

HIGH MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE

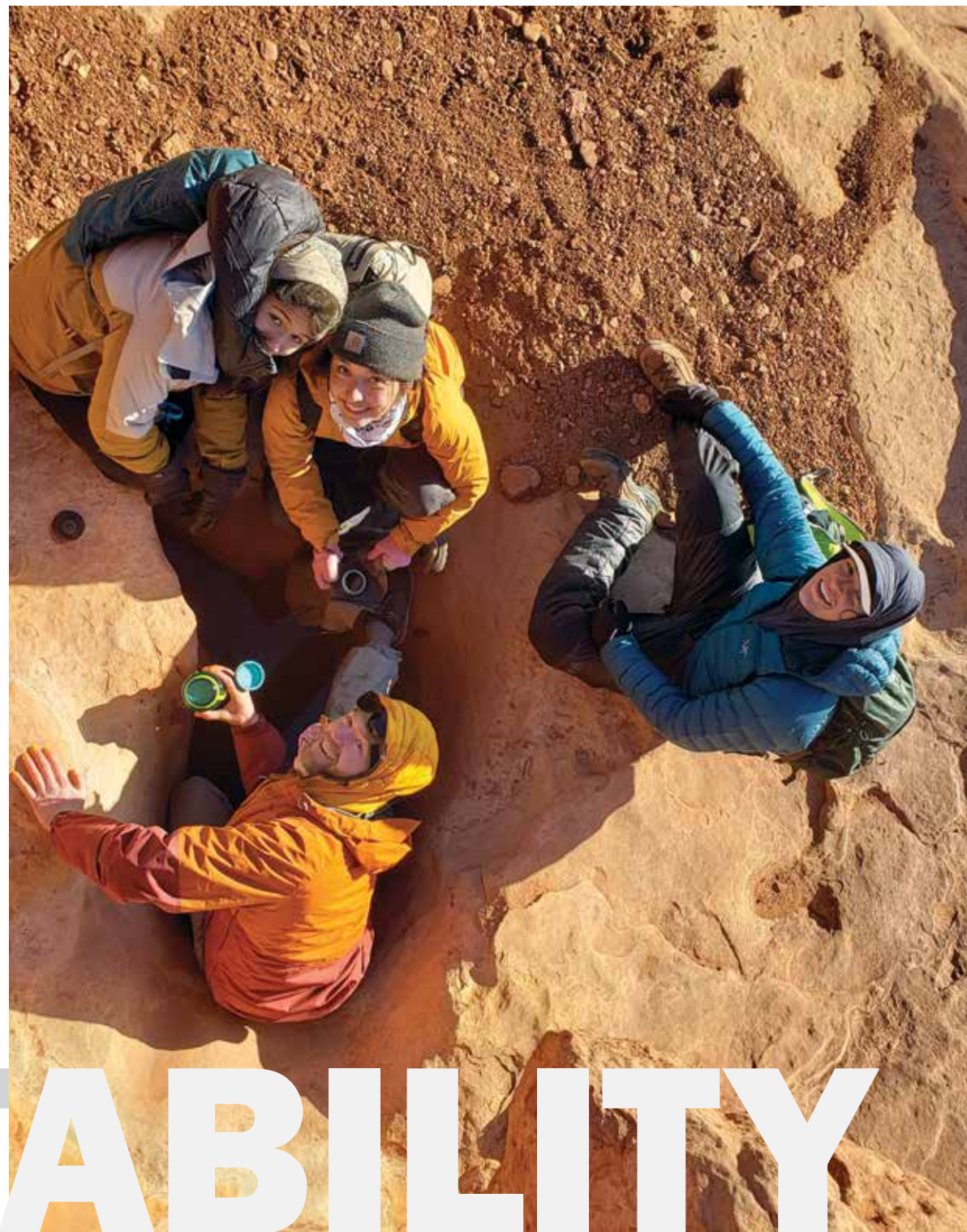
*when nature
& minds meet*



IMPACT REPORT | FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 2022

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.



ADAPTABILITY



FROM THE INTERIM HEAD OF SCHOOL
Amy Roberts

The backcountry demands adaptability. Hikers regularly encounter obstacles and challenges that force them to pause, reassess plans, or shift course. Gear can break. Inclement weather can foil a summit push. A sprained ankle can alter a hiking route.

As we teach our students, what matters most in these moments is our response. Like resilient hikers, organizations like HMI don't just adapt to changes, they embrace them as gifts that help us grow and learn. While these moments test us, we move forward with new knowledge and understanding, stronger than before.

Looking back on this year, our third year of operating programming amid a global pandemic, HMI has had to adapt and change. We've made adjustments to our schedule, to our programming, and to our policies. It hasn't always been easy, but every time a busload of HMI students pulls into our driveway, I am reminded both of the importance of our mission and how worthwhile and impactful our work is. This year, HMI continued to both model and teach resilience, growth, and adaptability for students in all of our programs. As we continue to adjust to the changing COVID-19 landscape, there have been countless moments to celebrate and many bright spots. We welcomed visitors back to campus this spring and, for the first time in years, were able to operate mask-free.

There are other signs of change and growth afoot. Our physical campus is expanding with the addition of a 4,600-square foot Faculty & Student Center that houses a science lab, brand new library, student work spaces, and gender-neutral restroom facilities. I can't wait to see Semester 49 students fill the space with joyous laughter and thoughtful conversation. The Barnes and East buildings are also undergoing major renovations this summer, complete with new office spaces for faculty and staff and an updated and larger kitchen and dining space.

Along with our campus, our community also experienced change this year. We are deeply grateful to former Head of School Danny O'Brien for his years of service and leadership at HMI. This spring, HMI announced a nationwide search for a new Head of School, a process that should be complete by the fall.

During times of change, it is important to remember what grounds us: our mission, our values, and our strong, tight knit community. Thank you for being an integral part of that community. Your support of HMI is inspirational and speaks to your unwavering belief in our resilience as an institution and the transformative power of embracing change, big and small.

— Amy Roberts, Interim Head of School
aroberts@hminet.org | 719.486.8200 x101

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

We are so grateful for the many people who help make HMI possible.

We spoke with two HMI donors to learn more about what HMI means to them and why they commit to making a difference by supporting our school. Here is what they had to share:

Jen & Lance Marx

SEMESTER 46 PARENTS

What does HMI mean to you and what impact has it had on you?

The High Mountain Institute develops the whole student. Learning doesn't occur in a bubble. It is framed by their community and the world as a whole. HMI changed our daughter's life. Brooke's growth in four months was just astounding. She came home stronger, mentally and physically, passionate, committed, and confident. The knowledge of the outdoors and survival, learned from day one as the kids head into the wilderness, puts them on the path to teamwork, leadership, and a sense of self. Everyone at HMI is fully invested in the challenge the program presents and provides the students with the tools they need to succeed.

Why do you give to HMI each year?

We believe supporting HMI is a long-term investment. More students who can learn in this manner will contribute to a better society. The experiences HMI provides students should be available to as many as possible. In giving to HMI in a long-term pledge, we hope to make a difference in the lives of students who will make a big difference in this world.

The Marx family visiting Alaska. Brooke (Semester 46) is pictured on the right.



Emily Faxon

SEMESTER 19 ALUM, EVERGREEN DONOR



Emily (Semester 19) at Turquoise Lake in Leadville.

What does HMI mean to you and what impact has HMI had on you?

15 years ago was the first time I actively put myself out of my comfort zone. I had just gotten out of the white van in Leadville, CO, and walked into Cabin One for Semester 19 at HMI and had no idea what I was actually getting myself into. Since then, my life has been a series of pushing the boundaries of comfort; be that through adventure, advanced learning, intentional communication, or packing everything up and moving states. HMI taught me that I can handle just about anything as long as I follow the first

LNT principle—plan ahead and prepare. This motto has carried me through the past 15 years and kept me dry at more than one Red Rocks show.

Why do you give to HMI each month?

I give to HMI because it had such a profound effect on my life by giving me the tools to welcome growth and personal development. I wish that everyone was taught feedback and communication skills (hello VOEMping), and that learning to be comfortable with discomfort was more available to people as a way to encourage growth. If my donations allow more people to experience the magic that is life at 10,200 ft, then I'll donate for the rest of my life.

Why should other people consider supporting HMI?

Most of us have felt the unease of the past two years profoundly. I look at younger generations and am concerned about the world that they are walking into. If we, as an alumni community, can provide access to the hope, friendship, and skill that HMI taught us to the younger generations, then donating is a no-brainer.

CAMPAIGN FOR COMMUNITY

Thanks to our generous donors we soared past our \$6.1 million goal and raised \$6.8 million for our Campaign for Community!

We are excited to announce that our new Faculty & Student Center—the final phase of the Campaign for Community aimed at addressing campus space limitations—is complete! Summer Term students were the first to use the new space which includes classrooms, a library, work spaces for students, and gender neutral bathroom facilities. This fall, teachers have settled into their new classrooms and Semester 49 is already filling the space with laughter and thoughtful conversation.



The design of the Faculty & Student Center is aligned with HMI's value of *simple in means, rich in ends*. The building matches our current campus style with natural wood, big windows, and neutral colors—not to mention stunning views of Mount Elbert and Mount Massive. The building is fully solar powered, along with the rest of campus.

Now that the Faculty & Student Center is complete, we are in the process of repurposing other spaces on campus. The East Building will return to its roots as the hub of our wilderness programs, with the Rations and Gear Rooms (downstairs) getting additional space, along with more administrative office space (upstairs). The Hope Library is now the Hope Classroom, and the kitchen has been expanded to include more storage and office space.

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. Jill Gardiner, Semester 26 Alum and HMI's Administrative Manager & Registrar, has seen HMI through many phases. When asked about how campus has grown, Jill remarked: “Eleven years, several renovations, and six new buildings later, I’m struck everyday walking into the Barnes Building. Running up the stairs to a meeting, I could be 17, running late to AP US History class. HMI simultaneously brings me back to the wonder of being a student, while reminding me of my growth and the ways that I am now able to give back to this school.”

We are grateful for the community who helped make the dream of this space a reality!

“My favorite part of the new Faculty & Student Center is that it has so many dynamic and flexible spaces with large classrooms, conference and meeting rooms, cozy study corners, open library space, study carrels, and even storage! It will be a versatile asset for all of our programs and offerings for years to come.”

— Em Ducharme, Semester 8 Alum & HMI Director of Finance and Operations






WE  THE NEW FACULTY & STUDENT CENTER!

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS



HMI Fund donors make it possible for students to attend HMI regardless of their financial background. We could not offer such generous financial aid without support from you—our community.

Providing financial aid for incoming students helps us to craft a community where passion, curiosity, and inspiration take precedence, not a family's ability to afford a program like HMI.

-  **\$929,675** granted in need-based **financial aid**, putting HMI in the **top 20%** of independent schools
-  **13 round-trip flights** for students on financial aid
-  **100% of our endowment draw** went to financial aid
-  **33** students received **100% free gear rental**
-  **22% of our operating budget** went directly to financial aid, **almost double the NAIS average**

Our Financial Highlights

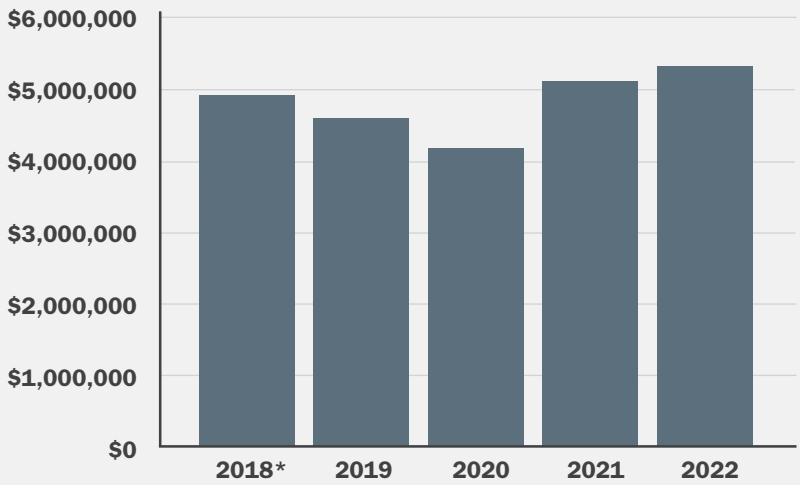
The following are some of our financial highlights from 2022. We are grateful for and sustained by the generosity of our community, especially in the wake of several tumultuous years.

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, foundations, corporations, and all who contributed, thank you.

- **HMI's served 174 students and recorded more revenue (\$5,323,673) than ever before**
- **We have successfully surpassed our \$6.1 million Campaign for Community goal by raising \$6.8 million**
- **Donors contributed over \$700,000 to the HMI fund, providing financial aid, investing in our faculty and staff, and allowing for critical campus improvements**
- **Our endowment has grown to \$8,688,829**

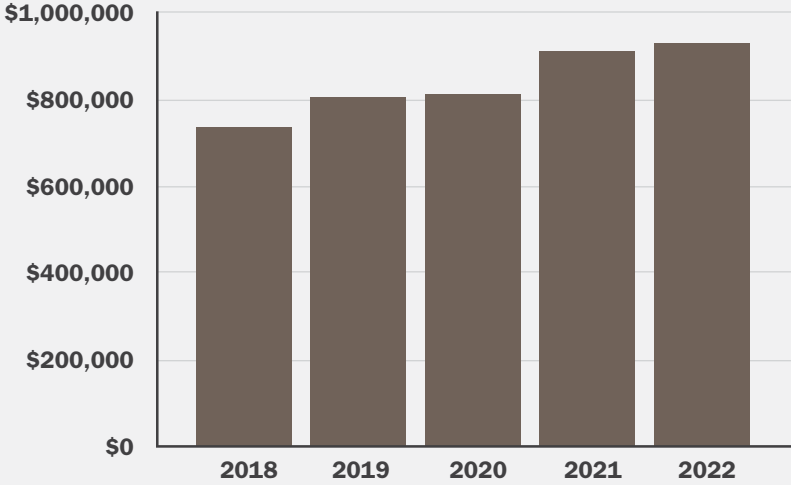
FOR DETAILED AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, please contact Barrett Donovan, our Director of Communication & Engagement at bdonovan@hminet.org.

OPERATING REVENUE



*adjustment to our end of fiscal calendar caused this number to be larger

FINANCIAL AID GROWTH



25-YEAR REUNION

SAVE THE DATE!

On June 9-11, 2023 we will welcome the HMI community from far and wide to campus for a celebration in honor of our 25th year! All alumni, alumni families, former faculty, staff and apprentices, and friends of HMI are invited to attend.



Semester 7 celebrating their first snow on campus almost 18 years ago.

The weekend will be spent exploring campus and the surrounding area, reconnecting with old friends, and forging new connections with fellow HMI-loving-folks. We will have activities on campus including a Fun Run, tours of new buildings, class-specific reunions, a bonfire, live music, and adventures to nearby hiking trails and lakes.

This celebration will also mark a big transition for HMI as we welcome our next Head of School to the HMI community while celebrating all that founders Molly and Christopher Barnes, former Head of School Danny O'Brien, and Interim Head of School Amy Roberts contributed to our school.

Registration for the weekend will open this fall so stay tuned for more information in the very near future. There will be transportation available from Denver International Airport to campus, as well as lodging available in our cabins. We look forward to welcoming you all back to campus soon and to celebrating this special place and outstanding community!

THANK YOU, DONORS!

With sincere gratitude we list the following donors who have supported HMI in fiscal year 2022 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.



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.

This list reflects donations made to the High Mountain Institute between June 1, 2021 and May 31, 2022. 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!

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.

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

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Our vibrant community of supporters inspires us, and is a testament to the far-reaching impact of our school

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For more information,
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Micaela Tepler ▲

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Robby Kuster
Natalie Margolin
Keith Morency ▲
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Alex Potter ▲
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Kevin Chun ▲
Billy Corbett
Barrett Donovan ▲
Mariah Foley ▲
Scott Fuller ▲
Jill Gardiner ▲
Sunshine Gardner ▲
Alex Garner ▲

Erinn Geyer
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Annie Preston ▲
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SEMESTER 27

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Tate Castro ▲
Katie Eaton ▲
Kelsey Hoekstra ▲
Dylan Kingsbury
Gideon Lovell-Smith
Claire O'Brien
Colleen Orr ▲
Kinori Rosnow
Miles Wilson

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Barlow Peelle
Griffin Peer ▲
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We are grateful to the following individuals who helped secure matching gifts for HMI from their employers.

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GIFTS IN KIND

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| Corey Broderick Gary Pforzheimer & PG Calc | Lisa Zwerdlinger |
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LAKE COUNTY BACKPACKING TRIP

This summer, thanks to generous donors Michael Gregory & Saree Kayne and our partnerships with Full Circle and the Lake County School District, we were able to offer our annual Lake County Backpacking Trip—a free 5-day camping and backpacking experience for Lake County middle school students. We are thrilled to have run another successful Lake County Backpacking Trip this summer and are looking forward to offering this unique program to Lake County middle schoolers in 2023 and beyond!



THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

The following lists recognize many 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 so many different ways and we are fortunate to have them as such integral parts of our community.

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