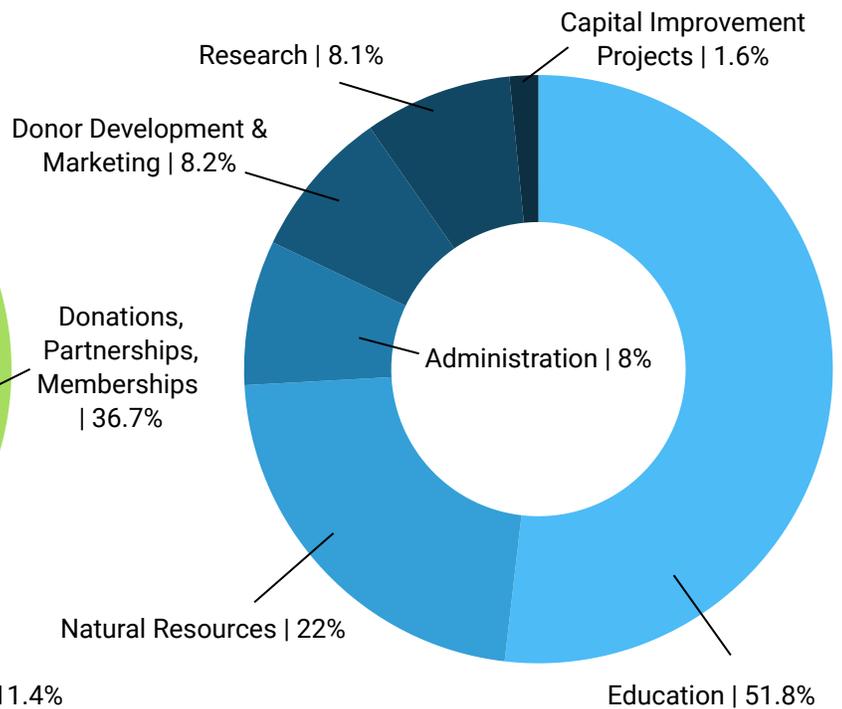
Total Dollars Raised

\$1,646,661

Revenue



Expenditure



- Donations, Partnerships, Memberships | \$604,984
- In-Kind Donations | \$187,445
- Grants | \$430,732
- Programs & Merchandise | \$139,319
- Wetland Bank Credits & CRP | \$284,181

- Education | \$649,724
- Natural Resources | \$279,480
- Administration | \$99,826
- Donor Development & Marketing | \$102,967
- Research | \$101,727
- Capital Improvement Projects | \$19,745

We're grateful to the incredible donors, partners, and volunteers whose support and commitment shaped a successful 2025.

2025 Partners & Sponsors



2025 Grantors



2025 Members

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Croegaert Family		MacDonald Family	Rich Craddick

2025 Members, cont.

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Ron Lang
Roorda Family
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Sadd Family
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Schneider Family
Schwartz Family
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Shawn Kilty
Slater Family

Sloan Family
Smith Family
Stephen Lardner
Strunk Family
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Susan McPeters
Tamra McConoughey
Teri Stickler

Thomas Wachtel
Thomas Woodburn
Thompson Family
Tracey Kuehl
Wells Family
Wille Family
Winter Family

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Bob Thoresen
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Brian Tugana
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Curtis Lundy
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2025 Donations

Aaron & Samantha Schulze	Becky Nakashima Brooke & Will Brooke	Chris Ameling & Rich Clewell
Abbey & Caleb Gatheright	Becky Wiese	Christine McCall & Andrew Thomas
Abernathy's	Betty Wood	Christy Miller
Adler Theatre	Big River Magazine	City of Davenport - Public Works
Adriana McBride	Bill & Dixie Burress	Claudia Scharf
Aleeza Singh & Kyle Ekberg	Bill & Lynn Abel	Codfish Hollow Barnstormers
Alexandra Sutton	Bill & Marsha Loving	Colin Shirk
Alison Bybee	Bill & Ronda George	Connie King
Allan & Jill Ross	BITCO Insurance Companies	Connie Werthmann
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Amber Spiva	Brian Ritter	Curtis Lundy
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Amy Watters-Moeller	Britt Vickstrom	Cynthia Kiester
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Annette & Jack Horland	Carolina Baptist-Bowers & Justin Bowers	David Nelson
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Antonella's II	Carolyn & Joseph Martin	Dean Coon
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Becky Esbaum		

2025 Donations, cont.

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GT Sports Custom Apparel	Joel Vanderbush	
	John & Amy Telleen	
	John & Celeste Roth	

2025 Donations, cont.

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Kathy & Steve Anderson	Lorrie Newman	Nancy & John Danico
Kathy Lundberg	Lynne & Grant Allison	Nancy Chapman
Kathy Wine	Lynne Groskurth	Naomi DeWinter
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Kelly McKay	Mady Day	Nathan Kraus
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Lori Ralfs	Molly Ortiz	Pour Bros Craft Taproom
	Mumford Family Foundation, Inc.	Printing Plus Signs & Vinyl Graphics
		Putnam Museum

2025 Donations, cont.

Quad Cities Community Foundation

- Jack and Michele Dane via the QCCF
- James and Michelle Russell Charitable Fund
- Jon A. and Christine M. Jannes Fund
- Richard Marshall Charitable Fund
- Tracey Kuehl and John Hintze Charitable Fund
- Werner Thoresen NonEndowed Donor Advised Fund
- Zabel Family Charitable Fund

Quad City Bank & Trust

Quad City Botanical Center

Quad City Bouncy

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Ralph & Gail Heninger

Randy Lange

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The Pribyl Group at Baird

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Thomas Thompson

Tim Garner

Timothy Murphy

Tina Grove

TJ the Quad City Magician

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Tom & Sue Leabhart

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Townsquare Media

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Visit QC

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Whitey's Ice Cream

Wide River Winery

Wild Birds Unlimited

Wild Ones QC Chapter

Will Fern

Will Moon

William McFarlin

Wynne & David Schafer

Xenotronics Company

Zachary Campbell

Zoo Med Laboratories, Inc.

Recent Tributes

Doug & Nancy Hultquist in Honor of Alyssa Klauer

Roland Caldwell in Memory of Anne Corbi

Herb & Deborah Ritter in Honor of Brian Ritter

Tom Shirk in Honor of Colin Shirk

Sara Siokos in Memory of David Peters

Julie & Jacob Mensendike in Honor of Dennis Tarasi

Carol Harris Leingang in Honor of Elizabeth VanCamp

Gary & Jeanne Ihlefeld in Memory of Mark Beorkrem

Jane Cassidy in Memory of Mary & Ralph Cassidy

Curtis Lundy in Memory of Mike Ryan

John Conley in Memory of Rod Radtke

Mary & Jim Pelzer in Memory of Shirley Horstmann

David Urush in Honor of the Earth

John Vinzant in Honor of Tim Murphy

Jane & Les Cox in Honor of Cha Cha

Drs. Amir & Lisa Arbisser in Honor of Tony & Joyce Singh

Emily Winslow in Honor of Tony Knobbe

David & Nan Horst in Honor of Tony Singh

In Memory of Cassidy Piersall:

Morgan Cullett

Ezra Manes

Shaniece Payne

Tami Seitz

Whitney Smith

Laura Wriedt

Susie Clase

Sue & Jim Swanson

Sherry Staub

Melissa & David Dell

Curtis Lundy

Sarah Brennan

Anonymous

In Memory of Janice Bybee:

Alison Bybee

Karen Fowler

Mandy Lawson

Anna & Declan Mulkeen

Sara O'Callaghan

Anonymous



2025 Animal Adoptions

Bob | Three-toed Box Turtle

Ambrose and Marlowe Kerr
Robert Thompson & Judith Lee

Buddy | Painted Turtle

Cassie Druhl
Cathy White
The Rakus & Wille Families
Sadie Miller

Captain | Blanding's Turtle

Mark & Lisa Cleve

Ethel | Red-eared Slider

Cathy White
Mark & Cindy Slater

Leopold | Northern Leopard Frog

Caroline Kimple

Micheline | Ornate Box Turtle

Liz Schramm in Memory of Shirley
Horstmann

Oneida | Ornate Box Turtle

Caroline Kimple

Pancake | Spiny Softshell Turtle

Kendall & Susan Schwartz Family
Patti Holmlund
Terry Collins

Pretzel | Corn Snake

Terry Collins
Thomas Thompson

Rizzo | Black Rat Snake

Tom and Leo Rizzo

Rocky | Bullsnake

Dave and Laura Schmidt

Squirtle | Ornate Box Turtle

Cathy White
Rescued
Squirtle the Dog

Sunny | Fox Snake

Aryanne (Cha Cha) Encarnacion-Cox
Elysa & Caden Huynh-Smith





Nahant Marsh
4220 Wapello Avenue
Davenport, IA 52802

EDUCATION CENTER HOURS

Monday–Friday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Saturday: 9:00am - 3:00pm (April - October)

9:00 am to 12:00 pm (November - March)

There is no fee to visit the Education Center, but donations are always appreciated