As I think back on the past year and the incredible students who lived and blossomed at HMI, I am struck by how so much of our value stems from the values we teach. Our students learned to embrace diverse perspectives and to collaborate; they learned the power of community, and they learned how to share their authentic selves as a part of that community.

I think about the lessons of perseverance, patience, and partnering that our Semester 42 students took from their winter expedition, which occurred this year in the middle of a record-breaking “bomb cyclone” snowstorm.

“Second expedition was easily one of the hardest but most rewarding experiences of my life. Not many people in the world can say that they were huddled in a quigloo in the middle of a snowstorm that made national news and shut down the Denver Airport. But this trip wasn’t only survival. You could find us laughing while cooking dinner in the snow or digging ourselves out of our quigloo when it would snow upwards of a foot at night. Despite the tricky weather, my entire group persevered, had an awesome blast, and came out stronger and better people.”

— Semester 42 Student

Lessons we learn at age 16 or 17 do not ever lose their value. This year, I want to make sure you see the ways your gifts influence the lives of ours students, and how your impact reaches far beyond the mountains of Leadville.

Thank you for caring for the students, employees, and facilities that create such a powerful experience. With your help, our students realize their potential—as leaders, independent thinkers, and thoughtful citizens.

With appreciation,

Danny O’Brien, Head of School

dobrien@hminet.org  |  719-486-8200 x101
HMI STRIVES TO CREATE INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY

a place where every person has the chance to become their best, most authentic self.

Competition too often dominates traditional high schools. Everything is rank-ordered, from popularity on social media to the number of AP courses a student takes. While competition is healthy, adults collaborate with one another far more than they compete. HMI teaches students how to do this. From cooking meals to finding camp at the end of the day on expedition, students discover they cannot succeed by one-upping peers. Immersed in this spirit of collaboration, our students let down their guards and take risks.

Your support helps ensure that all students have the opportunity to experience similar awakenings and learn to work together to solve complex problems.

THE VALUE OF COMMUNITY

A student from this past fall shared how this spirit of community enabled her to do so much more than she thought she could.

"I’ve had a lot of firsts here:
First time backpacking,
First time bleaching my hair,
First time playing piano and singing at the same time,
First time performing poems,
And the first time I kind of liked running.
Why so many firsts?
Because I feel so supported and appreciated here.
It’s okay if I mess up.
I know I’m still loved and my value is so far from being placed on my grades."

— Semester 41 Student
Living in an intentional community is a core part of creating transformational experiences for our students. This is why we kicked off our Campaign for Community in 2015, with the intention of creating an on-campus residential community for our faculty and staff. Thanks to you, we’ve realized our dream ahead of schedule. Employees who moved this summer into our four townhomes are already bringing an even greater sense of community to campus.

With on-campus housing well on its way, we have already secured nearly half of the funds needed to complete the final phase of the Campaign for Community. A Faculty and Student Center will ensure that HMI evolves to deliver on the promise of teaching and learning in the twenty-first century. With the support of HMI alumni, their families, and all who treasure this place, we aim to address our current limitations by constructing a new Faculty and Student Center with additional classrooms, student work and reflection spaces, and faculty office spaces. This final phase of our master plan will ensure our facilities match the ambitions of our program.

One of the new families to move in is that of Amy Roberts, HMI’s new Director of the Semester. “This house means so much for our family and will allow us to put down real roots in the HMI community. We are elated to have the opportunity to raise our daughter on this beautiful campus and in this close-knit community.”
HMI has taught me to go after what I am passionate about and to go after even more than I think possible, to put enthusiasm into everything I do."

—Jack Lee, Semester 22,
Taking time to understand multiple viewpoints and communicate thoughtfully about our own perspectives is often not today’s norm. Yet, this is fundamental to problem solving and a better future.

So much of the learning that takes place at HMI happens while working, living, and learning with people who have different life experiences. Because of this, the more diversity and perspectives we have on our campus, the stronger our program will be.

HMI Fund donors provide the financial aid that is critical to bringing students with a variety of life experiences to HMI. We could not offer over $800,000 in financial aid annually without support from YOU—our community. This financial aid allows us to craft a community where talent, ambition, and curiosity take precedent—not a family’s ability to pay.

OUR FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following are some of our financial highlights from 2019. What a year! This success would not be possible without the loyal and generous support from alumni, alumni families, friends, corporations, and foundations. To all who contributed, thank you.

- HMI’s revenue continues to grow and was once again the highest in the school’s history: $4,109,644.
- We completed the first phase of our Campaign for Community, and now have nearly $1 million committed to the construction of our Student & Faculty Center—halfway to our goal.
- Donors contributed $404,812 to the HMI fund, providing financial aid, investing in our faculty and staff, and allowing for critical campus improvements.

For detailed and audited financial statements, please contact Moe Leneweaver, Director of Development, at mleneweaver@hminet.org.

SPOTLIGHT ON FINANCIAL AID

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YOUR GENEROSITY IN ACTION:

- $804,451 granted in need-based financial aid
- 12 round-trip flights for families to visit during family weekend
- 23 students received 100% free gear rental
- 21% of our entire operating budget went directly to financial aid
- 100% of our endowment draw went to financial aid

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

94% of HMI semester students from this past year described their educational experience as “transformational”

- 167 students
- Trekked 13,919 miles
- Cooked 11,776 meals in the backcountry
- Ascended 800 climbing routes
- Built over 200 steps on the steepest trails in Utah
- Families now living on campus: 6

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THE MT. ELBERT CIRCLE recognizes donors who have given consecutively for the last five years or more. This is a remarkable demonstration of loyalty and their steadfast support fills us with gratitude. The in these pages of donor listings indicate those who have made this exceptional commitment to HMI.

With sincere gratitude we list the following donors who have supported HMI in fiscal year 2019 by making gifts to the HMI Fund, Campaign for Community, or endowment. Through their generosity, support, and commitment to our school we continue to discover powerful things when nature and minds meet.

This list reflects donations made to the High Mountain Institute between June 1, 2018 and May 31, 2019. We have made every effort to ensure that this list is complete and accurate. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact Moe Leneweaver with any corrections by calling 719-486-8200 x12 or emailing mleneweaver@hminet.org.

THANK YOU,
HMI DONORS!

EXPEDITION LEADERS

The following donors have set themselves apart by making major gifts to our school. It is an honor to acknowledge the tremendous role they play in helping us to provide such transformative outcomes for our students.

Anton/Vojta
Fomasi & Marcia Berksy
Jake Blumenthal & Julie Edsforth
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Quentin & Kai Van Oosselaere
Frederick Wang

ALUMNI
Matt Palevsky

12
10,200’ CIRCLE

Named after the elevation of Leadville, these donors help us reach extraordinary heights by making donations of $1,000 or more.

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Our vibrant community of supporters inspires us and is a testament to the far-reaching impact of our school.

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Julia Bond
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Chelsea Dieck
Sydney Chun
Catie Czajkowski
Nubia Galindo
Caitlin McGin
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Alex Wilkes

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SEMESTER 23
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Logan Diem
Molly Morrow

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Nick Garrison

SEMESTER 29
Natalie Gefen
Caitlin McGin
Hannah Silvia
Alex Wilkes

SEMESTER 30
Natalie Gefen
Caitlin McGin
Hannah Silvia
Alex Wilkes

ALUMNI SUMMIT CHALLENGE

During the 2018 Challenge we raised a record-breaking $60,915—enough to nearly fund full scholarships for two semester students! 489 HMI Semester alumni contributed, an outstanding show of support from our community across the country. Congratulations to Semester 37 who won the challenge with an 83% participation rate!

The impact that our alumni have on the world is inspiring and we are grateful to everyone who has expanded the reach of our community by making HMI accessible for the next generation of students.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT WWW.HMINET.ORG/ALUMNI-SUMMIT-CHALLENGE

CORPORATE & FOUNDATION GIFTS
We are grateful to the following corporations who so generously support their employees’ philanthropic efforts and provided matching gifts to HMI.
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Coalitions & Collaboratives, Inc.
Helton Freight Tools for Schools, LLC
Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies
Pepsi-Co Foundation
PwC
T Rowe Price
The Wonderful Company

MATCHING GIFTS INDIVIDUALS
We are grateful to the following individuals who helped to secure matching gifts for HMI from their employers.
David Barahona
Craig Cooper
Bryan Diers
Robert Lovett
Flemming Madsen
Jonathan Raymond
Francisco Rossha Jaje
Andrew David Spina
Richard Tippler

GIFTS IN KIND
Corey Brodick
Cathy Hansen-Stamp, Esq.
Michaela Cacullato
Justin Talbot Photography
Lisa Zweanting, MD

BLAZING THE TRAIL, TOGETHER
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SEMESTER 40
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Sam Cooper
Emma Cecil
Raphaëlle Dorion
Michael Flynn
Olivia Gang
Emma Harlow
Liz Kelly
Zach Lechter
Aidan Link
Anna Macleay
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Andrew David Spina
Richard Tippler

GIFTS IN KIND

Corey Brodick
Cathy Hansen-Stamp, Esq.
Michaela Cacullato
Justin Talbot Photography
Lisa Zweanting, MD
The Lake County Backpacking Trip celebrated its tenth successful summer of taking local middle school students out to explore their backyard. Students hiked, camped, forged new friendships, and learned about the natural world surrounding them. Thank you to Richard & Suzanne Kayne Charitable Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles for their ongoing support, and thank you to Full Circle of Lake County and the Lake County School District for their partnership. We are so grateful for our community.