

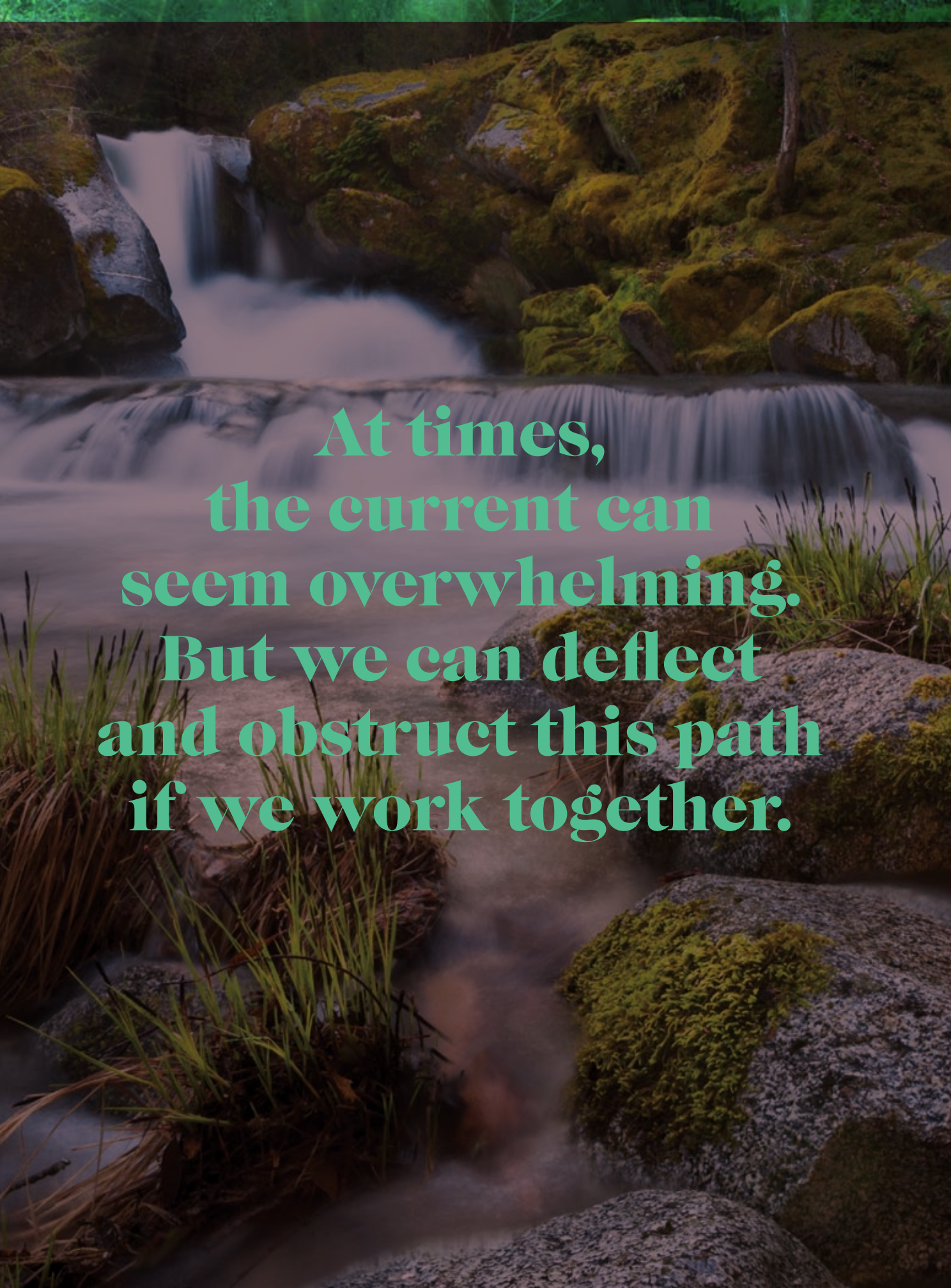


Rachel's  
Network



# Champions of Change

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



**At times,  
the current can  
seem overwhelming.  
But we can deflect  
and obstruct this path  
if we work together.**

## Message from the President and Board Chair

**Sometimes we simply need a role model to show us that change is possible.**

For the women of Rachel's Network, these "champions of change" are abundant. Their peers are leading campaigns to protect threatened wildlife and promote renewable energy, producing documentary films, filing shareholder resolutions in the name of sustainability at major companies, and helping keep the lights on with their general operating support.

Rachel's Network makes this special kind of inspiration possible. We bring together accomplished women funders dedicated to the environment, give them the connections and leadership opportunities they need to be even more successful, and watch them bring positive changes to their communities and the planet.

Our members are solutions-focused and through our peer network, they can take an idea from "maybe one day" to "let's get it done!" That's what Member Abigail Rome did. Moved by our 2013 meeting on sustainable agriculture, she brought together a roundtable of experts and members to address antibiotic misuse in farm animals. Now, with her leadership,

her fellow "Rachels" are pursuing actions to tackle the problem.

When the country's leading environmental and advocacy organizations look for smart leaders to join their boards, we tap our members to bring their significant experience to the table. These are women like Kef Kasdin, who is applying her knowledge of the renewable energy industry as a board director with Third Way.

And because of Rachel's Network, women like Janelle Orsi are able to build out their great ideas for a more sustainable future. Through the Ashoka & Rachel's Network Fellowship, supported by many of our members, Janelle's work to grow the sharing economy can reach more people.

During our Fall Retreat, writer Kathleen Dean Moore likened our society to a river "rushing toward a hot, stormy, and dangerous planet." At times, the current can seem overwhelming. But we can deflect and obstruct this path if we work together. Through our collective and individual efforts, Rachel's Network members are putting rocks in that river, pushing the current in a new, more life-affirming direction.



*Thu*

**THU PHAM**  
President



*Kathy*

**KATHY BORGEN**  
Board Chair

# Member Snapshot

Rachel's Network members are advocates, funders, changemakers, and champions of the environment. From supporting local food systems, to fossil fuel divestment, to animal welfare, and beyond, Rachel's Network members give their time and financial resources to advance a sustainable future.



**LOREN BLACKFORD** was elected treasurer of the Sierra Club board of directors. Through this position, and her board service with Geo Investors, Loren is helping usher in the clean energy economy.



**MARY BOOKWALTER** and **MOLLY ROSS** supported two Earth Focus short documentaries with **RAISA SCRIBINE**, "America's Dirty Secret: Coal Ash" and "India: Coughing up Coal," respectively.



**ALISON CARLSON** hosted a screening of "UNSAFE: The Truth Behind Everyday Chemicals," an investigative report funded by Network members. Alison's Forsythia Foundation is funding the research and deployment of green alternatives to toxic chemicals.



**HARRIETT CROSBY**, great-granddaughter of General Mills' founder, urged the company to stop using GMOs at their shareholder meeting and in a blog post for Friends of the Earth.



**SARAH DUPONT's** (co-produced) "Amazon Gold," a film that uncovers how illegally mined gold is destroying the rainforest, received the first annual Green Film Network Award.



**SUSAN FULTON's** wealth management firm, FBB Capital Partners, was named one of the Top 300 Registered Investment Advisers by the *Financial Times*. Her work was also highlighted in the *New York Times*.



**MARIANNE GABEL** convened with 15 other activists in Delaware, Ohio, to start a local chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby, a national movement to pressure Congress to pass a carbon tax.



**RUTH ANN HARNISCH** sponsored the Jill Abramson luncheon at Out of the Binders, a conference to empower women writers.



**DANE NICHOLS'** trip tracking gorillas in Rwanda with National Geographic's anniversary expedition earned a spotlight in the organization's travel magazine.

## GIVING PROFILE

Collectively, members award over **\$9 million** in grants through family foundations, donor advised funds, and private giving.

On average, members allocate **64%** of their charitable contributions to environmental causes, with more than half of the Network giving **80%** to these efforts.



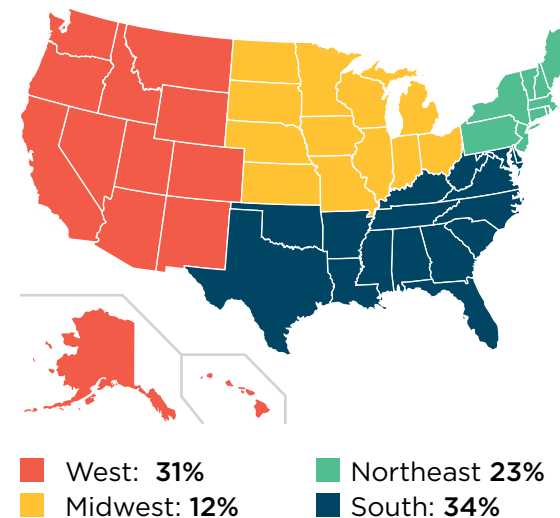
## MEMBERS' POLITICAL ADVOCACY

- **79%** supported candidates for local, state and/or national office
- **76%** called or wrote their elected officials
- **58%** met with their elected officials

## MEMBERS' LEADERSHIP

- **40%** launched a new program
- **30%** accepted a new board position
- **30%** mentored a colleague or fellow funder

## WHERE DO MEMBERS LIVE?



## TOP FIVE ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

1. Climate change
2. Biodiversity and conservation
3. Impact investing
4. Sustainable agriculture
5. Social and environmental justice



# Hitting the Streets for Climate Action

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), we must cut our greenhouse gas emissions 70 percent by 2050 and completely by 2100 to avoid dangerous warming. If that sounds like an uphill battle, it is. But the women of Rachel's Network were never ones to shy away from a challenge.



Not only have our members helped launch organizations like ClientEarth and campaigns like Divest-Invest (through the Rachel's Network **Fiscal Sponsorship Fund**\*) that are using litigation and the power of investors to break our society's addiction to fossil fuels, their tireless passion inspires many others to action.

way," said Member Annarie Lyles, who met up with fellow members from six states and Washington, DC: Kim Bendheim, Loren Blackford, Kathy Borgen, Barbara Gilmore, Charlotte Hanes, Ann Loeb, Neva McIlvaine, Adelaide Park Gomer, Lisa Renstrom, and Abigail Rome.

In September, Rachel's Network was proud to join 400,000 people rallying with the People's Climate March in New York City to show the United Nations that the public is ready for action on climate change. The historic march coincided with a UN summit tasked with moving world leaders to negotiate a global climate agreement.

Members gathered along Central Park and marched through Times Square with a coalition of nearly 2,000 other organizations including labor unions, religious groups, environmental nonprofits, universities, and communities on the frontlines of global warming.

Rachel's Network members, liaisons, advisors, and staff were among those present, underscoring our belief that women's leadership is needed to solve the climate crisis.

Then President of NRDC and Rachel's Network Liaison Frances Beinecke said of the event: "These marchers are living proof that climate change is more than an environmental issue - it's about justice and job creation, our health and communities, and ultimately about our future. Our leaders must take urgent action to protect our children, defend our future, and change the world."

"After fretting about this for over 30 years, it feels so good to join with my sisters at Rachel's Network to demonstrate our grassroots wish for a more sustainable



The Rachel's Network Fiscal Sponsorship Fund provides a public charitable umbrella, enabling members to develop an entrepreneurial program into an independent nonprofit.

# Tackling the Overuse of Antibiotics in Farm Animals

For decades, antibiotics have allowed humans to combat common, deadly infections. But despite our medical advances, harmful bacteria have increasingly adapted to our medicines, rendering some treatments useless. Americans now spend up to \$26 billion per year in additional healthcare costs because of drug-resistant illnesses.

Is the golden age of antibiotics coming to an end? Why are bacteria resisting drugs faster than we can modify them? Many health and environmental groups pin significant blame on the overuse of antibiotics in factory farming.

Livestock producers commonly use antibiotics to make animals grow faster and bigger in unsanitary conditions, not necessarily to treat illnesses. In fact, over 80 percent of the antibiotics sold in the US are given to livestock, and often to animals that aren't sick. A consequence of routinely feeding animals low doses of antibiotics is the emergence of drug-resistant bacteria.

After learning more about antibiotic resistance at our 2013 Fall Retreat, the Rachel's Network Sustainable Agriculture **Learning Circle\***, led by Member Abigail Rome, was motivated to address the issue.

This year, 11 members joined experts from Johns Hopkins University, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and Food & Water Watch to talk about ways to solve this problem.

Both speakers and members found the roundtable enlightening. Members heard from nonprofit leaders who are applying pressure at all levels of government and on food companies to end the overuse of antibiotics on factory farms. Meanwhile, speakers learned from members how funders might play a more significant role in these efforts.

As a result, members identified several opportunities to take collective action, including support for community education, corporate campaigns, and shareholder resolutions.

This isn't the only project the Sustainable Agriculture Learning Circle has been working on. This year also saw the group's continued collaboration with American Farmland Trust (AFT) to research women agricultural landowners. Members helped refine AFT's survey and fund research

that aims to give women landowners the support they need to be good stewards of their land.

Positive change accelerates when people work together. The collaborative nature of Rachel's Network allows our members to apply the collective knowledge of the group to access leaders in the field and pinpoint projects with the most impact.



Learning Circles provide opportunities to connect with fellow members about specific environmental or philanthropic issues. These self-directed groups regularly share perspectives, ask and answer questions openly, mentor one another, and learn from experts within and outside the Network.



# Funding Tools for the Sharing Economy



As American interest in local food grows, seed libraries are taking off in towns and cities around the country. The practice has allowed neighbors to keep their region's sustainable food heritage alive. But many state departments of agriculture are clamping down on these libraries because of outdated laws.

Thankfully, someone is looking out for the communities that want to keep their seed libraries. Janelle Orsi, an attorney specializing in "sharing law," is building a campaign to legalize them.

When Janelle graduated from law school, she realized her profession desperately needed to reinvent itself to serve community wellbeing. With the majority of lawyers serving the wealthiest 20 percent of society, the commons is at a distinct disadvantage from the outset.

Janelle is a force to be reckoned with. In 2014, her young nonprofit, the Sustainable Economies Law Center (SELC), was instrumental in passing three major laws in California - laws that remove barriers to home-based food enterprises, support cooperative housing, and promote alternative currencies. In addition, they're developing policy recommendations, and training lawyers who can implement these and other legal tools to enable a regenerative economy around the country.

The sharing economy contributes not only to community health, but to environmental health as well: when people collaborate, they conserve resources.

"Our predominant legal and economic structures reward people in the short-term when we extract or pollute the resources we need to sustain us in the long-term," says Janelle. "The sharing economy addresses the economic roots of environmental crises and climate change."

When Janelle was nominated for the **Ashoka & Rachel's Network Fellowship\***, her visionary and pragmatic approach stood out. Working with Ashoka, we awarded Janelle a three-year stipend so that she can grow her staff and strengthen the sharing economy in more sectors and states.

Women like Janelle have promising ideas for a sustainable future: from commons-based farmland stewardship to worker cooperatives to community solar, the solutions to our environmental and social challenges are all around us. Through this Fellowship, Rachel's Network is helping these solutions take flight.



Rachel's Network and Ashoka - the world's largest network of social entrepreneurs - teamed up in 2013 to uncover and promote women environmental innovators through a fellowship program. Elected Fellows receive a stipend, promotion, and networking opportunities with other Ashoka Fellows.



# Promoting Women's Leadership

As an engineer, a venture capitalist, and a founder of several renewable energy startups, Kef Kasdin often found herself the lone woman in the room throughout her career.

But when Kef joined Rachel's Network, she discovered something she didn't realize had existed before: a supportive community of women who shared her passions.

"I've noticed how much more fun, productive, and energizing it can be to have other women to learn from and collaborate with," says Kef. "It's something I've sorely missed in my own career."

Through the Network, Kef has grown more confident in lobbying her representatives on renewable energy, has educated her fellow members on biofuels, and in 2014, was elected to the board of an influential think tank in Washington, DC, a post facilitated through our **Board Placement Program**\*.

When the policy think tank Third Way reached out to Rachel's Network about expanding their board of directors, it was clear that Kef's thoughtful pragmatism and vast experience in renewable

energy would be assets to their organization. Now as a board trustee, she will advise Third Way's Clean Energy Program in its efforts to alter the politics around climate change and develop actionable legislation.

Whether it's a corporate board room, a business school, or a utility company, women's voices are often outnumbered by those of men. Women comprise just 19 percent of the CEO positions at major nonprofits, roughly the same percentage in Congress, and only nine percent of global corporate boards. Society would be wise to fix this imbalance: gender parity is positively correlated with economic performance and productivity, according to the World Bank's World Development Report.

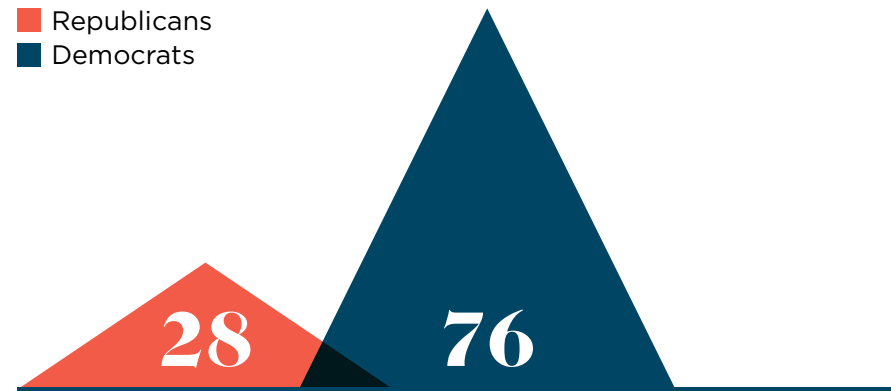
Rachel's Network strongly believes that women's leadership is vital to solving our biggest environmental challenges. That's why we work with conservation and advocacy nonprofits to recommend our talented membership of women environmental funders to board leadership. It's good for the organization, for women, and the planet.



Rachel's Network recommends members to the boards of local, regional, national, and international nonprofits, matching their interests and experience with each organization's mission. To date, 46 members have been placed on the boards of influential organizations. Board service is one of many ways that Rachel's Network members are bringing positive change to their communities and the world.

## WOMEN SERVING IN THE 114<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS

■ Republicans  
■ Democrats



# Fighting for Gender Parity in Congress

As more Democratic women have run for office in recent years, there's been significant research on their needs and challenges, resulting in designated programs within the Democratic Party to recruit women candidates.

Women on the other side of the aisle don't benefit from such programs. Over 60 percent of Republican women don't make it through their primaries and their numbers in Congress are dwarfed three to one by Democratic women. These statistics are bound to remain when we consider how few Republican women run at all.

As we learned from Rachel's Network's

report "When Women Lead," we need women on both sides of the aisle to advance policy, particularly environmental policy. Our research found that women legislators, regardless of party affiliation, vote in favor of environmental protections more often than their male counterparts.

Armed with this knowledge, Rachel's Network partnered with Political Parity in 2014 to identify the challenges Republican women face when running in primary elections. Our initial findings, gathered in the report "Clearing the Primary Hurdles - Republican Women and the GOP Gender Gap," will be used to pursue opportunities to increase the ranks of women in both parties.

What did the research find? Republican women just don't have the infrastructure for success that their peers across the aisle do: they face their primaries with less training and fundraising support than Democratic women. The GOP must prioritize recruitment and development of women candidates if Congress is to ever achieve parity.

Rachel's Network believes that better bipartisan policymaking can improve environmental outcomes. Electing more women representatives to government could positively influence action on climate change, chemical reform, biodiversity conservation, and many other issues that are critical to a healthier planet.





**“Rachel’s Network expands my approach to working in wildlife conservation.”**

DIANA HADLEY  
Northern Jaguar  
Project president

# Saving Wildlife, Together



Traditionally, conservationists have focused on protected areas and wildlife reserves: fence off a piece of land and keep threatened plants and animals inside, and people out. Experience has shown that this approach is insufficient in a world of growing climate impacts and savvy poachers. Increasingly, conservationists are engaging with local communities and employing tools like media campaigns, tracking devices, and drones to save vulnerable wildlife.

“Rachel’s Network expands my approach to working in wildlife conservation,” says Diana Hadley. As president of Northern Jaguar Project, Diana is fighting poaching in Mexico with imaginative tactics like offering locals cash rewards for photographs of threatened animals. This project goes to the root of the problem by countering the financial incentive for poaching.

In Virginia, Jocelyn Sladen has also taken a collaborative approach. Working with regional landowners she’s helping envision wildlife corridors – connections between habitats – that would preserve native fauna and flora. The project, Virginia Working Landscapes, has drawn the support of scientists at the nearby Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and students from George Mason University who are conducting wildlife

surveys and providing conservation support to landowners.

“We’ve been doing this neighbor-to-neighbor,” says Jocelyn of the project’s organic growth. Attending Rachel’s Network’s Annual Meeting and Fall Retreat energizes Jocelyn’s work. “[Rachel’s Network members] have an honesty of purpose. It makes it so worth continuing your work – you realize you are not alone.”

Across the Atlantic, the African Elephant population has dwindled to just a few hundred thousand individuals and Diane Brinkmann is committed to turning the tide. After working to restore prairie habitats in her home state of Colorado through a unique land-buyers initiative, she’s educating other members about efforts to combat elephant poaching. In a post for the Rachel’s Network blog, Diane shared her experience visiting an elephant camp in Kenya. “The more time I spend observing elephants, the greater insight I have into myself as a human being,” says Diane.

Biodiversity and habitat conservation have long been priorities for Rachel’s Network members. Through learning and networking opportunities, members share best practices, find confidants and partners, spark new strategies, and inspire each other to make a difference for wildlife.

# Championing Clean Water

Like many urban rivers in the US, the Milwaukee River succumbed to pollution and neglect for decades. But thanks to the Clean Water Act and dedicated activists, the river is now a recreation centerpiece for the city.

Rachel's Network members travelled to Milwaukee for our Fall Retreat to witness a city on the cusp of transformation from Rust Belt to water tech hub. Local and global water experts joined us to convey the threats to our water systems and the tools we can use to safeguard them.

Renowned water rights advocate Maude Barlow believes our many water challenges, while troubling, also offer us an opportunity to work across boundaries and build bridges where none existed before. "Water is nature's gift to teach us how to live with one another," she said. We saw this concept first-hand as Milwaukee's government, citizens, corporations, universities, and artists have come together to envision a better city.

One of the goals of these organizations is simply getting residents to value the water in their midst. Whether it's the city's RiverWalk or interactive educational exhibits at the Discovery World museum on the shores of majestic Lake Michigan, "getting your feet wet" can turn disregard into devotion. "Nobody's going to protect a resource they don't love," Milwaukee Riverkeeper Director Jennifer Bolger Breceda said.

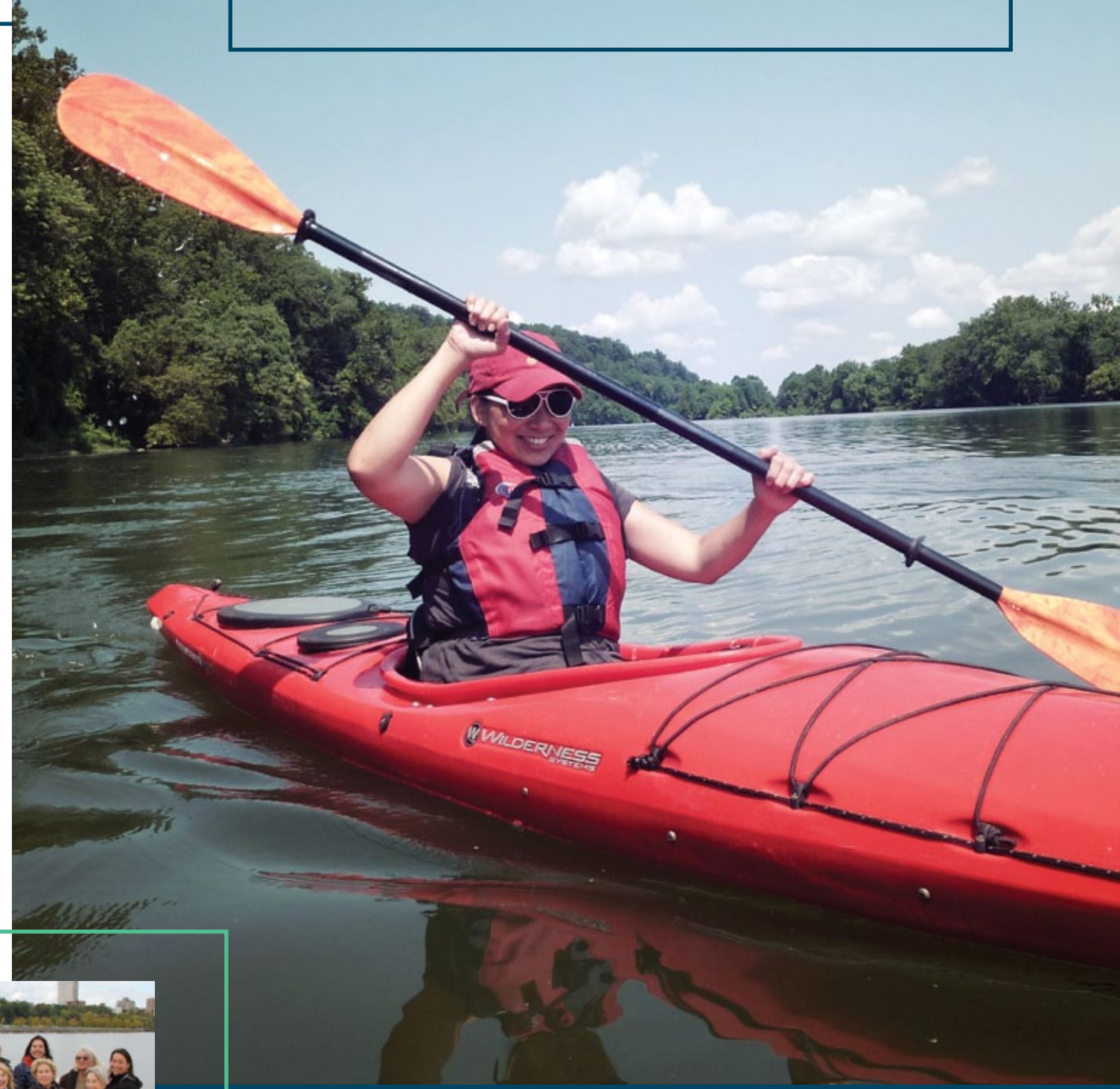
Member Sally Davidson's board leadership with Potomac Riverkeeper is enriched by her regular kayaking trips on the river that inspires her work. In 2014, the organization was selected as one of Greater Washington's top charities by Catalogue for Philanthropy. Sally spoke with Jennifer during the Retreat to share ideas about protecting urban rivers.

The impacts of Rachel's Network members were evident around Milwaukee; from the University of Wisconsin's brand new School of Freshwater Sciences funded in large part by founding Member Lynde Uihlein to the prairies and watersheds of Riveredge Nature Center, supported by Barbara Gilmore, Jan Montgomery, and Naomi Cobb.

It isn't just Wisconsin or Washington, DC. Travel to Maine, New York, California, or Colorado; travel to the Amazon Rainforest or the Caribbean, and you'll find Rachel's Network members defending local water resources from abuse and neglect and introducing future advocates to the beauty of this life-giving resource. Individually, the impact may be one river or one coastline, but together we're growing a global water ethic.

**"Water is nature's gift to teach us how to live with one another."**

MAUDE BARLOW  
National Chairperson, Council of Canadians



# Major Donors

Rachel's Network thanks the following supporters who contributed grants greater than \$5,000 in 2014.

**Marcia Angle**  
The Marcia Angle and Mark Trustin Fund of Triangle Community Foundation

**Sally Davidson\***

**Annarie Lyles\***  
Dobson Family Fund

**Sarah DuPont\***

**Winsome McIntosh\***  
McIntosh Foundation

**Caroline Gabel\***

**Kathy Borgen\***  
Borgen Family Foundation

**Marianne Gabel\***

**Adelaide Park Gomer**  
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**Charlotte Hanes\***

**Dorothy Browning**  
Winmax Foundation

**Ann Hunter-Welborn\***

**Abigail Rome**

**Linda Campbell\***  
Campbell Foundation

**Kef Kasdin**

**Molly Ross\***

**Irene Crowe\***  
Pettus Crowe Foundation

**Alice Liddell**

**Stephanie Tobor**

**Florence Liddell\***

**Susan Wallace\***  
Woodtiger Fund

\* Denotes 2014 Board of Directors

# Environmental Leadership Liaisons

Women CEOs of influential national and international environmental and social justice nonprofits who keep us connected to organizations that share our goals.

**Margie Alt**  
Environment America

**Katie Frohardt**  
Fauna & Flora International – US

**Stephanie K. Meeks**  
National Trust for Historic Preservation

**Nan Aron**  
Alliance for Justice

**Mary L. Klein**  
NatureServe

**Rhea Suh**  
Natural Resources Defense Council

**Jamie R. Clark**  
Defenders of Wildlife

**Annie Leonard**  
Greenpeace USA

**Tensie Whelan**  
Rainforest Alliance

**Suzanne Ehlers**  
Population Action International

# Circle of Advisors

Women leaders in fields of importance to our community who provide us with high-level expertise.

**Rev. Sally Bingham**  
President & Founder, Interfaith Power & Light

**Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE**  
Founder, Jane Goodall Institute

**Carolyn Raffensperger**  
Executive Director, Science and Environmental Health Network

**Dr. Helen Caldicott**  
Founder, Physicians for Social Responsibility

**Hazel Henderson**  
Founder, Ethical Markets Media, LLC

**Vikki Spruill**  
President & CEO, Council on Foundations

**Paula DiPerna**  
Special Advisor, Carbon Disclosure Project – North America

**Hunter Lovins**  
Founder & President, Natural Capitalism Solutions

**Debbie Walsh**  
Director, Center for American Women and Politics

**Dr. Sylvia A. Earle**  
Oceanographer and Explorer-in-Residence; National Geographic Society

**Carolyn Merchant**  
Professor, UC – Berkeley

**Alice Waters**  
Author; Chef & Owner, Chez Panisse Restaurant

**Kathryn S. Fuller**  
Chair, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution

**Nora Pouillon**  
Author; Chef, & Owner, Restaurant Nora

**Terry Tempest Williams**  
Author, Naturalist, and Conservationist

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**Jody Spraker Pozen**  
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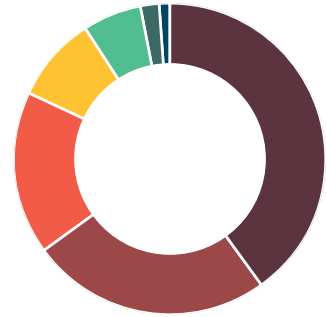
# In Memoriam

Rachel's Network was saddened by the passing of Advisor **THEO COLBORN** in 2014. Theo carried on a legacy of environmental health advocacy established by the Network's namesake, Rachel Carson through her work to reduce the prevalence of toxic chemicals. Her spirit will live on in the many people she inspired to fight for a better world.



# Financials

## 2014 REVENUES



Membership Dues	\$320,170.06	40%
General Support	195,500.00	25%
Restricted Program Funds	137,054.92	17%
Meeting Registration Fees	68,865.00	9%
Investment Income	49,339.67	6%
Fiscal Sponsorship Fund Fees	15,616.55	2%
Rachel's Action Network Reimbursement	10,137.73	1%

Total Revenues **\$796,683.93**

## 2014 EXPENSES



Member Programs	\$318,433.49	42%
Outreach Programs & Strategic Partnerships	158,747.36	21%
Management & General	97,257.52	13%
Fundraising	85,820.48	11%
Membership Development	62,145.87	8%
Public Relations	43,592.75	6%

Total Expenses **\$765,997.47**

## ASSETS

2013 Net Assets **\$791,279**  
 Change in Net Assets **+ 30,686.46**

2014 Net Assets **\$821,966**

### PHOTO CREDITS

cover: iStock; inside front: Eric Leslie; p. 6: Light Brigading; p. 8: ikubal; p. 11: Sustainable Economies Law Center; p. 16: Yannick Turbe; back cover: Unsplash; all others: Djenno Bacvic and Erica Flock

“Through Rachel’s Network, I connect with true kindred spirits, who are committed to improving our environment and the quality of life for all.”

FLORENCE LIDDELL



Rachel's  
Network

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