



# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Developing Community Through Hands-on Creative Learning

---



## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

In 2022, we continued to witness the power of coming together to create a unique community at Marine Mills Folk School (MMFS).

It was a year for the record books as we stretched ourselves in order to serve our growing community of curious learners, talented artisan-instructors, and friends of MMFS.

**More than 150 classes**, free events, or other craft get-togethers were held at our folk school — our largest year to date!

**Talented artisans** provided hands-on instruction as class attendees **explored traditional arts and crafts** such as spoon carving and basket weaving, crop art and crochet. **New skills** were learned, from welding and watercolor batik to forest bathing and foraging.

**Friends—old and new—laughed and learned together** at free weekly community events.

There was celebration, too, as we marked our **fourth anniversary in the fall of 2022** with the annual Marine Fall Festival.

As we traveled outside of Marine on St. Croix to introduce ourselves to new audiences, we were **continually met with enthusiasm and support for our mission:**

*To enrich lives and strengthen community by inviting all people to discover the joy of creating together from a folk school tradition.*

**Thank you for being an important part of the MMFS community!**

In gratitude,  
Robin Brooksbank  
Founder and Board Chair  
Marine Mills Folk School





# 2022 Highlights

## In 2022, Marine Mills Folk School:

- ✿ Increased the variety and types of classes offered including more advanced skills.
- ✿ Created more opportunities for local and regional artists to share their skills with new audiences.
- ✿ Hosted the Marine Fall Festival in September in celebration of our 4th birthday.
- ✿ Launched an updated [website](#), making it easier to find courses and events.
- ✿ Grew our staff to assist with programming and marketing and communications, reducing some of the duties of our hard-working volunteers.
- ✿ Introduced a membership program.
- ✿ Welcomed the Marine Village School to our shared facility at 550 Pine Street.

## The MMFS Membership Program

# Membership has its perks!



In the summer of 2022, we launched the MMFS Membership Program. The [MMFS Membership Program](#) is a way to give back to our consistent supporters while generating a sustaining stream of income for the school.

Incentives for membership include early bird

registration for upcoming classes and discounts on merchandise.

More than 150 individuals and/or households have become MMFS Members since August 2022! Thank you to everyone who supports the folk school as a member.



## Finding Connection and Community

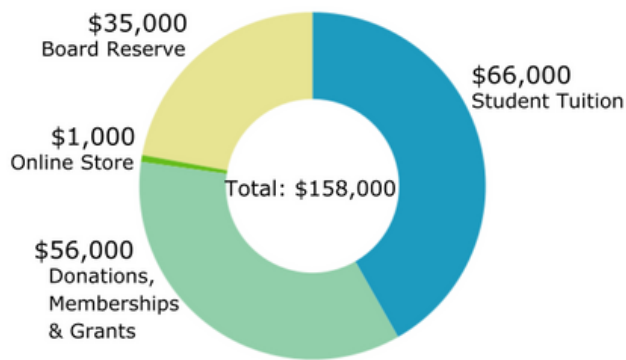
Kate Farrand takes so many classes at MMFS that the staff call out her name the minute she walks through the door. It’s a stark contrast to Pine City, Minn., where—even after living there for more than 20 years—she hasn’t developed the same type of connection with the community.



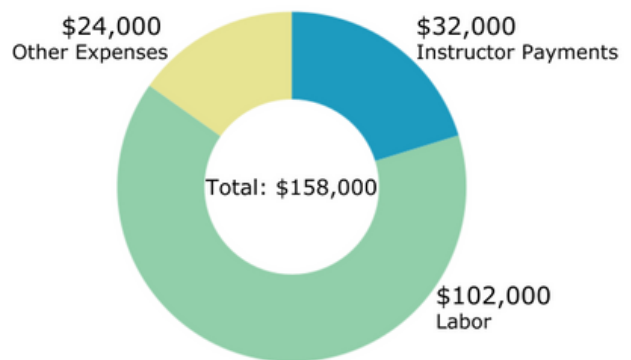
“It is easy to feel isolated and lonely, especially as an empty nester,” Kate says. “I make a point to sign up for at least one MMFS class a month, so I always have something to look forward to doing. My sister, Ann, has also started taking classes. It is fun to have an excuse to be together and learn a new skill.”

“When people ask me about my hobbies, I always say, ‘Knitting and taking classes to keep my brain healthy and happy,’” Kate continues. “I’ve taken classes at other folk schools, but MMFS is by far the best folk school around. I tell people about MMFS all of the time, because it’s one of my favorite places to be.”

## 2022 Financials



2022 Revenue



2022 Expenses

*In 2021, MMFS gratefully received a \$250,000 generous capacity-building gift from anonymous donors. The board authorized drawing on the gift in 2022, using \$35,000 to help move from volunteer staffing to professional staff. Numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand.*



## A Typical Weekend Is Anything But Typical!

Each weekend, a community event runs concurrently with classes and the folk school lobby hums with activity. There's Dare to Repair, a fix-it clinic, on the first Saturday, and Beginner's Bridge on the third Saturday.

On the second Saturday of each month, the lobby overflows with musicians gathered for the monthly Bluegrass Jam Session. In an adjacent room, wood carvers gather for Open Carving. The sounds of their laughter and chinks from their tools splitting wood are occasionally audible over the strum of guitars and voices joined in song.

A typical Saturday of classes might include Welding a Garden Sculpture, Weaving on a Rigid Heddle Loom, Expressionist Painting, Foraging for Herbal Remedies, and Creating Barn/Hex Signs. The next weekend might offer Basket Making, Sámi-inspired Bracelets, Building a Wooden Paddle, Sourdough Basics, and Needle Felting a Chickadee.

**No two weekends are the same at MMFS!**

## A Place to Call Her Own

Former Saint Paul Public Schools substitute teacher Katherine Buenger has made a second career out of her love for and talent in artistic crafts. Since 2021, she has been teaching Sámi-inspired Bracelets at MMFS.

MMFS has become more than just a place where she teaches. "From the moment I walked into the folk school and was greeted by cheerful, helpful, and excited people," Katherine says, "I knew I wanted to come back and be part of this."

In addition to teaching at MMFS, Katherine and her husband have become MMFS members and regular attendees at monthly Open Wood Carving Sessions.

"I continue to marvel at how upbeat all the staff are even when I see how busy they are setting up rooms and putting things back after classes," she says. "MMFS is a very happy place."



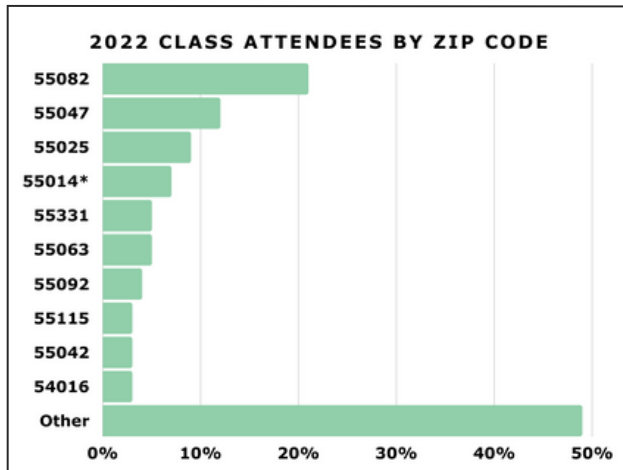
# MMFS Community

Marine Mills Folk School is a destination folk school based in historic Marine on St. Croix, Minn., along the St. Croix River. We believe in accessibility and inclusivity; all are welcome.

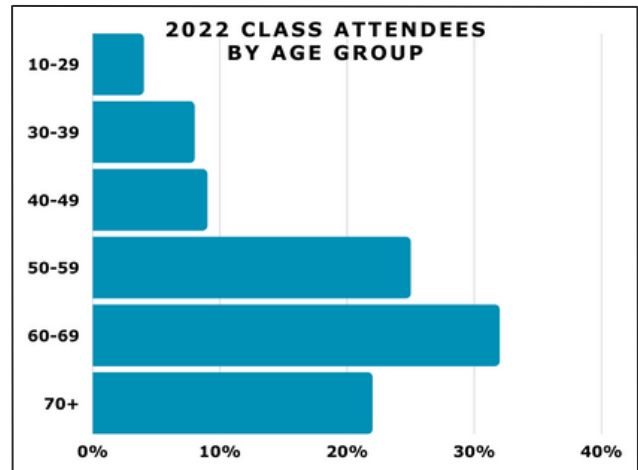
The MMFS community is made up of curious learners, artisan-instructors, Marine on

St. Croix neighbors and friends, and staff from throughout the region.

In 2022, people ages 3 to 90+, from all seven counties in the Twin Cities metro area, eastern Wisconsin, Iowa, and even greater distances, attended an event at MMFS.



\*Includes 55104, 55105, 55106, 55116 & 55118.



# 2022 DONATIONS & SUPPORT

## 2022 Individual and Household Supporters

\* Indicates 2022 MMFS Member Status

Marie Adrian\*  
Susan Ahlquist  
Megan Aker  
Karen Alnes\*  
Janet Ames  
Elizabeth Anderson  
Emily Anderson  
Linnea Anderson  
Cheryl Anderson-Cermin\*  
Dana Anderson\*  
Theresa Angelo  
Anonymous  
Grace Argeropoulos  
Mary Arnesen\*  
Pamela Arnold\*  
Pam Aspnes  
Kathy Austad\*  
Eric Austin  
Nancy and Tom Austin\*  
Virginia Averill\*  
John Axelson  
Lisa Barnes  
Marge Barrett  
Melanie Bazille  
Dan Beck  
Paige Beck  
Carol Bender  
Rebecca Benz  
Alice Berquist\*  
Noelle Bibus  
Margaret Bicek  
Peyton Biggs\*  
Lynn Bjorkman

Tom Bjorkman\*  
Rolf Bjornson  
Nancy Blonigen\*  
Renee Blonigen\*  
Barbara Boekhoff  
Anne Boldt  
Rachel Borchers  
Jennifer Borgert  
Gary Borgstadt\*  
Philip Bourne  
Michele Braley  
Katie Brekke  
Gregg Brooksbank  
Robin Brooksbank\*  
Alycen Brothen  
Jaimin Brown  
Michele Brusegard  
Barbara Buckley  
Katherine Buenger\*  
Mary Burke  
Jason Busch  
Ben Butler  
John Butler  
Gloria Cantor\*  
Cindy Carlson  
Julianna Casey\*  
Alessandro Ceserani  
Leya Charles\*  
Hallie Chasensky\*  
Ron Chick  
Sheila Cina  
Mike Clarkson\*  
Faith Clover

Lynn Collins\*  
Sharon Coombs  
Jenni Corbett  
Sara Corbo  
Sarah Corrigan  
Nancy Cosgriff  
Leah Cottle\*  
Laurelei Creuzer\*  
Patti Cullen  
Marian Dahlberg  
Dina Dainty\*  
Laura Daugherty  
Dale Davies  
Heather Dawe\*  
Rebecca Delmore\*  
Molly deVries  
Loralee DiLorenzo\*  
Nanette Dolphin  
Kathi Donnelly-Cohen\*  
Laura Donovan  
Amanda Dorendorf  
Leslie Dorendorf  
Cindy Dorn  
KC Douglas\*  
Shane Dowell  
Valoree Dowell  
Alden Drew  
Jill Duncan  
Marie Dwyer  
Margaret Eaves-Smith

*Continued on next page*

## 2022 Individual and Household Supporters (cont.)

Dominique Ebbenga  
Susan Edseth\*  
Pam Ehrlich  
Sherry Eldridge  
Gail Engstrom  
Gayle Ericksen  
Darcy Erickson  
Jean Erickson  
Jennifer Erickson\*  
Mary Erickson\*  
Thomas Erickson  
Jon Erik  
Meg Erlandson\*  
Nancy Etwiler  
Kate Farrand\*  
Piyali Felicetta  
Dawn Fellows  
Mary Fernstrum  
Wendy Fernstrum  
Diane Field  
Joan Fogelberg  
Liz Foreman  
Gail Frame  
Beth Friedrichsen  
Ellen Fuge  
Jenni Gaffer\*  
Heidi Gallagher  
Katie Ganfield  
Elizabeth Gehring  
Alex Geisendorfer  
Janice Gestner  
Grace Getchell  
Christa Getchell\*  
Samantha Gillies  
Kathryn Gilman  
Sarah Godsave\*  
Susie & Hal Goldstein\*  
Kim Gordon  
Leah Grans  
Connie Grant

Darolyn Gray  
Jill Greenhalgh  
Teagan Groenke  
Brent Gross  
Laura Gross\*  
Margaret Guilfoyle  
Judy Gulden  
Richard Hackler  
Russ Halverson  
Lori Hammerstrom\*  
Betty Hanegraaf  
Jammi Hansen  
Karen Hansen  
Maddie Hansen  
Doug Harper\*  
Cecily Harris\*  
Karen Harrison  
Polly & Kevin Hart  
John Hauser\*  
Rhea Hawkins  
Eugene Heger  
Janet Hegland  
Elizabeth Hegman\*  
Kay Hempel\*  
Nicole Hendrickson\*  
Allison Hennen\*  
Jennifer Henry\*  
Wendy Hentges\*  
Diane and John Herman  
Paul Herzog

Patti Highland  
DeAnne Hilgers\*  
Jamie Hindahl  
Maria Hiniker  
Tasha Hock\*  
Nikki Hoffman  
Darlene Hoffmann  
Melinda Hoke  
Vicki Holland  
Beth Honetschlager\*  
Susie Hopper  
Charlotte Hubbard  
Debra Hunt  
Suzanne Hunt  
Paul Huot  
Chaiya Isenberg\*  
Julie Jacobs  
Christian Jacobsen  
Emma Jaqueth  
Gae Jarvis\*  
Laura Jensen\*  
Welcome Jerde  
Heather Jeske  
Lorrie Jeske  
Katherine Johannes  
Becky Johnson  
Dianne Johnson  
Alysse Johnson-Strandjord  
Megan Johnston  
Steven Jongewaard  
Jan Justman  
Sue Kammann  
Pete Keely  
Gretchen Kelly  
Brian Keogh\*  
Madeleine Kerr  
Lori Kielsa  
Deb Kielsmeier



*Continued on next page*

## 2022 Individual and Household Supporters (cont.)

Shawn Kiene  
Claire Kingstad  
Julie Kleist  
Laurie Klinkhammer  
Janet Knoll\*  
Joli Kohnen  
Jennifer Kokes\*  
Joan Kruse  
Lisa Kruse  
Annie Kuthart\*  
Wendy Kvale  
Darcy Kyle  
Susan Lange\*  
Ellen Larsen  
Kelly Larson  
Wendy Larson\*  
Julie Lee  
Susan Lenarz  
Cindy Lennon\*  
Christopher Lepage  
Suzanne Leshovsky  
Amanda Lewis  
Anne Lewis  
Betsy Lien  
Lisa Lindberg Doyle\*  
Kia Lindholm  
Bruce Lindquist  
Charles Lininger\*  
Fred Livesay\*  
Susan Logan\*  
Sharon Looney\*  
Randy Lorenz  
Elger Lorenzsonn  
Heidi Louise  
Lonnie Lovness  
Rebecca Lueloff  
Julie Luna

Jeff Lund  
Maureen Lundquist\*  
Mary Lusher  
Ann Machmeier\*  
Nanc MacLeslie\*  
Monette Magrath  
Karen Manthey  
Carol Marchel\*  
Kathy Marker\*  
Andrea Martin  
Donald Martin  
Wynn Martin\*  
Dennis Mashuga  
Natalie Mason  
Lauren Massopust  
Mary Mateer  
Christine May  
Kevin McCarthy  
Regina McCullough  
Katy McDearmon\*  
Beth McDowell\*  
Dani Mchugh  
Michele McKenzie\*  
Amy McNabb  
Peg Medcraft  
Deborah Mena\*  
Elizabeth Mercer  
Thomas Michels\*  
David Miller  
Julie Miller  
Melissa Miller  
Nancy Miller\*  
Kathleen Milner  
Teri Mindt  
MaryAnn Moenck\*  
Brenda Mohrhauser\*  
Christopher Moore  
Barbara Morgan\*  
Catherine Morris  
Candace Moser

Karen Mosso  
Brenda Mulry  
Johanna Munns  
Deb Murphy  
Pat Murphy  
Kien Nguyen  
Anne Nickerson  
Kate Nicoletti  
Milinda Nitti  
Meg Nodzon  
Jane Norbin\*  
Andrea Nordick-Stone  
Kevin Nyenhuis\*  
Bevin O'Brien  
Jennifer O'Brien  
Kate O'Brien\*  
Toni Oberto  
Mark Odegard  
Elizabeth Olsson  
Cathy Oscarson  
Carrie Otis  
Tanya Otten  
Rondi Otterness  
Jean Oventile Johnson\*  
Debra Owens\*  
Sharon Pallarino\*  
Mary Palmer\*  
Andrea Parins  
Paul Parins  
Laura Pattison\*  
Wendy Paulsen\*  
Melissa Peacock  
Cathryn Peters\*  
Chris Peterson  
Lori Peterson  
Dawn Peterson\*  
Rebecca Phelan  
Rina Phillips  
Kathleen Picard  
Tracy Pokrzywa\*

*Continued on next page*

## 2022 Individual and Household Supporters (cont.)

John Polley  
Tammie Polley  
Libby Pomroy\*  
Katie Porfidio  
Len Pratt\*  
Diana Prince  
Robin Prochazka  
Matthew Quast  
Kate Raleigh\*  
Robin Raudabaugh  
Terry Reineccius  
Kate Reinicke  
Amy Reisdorf  
Stephanie Reneau  
Phyllis Reubendal  
Dan Reuter\*  
Jay Riggs  
Laurel Riter  
Nancy Ritzman

Carissa Roach  
Ann Roeder  
Barbara Roen  
Judy Rogosheske  
Suzanne Rolf  
Maribeth Romslo\*  
Samantha Roth\*  
Sara Rottunda  
Joyce Russotto  
Allie Rykken  
Anne Rykken  
Aashwin Sachdev  
Mary Jane Sahl  
Deb Salls  
Molly Sanford\*  
Lisa Sarvie\*  
Nancy Sather\*  
Rose Sawyer  
Heidi Schallberg  
Janet Schantzen\*  
Laurie Schmidt  
Sharon Schmidt  
Joe Schmitt  
Heather Schoone

Lisa Schwartz  
Kathy Scoggin\*  
Maija Sedzielarz  
Andrea Seifert\*  
Greg Seitz  
Kate Seitz\*  
Gloria Sell\*  
Judy Sell\*  
Michelle Setterholm  
Kathleen Sheridan  
Becky Siekmeier\*  
Katherine Sill  
Bill Simpson\*  
Kirsten Skoglund\*  
Barb Smith  
Matt Smith\*  
Kristina Smitten\*  
Coby Somsen  
Neal Sorensen

*Continued on next page*



## More Room for More Creativity!

One of the first classes held at MMFS in October 2018 was woodworking. Spoon carving, chip carving, wooden paddle building and open carving are now part of the core curriculum offered at the folk school.

Having a dedicated space for messy, creative, woody craft finally got underway in 2022. We launched a fundraising campaign, Let's Get Woodworking, in November. Thanks to

a generous, anonymous donor and more than 20 supporters, we met our ambitious \$2,500 initial fundraising goal and are well on our way to our full budget of \$20,000.

The dedicated crafting space will be housed in an outbuilding on the north side of the MMFS campus, and will open for classes in mid-2023.

## 2022 Individual and Household Supporters (cont.)

Emily Spanjers  
Sharon Spartz\*  
Jean Spisak  
Scott Spisak  
Nancy Stalland  
Tracy Stead-Harms  
Cynthia Sterle  
MaryEllen Stewart  
Carissa Stimpfel  
Carly Stipe  
Sarah Stivland\*  
Jan Storms  
Connie Sue  
Patty Suess  
Jim Sullivan  
Neerja Suri-Kumra  
Susan Swanson  
Kelly Swanson\*  
Kristin Taipale  
Adriana Temali  
Greig Tennis  
Heidi Thayer\*  
Kit Thomas\*  
Dorian Thompson  
Kristine Thueson  
Steve Tiedman  
Taylor Tinkham  
Lizabeth Towers  
Ann Trandal\*  
Nancy Truax\*  
Kristin Tuenge\*  
Jody Turner  
Sara Tyler  
Lori Uhr  
Shawn Ulrick  
Kitsi Vadheim\*

Janet VanBenthuisen  
Darcie Vandegrift  
Sandra Vaughn  
Erik Vevang\*  
Kaitlin Wadley  
Andy Wallace  
TK Walling\*  
Sarah Wallis  
Vicki Walsh  
Patrick Ward\*  
Kim Waterbury  
Gracy Waugh  
Cathy Wegener\*  
Debi Weiss  
Cindy Weldon  
Lynnette Welsch  
Colleen Whaley\*  
Gordon Wiegand  
Cathy Wilcox  
Charlotte Wilcox  
Katie Wilke  
Maia Williams\*  
Jean Wilson-Walker  
Celia Wirth\*  
Molly Womack  
Catherine Wood\*  
Joe and Deanna Worm  
Kym Wright\*  
Deb Yanker  
Paul Ydstie  
J. Marina Yoder\*  
Ingrid Youmans  
Robin Young  
Charlotte Zabawa  
Rachel Zerby

**Thank You!**

## Let's Get Woodworking Fundraiser

*Through GiveMN and direct donations.*

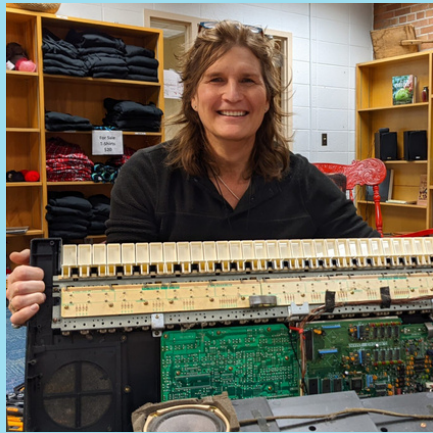
Anonymous  
Barbara Bjork  
Katherine Buenger  
Shelley Campbell  
Cindy Dey  
Meg Erlandson  
Meg Gelhar  
Meg Hafner  
Kerri Hamos  
Brian Keogh  
Nanc MacLeslie  
Barbara Morgan  
Kien Nguyen  
Kate O'Brien  
Denise Sanderson  
Eric Sanford  
Molly Sanford  
Gloria Sell  
Dale Setterholm  
Matt Smith  
Lucy Soderstrom  
Gracie Waugh  
Brian Wicklund  
Andy Wallace

## Foundations & Sponsors

Bessemer Giving Fund  
Fidelity Charitable DAF Fund  
Hugh J. Andersen Foundation  
Scandia Marine Lions Foundation  
Schwab Charitable DAF Fund  
Security State Bank of Marine  
St. Croix Valley Foundation

# You've shared our highlights and successes! Here are the many ways that you can support our mission.

- ✿ Become a **member** and commit to a monthly level of support that will help us continue our focus on new classes.
- ✿ Consider a **multi-year pledge** to help us develop our organizational capacity.
- ✿ **Tell your friends** about us and take a class together.
- ✿ Take advantage of the tax benefits of **donating highly appreciated stock**.
- ✿ **Share your ideas with us!** Visit [marinemillsfolkschool.org/support](https://marinemillsfolkschool.org/support) to learn more, or contact us at [info@marinemillsfolkschool.org](mailto:info@marinemillsfolkschool.org) or 612-440-6295.



We gratefully acknowledge our Board and all of the Volunteers who make MMFS so vibrant and welcoming!

## 2022 MMFS Board of Directors

Robin Brooksbank, Board Chair  
Matthew Smith, Treasurer  
Nanc MacLeslie, Secretary  
Andy Wallace  
Cathy Wegener

Jane Norbin  
Julie McGarvie  
Kathy Marker  
Pam Arnold  
Patte Kraske



# MARINE MILLS FOLK SCHOOL

Discover the joy of creating together  
from a folk school tradition!



## Marine Mills Folk School

### Mailing Address:

PO Box 111  
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047

### Physical Address:

550 Pine Street  
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047

612-440-6295

[info@marinemillsfolkschool.org](mailto:info@marinemillsfolkschool.org)  
[www.MarineMillsFolkSchool.org](http://www.MarineMillsFolkSchool.org)

### Follow Us

[@marinemillsfolkschool](https://www.facebook.com/marinemillsfolkschool)

