OUR MISSION
The High Mountain Institute engages students with the natural world. Our school boldly unites rigorous intellectual inquiry, experiential learning, wilderness expeditions, and shared responsibility in a strong community. Our students realize their potential—as leaders, independent thinkers, and thoughtful citizens.

FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL
Extraordinary.

This might be the word we forever associate with the last eighteen months, both for our country and our school.

Against a backdrop of immense challenges, I am proud to report that HMI rose to the occasion last year, proving once again that transformative outcomes occur when nature and minds meet. Over the last year with some modifications to our summer sessions, we ran every major program on our calendar. HMI served more students than ever before, received record numbers of applications, increased Gap enrollment by 100%, achieved new records for annual and capital fundraising, continued to realize the dream of our campus master plan with on-time and under-budget construction, and made significant progress toward achieving our diversity, equity, and inclusion goals. Next year, for example, we will award over $1,200,000 in need-based financial aid to over 30% of our students. Additionally, over 40% of Semester 47 students self-identify as people of color, and we are adding a new Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Finally, we transformed the model of our apprentice program to one that offers a stipend in order to attract more socio-economic diversity to our apprentice cohorts.

This extraordinary time has also highlighted the work we have to do to achieve the promise of HMI’s mission. We continue to ask ourselves how our school can better represent the diversity of the United States, increase access to the outdoors writ large, and adapt our program to serve all students who wish to take advantage of what HMI offers to us.

HMI has risen to the challenges of the past year thanks to the extraordinary community who supports us. The names on the following pages of this impact report ensure that our small school is also a mighty one. You inspire and sustain us; we are deeply grateful. Thank you.

Warmly,

Danny O’Brien, Head of School
dobrien@hminet.org  |  719-486-8200 x101
We are so grateful for the many people who help make HMI possible.

Brandon Kaplan, Semester 24 Alum (pictured right, 2010)

What does HMI mean to you and what impact has it had on you? It’s hard to put into words what HMI means to me and the impact it’s had. Being a part of Semester 24 made me grow astronomically, because it was such a beautiful, very challenging, and unique shared experience. Our surroundings, the natural wonders we saw and climbed, P&P readings, daily happenings, and just developing as a person there made me pay more attention to the world around me and massively kickstart my sense of adventure. I still frequently think about my time there, and it even has a profound impact on the music I compose to this day. Being at HMI utterly and completely changed me, and I think I am still discovering how big its impact is. That’s just how special HMI was and continues to be.

Why do you give to HMI each year? HMI made me believe I could do the impossible. I give each year because I see it as a way of giving back for what was given to me as a result of my experiences at HMI. It is my way of saying thank you, and I wish I could say thank you a thousand times over. I also give to help HMI for the future, because I want to see them continue to succeed and be amazing.

Why should other people consider supporting HMI? Think about the impact HMI had on you. What does it mean to you? How do you want to share and honor your experience? Supporting HMI is a small yet impactful way to say thank you, while helping push HMI ever forward into the future and make it more accessible for future generations. It’s always said that it takes a village, and this is a village worth supporting.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

NIKKI WELCH
Parent of Semester 43 alum Nathan Curl, Evergreen Donor

What does HMI mean to you and what impact has it had on you and your family? My son was selected to participate in HMI’s 43rd Semester during his sophomore year in high school. I had never heard of HMI and had extremely limited information about the program. My son was excited to be selected to attend HMI and as I spoke to parents whose children had attended HMI, their enthusiasm for the program was evident. It was not until Family Weekend that I began to see the true impact that the program had not only on my son, but on all of the students present. The weekend was so special, everything from the family dinner, to touring the campus and being able to witness the sparkle in every child’s eyes, was absolutely amazing.

Why do you give to HMI each month? My son returned home a different person. More confident, independent, and introspective about his aspirations. Although I do not know every detail of how he spent his time at HMI, I see the impact it has had on his life every day. I want to thank the wonderful staff for creating and supporting a great program. HMI definitely changes lives and that is one of the main reasons I donate monthly. I want other kids who come to HMI to have the same life-changing experience as my son.

Why should other people consider supporting HMI? I would encourage everyone to make either a monthly or one-time donation to the HMI program. The staff at HMI are exceptional and the program is life-changing for not only students, but families too.

Nikki Welch,
Parent of Semester 43 alum Nathan Curl, Evergreen Donor

Brandon Kaplan,
Semester 24 Alum (pictured right, 2010)
CAMPAIGN FOR COMMUNITY

THE FINAL PHASE
BREAKING GROUND ON THE FACULTY & STUDENT CENTER

The Faculty & Student Center will address current space limitations to ensure that our facilities match the ambitions of our program.

This spring we broke ground on the Faculty & Student Center which will better enable HMI to deliver on the promise of teaching and learning in the twenty-first century.

The design of the Faculty & Student Center remains aligned with HMI’s value of “simple in means, rich in ends.” It will match our current campus buildings with natural wood, big windows, and neutral colors—not to mention stunning views of Mount Elbert and Mount Massive. It will be fully solar powered, along with the rest of campus. Although campus is undergoing some big physical changes, HMI is still the same school that excitedly welcomed its first students with a piece of swinging plywood standing in for a permanent front door!

The Faculty & Student Center will provide much needed space for:

- Three new classrooms
- A fully equipped natural science lab
- Dynamic work spaces for students
- Productive work spaces for faculty
- Gender-neutral bathroom facilities that will help every community member feel at home
- Additional much needed space for our wilderness gear and rations rooms

We are excited to announce that thanks to generous donors we soared past our $6.1 million goal and raised $6.8 million for the Campaign for Community!
Our Financial Highlights

We are grateful for and buoyed by the generosity of our community, especially in the wake of such a tumultuous year.

Your generosity emphasizes the importance of our mission and our ability to make positive change in the lives of young people, now more than ever. To the alumni, families, friends, corporations, foundations, and all who contributed, thank you.

Your generosity in action:

- 23% of our entire operating budget went directly to financial aid, almost double the national average
- 27 students received 100% free gear rental
- 100% of our endowment draw went to financial aid
- 10 round-trip flights purchased for students receiving financial aid

HMI Fund donors make it possible for students to attend HMI regardless of their financial background.

We could not offer generous financial aid without support from YOU!

- HMI’s served a record number of students (180) and recorded more revenue ($5,203,243) than ever before!
- We increased the percentage of our operating budget going towards financial aid from 21% to 23% in order to provide COVID-19 hardship assistance.
- We have successfully surpassed our $6.1 million Campaign for Community goal by raising $6.8 million!
- Donors contributed a record $592,432 to the HMI fund, providing financial aid, investing in our faculty and staff, and allowing for critical campus improvements.
- Our endowment has grown to $8,263,432.

For detailed and audited financial statements, please contact Barrett Donovan, our Director of Communication & Engagement at bdonovan@hminet.org
Apprentices are college graduates who immerse themselves in a semester-long apprenticeship with the HMI Semester. Each apprentice specializes in a specific academic subject area, helps lead expeditions, and supports residential life activities. Needless to say, the HMI Semester would not be possible (or as vibrant) without them.

Starting this fall with Semester 47, we are transitioning the Apprentice Program from a tuition-based model to a stipend-based one. Apprentices will receive a $4,500 stipend in addition to room and board on campus. This transition is intended to help break down barriers to access for wilderness-based employment and to help attract a more economically diverse group of applicants.

As HMI grows and becomes a more accessible and therefore diverse institution, it is important that our apprentice, faculty, and staff cohorts reflect that as well. Historically, many apprentices have returned to HMI as full-time employees and our hope is that as our apprentice cohort diversifies, so too will our employee cohort.

Please contact Avery Kernan, Apprentice Program Coordinator, at akernan@hminet.org or 719-486-8200 x108 with any questions or to learn more about the program.

At HMI, we believe deeply in the philosophy of education through experience.

APPRENTICE PROGRAM UPDATE
With sincere gratitude we list the following donors who have supported HMI in fiscal year 2021 by making gifts to the HMI Fund, Campaign for Community, or endowment. Through their generosity, support, and commitment to our school we can continue to offer transformational experiences when nature and minds meet.

This list reflects donations made to the High Mountain Institute between June 1, 2020 and May 31, 2021. We have made every effort to ensure that this list is complete and accurate. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact Barrett Donovan, our Director of Communication & Engagement, with any corrections at bdonovan@hminet.org.

THANK YOU, DONORS!

EVERGREEN DONORS help support HMI all year long by making monthly donations. We are grateful for their generosity each and every month. The ▲ in these pages of donor listings indicate those who have made a monthly commitment to HMI.

THE MT. ELBERT CIRCLE recognizes donors who have given consecutively for the last five years or more. This is a remarkable demonstration of loyalty and we are grateful for their steadfast support. The ▲ in these pages of donor listings indicate those who have made this exceptional commitment to HMI.

EXPEDITION LEADERS

The following donors have set themselves apart by making major gifts to our school. It is an honor to acknowledge the tremendous role they play in helping us provide transformative outcomes for our students.

Darren Acheson & Dr. Carol Peterson Δ
Anonymous
Arctos/Vigla
Christopher & Darcey Bartel
Richard & Sarah Bernon
Forest & Marco Berkey
Jake Blumenfeld & Julie Edsforth
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& Erin Fray/Welch
David Spina & Victoria Mars
Bill & Debi Dopstean
Stuart & Linda Thomsen ▲
Frederick Wang ▲
Thomas Wheeler
10,200’ circle

Named after the elevation of Leadville, these donors help us reach extraordinary heights by making donations of $1,000 or more.

David & Janet Offensend
Debbie Snyder
Dr. Daniel Solomon & Mindy Berman
Roy Solomon & Yvonne von Court
Mark Stash & Ursula Marsh
The Stekn Family
Stiles
Sammy Suzuki & Janice Kim
Adam Pomerantz & Joanne Robinson
Anne Pope
Timothy & Debbie Prister
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Mr. David and Dr. Krista Ross and Family
Dr. Michael & Kelly Tramens
Dr. Quentin & Rosi Van Doosselaere
Andrew & Elizabeth Waisler
Connie Walsh
John William Thompson & Ellen Webb
Rich & Kristen Welsch
Brian White & Carrie Tou
Andrew & Dewey Wilf

Alumni
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Emma Cold
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Ben Small
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Robert & Ross Henderson
José De Jesús
Jeffrey & Hilary Johnston
Mark Jakob & Lynda Denworth
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David & Sarah Harnen
Mark & Anne Harts
Robert & Ross Henderson
José De Jesús
Jeffrey & Hilary Johnston
Mark Jakob & Lynda Denworth
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Wayne & Patti Kent
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Mark Stash & Ursula Marsh
Stephen M. Seay Foundation
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Derek & Diane Rucker
Sigrid & Scott Sardoom
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14
15
SUPPORTERS
OF HMI

Our vibrant community of supporters inspires us and is a testament to the far-reaching impact of our school.
WAYS TO GIVE

WE ARE THRILLED AND GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE:

Gifts of Securities & Stocks
Matching Gifts • Planned Gifts
Recurring Gifts

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT
WWW.HMINET.ORG/WAYS-TO-GIVE
MATCHING & CORPORATE GIFTS

We are grateful to the following corporations who so generously support their employees’ philanthropic efforts and provided matching gifts to HMI.

AIG
Alliance Bernstein Corporation
AmazonSmile
Apple
Bank of America
Brookfield Property Partners
Cardinal Health
FTI Consulting
Netflix
Nike
PepsiCo Foundation
Rucker Properties
Rucker Properties
T-Rowe Price
Yelp
Yelp
Zoo

MATCHING GIFTS

INDIVIDUALS

We are grateful to the following individuals who helped to secure matching gifts for HMI from their employers.

David Barahona
Mark Brown & Terry Meyers
Mark Cullen & Fiona Smythe
Chelsea Dieck
Bryan & Leslie Diers
Tom Erdmann
Nick Gannon
Jacqueline Hastings
Michael Louis Kearns
Bern Kenneally
Robert & Amy Lovett
Leo & Katrinka McCallum
Flemming & Lauren Madsen
Timothy Prister
Derek & Diane Rucker
Francisco Rocha Jaje
Sammy Suzuki & Janice Kim
Grant Sunderland

GIFTS

IN KIND

Huck Triggs
Lola Van Doesselaere
Nina Ware
Ella Williams

SEMESTER 42
Menndhi Benjamin
Gracie Dinwiddie
Zoe Foehl
Lucia Rain Ginsberg
Virginia Northcut
SJ O’Gorman
Ell Wilds
Emma Williams

SEMESTER 43
Ian Acheson
Kendall Bartel
Spencer Billings
Quo Breden
Mae Browning
Benjamin Burks
Lucy Chant
Nathan Cault
Geen Fiddler
Hannah Grage
Zach Hauptman
Sanya Kim-Suken
Pradeep Lueber
Kai Long
Lenny Levine
Laichan McCallum
Reva Nambodiri
Ryan Paish
Olivia Robins
Verite Sanborn
Ryan Sawyer
Jula Scott
Ullian Shatshuk

Laelani Sortano
Lucy Steiner
Julie Ynuck
Spencer Wolf

SEMESTER 44
Benny Aziz
Chloe Bassett
Marge Bawarchi
Aubrey Cullen
Addison Dain
Kate Donahue
Molly Eggan
Charlie Garcia
Paige Gorden
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James Luna
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Madison McDonald
Georgia Murphy
Max Nelson
Jackson Newman
Angie Dealz Drago
Bella Pitman
Harry Robinson
Maisy Riemens
Lucy Schwarz
Anna-Kate Seawright
Sophia Stawrta
Ben Wagner
Sam Yolkes

SEMESTER 45
Gibson Barrie
Sadie-Anna Blackford
Geena Bowers
Henry Bunhardt
Cael Colve
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Genna Feek
Kate Fisher
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Kate Doreenin
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Amber Rose
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Taylor Strawburger
Olivia Trim
Pearl Tyler
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MATCHING & CORPORATE GIFTS

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AIG
Alliance Bernstein Corporation
AmazonSmile
Apple
Bank of America
Brookfield Property Partners
Cardinal Health
FTI Consulting
Netflix
Nike
PepsiCo Foundation
Rucker Properties
T-Rowe Price
Yelp
Yelp
Zoo

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Chelsi Diack
Bryan & Leslie Diers
Tom Edmains
Noël Gannon
Jacqueline Hastings
Michael Louis Kearns
Bern Kenneally

GIFTS

IN KIND

Corey Broderick
Michael Casaleone
Joede Scholbert
& Civic Forum Associates, Inc

Robert & Amy Lovett
Lee & Katrinke McCullum
Petering & Lauren Madsen
Timothy Pflizzer
Dan & Diane Ruder
Francisco Ruiz Jara
Sammy Suzuki & Jorrie Kim

Grant Sunderland
Wilderness Sports
THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

The following lists recognize just some of the people who have contributed their time and talent to advance HMI forward. Their generosity and spirit of service is inspiring! These volunteers give to HMI in many different ways and we are fortunate to have them as such integral parts of our community.

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PLANNED GIVING

MAKING A COMMITMENT TO HMI’S FUTURE

HMI makes a lifelong impact—you can too.

A Full Circle gift allows you to make a commitment to HMI’s future by including the school in your will or trust. These bequests help ensure that HMI is as successful tomorrow as it is today. If you are interested in leaving your legacy through HMI, please contact Barrett Donovan, our Director of Communication & Engagement, at bdonovan@hminet.org.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS
EXCITED TO VISIT CAMPUS, TAKE A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE, AND SEE OUR CAMPUS UPDATES?

SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 9–11, 2023 • 25-YEAR REUNION