

2013 Annual Report



JEFFERSON CENTER

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY by improving **CIVIC DISCOURSE** and advancing **INFORMED, CITIZEN-LED SOLUTIONS** to public policy issues.

2013 was a deeply significant year for the Jefferson Center as we took major strides in gracefully passing the mantle of leadership from our visionary founder, Ned Crosby, to a new generation of leaders poised to carry his vision forward. We ended the year with a re-tooled vision, a renewed foundation of financial support, and a high-functioning team ready to capitalize on new opportunities. We are extremely grateful for the dedication of both our staff and our board to position the Center as a central institution in efforts to empower citizen voices in political and policy conversations. Here is a recap.



Kyle Bozentko and Larry Pennings partnered as Co-Directors to lead the Jefferson Center in this year of transition. Larry focused primarily on solidifying the organizational infrastructure and strengthening the team, while Kyle worked to broaden the foundation of relationships and awareness so crucial to success.

Through his active networking and participation, Kyle elevated the profile of the Jefferson Center in the field of Deliberative Democracy. He presented on the application of the Citizens Jury method at events such as the University Network for Collaborative Governance Annual Meeting, the National Conference of State Legislatures "Spring Forum," the National Rural Assembly, the International Association of Public Participation North American Conference, and the Environmental Protection Agency "Community Involvement Conference." Kyle was invited to the White House "Champions of Change – Open Govt and Civic Hacking" event and the Kettering Foundation's "A Public Voice 2013" event at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Additionally, he was invited to provide input on civic participation and deliberative practices for the Obama Administration's "Open Government 2.0 Action Plan."



Kyle expanded the Jefferson Center's footprint in Minnesota while strengthening the organizational relationships developed throughout Northeast Ohio in 2012. These efforts have resulted in the development of two projects moving towards implementation in 2014. A pilot-project for the Rural Climate Dialogues project in Morris, MN will be held in conjunction with the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy. In Ohio, we are working with local partners and Freshwater Future to foster public involvement in discussions focusing on protecting Lake Erie and bolstering public health efforts in the context of a changing climate.

The Jefferson Center will also be supporting our longtime friends in Healthy Democracy Oregon as they expand the Citizens Initiative Review to other states and adapt the CIR to county-level initiatives.

A vibrant future depends on the Jefferson Center broadening its base of financial support. We have begun implementing a three-pronged income generation strategy built upon (1) seeking institutional support; (2) soliciting individual gifts; and (3) developing earned income opportunities by leveraging our organizational expertise. In 2013, we developed organizational capacity to develop and submit high quality grant proposals and initiated positive relationships with a number of program managers at local and national foundations. We capped the year with news of a successful proposal from Freshwater Future to support our work on climate policy in NE Ohio. We also diversified our individual contributions through direct contact, relationship cultivation, and through active participation in Minnesota's "Give to the Max Day." Our collaboration with Healthy Democracy in 2014 signifies an initial step in generating earned income through leveraging our skills and expertise.

The close of the year also brought several staff transitions. Nathanael Smith, who had ably served as Communications Associate for a year and half, moved to Tennessee and took a new position in website design. In December, Kyle was appointed the Executive Director and Larry moved into the role of Associate Director. In addition, we were pleased to add a new staff member, Andrew Rockway, as a Program Associate. Andrew is a recent graduate of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota who will oversee our grant development, policy research, and communications, and support our project implementation and organizational outreach.

Momentum is building for the Jefferson Center and, though much work remains, we are confident that these efforts will put the organization on a track toward success and self-sufficiency. We have demonstrated a unique capacity to empower Americans to contribute meaningfully to political discussions and to advance citizen-led solutions to challenging issues. 2014 represents the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Jefferson Center and we will be embarking on a campaign to supplement standing donor commitments throughout the next three years so we can carry Ned’s legacy forward in a manner that both honors his vision, creativity, and commitment and makes a significant impact on the health of our democracy. We hope we will have your support.



Jefferson Center - 2013 Financials

Support / Revenue	Contributions	\$ 185,578
Expenses	Staff Salary-Related Expense	\$ 100,053
	Office Expense (Rent, equipment, services)	\$ 15,296
	Professional Services (legal, accounting, IT, etc.)	\$ 10,496
	Field Development (staff travel, etc)	\$ 23,411
	Insurance	\$ 4,146
	Miscellaneous	\$ 165
Total		\$153,567



“I know of no **SAFE** depository of the ultimate powers of society but the **people THEMSELVES**. And if we think them *not enlightened enough to exercise their control* with wholesome discretion, the **REMEDY IS NOT TO TAKE IT FROM THEM, BUT TO INFORM THEIR DISCRETION.**”

- Thomas Jefferson