WE ROLLED UP OUR SLEEVES, BRAINSTORMED, AND GOT CREATIVE ABOUT HOW WE COULD DO THIS DIFFERENTLY

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATALIE JAKUB

"It is easy to give up than to endure. Always choose the latter." This quote from author Lailah Gifty Akita seems fitting for the past few years. Having to find a new way to operate, new ways to engage, and new ways to fund our programs hasn't been easy - but I'm proud to say that we endured.

And this isn't a small feat. According to a PBS article, nearly one-third of the nonprofits in the United States were financially unable to survive the COVID-19 pandemic. Green Living Science has overcome the pandemic with a spirit of resilience, a vast array of important lessons, and resounding gratitude for our supporters who stuck with us through the hard times.

I recognize some of our numbers aren't as great as they have been in previous years. We usually reach over 20,000 Detroit youth through our school programs, and this year we reached just over 2,000. However, the important thing is that we tried, we did the best with what we could, we learned tremendous lessons, and we are going into the 2022-2023 fiscal year knowing the importance of ensuring funding for a full time Director of Youth Programs.
Our household recycling cart signups were similarly lacking as we began the second half of this fiscal year. So we rolled up our sleeves, brainstormed, and got creative about how we could do this differently. We piloted a new door-to-door canvassing effort to sign up recycling carts, and it was wildly successful. So while our numbers aren’t impressive, we have a new path going forward that will help us get even more households in Detroit to recycle.

These were hard years, but with your support, donations, and volunteer time the GLS team was able to learn some hard lessons, and innovative strategies to achieve our goals.

Looking forward to the 2022-2023 fiscal year we have big projects on the horizon, amazing partnerships to share, and the growth of our team — increasing our capacity to achieve our goals.

On behalf of the whole GLS Team, I thank you. Thank you for your continued support and belief in our ability to transform Detroit through environmental education.

Warmly,

Natalie Jakub
Executive Director
MEET THE TEAM

NATALIE JAKUB, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Finishing out her 8th year with Green Living Science, Natalie continues to build professional relationships that strengthen the position and mission of GLS. Working with old and new supporters to increase funding, and training new staff, Natalie has had a busy year, but one that has put GLS on a turning point towards growth.

MADISON KRAUS, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Starting the 2021-2022 fiscal year with us as the Director of Community Engagement, Madi Kraus took on the task of restructuring the Bee Green Business Program, as well as the Student Recycling Ambassador Program. In May she took an amazing position with the City of Detroit, as the Recycling Coordinator.

LOGAN APPLEBEE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The most recent addition to our full-time team, is previous contract educator, Logan Applebee. As the Director of Community Engagement, Logan took over the role of overseeing the Bee Green Business Program, the commercial recycling contract with the city, and supporting the Recycling Ambassador Program.

KAMRYN GARDNER, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

A recent graduate of Michigan State University, Kamryn is fulfilling the most recent position added to the Green Living Science team, the Community Engagement Coordinator. Overseeing our Recycling Ambassador Program and our community outreach, she's an amazing addition to the team.
MORE OF OUR TEAM

GLS can’t operate alone, our staff is small but when supported by our amazing board, volunteers, interns, and contractors we are able to accomplish so much more. Thank you to each and every one of our team members who help us accomplish our goals.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Ashley Kongs, Dow Inc.
- Matthew Hargis, Detroit Public Schools Community District
- Chad Rogers, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
- Robin McFerrin, Stellantis
- Leatrice Thompson, Girl Scouts of Southeast Michigan
- Sara Sanders, United Way for Southeastern Michigan

VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are some of the best around. They support us with over 190 hours — creating tools to keep us organized, designing website pages, and of course helping with cleanups and fundraising events. Special thanks to Katie Aleck for sharing her skills.

CONTRACTORS

From accounting support, to strategic planning and fundraising support, to educators who keep our programs running. Our contractors help us fill in our skill gaps, without the added overhead of full time staff.

MARKETING INTERN

Our marketing intern, Zoe Braun logged over 160 hours working on our social media, websites, research, outreach, and more.
We love our team, from our donors to our staff to our corporate partners to ambassadors and the teachers in the schools we go into. Here are some of our favorite feedback responses from this year.

**From a Recycling Ambassador**

Green Living Science is definitely an important and worthwhile organization that needs to continue its mission.

**New Staff Member Kamyrn’s Dad on her joining the GLS Team**

I’m very excited to see my daughter as a part of the GLS team. I think they are doing great things in the city of Detroit helping the residents gain access to recycling! I will ALWAYS partner and volunteer anytime that I can to help my daughter be successful as she provides outreach at GLS. It’s a great organization with a powerful mission!" - John Gardner

**From a Corporate Partner**

Henry Ford Health applauds the work of Green Living Science, and is privileged to support the education of our next generation of environmental activists. The health of the city, our community, and each person is inextricably linked together, and GLS’ recycling and natural resource conservation efforts play an important role in improving the overall health of Detroit.

**Student Recycling Ambassador**

I see a lot of my own community how environmental issues aren’t being taken seriously so I really want to help try and be the change.

**Feedback from Boston–Edison Fundraiser**

This was a complete package with music, food, a wonderful location, gracious host, nice people supporting a common vision - wow!! Do more of the same.
The initial goal of Green Living Science, and a continued primary focus of our work, is signing up residential homes in Detroit for curbside recycling carts. To do this we hold workshops, attend community events, and utilize Recycling Ambassadors. This spring we also piloted a new program of door to door canvassing to sign up homes — and this was extremely effective. In the coming year we hope to work alongside the Department of Public Works to test out new educational methods to increase participation.

“Cleaning up the park and signing residents up for recycling bins was a great experience. Being able to see what the community needs is very important to be able to make change.”

- Wayne State Student who piloted canvassing
GLS YOUTH PROGRAMMING IS THE BACKBONE OF OUR WORK. WE LOVE THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE KIDS WE WORK WITH AND THEIR LOVE OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

After looking at the 2021-2022 impact data, we were able to confirm our belief that our impact on Detroit youth is much higher when we have a full time Director of Youth Programs.

BEE GREEN IN YOUR BACKYARD
Special thanks to the MGM Foundation and Mercedes-Benz Financial Services for their support of the Bee Green In Your Backyard books that allowed Detroit youth to find ways to engage with nature while they were at home.
Beginning in March 2021, the City of Detroit implemented a commercial recycling program as part of their recycling education contract. This contract currently held with both Green Living Science and Zero Waste Detroit, funds recycling education programs across the city.

GLS has increased the reach of the city’s recycling efforts due to the addition of this program. Non-residential properties can increase their waste diversion practices by opting into the low-cost program and by taking advantage of the free educational services provided by Green Living Science. This program helps to increase access to recycling and provides education to reduce contamination and greenhouse gas emissions generated.

5 BUSINESSES EXPANDED THEIR RECYCLING EFFORTS

19 COMMERCIAL LOCATIONS EXPANDED RECYCLING
BEE GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAMMING

Bee Green Business programming was focused on contracting with large accounts to create waste diversion plans for 2021-2022.

BEDROCK

During the 2021-2022 fiscal year, GLS assisted Bedrock in developing Detroit’s first downtown multi-family recycling program. We spent over 80 hours evaluating their residential building needs, current waste programming, and creating a plan to have contamination free recycling available to all their residents.

HENRY FORD MUSEUM

Working with The Henry Ford, GLS spent approximately 30 hours consulting and creating a plan for the museum’s back of house offices to divert waste through implementation of recycling programs. This work continues into the 2022-2023 fiscal year where we are creating long term waste diversion plans including recycling, composting, and environmentally sustainable purchasing programs for both the back of house, as well as the portions of the museum open to the public.
Thankful is the word that comes to mind when the team thinks about all the board members, volunteers, recycling ambassadors, partners, supporters, and community members that have come together over the year to support our mission.
Increase in budget
GLS income and expenses were both up 38% in the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year from the previous year.

Revenue $224,081
- Individual and Corporate Contributions: 26.9%
- Program Revenue: 27.7%
- Special Event Revenue: 34.8%
- Foundation Grants: 10.5%
- Other Revenue: 11.0%

Expenses $208,580
- Curbside Recycling Programming: 24.2%
- Youth & School Programming: 14.2%
- Business Programming: 17.6%
- Community Programming: 22.6%
- Fundraising Overhead: 11.0%
- General Management Overhead: 10.5%
GLS is grateful for our 2021-2022 partners. Their financial support, both new and recurring, helps GLS operate, supports our youth programming, and allows us to focus on the work of transforming Detroit. For us these are more than just a financial sponsorship – they are true corporate partners who align with our values.

**OUR PARTNERS**

- **ALLY FINANCIAL**
  Supporting GLS with unrestricted funds.

- **MERCEDES-BENZ FINANCIAL SERVICES**
  Supporting our youth programming.

- **HENRY FORD HEALTH**
  Supporting our youth programming.

- **UNITED WAY OF SOUTHEAST MI**
  Supporting our Student Ambassador Programming & Clean Streets in the D

- **FAURECIA USA**
  Supporting GLS with unrestricted funds.

- **GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF INCINERATOR ALTERNATIVES (GAIA)**
  Supporting GLS zero waste policy work.

- **SAY DETROIT PLAY CENTER & DETROIT PISTONS**
  Supporting GLS with unrestricted funds.

- **DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT**
  Supporting our Earth Day Celebration
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