

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

WATERFALL UNITY ALLIANCE



“The prophecies all say that to survive we have to return to original ways. We need to form and nurture communities that will sustain us through the climate tipping point and beyond. We know that there are ways to live in balance. We have not forgotten, but we need to decolonize our minds and ways of life and return to the ways of our ancestors. It is time for us to plant the seeds of return.”

- Kawenniiosta Jock

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Introduction

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Waterfall Unity Alliance is to protect the Valley of Iskóhare (Schoharie) and our Mother Earth, strengthen alliances across movements and cultures, and build collaborative solutions to the existential challenges of our time.

OUR HISTORY

The Waterfall Unity Alliance was founded in 2015 when Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) leaders from Akwesasne came to stand with residents of the Mohawk Valley against the Constitution Pipeline and fracked gas infrastructure planned for central New York.

As part of a grassroots coalition, the Waterfall Unity Alliance successfully pressured the state to deny the pipeline's construction permit, setting a historic precedent as the first defeat by a state agency of a federally approved interstate pipeline. It was a huge win. However, our prayer was not just to stop a pipeline, but to open the doorway for a peaceful return of the Kanien'kehá:ka to ancestral lands.

OUR PROJECTS & LEADERSHIP

Now led by a council of Haudenosaunee women and sister allies, the main focus of the Waterfall Unity Alliance is the land rematriation and restoration projects in the Valley of Iskóhare. This work has opened the door to a profound process of healing that is central to the wider mission of the Waterfall Unity Alliance.



WUA FRAMEWORK & ACTION PLAN

- Recognizing that we are in the midst of a climate and extinction crisis
- Recognizing that the remaining wilderness on Earth needs to be protected for our survival and managed for biodiversity
- Recognizing that much of Ioskóhare and the Mohawk Valley is under populated, unpolluted and still considered as wild.
- Recognizing that there is a right and a desire of the Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk), the original people of the Mohawk Watershed and Ioskóhare (Schoharie) Valley, to return to their ancestral lands to build sustainable communities
- Recognizing that regenerative farming is an essential climate solution to draw down carbon and transform our current destructive agricultural systems
- Recognizing that Indigenous land management is a recognized as a key component of protecting land, water and biodiversity
- Recognizing that the farmland in Ioskóhare has some of the best soil in the world and for centuries has been essential for regional food security

WE RESOLVE TO:

- Support the repatriation of Iotsi'tsison (Skywoman's) Forever Farm and the return to regenerative farming practices in Ioskóhare
- Help support Kanien'kehá:ka families and individuals as they return to the Valley, build a healing center, and start a language and cultural immersion program for a new Kanien'kehá:ka community
- Protect and manage land, water and resources; promote indigenous stewardship and forest conservation practices; and promote species biodiversity through the region
- Work in alliance and partnership with local government, traditional leaders, local families, educators, activists and experts to build a bioregional forest, food, water, wildlife, and human sanctuary for the continued existence of life on earth and for all the generations to come

RESPONDING TO NEED & REALIZING THE DREAM OF RETURNING HOME

The solutions and projects we outline here are 100% responsive to the urgent needs of Kanien'kehá:ka communities. Our land in Akwesasne is polluted by the largest PCB dump in North America. Many of our communities on the other side of the border are fully assimilated into a suburban city life with no wild land left. It has been a long-held dream of our people to return to Ioskóhare. In this place of cleaning and renewal, we have raised a Longhouse built in the old ways next to a sacred waterfall which has called us back to cleanse and fortify our spirits. Ioskóhare is a place of still-wild forests and rivers, where our people can heal as we return to ancestral lands and re-remember who we are. Land back also means self back.

When we heal the land, we heal ourselves and each other.



Watkwanonhwerá:tons

As we close up our first year at lots'tsison Skywoman's Forever Farm, we reflect back on all the connections we made. It is important to remember this all began by the collective mind planting a seed of return.

As we re-established ourselves back on our ancestral lands, we became rooted in the ancestral wisdom and inner knowing of our grandmothers. As I woke every morning, I acknowledged my presence surrounded by creation- acknowledging the gratitude of being gifted another day to be present, to listen and to learn the instructions of Onkwehonwene:ha.

We hiked the Great Corn Mountain that watches over us. We acknowledged the sun at sunrise and absorbed his light to carry us through the first season of being on the land. To reconnect with our star families, we hiked that mountain through the midnight skies just to acknowledge them all and fall asleep under their presence. Waking up from visions of the land, we sang songs to our seeds and acknowledged our grandmothers who worked those lands before us. We spent our days walking in the footsteps of our ancestors. Through thousands of sunflower stocks, we witnessed our ancestors dancing to our voices singing. We acknowledged all of the plant medicines growing beside us and learned of ancient wild foods that were once abundant to our people. We ate those gifts from our ancestors and we expressed our gratitude for the reciprocity of nourishment. We acknowledged the cycle of ever bearing fruit that our children's songs and voices nurtured throughout their days exploring the land.

As mid summer set in, we spent our days acknowledging the thunder beings for all the medicine and guidance they brought to us. As mothers nurturing our inner child, we danced and laughed with our children in every downpour. We gave our gratitude and sang for our grandfathers and our men during these thunderstorms. We acknowledged the animal life that we continue to learn to co-exist with once again. We acknowledged the eighty squash plants that sprouted on their own in the green houses that we transplanted. They were grown to share with our allies, visitors, and supporters at our 2nd annual Waterfall Unity Festival. We shared these gifts with our community of Akwesasne, after suffering the loss of a great teacher. We acknowledged the bird life that surrounded us, and listened with intention to their songs and messages. We acknowledged our Grandmother Moon and all of our grandmothers before us. We acknowledged the winds for carrying our voices throughout the valley for all creation to hear. We acknowledged the waterways and soaked in the memories of our ancestors.

Our people came to host a social gathering of song and dance for all to share. As our nervous systems started to re-remember their pathways, our gratitude and acknowledgment began to manifest into physical teachings of Onkwehonwene:ha. This is where our original instruction begins. As long as we maintain a state of gratitude, we discover all the tools we've been carrying in our baskets all along. I would like to acknowledge each and every one of you that has helped plant the seeds of return. Your continued support and allyship has given strength to all Onkwehonwe people of Iohskóhare Valley.

The liberation of a mother expressing peace to her children and all creation has the ability to transform the world around us. That is the law of the land.

The Rotinonshonni people of lots'tsison Skywoman's Forever Farm would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the collective minds of Onkwehonwe families and allies who came to learn and be apart of the rematriation of our ancestral lands of Iohskóhare Valley.

I would like to acknowledge our Onkwehonwe men that came throughout our first year to match our efforts toward restoring the vibration throughout our lands. To watch the tears flow from their eyes as they spoke to the land and the children is a gift to always remember.

To all the great grandchildren that came to play, explore, sing, help build, maintain the grounds, restore the farm house or to just be... Niawenko:wa for all that you shared. To watch my people in their natural habitat has been the biggest gift from creation so far.

To our Waterfall Family, niawenko:wa for believing in the dream of our ancestors. For your continued help, guidance, time and energy of supporting us in our return. This has all been made possible with the collective minds of allyship. As we learn to build deeper relations within creation, I believe we will learn to deepen the connections of our allies and supporters.

To my children, this year has brought great change for our family. The resilience of our family unit has brought us home to our ancestral lands- a new beginning at restoring the relationship to the land of our ancestors. I've been your biggest supporter for over 10 years, making sure you get to learn the ways of our people. To my older ones, you were given the foundation of Onkwehonwene:ha in a classroom setting. Now it is time to learn the other half of putting those teachings into everyday practice - learning to deepen your connection to the natural world and yourselves.

Kwahe:sotsi konnonronhkwa
kheie'okon:'a.

Ever grateful to be on this journey with my children while guiding them to their inner beings.

Skènnen,
Kawennniosta
Kanien'kehá:ka, People of the Flint
Iakohthahiónni, Wolf Clan
lots'tsison Skywomans Forever Farm
Iohskóhare, Schoharie Valley



WUA Vision Map

A beautiful vision has taken root in the Valley of Ioskóhare. We are truly the generation here to heal. If not us, then who? And if not now, then when? We invite you to be a part of this healing process as we write a new story together.

1

IOTSI'TSÍSON
(SKYWOMAN'S)
FOREVER FARM

A KANIEN'KEHÁ:KA REMATRIATION PROJECT AT THE EASTERN DOOR

3

KAHONRAKÉN:RA
(WHITE SPOUT WATERFALL)
HEALING CENTER

A SPACE FOR SPIRITUAL HEALING

5

MEN'S HEALING & RITES
OF PASSGAGE CAMP

STANDING OUR MEN UP

2

WAHIANIIÓNTHA TSI
IOHONTSIÁKÁ:IEN
LEARNING CENTER

HANGING FRUITS ON THE OLD LAND

4

THE SCHOHARIE
KANÓNHSES
(LONGHOUSE)

A PLACE FOR COMMUNITY & LEARNING

6

LAND HOLDING &
REMATRIATION CIRCLE

BUILDING THE COMMUNITY



All of our efforts are the 'seed sowing' for the generations to come. It is up to us to re-learn how to live within and upon the natural territories of our ancestors. Our plans to come home, are part of this 'seed sowing' of dreams:

Our dream to return to our homelands.

Our dream to raise our children surrounded by language speakers.

Our dream of clean foods, clean water, healthy soil and sustainable living.

Our dream to have a school where our children are not just in classrooms, but are active members of a living community, working together, learning the old ways of balance and reciprocity.

We have come to the point where our dreams are becoming a reality, manifesting quickly as we work with friends, allies and supporters to give it form and shape. This is the moment we have been waiting for.... for so very long.

An aerial photograph of a farm in the Ioskóhare Valley. The farm features several large red barns and white houses with blue roofs. The surrounding landscape is filled with trees displaying vibrant autumn foliage in shades of orange, red, and yellow. A road winds through the property, and the overall scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of late afternoon or early morning.

lotsi'tsíson (Skywoman's) Forever Farm

On a spectacular ribbon of cropland in the Ioskóhare Valley of Central New York sit the remains of a Kanien'kehá:ka Turtle Clan village on what is now 60-acre working fruit and berry farm. Over the summer of 2022, the Waterfall Unity Alliance purchased the land as the first landback farm in New York State.

For many Kanien'kehá:ka, also known as the People of the Flint, it has been a life-long dream to return to our ancestral lands and begin a community guided by Kaianere'kó:wa (The Great Peace). Our return is also part of an urgent task of environmental justice. The Akwesasne reservation, home to one of the largest Kanien'kehá:ka communities on Turtle Island, is also home to the largest PCB dump in America, courtesy of the industrial waste produced by General Motors, Reynolds and Alcoa. Akwesasne is now designated as a toxic superfund site, with extremely high rates of cancer and other rare diseases.

lotsi'tsíson Forever Farm will be the economic hub of a new community in Ioskóhare with a cannery, commercial kitchen, language immersion program, and other visionary projects planned. The farm is currently being transitioned back to regenerative practices, re-introducing native plants, wildlife, and traditional Haudenosaunee foods and medicines.

In our language Ioskóhare, means the "place of cleaning". The region is known as the Eastern door of Turtle Island (North America), and the Kanien'kehá:ka are the keepers of that door. Traditionally, the East is the place of beginning, where the sun is born each morning, where all faith and hope live. It is said that if we can transform and heal in the East, the place of origin, then everything can be transformed.



2023 At The Farm

November 17th, 2023 marked the end of our first year rematriating what was once known as Bohringer's Fruit & Berry Farm in Ioskóhare.

Our return home to live at Iotsi'tsison Forever Farm has been a journey of actively reconnecting, and remembering who we are as Onkwehonwe (Original Beings). The work of the Waterfall Unity Alliance has been to help forge a liberating pathway back to balanced and harmonious ways of being: true sovereignty.

Over the course of this past year, Onkwehonwe children, elders, women and men have visited the land, co-creating in different ways. Onkwehonwe men have come to lend a hand in renovating the farmhouse, creating a safe space for families to live and visit. Onkwehonwe children, women, and families have placed their hands in the soil, picked berries, and planted seeds that grow beyond the physical. We've held ceremonies, a social dance, and cooked meals that have fostered a deep reconnection within ourselves and the land.

We have dedicated this past year to allowing the land to rest, as this land has been subject to harsh chemicals and cash cropping for at least 60 years. This rest process has allowed for our people (both living on-site and visiting) the grounding space and solitude necessary to align with authentic healing timelines.

We have committed to transitioning to an organic regenerative agricultural working farm. It is integral to us that all processes and decision making on the farm align with the current of Creation. This past October, we celebrated the first rematriated action toward regenerative agricultural practices when we sprayed organic microbes and biochar on all of our berry fields, sourced from American Indian Microbes & Comache Biochar. We look forward to this next year of milestones at Iotsi'tsison Forever Farm. This is only the beginning.

Wahianiióntha Tsi Iohontsiaká:ien Learning Center



lotsi'tsison Forever Farm will be home to the Wahianiióntha Tsi Iohontsiaká:ien Learning Center, which means "Hanging Fruits On The Old Land". It is envisioned as a language and cultural immersion program designed to facilitate a vibrant, resilient community dedicated to the teaching of our original lifeways.

Language is one of the central pillars of our return to our cultural ways of living and learning. The revitalization of our ancestral culture requires us to know our language fluently. As we return to environmentally sustainable ways and practices, our language will hold the keys to many teachings that have been misunderstood or almost completely lost.

We have just hired a fluent language teacher to create a year-round program for families and youth living on the land. The school will start with 6 children, but there are many more families interested once the school is up and running. There will be teachings around medicinal plant identification, foraging and harvesting; as well as making natural products, jam, jellies, medicines, salves, syrups, etc. All daily activities will all be taught, worked, and played in the Kanien'keha language. It is a practice of reciprocity in action.

We will also provide educational programs for visiting relatives from sister territories and intend to offer workshops throughout the year on topics pertaining to: healing through Ohèn:ton Karihwatehkwen, rites of passage, medicinal herbs, ceremonial songs, ceremonial speeches, symbolism in beadwork and art, environmental issues, meditation practices, and medicine societies. We will also begin a seed saving initiative and bring this ancient practice back to our farm, our youth and our people.



Kahonrakén:ra (White Spout Waterfall) Healing Center

Kahonrakén:ra means white spout, or white spiral, of water. Located on Panther Creek just five miles from the berry farm, it is a 120' sacred waterfall that provides a physical space to invest and mobilize ourselves directly in our healing. The center will offer our elders and youth a safe environment where spiritual work and Indigenous ways of knowing, learning and teaching is welcomed, recognized, and encouraged.

When people hear the word “reservation” they usually don’t think of communities that have turned into cement and concrete suburbs with limited green spaces, but that is the reality in many of our communities. Our people have lost the healthy lands they need to continue living in alignment with nature. When we organize our ceremonies and healing on the reservation, many of us no longer have a place that would suffice to transmit our ancestral knowledge, which is learned directly through land-based teachings. Our dream, which is the dream of our ancestors, is to bring our people back to our homelands in Ioskóhare where our great-great-grandmothers came from.

The establishment of the Kahonrakén:ra Falls Healing Center is the beginning of a return we have been waiting on for centuries. There, we will restore our connection to our land, language, and cultural identity and address intergenerational trauma through ceremonial healing practices that re-activate the memories stored in our DNA.

The entrance path to Kahonrakén:ra Falls is on nine acres of land that will house the healing center. Generations of locals and visitors have asked to use that access point to hike to the waterfall. While the entrance is on privately held land, we feel that, if possible, it is important to keep access open. So many people come to these waters for healing and guidance. We need places of connection now more than ever. It also serves an opportunity to educate people around sacred site protection, the history of the land, the work of the Waterfall Unity Alliance, and the rematriation process happening in the Valley.

In the summer of 2020 Kanerahtiio Roger Jock began the construction of an educational Kanónhses (Longhouse) in the middle of the nine acre field shared by the Healing Center.

The Longhouse marks an initial point of return to our ancestral lands. It is a place of community outreach and teaching about Kaianere'kó:wa (The Great Peace) and how to come to one mind around original instructions of self-government, the environment and the challenges that we are facing on the planet at this time.

The move back to loskóhare through the establishment of the farm, longhouse and healing center are the foundation of decolonizing ourselves as Kanien'kehá:ka. This is where we can reconnect to our ancestors, and our original instructions stemming from Kaianere'kó:wa. In our new community we will re-establish our traditional governance, our clan systems and our old ways of deliberation and consensus as practiced by our ancestors.



The loskohare Kanónhses (Longhouse)

A person is seen from behind, climbing a large, dark tree branch. The person's arms are extended upwards, gripping the branch. The background is a soft, hazy sky with warm tones, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is contemplative and connected to nature.

Men's Healing and Rites of Passage Camp

In 2021, a 6.5 acre parcel of land about 15 miles from the Longhouse was donated by former board member Jimmy Sumner and his wife Jenny, to the Waterfall Unity Alliance for use as a Men's Healing and Rites of Passage Camp.

We need to stand our men up again.

They need a dedicated place in nature to heal emotionally and spiritually from trauma and come back to themselves. There is a hunting camp on the land which will require extensive renovation and repair, but it is a beautiful mountainside with fields, a creek and wild forest which are important for our ceremonial needs.

The camp is adjacent to 2800 acres of state forest. Our plan is to work with advisory board member Janet Hawkes on an indigenous forestry management plan for biodiversity and wild foods.

An aerial photograph of a rural farmstead. In the center, there is a large, light-colored barn with a dark roof and a tall, dark silo. To the right of the barn are several smaller, dark-colored buildings. A dirt road winds through the property. In the bottom left corner, there is a small, irregularly shaped pond surrounded by trees and grass. The background consists of vast green fields and some distant trees.

Land Holding & Rematriation Circle


BUILDING THE COMMUNITY

To build a larger community, we must provide housing to people who are in need of support and healing as they leave the reservation to come home.

lotsi'tsison Forever Farm is in the floodplain and is not suitable for building a larger permanent village. Additionally, since it is world class soil, it should be used primarily for growing food. Our goal is to find land out of the floodplains with ample space to establish three eco-villages – Turtle, Bear and Wolf Clan – based on original teachings and lifeways.

To this end, a group of supporters have established a Land Holding & Rematriation Circle, to acquire suitable land for future use. The first purchase in 2023 was a 95 acre farm on East Hill Road, about 10 miles from the berry farm. East Hill Farm was bought as a private land holding with the goal of raising money in the near future for the Waterfall Unity Alliance to acquire as a landback donation.

We are planning tiny house communities to start, with more permanent housing built as families arrive and establish themselves. As larger homes are built, the tiny homes will be used to host visitors and new arrivals. There is a great deal of interest in hemp construction, which we hope to incorporate into our future development plans.



"Moving to Ioskóhare has been a major healing process. Through the guidance I've received while being on this beautiful land, I have been learning how to reconnect myself with our Mother Earth. More than anything, I want to share this journey with my people because I know that as we continue to walk this path back to sovereignty, we are also continuing to walk on a planet that is actively healing herself. She's calling for us to join her. As we heal, she heals. It is simultaneous"

- Liv Watyana'li:yo Bigtree

Waterfall Unity Festival

Our second annual benefit concert was a beautiful gathering in which friendships were formed and rekindled. We had a total of 33 artists join us for the duration of the festival who all came together to share their gifts and passions.

The Waterfall Unity Alliance was honored to have several Kanien'kehá:ka women artists at the festival, sharing their unique gifts in their ancestral homelands. Semiah Smith, Maggie Powless-Lynes, Kahsenniyo Williams, Mercedes Terrance, and Theresa Bear Fox embodied the love and empowerment within their bloodlines as their remarkable voices carried across the valley.

The Onondaga Women's Singing Society opened the festival with Esganye (Women's Dance Songs). Tuscarora teacher, singer, and dancer Randy Greene sang traditional social dance songs. Medicine Crick shared music and joy. Keith Secola and December Wind uplifted everyone's spirits with his songs, bringing unity and shared purpose. Maria Esther Pallares brought her music from the forests of Brazil. Peter Yarrow brought his special dragon magic. Musician allies from across the region donated their time and incredible talents, bringing the community together in song and spirit. A waterfall of gratitude to Kyp Malone, Stephanie Rooker, Ben Tyree, Colin Carew, Rebecca Martin, Larry Grenadier, Sean Rowe and Jon Lee Rucker, John Wieczorcek for their beautiful musical offerings.

Without the support of the community and our many volunteers the festival would not have been possible. The local farms of Barber's and Sap Bush Hollow donated food to keep us well fed. Permatours and the Root Community showed up in force to help prepare the festival grounds, help with construction and logistics and run the volunteer kitchen. Jenny Wonderling and Inside + Out helped with press and to get the word out. Tom and Geri White donated the sound system for the concert, and Tom and Uncle Tony Arancio sat at the sound board all weekend through the sunshine and rain.

A very special thanks to the Center For Earth Ethics, Karenni Gore, Roberto Múkaro Borrero and Aja Two Crows for organizing a thought provoking and inspiring morning round table.

To close out, singers from across our Confederacy gathered to put on a social dance at our new 50 foot geodesic dome at Iotsi'tsison Forever Farm. It was a gathering that raised our collective vibration and connected us all even more deeply to the land. It was community and love in action and we couldn't be more grateful and appreciative of everyone who came to join us.



THE WATERFALL UNITY FESTIVAL

A BENEFIT CONCERT & CELEBRATION

ON THE ANCESTRAL LANDS OF THE KANIENTS'KEHÁ:KA

JULY 28-30 2023

1160 BEAR LADDER ROAD • WEST FULTON, NY
SKÓHARE VALLEY

THERESA BEAR FOX | PETER YARROW (PETER, PAUL & MARY) | KEITH SECOLA
 ONONDAGA WOMEN SINGERS | SEMIAH SMITH | KYP MALONE (TV ON THE RADIO)
 MERCEDES TERRANCE | WIHSE | KAHSENNIYO WILLIAMS
 ROBERTO MÚKARO BORRERO | BETHANY YARROW | MARIA ESTHER PALLARES
 SEAN ROWE | TSERING LODOE | STEPHANIE ROOKER & BEN TYREE
 COLIN CAREW | KANERAHTIIO ROGER JOCK | MEDICINE CRICK
 JOHN WIECZORCEK | JON LEE RUCKER | REBECCA MARTIN & LARRY GRENADIER

LEARN MORE + TICKETS :
WATERFALLUNITYALLIANCE.ORG

THIS IS A DRUG & ALCOHOL FREE EVENT

INSIDE+OUT
UPDATE NEW YORK

Our Team

WUA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Kawenniiosta Jock
Board President
Co-Exec. Director
Kanienkeháka
(People of the Flint)
Iakothahiónni (Wolf Clan)



Liv Bigtree
Board Secretary
Director of Communications
Onyota'a:ka
(People of the Standing Stone)
Turtle Clan



Bethany Yarrow
Co-Executive Director
Song Keeper + Earth Activist



Sonya Armlin Roland
Board of Directors



Cathy Berry
Board Treasurer

WUA OPERATIONS & SUPPORT



Kanerahtiio Roger Jock
Co-Chair of Advisory Board
Kanien'kehá:ka
(People of the Flint)
Bear Clan



Jonel Beauvais
Co-Chair of Advisory Board/Community Support
Kanien'kehá:ka
(People of the Flint)
Wolf Clan



Sarah Bachinger
Media & Outreach

WUA ADVISORY BOARD

Kanerahtiio Roger Jock

Jonel Beauvais

Jimmy Sumner

Owl Steven Dennison Smith

Karenn Gore - The Center for Earth Ethics

Klaas Martens - The Martens Farm & Lakeview Organic Grain

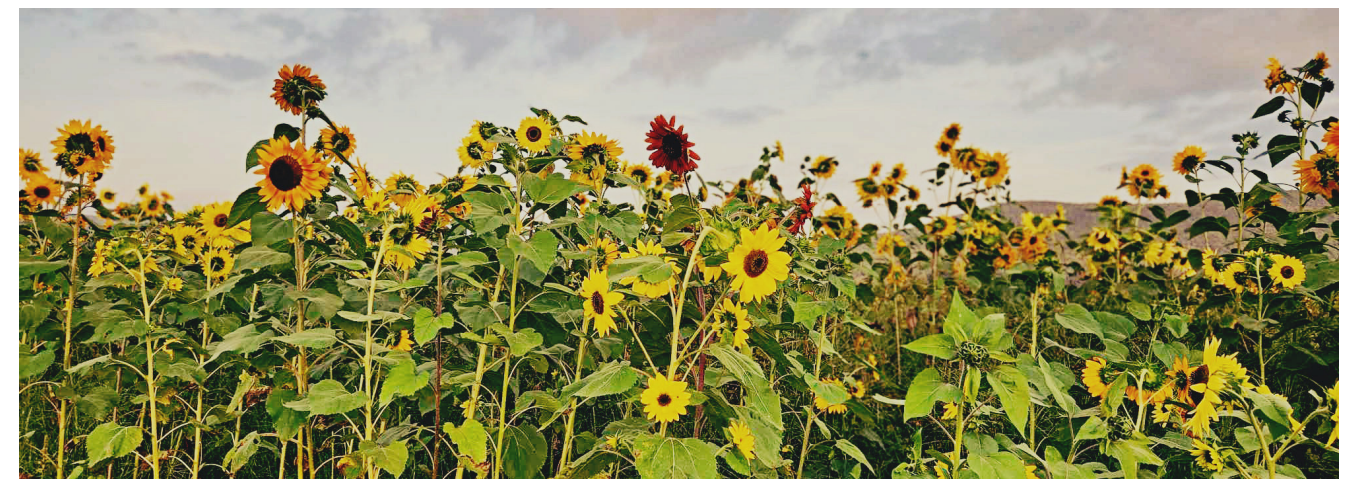
Christopher Lindstrom

Janet Hawkes - Tellus Earth LLC

Suzanne Hunt - Hunt Country Vineyards & Generate Upcycle

Lenny Oakes

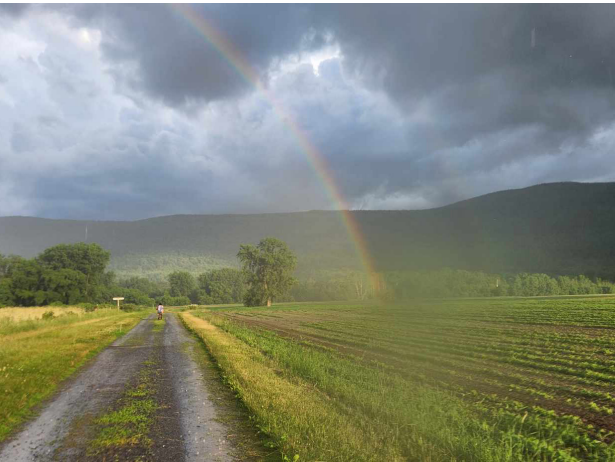
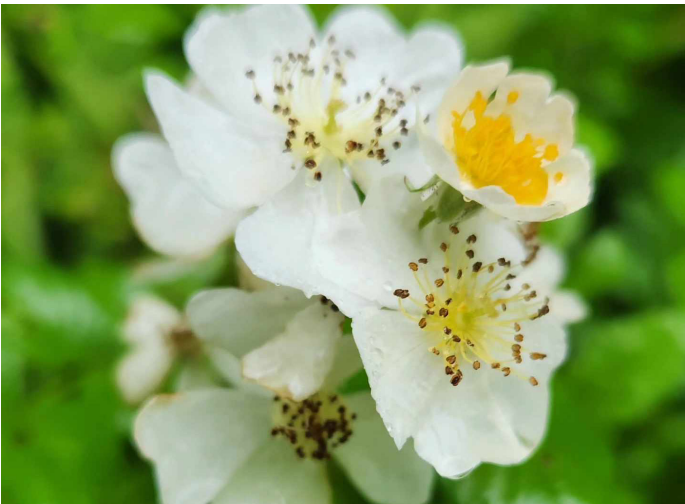
Tekawenwine Oakes





NURTURING GROWTH

Funding in 2023 allowed for the expansion of our team and operations for the overall organization. Three new team members were added, all of whom are passionate about the vision of community we are building the in Ioskóhare.



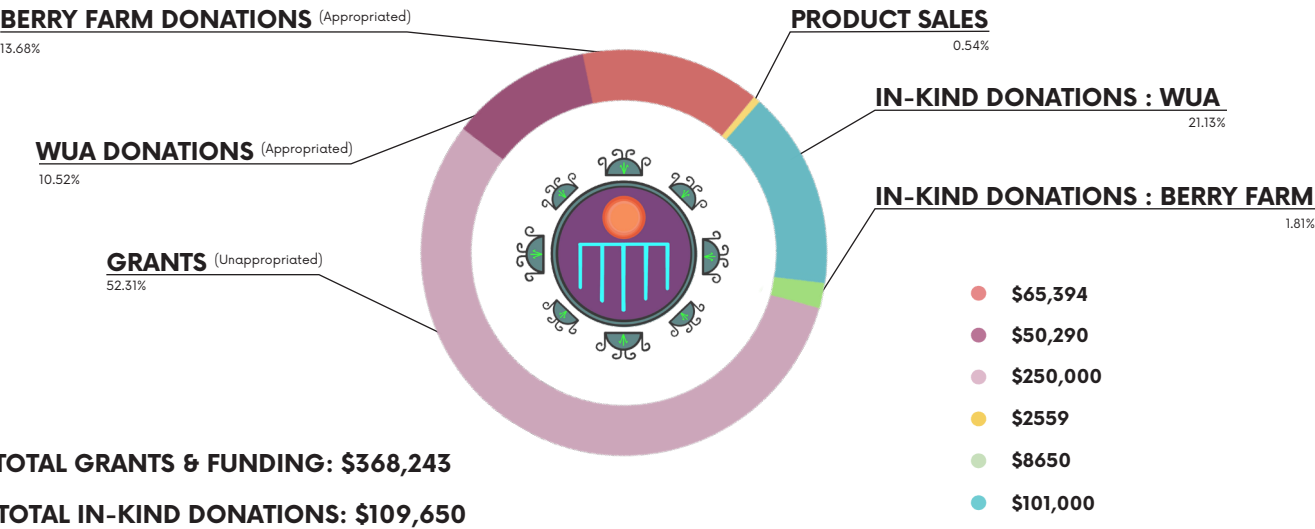
Our Projects

Thanks to generous funders, volunteers and the guidance of our Original teachings - the Waterfall Unity Alliance gratefully experienced fruitful growth and progress as we moved closer to realizing our vision. The following pages highlight the work that has been done over the course of this past

2023 PROJECTS	GOALS	OUTCOMES
Iotsi'tsísion (Skywoman's) Forever Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secure farmland in Ioskóhare Valley• Begin to restore soil with organic practices• Hire farm manager• Renovate house and farmstand• Build additional dwelling spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purchased 60 acre farm 11/17/22• Rematriation through original teachings, biochar & microbe land remediation / restoration.• First phase of renovations completed on farmhouse• 1 shed and 2 additional yurts have been constructed
Waterfall Unity Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise awareness about the rematriation work in Ioskóhare• Support Onkwehonwe youth's return to ancestral homelands• Volunteers & Community Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Successful festival with multiple press and outreach opportunities• Kanien'kehá:ka artists performed and visited homelands for the first time.• Established on-going relationships with Permatours and Root Community
Wahianiióntha Tsi Iohontsiaká:ien Learning Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Language & Cultural Immersion Program• Teacher(s)• Space for teachings & program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outline for programs in Kanien'keha language• Yurt construction began for program
Land Holding & Rematriation Circle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land acquisitions for building community & continued rematriation work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 95 acre farm purchased in 2023, placed in holding

2023 Finances

2023 INCOME



2023 GENERAL EXPENSES

ITEM	EXPENSE
Personnel	\$78,346
Business Operations	\$24,865
Program Expenses	\$3734
Festival	\$3694
Grounds/Property/ Facilities	\$10,024
Utilities	\$3732
Fiscal Sponsorship	\$15,150
Office Expenses	\$4837
Travel & Training	\$3949
Misc. Expenses	\$3600
TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES:	\$148,237

2023 BERRY FARM EXPENSES

ITEM	EXPENSE
Payroll	\$1125
Personnel	\$66,439
Property Maintnence/ Renovations & Repair	\$113,573
Farm Maintnence	\$68,221
Utilities	\$4766
Misc. Expenses	\$8700
TOTAL BERRY FARM EXPENSES:	\$262,824

2024 WUA Budget

ITEM	EXPENSE
Personnel (Core Operations Team)	\$185,400
Language & Cultural Immersion Program	\$91,400
Longhouse & Healing Center	\$129,500
Iotsi'tsison Forever Farm	\$359,950
Men's Healing Camp	\$95,000
Misc. Operating Expenses	\$37,450
Total Projected 2024 WUA Full Program & Capital Infrastructure Budget	\$898,700

Land Rematriation Circle Additional Fundraising Goal 2024	
Repayment of berry farm loans	\$411,000
East Hill Farm Repayment	\$375,000
Fund For Future Land Purchases	\$600,000
Additional 2024 Income	
Anticipated Berry & Farmstand Sales	\$100,000

*The above is a combined summary of the anticipated budget for each project. A comprehensive and detailed budget report is avsilable upon request.

Supporters

None of this could be possible without the help of our donors, allies, and supporters. Niawenko:wa (a grand thank you) and a waterfall of love to all of our donors, allies, and supporters for your commitment that has carried us forward each step of the way as we walk this pathway of healing in unity.

- A-Team Foundation
- Berkshire Takonic Foundation
- Bethany Yarrow
- Cathy Berry
- Chris Lindstrom
- Claudia Weiss
- Clay Rockefeller
- Cloud Mountain
- Dirt Capital
- Faith Green
- Heather Henson
- Iroquois Valley
- Josh Mailman
- Karenn Gore
- Klaas & Mary Howell Martens
- Loren Blackford
- Lena Cole
- Life Comes From It
- Living Forest Foundation
- Marvin Israelow
- Mary-Beth Yarrow
- Monica Windsor
- Nicole Maurer

- NoVo Foundation
- One Small Planet
- Pamela Cooley
- Paulette Cole
- Peter Yarrow
- Rebecca Lambert
- Rebecca Winsor
- Roy Korn
- Stephen & Susan Polis Schutz
- Zoe Wild

Tony Arancio, Tom White, Scott Guzman, Blaze Green, Jenny Wonderling, Syd Harvey, Kim Marsh, Basil Childers Sap Bush Hollow, Barber’s Farm, Dave Trombley, Martin Lemos, Jacob Israelow, Adam & Karen Taber, Propagate, Tim Houseberg, Nancy Macnamara & Bioneers

... And the hundreds of other donors and volunteers who have graciously offered funding, their time and talents to help our organization thrive in positivity, rematriation and reciprocity.

“In building the Longhouse we are making the connection between the sky (our true Longhouse) and the Earth. It will be a place of teaching about our creation stories and principles of living in harmony as they were given to our people in the original Good Message and reinforced by the Great Law of Peace.” - Kanerahtiio Roger Jock

In Gratitude

We formed the Waterfall Unity Alliance in 2015 to stop the Constitution Pipeline. In 2016, against all odds, we did it. We the People stopped the pipeline. That year we also put down prayers for the peaceful return of the Kanien'kehá:ka to their homelands in the Valley of Iskóhare. Four years later, in 2020, Kanerahtio Roger Jock began that process and planted the four directional poles of return at the traditional Longhouse on Bear Ladder Road.

At the end of 2022, we manifested the next small miracle – and in just four months, with generous support from the community, funders and allies, we were able to raise over \$600K to buy lotsi'tsision Forever Farm in the very heart of the Valley. It was the literal fruiting of the prayer seeds planted seven years before.

Soon after we closed on the farm, our brother Kor Element came to help direct the renovation of the farmhouse. He kept hearing that he was supposed to prepare it for the women – and oh my Goddess, did he ever! Kawenniiosta Jock and Liv Bigtree moved to the Valley at the beginning of 2023 and it quickly became clear that the women needed their own space to heal into the leadership of this rematriation effort. As the women took on their roles and responsibilities – singing songs, planting seeds and growing roots – the men were asked to step away from their directorship roles and move towards support and advisory roles to guard the empowerment and re-formation process of the matrilineal lines and female energies.

In 2023 Cathy Berry joined our Board of Directors. She has been a pillar of support with extraordinary vision. Without her, our growth this year would not have been possible. A river of gratitude to our sister board member Sonya Armlin Roland, whose family has lived in the area for generations. Thank you for all you have done to help us hold this prayer of unity.

Sandra Deer Standup came to help guide the Board transition and dream the language immersion program into being. Although she eventually needed to take a step back, the joy, laughter and intelligence that she brought to the team will always be a part of the fabric of the Alliance. Niawenko:wa, Sandra. Konnoronhkwa.

We are so grateful to former-board-member-and-now-advisor Owl Steven Dennison Smith, a Ramapough Lenape brother who has been with us on the frontlines, praying for our sacred sites and for the healing of the land and water. Thank you for your continued support and deep understanding of our collective mission.

Thank you to Jimmy Sumner, a Middleburgh local of mixed Taino descent, and a founding member of the Waterfall Unity Alliance. Jimmy and his wife Jenny donated the 7 acres of land which will be used as the men's healing and ceremonial camp. It was an extraordinary gesture of acknowledgement to welcome the Kanien'kehá:ka home. We were honored to have Jimmy serve on the Board of Directors until he also moved to the Advisory Board.

A very special thank you to our very active Advisory Board including Chris Lindstrom, who has been a steadfast supporter and bridge builder. Thank you for your courageous heart that has brought such

profound healing. Thank you, Karenni Gore – for walking beside us with your dazzling, clear light. Suzanne Hunt, Janet Hawkes and Klaas Martens, for your selfless, sage advice and guidance. An open-hearted welcome to Lenny & Tekawenwine Oakes and Jonel Beauvais who have just joined our Advisory Board and Operations Team. It is an honor to walk with you and learn from you.

Thank you to Victoria Sweet and everyone at the NoVo Foundation, who provided seed funding to support our team so we could grow this prayer in such powerful ways. Thank you to Jeff Rosen and to Bob Dylan, for signing the ebony keys which opened this Eastern Door of Healing.

Thank you to all the friends and community members who have supported us in this journey, including: Mary DeBonis and Mustang Valley Ranch, Jim & Cindy Barber, Shannon Hayes, Adam & Karen Taber, Dave Trombley, and Wes Laraway. Thank you everyone who has donated money, time, resources, encouragement, joy, creativity and talents. Thank you for your faith and for believing that repair is possible, right now, in this generation.

In many ways, unity is the hardest prayer to hold of them all – but we will only get “there” if we go together. So, this is our mission... in the heart of the Valley of Cleaning we are standing in unity behind the water of life. We are here to begin again and re-learn the Great Path of Peace and a Great Love that is for all beings.

With so much gratitude as we step into this next chapter of hope and healing, and much love from the Waterfall.

Sincerely,
Bethany Yarrow
Co-Executive Director



Publications & Media

Center For Earth Ethics

August 30, 2023

Sacred Work, Local and Global: A Reflection on the Waterfall Unity Festival by Aja Two Crows

Hudson Mohawk Magazine - Sanctuary For Independent Media

August 6, 2023

HMM 08 – 04 – 23 Waterfall Unity Alliance Rountable

Inside + Out Upstate NY

July 28, 2023

Voices of the Waterfall - Jenny Wonderling

Better Worlds

July 28, 2023

A Celebration to Honor the Kanien'kehá:ka Return to Ancestral Homelands

NY Music

July 21, 2023

Waterfall Unity Festival Announces Lineup, Feat. Peter Yarrow, Theresa Bear Fox And More

Hudson Mohawk Magazine - Sanctuary For Independent Media

July 18, 2023

Waterfall Unity Fest to Benefit Language School

I Want What SHE Has

July 17, 2023

Erica Brown Hosts the Waterfall Unity Alliance

Hudson Mohawk Magazine - Sanctuary For Independent Media

July 11, 2023

Kanien'kehá:ka Rematriation and Return to Ancestral Homelands

Iroquois Valley Farmland Reit

March 29, 2023

Financing a Land Back initiative for members of the Mohawk Nation by Lacey Benz

Knowledge Sharing

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Hurlyville Arts Center - Indigenous Women's Voices Summit

October 13, 2023

UC Berkely

October 7, 2023

Native Youth Perspectives on Land Back

Kent State University

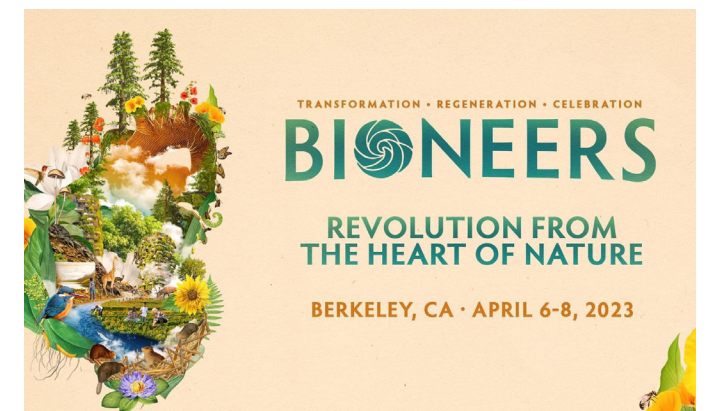
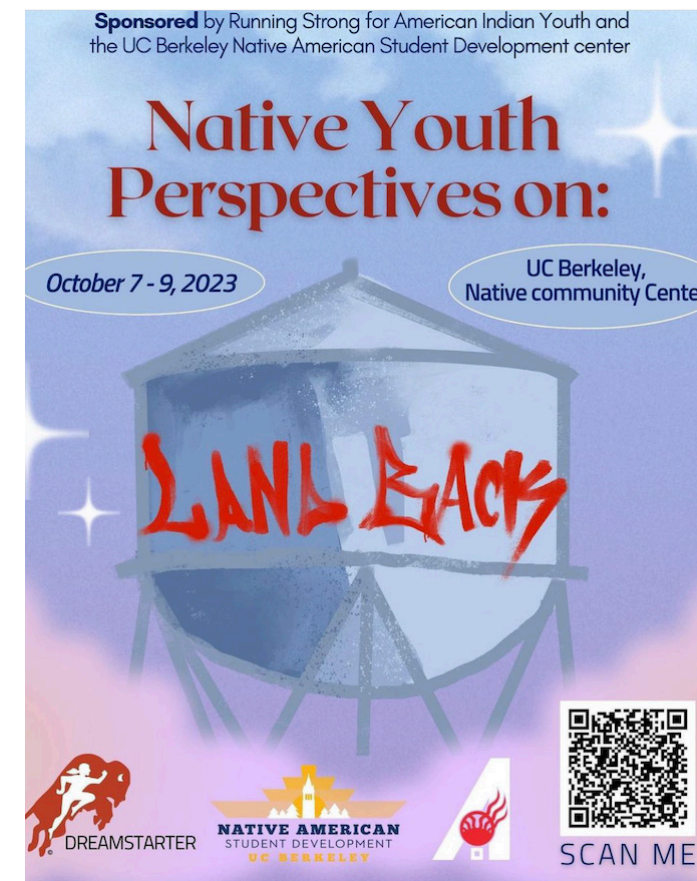
April 13, 2023

Environmental Justice, Ecology, and Race - 2023 Symposium

Bioneers

April 06, 2023

Landback: Restoring People, Place and Purpose



2023

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