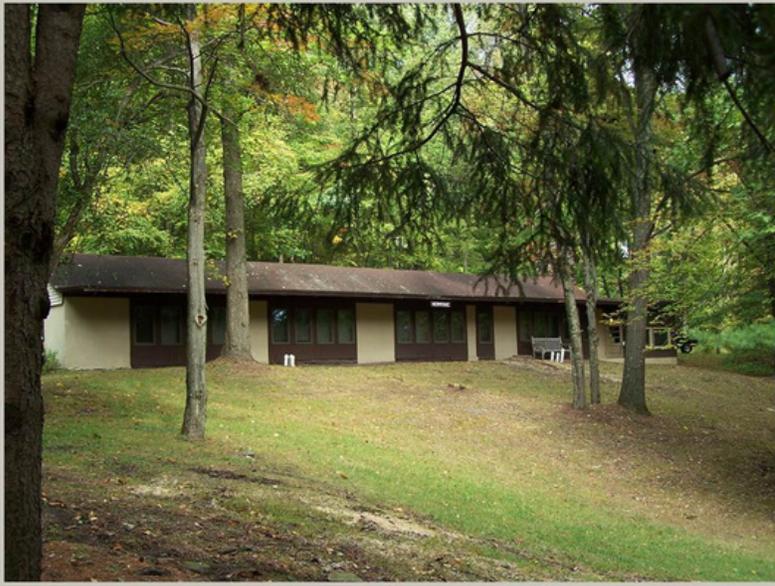


KIRKRIDGE RETREAT AND STUDY CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT
2021





*Bring me all of your dreams,
You dreamers
Bring me all of your
Heart Melodies
That I may wrap them
In a blue cloud -cloth
Away from the too-rough fingers
Of the world.*

Langston Hughes

Our Mission

*Kirkridge is a place
to be, and to become
a people of hope,
compassion, justice, and service.*



We Begin Again - Together

The dreams continued at Kirkridge through the challenging months of 2021. We hope you take the time to read and breathe in these pages of the annual report. The pages are designed to take you on a journey through the last four seasons at Kirkridge. The photos will remind you, as the Moments on the Mountain have done each week, of the beauty and sacredness of the land through each season.

Through the times of Covid19, we learned that Kirkridge is more than a place and we were reminded once again it is also a movement. With participants gathering from across North America, we crossed borders and barriers to gathered hundreds of people around a common internet table for programs, hospitality, and conversation.

We invite you, as you read through the extensive program offerings, to hold in your heart how each was an offering of generosity by the “faculty” and staff of Kirkridge to bring the mission statement “to be and become and people of hope, compassion, justice and service” alive even during another wave of the pandemic.

You will see seedlings of new dreams emerging at Kirkridge through partnerships and relationships that broaden and deepen our connection with local programs and organizations both in the Slate Belt and in the Stroudsburg area where we reside.

Finally, take time to review the data collected regarding our programs and the financial report from Kirkridge. We have actively lived into “Together, We are Kirkridge” over these last twelve months. Together over the 365 days of 2021, we were able to wrap some dreams *“in a blue cloud cloth away from the too rough fingers of the world.”*

In gratitude,
Diane Petteway and Jean Richardson

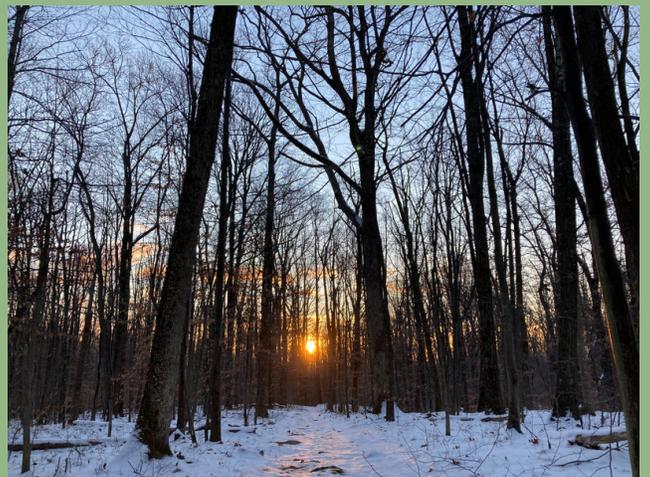
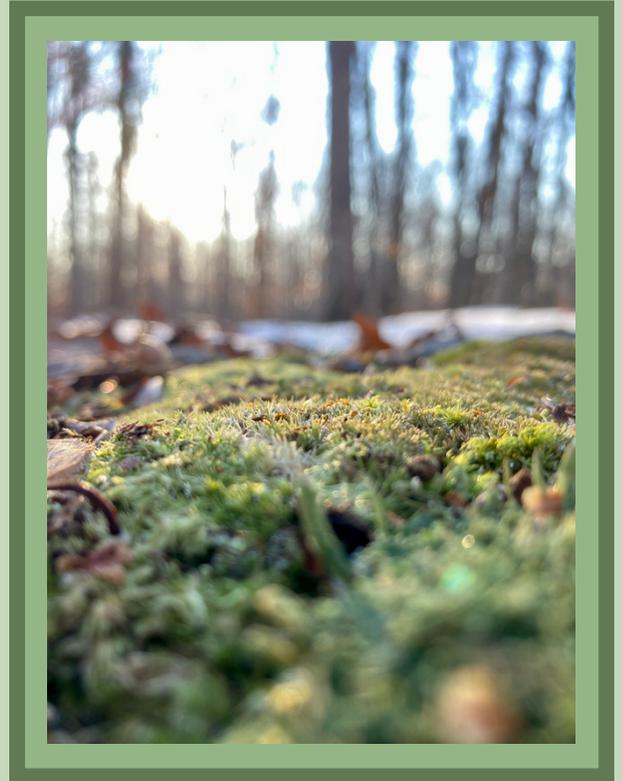
MOMENTS ON THE MOUNTAIN

Though our online community has proved that Kirkridge is much more than a geographical place on this Earth, we cherish and honor the land on which Kirkridge sits.

Through our biweekly emails sharing **Moments on the Mountain**, we've continued to offer windows into this place we love so much.

Sharing this beautiful place with you has been an invitation to connect with land; to be a spectator to the changing of the seasons, to witness the breath cycling through the woods.

Much has changed in the past few years. However, the land remains a place of respite, and nourishment. It has been a privilege to continue to share this with our community.



SPRING 2021 FINDING OUR WAY TOGETHER

As we welcomed a new year, we were still finding our way together. Our work in the world has never been one person's job to accomplish; we have always done this work together. There are as many stories as there are people who find their way to us. This year was no exception and Zoom workshops and retreats connected us to people who had not been to Kirkridge for decades or never before, and we were able to continue to welcome them.

Seasonal Program Highlights:

- **Book Discussion: How We Show up**
A conversation on how community can lead us to a liberating way of being.
- **Wayfinding**
Dedicated to navigating life in a time of profound uncertainty.
- **Braving the Wilderness**
Cultivating the courage to go into the wilderness of our unpredictable lives



SUMMER 2021 DEEPENING OUR VALUES

The spirit of community was rich and vibrant as we gathered online and flourished together. We held one another's life joys and hardships, explored our spiritual wonderments, renewed our commitment to justice and equity, and engaged with silence. We listened to our inner teachers to discover and deepen our values. Through online programs, we attempted to interpret, connect, and absorb the last year and identify what to seed and nurture in our own lives and communities.

Seasonal Program Highlights:

- **Courage to Teach®**
Space for all those who teach to reflect and celebrate the mile markers along the way.
- **Soul and Role**
A commitment to living life with intention and being a learner for a lifetime
- **Sustaining the Soul**
A mini-retreat focused on individually and collectively practicing self care.



FALL 2021 LISTENING TO OUR HEARTS

As we harvested the richness of our summer programs, we slowly turned inward to listen to our hearts. We celebrated our second annual virtual fundraiser recognizing that Together, We are Kirkridge. We shared in music, poetry, and storytelling and honored the abundance of Kirkridge bringing together the spirit of place and the spirit of community.

Seasonal Program Highlights:

- **Living Wholeheartedly in These Uncertain Times**
Together, in the quiet, exploring the questions of our current world
- **Traveling with Heart**
A musical journey to our inner landscapes and outer horizons
- **A Season of Letting Go**
An invitation to immerse ourselves in the powerful metaphors of autumn



WINTER 2021 GIVING THANKS FOR EACH OTHER

While we rounded a second pandemic year, we intentionally created space to recognize that, as a community, we are grateful to be with each other. With the cold enveloping Kirkridge and the nights becoming longer, the holiday season offered light and gratitude. Through our winter programming, we shared poetry, music, and stories to warm us through the cold months.

Seasonal Program Highlights:

- **Meditative Seasonal Music**
A time to rest and renew through the music of the harp
- **Circle of Trust®: Holy Darkness**
A mini-retreat to enter into the dark and welcome its profound energy
- **A NYE Gratitude Circle**
Turning the year with the spirit of thanksgiving and lessons for time to come.



IMPACT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Center for Renewal and Wholeness, previously based in Dallas, Texas is now calling Kirkridge their home. Their mission is the renewal of whole people who form the heart of whole organizations that are vital to sustaining whole communities. Their family of over 200 facilitators historically have focused offerings in higher education and in the past year have offered beautiful and moving virtual retreats with Kirkridge.

SYNC Recovery started operating an outreach office at Kirkridge in late 2021. Sync Recovery programs connect people affected by substance use disorder to help them achieve long-term sobriety. Participants include those in early recovery, friends, family, and those with long term recovery experience who want to enhance their overall health and wellness and help others on their journey. They have started hosting their own retreats, feeling at home at Kirkridge.

Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 has also joined the Kirkridge family. This collaborative program offers students a new community-based learning site for teaching life skills. These experiences turn into data that is used by each student's educational team for focused transition assessments and planning. The students have brought vibrancy to Kirkridge as they work, create, and enjoy the grounds.



IMPACT AND PARTNERSHIPS

In 2021, we hosted



50 programs

with a total of



797 participants



*Thank you for being
a spiritual home.*

*- Raymond,
Dec 2021*

*You sit at the heart junction of all living
things. You are cosmically in tune. You
are one in the Spirit. You are dedicated to
getting us all there. Keep on keeping on.*

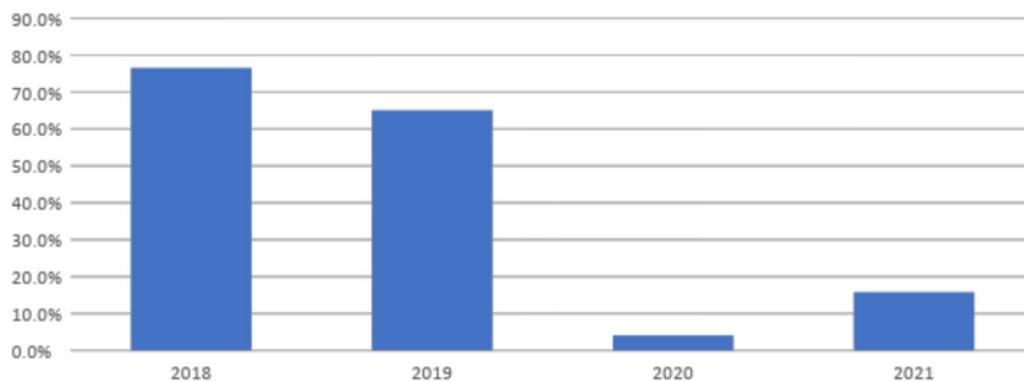
- Dolores, Dec 2021

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

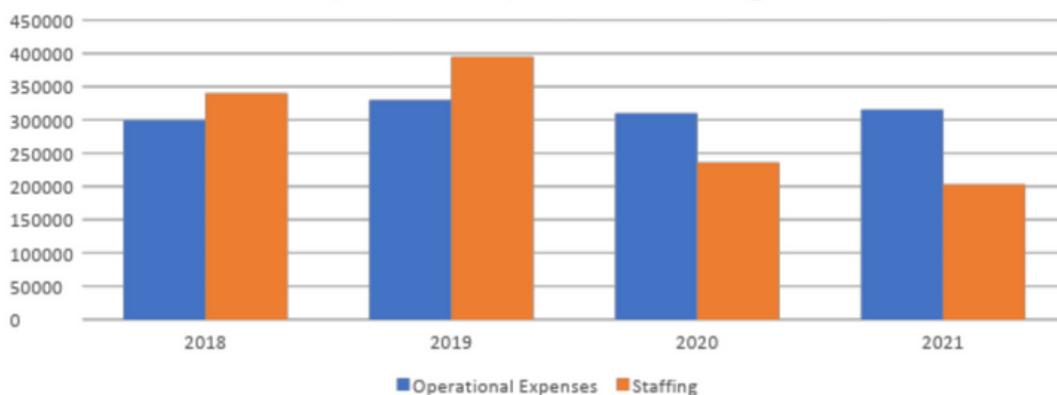
The gift of COVID has allowed Kirkridge to ripple out from a special thin place in the Poconos of Pennsylvania, to becoming an international presence in the world of retreat centers. Who we mean when we say "**We Are Kirkridge**" has expanded from several hundred to several thousand.

With the elimination of geographical location as a barrier, we remained committed to eliminating cost as a barrier. We lived into "Generosity of Spirit", inviting program participants to pay whatever they desired for all of our program offerings.

Program Revenue as % of Total Revenue



Operational Expenses and Staffing



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

722 Total Number of Donations

336 Total Number of Donors

"My life was changed for the better in a hundred ways because of my relationship with Kirkridge. I want it to survive and succeed."

- Rita, Nov 2021

"Thank you for all that you do , all that you offer, and all that you are."

- Claire Dec 2021

We are thankful for grant support from the following grant making foundations and operating foundations that have enabled us to expand our programming and advance our work in the world.

Fetzer Institute

Thanks to the Retreat Center Collaboration, Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center has received financial and peer support. Kirkridge plays an active role in leading the collaboration, while sharing and learning with retreat centers across North America.

Northampton County for ARP

We are grateful for the support Northampton County has given to Kirkridge during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to grants we received in 2020, we also received a large grant to mitigate the long-term effects of the COVID19 shutdown that was necessary for the health and safety of our local and global community.

Audubon grant

With financial support from the Audubon Society from the Kittatinny Ridge Mini-Grant fund, we partnered with Columcille Megalith Park to increase people's engagement with the natural landscape responsibly and lovingly. We explored the natural ecology and how to be in right relationship with the land through each season.

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SPIRIT OF PLACE, SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY

Decades ago, in the face of war, George MacLeod of Scotland envisioned what others termed as “his great experiment.” A venture that called pilgrims to come away and live in community while rebuilding the cloisters of an Abbey on the far shores of the Isle of Iona.

Kirkridge was founded nearly 80 years ago, by people who were inspired by MacLeod’s vision of community and the call to bring justice into the world. As I step aside as the Director of Kirkridge in the coming year, I hold dreams for this “grand experiment” as we continue to become a people who strive to incarnate the words of our mission “compassion, hope, justice and service.”

The work of radical hospitality, according to Ruth Harvey of The Iona Community, is where our hearts are broken open to change. We must ask ourselves – how are we being called in the coming years to live our journey becoming “the beloved community” through our programs, offerings of hospitality, and healing? It is my dream that our new leadership will offer powerful direction for us all. Kirkridge exists in a geographic area where one only needs to drive a little way before encountering a Confederate flag. As I ponder the future of Kirkridge, I strongly believe that our core work as a community is to find ways to confront how racial injustice has shaped our own lives and being. This is an opus work to be struggled with in community working daily to seek forgiveness and change, to be not simply “inclusive” but to become “whole”.

From this threshold, I envision a future of promise for Kirkridge. I see gatherings in the new barn alive with art, music, and celebrations with a wide variety of voices creating new community. I see Kirkridge breaking down barriers that divide us. As I gaze across the field, I see people yet to be known working together to create food for our guests and creating a hearth space of welcome. I cannot help but dream of a larger vision of inclusion where adults living with intellectual disabilities find meaningful employment as part of our staff. Given the hardships for front-line workers, I ponder how Kirkridge might serve as a place of healing for those who have experienced trauma. How are we called to be more open to those who might not otherwise afford to come? How can we better live in harmony with the planet consuming fewer resources so that all species might be offered a chance to survive? How might we ignite new leadership in our world? Our work is just beginning, and always will be...

...It is with sadness and thanksgiving that I say goodbye to Justine Johnson who served faithfully as the associate director during the particularly challenging times of COVID19. Justine has widened the reach and deepened the vision of Kirkridge online and with powerful programs. Her partner Joe Germick has tended the grounds and buildings with tenacity and care. Pat and I will miss them as friends and colleagues. Together may we all wish them blessings on their next ventures. The winds of the Spirit are blowing across the mountain seeding new life. Roots of dormancy are finding their way anew as we nurture and celebrate the changing of seasons. It is with deep gratitude to each of you: staff, board members, donors, cheering section and friends that I move into retirement.

As we celebrate where we have been, may we with courage, boldness, and faith live fully into this great experiment in the years to come.

With blessings and deep gratitude,

Jean



*“In the end, we do not solve our problems,
for life is not a problem to be solved,
it is an experiment to be lived.”*

-James Hollis

Together, we are Kirkridge

*This annual report, like much of the work at Kirkridge required hours and hands for its creation.
A thank you to: Justine Johnson, Laumara Springer, Chloe Hettinger, Joyce Weishaupt,
Diane Petteway, Kathy Gille for its creation.*