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Growing Roots With You
A tree is only as strong as its roots. That’s why we are building long-term programs, a sound business model, and a community educational center in Tucson. With your help, we will ensure our organization has the capacity and longevity to tackle the challenges of the day and be a leader in conservation and community building. Your investment in WMG as a donor has nourished our roots — so with a hearty thanks and gratitude, we present our 2013 annual report!

-WMG Staff and Board

Watershed Management Group develops and implements community-based solutions to ensure the long-term prosperity of people and health of the environment. We provide people with the knowledge, skills, and resources for sustainable livelihoods.
Direct Impact of Your Dollars

$50 DONATION
sponsors one tippy tap at a child’s home in India with a follow-up visit See Page 13

$100 DONATION
pays for educational signage at a public demonstration site See Page 12

$250 DONATION
subsidizes the cost to build a compost toilet barrel system and stop flushing away resources See Page 9 –10

$450 PAYMENT FOR A LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN
subsidizes workshops for low-income members of the Green Living Co-op in Tucson or Phoenix See Page 3 – 4

$1,000 DONATION
funds a WMG expert to participate in stakeholder groups to advocate for green technology or sound water policy See Page 11

$3,000 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
funds the creation of outdoor classrooms and the educational center at the Living Lab and Learning Center See Page 6 – 8

$5,000 PAYMENT FOR YOUR BUSINESS’ LANDSCAPE MAKEOVER
subsidizes work with a K–12 school to create an outdoor classroom rain garden See Page 5
As a donor, we know it’s always exciting to invest in new initiatives, whether it’s a ground-breaking new program, an innovative one-time project, or urgent advocacy work. Because we value your investment and continually strive to push the envelope, we are creating new business models to sustain our ongoing programs. Enter: our fee-based programs. Our most robust fee-based program is the Green Living Co-op in Tucson and Phoenix. While new Co-op services are still supported by your donations, our standard services are funded through our fee structure. To keep our services affordable for everyone, we offer discounted rates to those who volunteer, a special low-income rate, and many opportunities to apply for grants and subsidies.

We are expanding our fee-based services for both businesses and homeowners through our new Design to Build option. You can hire WMG to create a conceptual design for your landscape and oversee contractors to implement the plan – making the most of our unique expertise. These services contribute to WMG’s profit margin, allowing us to invest in our public educational programs, policy work, and programs benefiting low-income and minority communities.

Your Landscape Design Funds Educational Programs
Meet our Design and Consulting Team:

**Catlow Shipek**
Our senior consultant with the greatest depth and breadth of expertise, Catlow can help you with technical rainwater-harvesting systems, backyard to homesteader makeovers, or solving your flooding or erosion problems.

**James DeRoussel**
Our registered landscape architect and certified arborist, James specializes in working with contractors, code compliance, and turning technical water-harvesting projects into beautiful landscapes.

**Becky Blacher**
Our landscape architect and environmental educator with a creative flare, Becky will help you realize your dreams through both an artistic and functional landscape plan.

**Ryan Wood**
Our permaculture designer with strong technical skills in water harvesting, Ryan can help you design and implement your projects with patience and precision.

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**On-site Consultations only $150**
**Complete master plans for $450**

When you hire WMG, you hire a non-profit business that gives back to your community and your environment.

Visit [http://watershedmg.org/consultation](http://watershedmg.org/consultation) to learn more or schedule a consultation.

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**Tucson Co-op Serves Up Pancakes and Rebates**

The Tucson Co-op continues to offer new resources and build community in fun—and delicious—ways. The Co-op now provides free rainwater harvesting rebate classes every 1-2 months to help Co-op members and the general public gain the knowledge, skills, and resources to qualify for Tucson Water’s rainwater harvesting rebate of up to $2,000. All of WMG’s Co-op services for water harvesting qualify for the rebate—from our design time to project management to the cost of materials.

Instead of wielding shovels and pick axes, Co-op members banded together with spatulas to serve up over 1,000 pancakes at a Mesquite Pancake breakfast in November. The fundraising event was part of the annual Dunbar Spring Mesquite Fiesta – a mesquite milling and celebration of local foods organized by Dunbar Springs neighborhood and non-profit Desert Harvesters. Co-op member and chef Janet Taylor created the pancake recipe featuring local mesquite flour, heritage Sonoran wheat, and local eggs. A big thanks to all the Co-op members that made the event a success!
What if our parking lots were more like parks? Instead of being an eye sore and major contributor to flooding and hot cities, they could capture stormwater, shade our streets, and beautify our neighborhoods. With this philosophy in mind, WMG worked in partnership with the Tucson Association of Realtors (TAR) to retrofit their 53,000 square foot parking lot at their Tucson Boulevard headquarters.

“The project demonstrates that small changes in our built environment can make positive environmental change. The retrofit was artfully designed, and its effects were not subtle: water that normally ran off the parking lot and flooded Tucson Boulevard was captured by the newly designed landscape,” said John Mijac, Contract Manager with Long Realty.

TAR members and WMG volunteers installed basins and native vegetation in the parking lot landscape buffer and along the neighboring street through two WMG workshops. New curb cuts harvest stormwater off the parking lot and neighborhood street to irrigate the plants. In addition to reducing flooding, we are reducing the demand on municipal water to establish new vegetation.

Nicole Brule-Fisher, realtor at RE-MAX Trends, said environmental sustainability is important to TAR membership, and this project demonstrates that to the community.

She went on to say, “The TAR office is a dynamic location. We host a number of events and rent the facility out for many functions, so a large number of people are able to see the project—which looks beautiful!”

Congratulations to TAR for making the investment to improve Tucson’s watershed and reduce the impact of heat generated from their parking lot. We hope others are inspired by their great work!
New Roots, Shoots, & Poops at the Living Lab and Learning Center

With the development of WMG’s Living Lab and Learning Center, we’re putting down roots at our 1137 N. Dodge property in Tucson. Literally. With your help we’ve planted more than 100 native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers on campus. And this is just the start!

As the roots develop, new shoots are growing, fed by our rainwater-harvesting basins and irrigation from our rain tanks. Our latest landscape project is watered by greywater from a hand washing sink along with bleed off from the water filter in our staff break room. The fastest growing shoots are on the plants nourished by stormwater in our street-side basins—these plants are known to grow 30% larger than plants on regular irrigation (thanks to University of Arizona’s Mitch Pavao-Zuckerman for sharing your stunning research on green infrastructure)!

Along with the water, we’re harvesting all the poop—from visitors and staff alike—and composting it for the benefit of our plants. Check out the article on our Soils Stewards program for the official poop scoop.

Thanks to all of you who joined us to celebrate the Living Lab and Learning Center at our Garden Brunch and Planting Pachanga in November. The next big event we are hosting here is our Earth Day Festival and Watering Hole Happy Hour on Saturday, April 19th. We hope to see you all there! Register online at watershedmg.org/earth-month-2014.

Living Lab and Learning Center: Timeline of Property Development

- Inherited property from Marguerite Fisher, March 2012
- Street front facelift with stormwater-harvesting basins and native plants, October 2012
- Purchase of neighboring property with lead capital donation, March 2013
- Construction of office compost toilet with state permit, March 2013
- 10,000-gallon underground cistern constructed with Tucson Water grant, October 2013
- Landscape perimeter overhaul with earthworks, shade trees, and habitat, November 2013
- Special Exception Zoning Status Achieved, December 2013

Wildflowers bloom in abundance thanks to stormwater at the Living Lab and Learning Center
WMG is raising 1 million dollars to fund the development of the Living Lab and Learning Center in Tucson. We are honored by all the people and businesses that contributed to our capital campaign in 2013 to support these great accomplishments:

- Creation of a master plan with architect Dave Shambach
- Approval of our “Cultural Use” zoning exception by Tucson Mayor and Council, enabling us to use our residential property as a public educational center
- Designing and installing our rainwater harvesting landscape and native habitat zones

The half million raised to date includes the lead gift of the bequest of property and an investment fund from Marguerite Fisher. A second lead gift from another donor allowed us to purchase the neighboring property, more than doubling our office and classroom space. **With the ownership of both properties secured—mortgage-free—and a waiver on property taxes, we’re well-positioned to realize this dream with you.**

There will be many opportunities to give and participate in the development of the educational center. With still $450,000 to raise, we will continue to raise funds through various capital campaign efforts throughout the year. We are depending on donors to make additional gifts of cash, stocks, or estate gifts, along with attracting new support from individuals, businesses, and foundations.

A capital campaign is a designated campaign, where all donations are used towards a capital project. We are running the capital campaign in addition to our annual fundraising, which supports our program work.

**If you are interested in learning more or want to make a gift to our capital campaign, please contact Lisa Shipek at 520-396-3266, or visit watershedmg.org/capital.**
With your continued support, we will be working on these projects in 2014:

- Training youth out of juvenile detention to create a food forest with fruit trees and greywater systems
- Creating outdoor classrooms and the central plaza for our educational and social events
- Installing a green parking lot for both cars and bikes that drains into a large swale to grow shade trees
- Designing and installing a Native Food Heritage Garden in honor of the late Marguerite Fisher, which will also be a pocket park for the Palo Verde neighborhood to use
- Creating a playhouse where children will be able to use water from the rain tank in the kitchen, watch how greywater plumbing works, and sand box with earth shaping tools to learn about how water flows

Three Cheers for our Capital Campaign Donors!

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- Tucson Water
Instead of Flushing, We Create Class A Compost

Who would have known that so many people are interested in composting toilets? Well, we had a sneaking suspicion, but we were pleasantly surprised by the large interest in our Soil Stewards program and installing composting toilets in urban Tucson and beyond.

Since we started the pilot program with 20 state-permitted toilets, we’ve had an overwhelming number of requests to build and help permit composting toilets. Unfortunately, we can’t move on this interest until our composting toilet designs are officially approved reference designs by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

We recently cleared a major hurdle in the process to legalize these toilets for all Arizonans. Our partners at the University of Arizona Microbiology lab tested samples from all the pilot toilets for fecal coliforms and salmonella. The results are now in—and all the composted humanure samples are rated as EPA Class A biosolids—safe to use in your yard.

Would you like to see and experience one of these toilets firsthand? Just visit WMG’s Living Lab and Learning Center in Tucson. We invite you to make your contribution—and we will turn it into nutrients for our edible garden! Currently one of the state-permitted barrel systems is the primary office toilet, and this spring at the Living Lab we’re planting fruit trees and other edible plants that will benefit from all this great compost!

In addition to creating a rich compost resource, we’re also saving other precious resources by using this toilet. Since we started using it in March 2013, we have saved 400 gallons of water and 4 kWh of energy (enough energy to light a 40-watt bulb for 100 hours) each month by not flushing the toilet!
Want to learn more? Through U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funding, we have also developed educational materials to help you turn common wastes into resources. Our “How to Build a Composting Toilet Barrel System” video had 65,000 views in the first year of posting! Visit watershedmg.org/soil-stewards to watch it and check out our newest video, “Waste Into Resources” featuring Brad Lancaster.

Partner Profile: Diane Austin, University of Arizona: Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology

Q: Why did the UA Bureau of Research in Anthropology (BARA) want to partner with WMG on the Soil Stewards program?

BARA has a unique connection with WMG since several WMG leaders, staff, and supporters participated in BARA’s internship program while they were students at the University of Arizona. In 2007, we began helping develop and carry out a composting toilet program in Nogales, Sonora in partnership with the Asociación de Reforestación en Ambos Nogales (ARAN) and the Nogales municipal government. Since then, we had been interested in a similar program for southern Arizona. BARA became involved in the Soil Stewards program in the early stages in order to help conceptualize the experimental composting toilet pilot project. We were very pleased to help WMG take this next step.

Q: Briefly describe your role in the program.

Once the program was funded, BARA’s role shifted to participating on the advisory boards of the composting toilet and neighborhood mulching projects as well as developing and leading the monitoring and evaluation activities throughout the program.

Q: What has been the biggest surprise in the program’s implementations?

We initially expected the mulching project to be a more central aspect of the program and that the composting toilets would be of interest to fewer people. Instead, from the first informational sessions, it has been the reverse.

Q: What potential do compost toilets have to be more widely adopted in Tucson/Southwest/US?

Under conditions of water scarcity, residents, leaders, and institutions will become more open to a variety of alternatives. Composting toilets can be developed for individual households and workplaces and scaled up for apartment complexes and office buildings. Also, there are many composting toilet models and with careful matching of design and purpose they can be adapted for a wide variety of users.

Q: Anything else you want to share?

Special thanks to the WMG leaders and staff and especially to the Soil Stewards; without their willingness to explore, experiment, and reflect on their experiences this project would not have been possible.
Emerald City Provides Blueprint for the Region (and Beyond)

Tucson’s leadership in water harvesting and green infrastructure continues to grow with the passing of the Green Streets policy that WMG co-developed with the mayor’s office in 2013. And people around the country are taking note: recently the Natural Resources Defense Council awarded Tucson its Emerald City status for the green streets policy and rainwater harvesting rebate program.

Putting a policy on the books is a big accomplishment, but ensuring the policy is successfully implemented is the real work. WMG is committed to seeing it through.

We are in the final stages of developing a best practices manual to implement the Green Streets policy that will be a resource for the Department of Transportation and engineering and landscape architecture firms.

Laura Mielcarek, a local landscape architect with Wheat Scarf Associates, said they are successfully following the process outlined in the Green Streets policy for the large-scale redevelopment of Grant Road that is currently underway.

WMG’s latest collaboration with the Tucson Department of Transportation is the creation of a shade tree plan for one of Tucson’s newly designated “Bike Boulevards.” We are working with residents and an elementary school along the route to help shade the Treat Avenue Bike Boulevard and make it a more comfortable and beautiful street for pedestrians and cyclists.

WMG staff are being asked to share their expertise with other cities, frequently presenting in the Phoenix region and New Mexico, along with leading two trainings in Idaho over the past year.

WMG’s work in Idaho helped lay the groundwork for the implementation of Low Impact Development practices in the City of Boise and Ada County — both making great strides toward enacting Green Infrastructure policies in recent months.

Our Green Infrastructure for Southwest Neighborhoods manual continues to be a crucial resource for other cities. We are working with partners in La Paz, Mexico to translate the manual into Spanish, which they hope to adopt as a best practices guide for their city!
For cities interested in starting to implement green infrastructure, we find it’s best to start by creating public demonstration sites. City departments are brought to the table to define and streamline permitting processes and locally-appropriate designs. And anyone can visit and learn from the site!

We have been working in partnership with the City of Phoenix over the last few years to do just that. WMG implemented the first curb cuts and streetside green infrastructure features at Primera Iglesia, a church near downtown Phoenix in 2011. With funding from the Arizona State Forestry Division, WMG created a demonstration site in the Phoenix Garfield Historic District in 2013. We transformed the street front of the Phoenix International Hostel into sunken stormwater-harvesting basins that support native plants and trees.

Exciting new demonstration sites are currently in the planning stage thanks to new partnerships with the Phoenix Zoo, the City of Glendale, the City of Mesa, the Mesa Urban Garden, and thanks to funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

WMG has also been working in Santa Barbara to promote rainwater harvesting and stormwater management. We partnered with a local firm, Wilson Environmental Contracting, Inc., to renovate the landscape at the Santa Barbara Association of Realtors’ downtown office. The original lawn was removed and replaced with a sunken raingarden with native and low water-use plants irrigated by roof downspouts and drip irrigation. The new garden is projected to reduce water consumption by 80%. The Santa Barbara Association of Realtors just received the City of Santa Barbara’s 2013 Water Heroes Award for this project!

WMG’s latest project in California brings a new partner on board—Santa Barbara City College—to create a rainwater-harvesting demonstration site on campus.
WMG’s international programs took a new direction in late 2013, when we made the strategic decision to tighten our focus on core work in the southwestern U.S. and prioritize work in Mexico. Our goal is to optimize the staff and community resources of our home base in Tucson, Arizona and ensure our financial resources are not stretched too thin.

One of our proudest accomplishments in India was building the capacity of Grampari, our partner organization, from the ground up. Our staff joined the organization in its early stages, providing their time and expertise to build organizational capacity, develop and fund effective watershed and sanitation programs, and recruit and train talented staff. Grampari continues to run the School Handwashing Program developed by WMG founder, Sowmya Somnath. This highly-effective sanitation program uses the tippy tap to change behavior and improve health for schoolchildren and villagers alike.

Sowmya continues to organize the Women and Water project, a three-year program in partnership with George Washington University to build the capacity of women working in water resource management and environmental sustainability in Central Asia. The 14 women participating in the program come from Afghanistan, India, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, and Tajikistan. The women gathered at a conference in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in fall 2013, where they participated in a series of workshops, two site visits, and a full-day public symposium. The gathering successfully accomplished its goals to foster peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and regional cooperation.

WMG founder, Jared Buono also continues to train and build the capacity of Grampari staff in watershed restoration through spring protection, aquifer recharge, and water resource mapping. We look forward to sharing with you the final results of all our India work as the program wraps up.
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Tina Sleeper is a Stewardship Circle donor in Phoenix and has been highly active with WMG since 2012. Tina shared what WMG means to her.

Q: What was your first experience with WMG?
I joined the Phoenix Green Living Co-op, and the first earthworks workshop the Co-op organized inspired me to purchase Brad Lancaster’s book, *Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond*. That revolutionary text opened my eyes to what everyday people can do to “plant the rain” and turn a source of pollution into a bountiful resource.

Q: Why are you passionate about WMG?
I discovered my life’s passion for water harvesting after hearing Brad’s lectures at WMG’s Phoenix Water Harvesting Certification course. From there, the seeds of change were in place. In 2012, I attended WMG’s Green Infrastructure and LID Conference and then soon after became a Certified Water Harvesting Practitioner. I enjoyed implementing earthworks in my own yard, but as an educator I also have the privilege of using the knowledge that WMG provided to teach kids, teachers, and communities about water stewardship while increasing effective STEM education.

Q: How has WMG impacted you personally?
WMG is about walking the talk. From the locally sourced, wholesome food they feed their trainees to hosting an anniversary gala using real plates and cloth napkins, they truly exemplify what it means to drive grassroots change while keeping the big picture always in mind.

Q: Why do you give money to support WMG’s mission?
Each of us is responsible in part for our dried up rivers and depleted groundwater aquifers. How much power we have! Imagine if each of us used our power for good. Many of us dream of the Salt River flowing strong and deep through downtown Phoenix. Giving to WMG is investing in the Arizona that we desire.
Partners

**Tucson Region Partners**
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Barrio Hollywood
BICAS
Borton Magnet School
Center for Biological Diversity
Cienega Watershed Partnership
City of Tucson Department of Transportation
City of Tucson Environmental Services Department
City of Tucson Mayor’s Office
City of Tucson Office of Conservation and Sustainable Development
City of Tucson, Ward 1 Council Office
City of Tucson, Ward 2 Council Office
City of Tucson, Ward 3 Council Office
City of Tucson, Ward 6 Council Office
Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection
Coalitions of Mutual Endeavor
Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona
David del Porto
David Omick
Desert Ashram
Desert Harvesters
Desert Spring Children's Center
Desert Watch
Doolen-Fruitvale Neighborhood
Dr. Charles Gerba, University of Arizona, Department of Soil, Water, and Environmental Science
Drachman Institute
Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood
The Fairfax Companies
Food Conspiracy Co-op
Garden District Neighborhood
Jefferson Park Neighborhood
Manzo Elementary School
Mountain and 1st Neighborhood
National Park Service
National Outdoor Leadership School
Native Seeds/SEARCH
Palo Verde Neighborhood
Peter Howell Elementary
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Pima Association of Governments
Pima County
Pima County Regional Flood Control District
Primavera Foundation
Rincon Heights Neighborhood
Romeo Tree Service
Save the Scenic Santa Ritas
Sierra Club - Rincon Group
Sky Island Alliance
The Sonoran Institute
Sustainable Tucson
Tucson Association of Realtors
Tucson Audubon Society
Tucson Clean and Beautiful
Tucson Mountains Association
Tucson Water
UA Biosphere 2 (Mitchell Pavao-Zuckerman)
University of Arizona Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology (Dr. Diane Austin)
University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center
Waldorf School
Wheat Scharf Associates
Whistle Stop Depot

**Phoenix Region Partners**
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation
City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department
City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department
Desert Botanical Garden
Sustainable Cities Network Arizona State University
Global Institute of Sustainability
Primera Iglesia Metodista Unida
Roosevelt Row Community Development Corporation (CDC)
City of Glendale
Phoenix Zoo
City of Mesa
Valley Permaculture Alliance

**Santa Barbara Region Partners**
City of Santa Barbara Water Conservation Program
Environmental Defence Council
G3 - The Green Gardens Group
Green Gardeners Program
Santa Barbara Association of Realtors
Santa Barbara Channelkeeper
Santa Barbara City College - Center for Lifelong Learning
Santa Barbara City College Environmental Horticulture Program
Santa Barbara City College - Facilities and Operations
Santa Barbara Independent
Santa Barbara Permaculture Network
Surfers Without Borders
Surfrider Foundation Ocean Friendly Gardens
Sweetwater Collaborative
UC Master Gardeners
Water Wise Santa Barbara
Watershed Resource Center
Wilson Environmental Contracting, Inc.

**Other Western Partners**
Ada County Highway Department, Idaho
City of Boise, Idaho
City of Flagstaff, Arizona
City of Sierra Vista, Arizona
Cochise College
Cochise Water Project
Dryland Solutions
Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association
Oasis Water Harvesting
Prescott College
Stream Dynamics
Taylor Bird Enterprises
Water Wise Program, University of Arizona
Cochise County Cooperative Extension

**International Partners**
Grampari - Initiatives of Change, India
George Washington University, India Women and Water program
Financial Report

Revenue and Support

Program income $186,185
Grants $145,274
Donations $151,320
Foundation $110,619
In-kind staff time, goods & services $49,104
Total support & revenue $642,502

Expenses

Program services
Community Water Coalition $6,100
Green Living Co-op $96,671
Greening Urban Watersheds $295,790
(Demonstration Sites, Green Streets, Schoolyard, Soil Stewards)
International (India) $80,563
Santa Barbara $39,224
Watershed Technical Trainings $39,781
Total Program services $558,129

Admin and Fundraising
Administrative $70,662
Fundraising $45,994
Total supporting services $116,656

Total Expenses $674,786


Because of You!

Thanks to your support, donations continue to be a growing percentage of WMG’s income and the backbone to our educational programs. While we did end the year at a loss, we are strategically growing our fees for service along with our donor program, to ensure a healthy balance sheet in the future. Arizona Gives Day was a highlight of 2013. With your contributions WMG raised $35,000 in one day, more than any other non-profit, and won a $15,000 prize!

Lisa Shipek and Ryan Wood accept $15,000 prize for most dollars raised on Arizona Gives Day from the Razoo Foundation and the Arizona Community Foundation.
Growing Roots with You!

Years of Building Prosperity With You

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Tucson, AZ 85716