



RED CANOE

— FOUNDATION —

FY 2021 Annual Report





RED CANOE

— FOUNDATION —

***Red Canoe Foundation is
dedicated to providing youth
access to transformative
wilderness experiences.***

Red Canoe Foundation

96 Bay State Road, Apt. 9
Boston, MA 02215
(608) 469-4752

www.redcanoefoundation.org
gcoleman@redcanoefoundation.org

Red Canoe Foundation is a
U.S. 501(c)(3) organization.

Board of Directors

Phoebe Knowles, Chair
Maddy Vertenten, Vice-Chair
Susannah Ross, Treasurer
William Porter, Secretary
Hardin Coleman, Director at Large
Christopher Foster, Director*
Jason Lewis, Director
John Moses, Director
Louise Moses, Director
William Nuckols, Director*
Kathryn Stauffer, Director

Marketing Advisory Panel

Katherine Finnegan*
Josephine Moore*

Emeritus Circle

Libby Moore, *in memoriam*
Founding Director & Chair

Staff

Gail Coleman, Executive Director
Ben Simmons, Asst. Exec. Director

**Joined in Fiscal Year 2022*

September 2021

Greetings!

Thank you for paddling into the headwinds with us this past year. Headwinds are tough on the mind as well as on the body, and this year we have all faced many different types of headwinds - social, financial, and individual. Even as we worry about the environmental and political climate, we have found strength in this community, and in our other circles of life. There is strength when we paddle together.

Red Canoe Foundation knew the year was going to be challenging, but we also knew more than ever that we need to continue to have sufficient funds to support young people's wilderness transformations. And so, in October 2020, we set a "stretch" fundraising goal of \$100,000 knowing the hard work that lay ahead to achieve it. Once again you, our faithful supporters, dug in with us and together we raised \$105,608!

As we worked to raise the funds, RCF's Scholarship Review Workgroup reviewed and assessed eleven requests for financial support. By the spring, we had made financial commitments totaling \$41,635 to support eleven campers at Wabun, and an additional \$12,990 to support campers from Bear Island - Wabun's neighbors one mile to the south where the Teme-Augama Anishnabai First Nations people have lived for centuries. Shortly thereafter, we learned that the camp made the difficult and necessary decision not to operate for a second year in a row, a disappointment for them as well as many prospective campers. Happily, two campers to whom we had pledged support found alternate summer wilderness experiences that we funded. We were also able to support programs through Chicago Voyagers for a second year; they notified us that Red Canoe Foundation's \$6,000 grant supported 60 young people who participated in a variety of canoe trips over the course of the summer.



Red Canoe Foundation consistently enjoys tailwinds in its efforts to recruit new Board members who help the organization grow and strengthen! In the spring, Hardin Coleman joined the Board, and Phoebe Knowles and Jason Lewis returned. Phoebe took on the role of Board Chair, and Maddy Vertenten began her term as Vice Chair. Ben Simmons transitioned from the Board to a staff position as Assistant Executive Director. Finally, Katie Stauffer joined Louise Moses as co-Chair of the Marketing and Communications Committee. I cannot imagine working with a more committed group of volunteers who freely give of their time and talents! There is a lot of work to accomplish, and the Red Canoe Foundation team knows how to get it done!

Thank you for another fantastic year of managing the headwinds. There is no question that the coming year will be full of white water as well as lake paddling but as long as we are Paddling Together, we'll still make wonderful progress!

Be well,



Gail Coleman, Executive Director
gcoleman@redcanoe.foundation.org





Dear Red Canoe Foundation Family,

Would you take a minute with me to pause, wherever you are reading this, and recall a moment when you were in the natural world, beholding something gorgeous – perhaps a sunset, a sunrise, a pristine shoreline, a path in the woods in solitude. Recall the sense that you've happened upon something extraordinary and carry it forward with you as you read this letter.

This last year I have watched my own children adapt to the COVID realities of constant Zoom meetings and the siren call of social online games like Roblox. I have read articles about increased levels of teen depression and a loneliness epidemic caused in large part by smart phones and social media as proxy for real human social connection. I have listened to activists like Kenji Haroutunian discuss the importance of equity and inclusion in wilderness programming and outdoor recreation.



I know in my bones that Red Canoe Foundation's mission of helping young people get access to meaningful wilderness experiences is more critical than ever. This is one of the reasons I am thrilled to be back and serving as Chair of the Board as we journey together to bring our mission into reality.

I previously served on the Board of RCF's earlier iteration, Friends of Wabun. Recently, I found my notes for a letter I was writing to the FOW

community – similar to this one. It was the year we had awarded our very first two camper scholarships. I wrote:

"I think about what awaits those kids – what discoveries they will have, what memories they will make, what stories they will tell. And if I could prepare them in some small way for the journey, what would I say? What stories would I tell? Initially I would give pragmatic advice like, 'send letters early and often so that you receive letters over the course of the summer.' I know exchanging handwritten letters is a lost art in this screen-age – but it is an indescribably great feeling to receive mail at camp. I would tell them to be patient with themselves during the first few days as friendships develop and calluses form. Everyone goes through a little bit of a metamorphosis at the beginning. And then, with deep nostalgia for my own summers at camp, I would ask them to breathe deeply, internalize and hold on to the smells, sit quietly and memorize things like the sunlight on the water and the rain drops pearly up off of the lake during a downpour..."

We have given many more scholarships since that first year, and I want to ask the same questions every time. "How will this young person's life be impacted by this experience? What will they take away?"

As I reflect on the past year, I am so thankful for each and every one of you, our Red Canoe Foundation family of supporters, and for the opportunity to serve with this board of passionate and committed people. Together we will continue to make extraordinary wilderness experiences available to more young people. Here's to moving onward and upward together!

Phoebe Knowles

Phoebe Knowles
RCF Board Chair



Vivienne Pope, a 9th grader and Wabun camper, received RCF's letter asking campers to consider making a donation. She had spent time caring for a neighbor's cat and shoveling snow from their sidewalks (in Chicago!). Taking RCF's call to action to heart, Vivienne happily donated some of her very hard earned money to help provide wilderness canoe opportunities to more youth.



Seamus Monahan, a Wabun camper who was in Wabun C during the summer of 2019, knows the privilege it is to attend a camp like Wabun. He took his camp energy and reached out to family and friends, asking them to make a donation of any size to RCF. By this simple act, he raised more than the full summer tuition so that another young person with limited means could receive a scholarship.



The Wanna B's

Seamus found another way to stay connected to Wabun and the wilderness despite the limitations imposed by Covid. With the encouragement of their parents, Seamus and four other fellow campers from Wabun C completed a ten-day trip down the Allegheny River in Pennsylvania during the summer of 2020. It was led by three older boys, two of whom had been trip staff at Wabun and another who had just completed his second Bay Trip. When asked about the differences between this trip and Wabun, Seamus

reflected, "we had to use plastic canoes and didn't have a wanigan for everyone. The trip was also easier than a normal Wabun trip, and we saw people and houses most days." Because most of the boys would have been in Wabun B that summer, they dubbed themselves the "Wanna B's." Seamus and the others hope to return to Wabun during the summer of 2022.



Financial Summary FY2021

Between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021 (our fiscal year), the theme for the Annual Giving Campaign was *Headwinds*. Our fundraising goal for FY2021 was \$100,000, which we were able to achieve with the generous support of our donors. One reason for this which is not highlighted below was our record number of first-time donors; there were 79 in FY2021, up from 63 in FY2020.

Fiscal Year 2021

Revenues

Annual Giving	\$104,107.00
Gifts to Endowment	\$1,501.00
Other (Interest, Rebates, Etc.)	\$201.00
Total	\$105,809.00

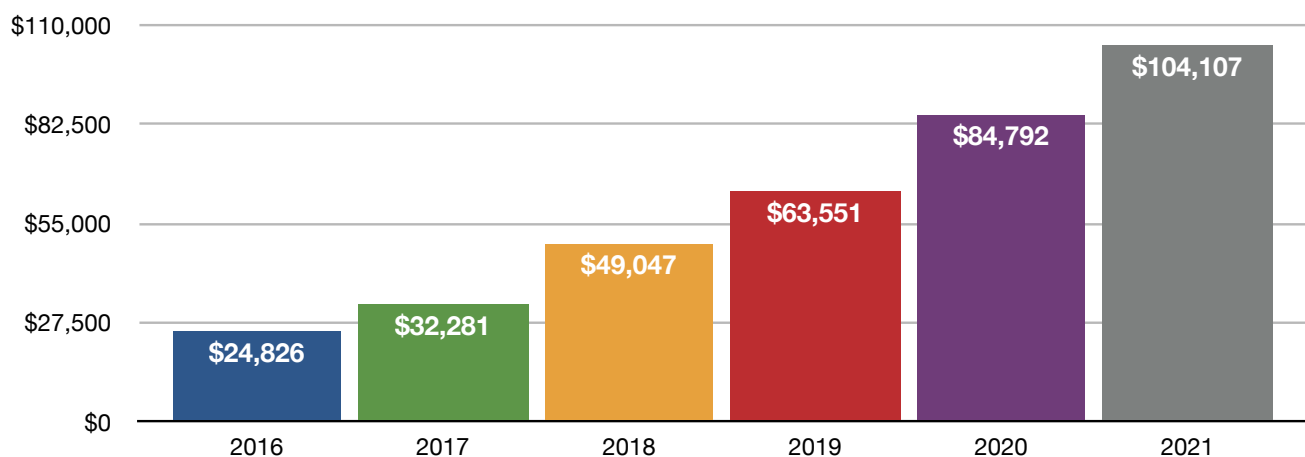
Expenses

Administration	\$44,851.00
Fundraising	\$10,151.00
Scholarships (Granted)	\$7,040.00
<i>Scholarships (Pledged But Not Granted)</i>	<i>\$53,585.00</i>
Total	\$62,042.00

Assets at End of Fiscal Year 2021

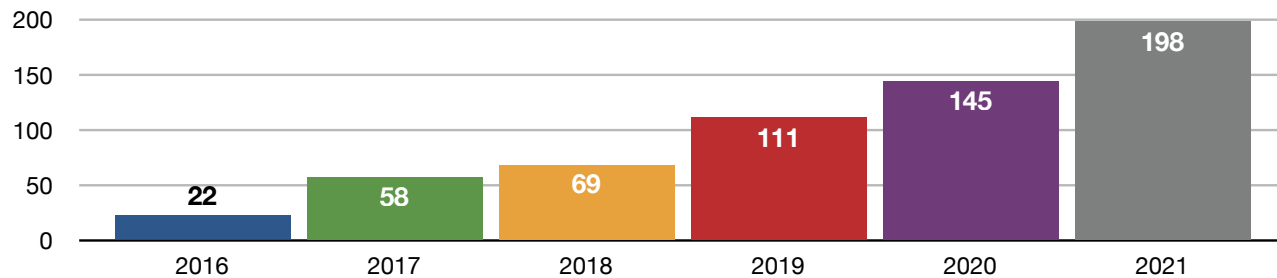
Cash and Short-Term Investments	\$160,674.00
Endowment Fund	\$57,009.00
Total	\$217,683.00

Annual Giving (FY 2016-2021)

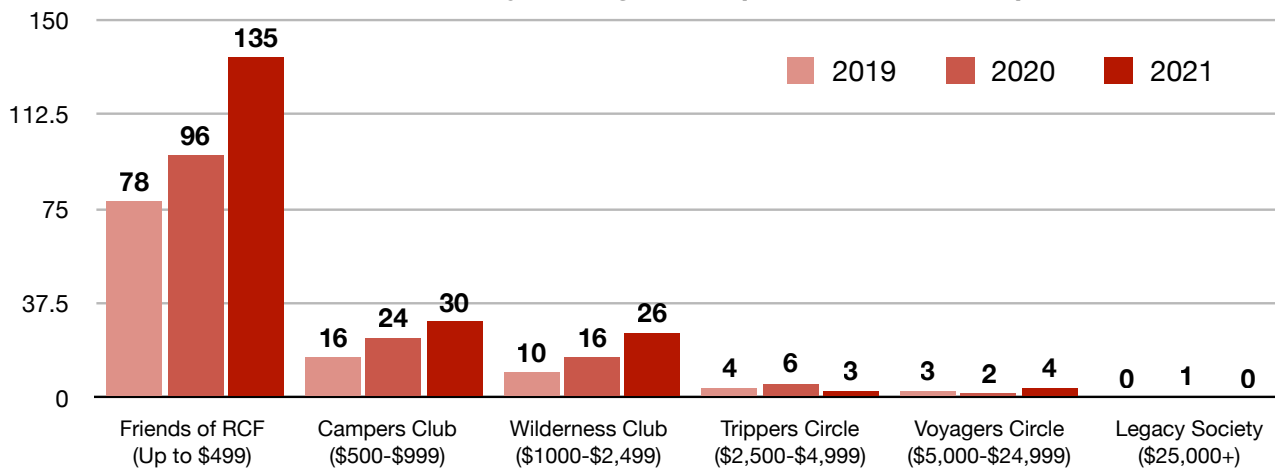




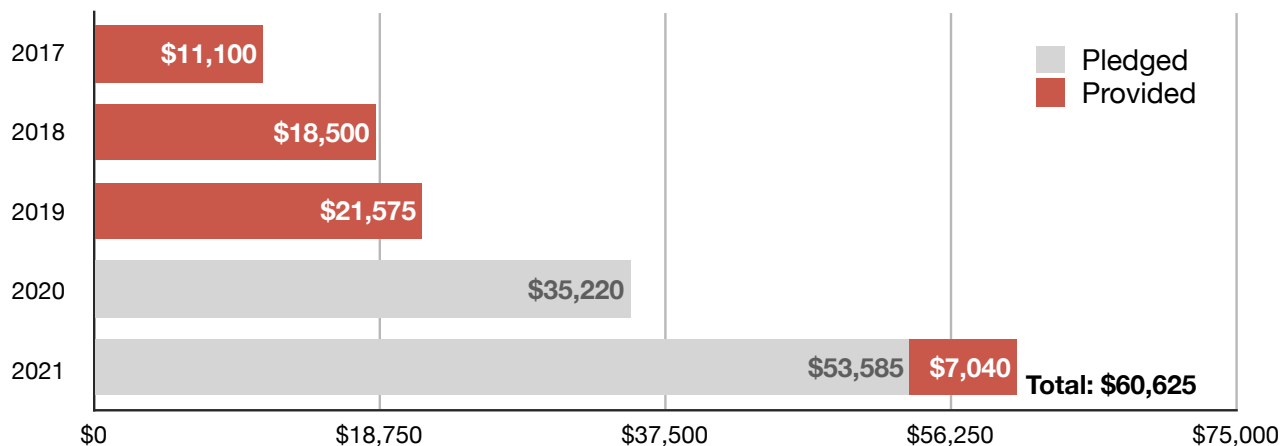
Donors By Household (FY 2016-2021)



Donors By Giving Level (FY 2019–FY 2021)



Scholarship Support Pledged and Provided (2017-2021)



FY2021 Donations

We are sincerely grateful to members of the Red Canoe Foundation family for your generous commitment to our mission. You make it financially feasible for youth to gain access to the wilderness. The following list reflects gifts received between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021. One asterisk (*) denotes a first-time donor, and two asterisks (**) denote contributions for five years or more. 100% of RCF's Board of Directors and Staff (identified with ‡) donated in FY2021.

Voyagers Circle (\$5,000-\$24,999)

Kevin Barney and Susannah
Ross**‡
Maggie and Bill Lynch**
Robert Moore**
Gloria Wilcher*

Trippers Circle (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Virginia de Lima
Sara Purcell, John and Anne
Reagan**
Lucas Rooney*

Wilderness Club (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Anonymous
Jonathan Berger**
Hardin‡ and Gail Coleman
Collis Family
Luke and Elizabeth Dann*
Stephen and Susan Forbes
Fremont-Smith Family*
Peter S. Gregory*
Hadley Hill*
John R. Hunger*

Michael and Monica Lehner
Jason Lewis‡ and Alison Thurber**
Rick and Cate Meffert
Paul and Rose Monahan
John‡ and Louise Moses**‡
Bill‡ and Anne Porter**
Sam and Kari Richardson
Philip P. Rockwood*
Caroline Schutta*
Ben Simmons‡
Wick Simmons
Katie‡ and Scott Stauffer
Kirk Streb*
Amanda and Matt Torgeson
John and Angela Traynor
Maddy Vertenten‡/Greenwood
Family

Campers Club (\$500-\$999)

Anonymous
Douglas Addison
William E. Anderson
Howard S. Barnebey
Bill and Nancy Battey*
Sandy and Sissy Buck*

Leslie and John Elder*
Aaron Epstein and Mindy Snyder
Newell Flather
Sarah Flotten**
Suzanne Flotten
Christopher‡ and Hilary Foster
Mary Beth Gallagher
Trish and Bill Gianakopoulos
Reine Hewitt
Suzie and Crawford Hill
Nibby and Ann Hinchman
Pamela Hyde
Will Johnston and Rosita Moore
Bill Kelly
Dick and Marg Lewis**
John Maus*
Eleanor Monahan*
Josephine Moore
Ann Olberding and Ryan Urness*
Frederic W. Rust*
Dick Ryan*
B. Thomas Seidman
Bruce Simonds
John Strand and Sara Proman
Strand





**Friends of RCF
(Up to \$499)**

- Anonymous (5)
- Nancy C. Anderson*
- Eleanor Anderson*
- Erik Balsbaugh
- Baquie Family
- Faith Barnes*
- David and Vivian Bichsel
- Stephen Blackmer
- Blum Family*
- Samantha Grey Bower*
- Ryan Bowse*
- Brennan Family
- Neil and Karen Bresolin
- Sarah Brixey
- Nicholas Brokaw*
- Jennifer Bursell and Mike Forsman*
- Ian Cameron
- Karen Gallagher Carter*
- Amy Cartmell
- Barbara and Hereward Cattell
- Todd Cavalier
- George W. Chase III and Elibet Chase*
- Matt Cheney and Kate Olson*
- Molly Cheraso*
- John Chester, Jr.

- Sandra Chivers*
- Lila Cleminshaw and Keith Erickson*
- Roland and Jennifer Cochran
- Aaron and Kate Coleman
- Dory Cote*
- John Cross
- Victoria Dalzell*
- Clare Dame*
- Barb DeAngelis and Jane Hartzell*
- Thomas and Hilary De Carlo*
- Lisa de Lima
- Nick DeFriez
- Mark and Ann Dillenbeck
- Thomas Donnelley II and Barbara Donnelley
- Janice Drinan and David Platt*
- John Edmonds
- Suzy and Matt Ennis*
- Margaret Field
- Mary and Steve Finnegan
- John Fiske**
- Gro Flatebo and Kent Wommack
- Casey Forbes
- Angie Forbes*
- Robert Forler
- Keith and Laura Fortier*
- Mike Fotos and Claudia Lindsey
- Robert P. Frazee
- Lucy Fremont-Smith*



FY2021 Donations

- James and Elizabeth Gamble*
- Joseph and Jennifer Giffune
- Paula B. Grant
- William Green and Diane Whitney
- Tom and Lee Ann Hadley
- Margot Hall
- Allison Coffin Hanig*
- Andrew Harrington
- Robin H. Hatch*
- Ned Heckman*
- Ellis Heminway and Lydia Maier*



- Elise Fulstone and Bill Tabor
- Hilary*
- Andy Hoag and Leslie Morison
- John Hinchman and Monica Wyatt*
- Susanne Horner
- Polly and Alan Hyde**
- Halley Keevil
- Phoebe Knowles**‡
- Kathryn Kolb*
- Maddie Lehner*
- Carole Levin
- John and Laurie Lewis
- Graham Lincoln
- Peter Lindseth**
- Laura Longworth*
- Polly and Chuck Longworth
- Denny, Andrew, Paul and Julia Lund and Cyndie Spencer

FY2021 Donations



Peter and Christina Manning
McCarthy Family
Page and Peter McEachern*
Danuta Molenda*
Justin Monroe*
Deborah Monroe
Richard and Barbara Moore
Helen and Rick Moore
Benjamin Moore*
Travis and Mia Moore*
Elisa Morris*
Margot Moses
Margaret Moss*
Mike and Rhonda Murnane
Anne and Ben Niles*
Michael and Martha Parker
Roberta R. Paulson
Vivienne Pope*
Peter Post
David and Elizabeth Puelle*
Jim and Diane Rees*
Jay Moore Reighley
Alison Gessner Rooney
Judy Ross*
Joseph Wood Rutter

Matthew Sane*
David Schuler*
Jessica Scriver
Paul Sipp
Robert Slattery*
Malcolm Smith*
Angus Soderberg*
Susan Soule*
Katherine Burrows Stetson*
Tom Stiverson
Pam and Tony Sugar*
Stephanie Sullivan
Sidney and Jerry Sundheimer*
Margaret and William Thickstun
Judy and David Thompson*
Lisa and Russ Tuckerman
Lily Turner
Truman Urness*
Gordie and Tracy Vap
Michael J. Vertenten
Ron and Carla Vlaskamp*
Adam Wallace
Wrede Family
Elizabeth Worgan*
Alexandria Zeytoonjian

RCF 2021



Matching Gifts

The following companies matched gifts in the past year.

Cowen Cares Matching Gift Program
Pete and Gerry's Organic Eggs

Memorial Gifts

The following people had gifts donated in their memory.

William Anderson
Harriet Berger
Dr. Bill and Mary Davis
Dr. Clarence and Mary Gallagher
Granny
Richard P. Lewis, Sr., and
Richard P. Lewis, Jr.
Bill (Lowell) Monroe
Libby Hyde Moore
William Olmsted





Tributes

The following people had gifts donated in their honor.

Aleena Blankenship

Hail to all the Wabun Campers,
Hail to all the Staff, too.

Hardin Coleman and the Coleman Family

Keith Fortier

Natalie Fortier

Crawford Hill

David Hillmeyer Family

Julie Hinchman

Nibby and Ann Hinchman

Phoebe Knowles

Portaging Waterlogged Double Ribbed 18' Canoes!

Anne and Bill Porter

Ella Ross-Barney

Ashley and Jonathan Rust

Ben Simmons

Christopher Sugar

Isaac & Noah Traynor

Maddy Vertenten



Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these lists. Please direct any questions or concerns to Gail Coleman, Executive Director, at gcoleman@redcanoefoundation.org.



How can you support RCF?

- Share your ideas and suggestions by email with our Executive Director, Gail Coleman, at gcoleman@redcanoefoundation.org.
- Quickly and easily make an online donation by visiting redcanoefoundation.org and clicking the DONATE button.
- Contact Gail directly to contribute to the Endowment Fund or to include Red Canoe Foundation in your estate planning.
- Are you on Facebook or Instagram? Follow, like, share, and comment on our posts!
- Decide on a personal donation goal and invite your friends and section mates to join in! On social media, be sure to use the hashtag #redcanoechallenge, tag the people you want to include, and don't forget to also tag @redcanoefoundation.
- Find out if your employer has a matching gift program, and put it to good use!





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