

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
UMS



Mailing address: 518 S. 7th Ave, Wausau, WI 54401
Gardens address: 1800 N. First Ave, Wausau, WI 54401
Phone Number: (715) 261-6309

Like sunshine and water, your support helps us **GROW** and **BLOSSOM**, creating a vibrant haven for our community. Together, we're nurturing something truly special.

THANK YOU for your support in 2023!

"Monk Botanical Gardens is a lovely place to spend time and connect with nature. It's such a wonderful asset for the Wausau community."

—Mary Jane Grabowski

Monk Botanical Gardens cultivates well-being in people, communities, and the environment with experiences that engage, educate, and inspire. Visit **Wausau's Happy Place** today!

www.monkgardens.org



An enchanting Hobbit House adds an adventurous touch to Wausau's Happy Place

2023 Gratitude Report

Experience the beauty.
Share the vision.
Grow with us.

www.monkgardens.org

Monk Gardens is located at 1800 N. First Ave, Wausau, WI 54401

From the Executive Director



Dear Friends of the Gardens,

Warm greetings from the heart of Wausau's Happy Place! Our journey this year reads like a captivating story, from seed to bloom, nurtured by your continual support.

Imagine stumbling upon a modest seed, tucked in the soil. Warmed by the sun and kissed by the rain, the seed emerges, growing into an enchanting beacon of resilience and vibrancy. This is the story of Monk Botanical Gardens this year, facing and overcoming each challenge with grace and grit, imparting rich colors to our tale.

We're proud to share that thanks to your support, Phase I of Sara's Storybook Garden thrived beyond our dreams, with the Hobbit House nestled into the landscape. Phase II and III are underway and show promise of even more magic.

Our leadership team blossomed with Patrick Murphy and Linda Schill, bringing their expertise and passion into the Gardens' vision. Their contributions, coupled with our dedicated Garden Supervisor, Pat Witt, and a lovely crew of volunteers, helped deepen our roots in the community.

Sprouts Garden Preschool has expanded, with two adorable yurts being the latest addition. Providing full-day education to 4-year-olds, it's where little buds of Wausau sprout into vibrant petals!

Our garden hummed warmly as new partnerships with local businesses flourished, bringing bountiful harvests and opportunities. The joy multiplied as we celebrated additions to our Monk Botanical Gardens family, as baby coos and laughter filled our tranquil pathways.

Touched by your immeasurable kindness and engagement, we offer heartfelt thanks. Each of you has played an invaluable part in this story of growth and resilience. As we take this winter to reflect and rejuvenate, just like our plants, we will blossom even stronger in the spring. I hope you will continue to blossom along with us; there is so much to explore in 2024...

See you in the Gardens,

Darcie E. Howard
Executive Director
Monk Botanical Gardens

Board Officers

President — Susan Lang
Vice Pres. — Ann Lucas
Secretary — Paul Whitaker
Treasurer — Jon Plisch

Board Members

Paul David
Holly Koepfel
Jody Maier
Mark Munson
Vickie Richmond Hawkins
Sheila Rossmiller
Tammy Stezenski

Staff

Executive Director - Darcie Howard
Facilities & Grounds Director - Patrick Murphy
Program Director - Elise Schuler
Development Manager - Linda Schill
Youth & Family Program Manager - Kaytie Ruesch
Volunteer Coordinator/Administrative Assistant - Megan Johnson
Private Events & Social Media Coordinator - Lydia Phillippi
Garden Supervisor - Pat Witt
Bookkeeper - Kari Buck
Sprouts Garden Preschool Team:
Lead Teachers - Rebecka Hellweg, Amanda Valencia
Assistant Teachers - Linda Grudznske, Sara Loth, Sadie Xiong

ENGAGE

64,000 visitors in 2023; impacting the local economy with almost \$5 million in spending!



Sara's Storybook Garden enhancements encourage adventurers of all ages.

396 memberships in 2023; up 16% from 2022!



Summer Interns implemented a **Wellness Trail** with the help of Bridge Community Health Clinic

Financials

(Unaudited)

Revenue

Grants	\$	187,213
Memberships	\$	24,053
Contributions	\$	256,021
Sales	\$	27,543
Program Fees	\$	281,129
Restricted Funds	\$	1,547,765
In-Kind Contributions	\$	58,176
Visions of Growth		
Endowment	\$	100,326
Total	\$	2,482,226

Expenses

Program Support	\$	694,412
Core Mission Support	\$	255,221
Capital	\$	339,852
Total	\$	1,289,485

NET \$ 1,192,741

Assets

CASH	\$	1,878,700
PROPERTY	\$	2,185,093
TOTAL	\$	4,063,793

EDUCATE



615 hours of summer camp offerings; up **86%!**
250+ students enrolled; up **46%!**

6,500 students of all ages attended more than **200** educational programs designed to inspire and connect; a **20%** increase in participation!

More than **\$10,000** of FREE programming & scholarships awarded to youth attendees & Sprouts students.



May Family Foundation, Alan Lang Charitable Trust, Murco Foundation Fund, and E F Jablonski Family Foundation funded the construction of **EJ's Yurts** for Sprouts Preschool students and staff.

We can dream it, but **YOUR** generosity brings it all to life.

“Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream.”

—Barbara Winkle

THANK YOU
for your support in 2023.

Scan this code for the full list of 2023 donors, in kind, and tribute honorees. Or go to:
www.monkgardens.org/support/donate/support-our-mission/



INSPIRE

40 individuals honored at the Gardens through contributions of more than **\$20,000!**



215 volunteers shared **2,574** hours of service at the Gardens.

Charitable Non-Profit Finalist

at Wausau Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Awards – recognized for growth, community spirit & innovation!



45,000 lights on display for **Blossom of Lights!**