We look at this past year with great joy and it inspires in us great hope for the future. As well as sinking our roots into our new home on Daley Road, we have reached out farther than ever before as we continue to deepen and strengthen the culture of nature connection that lies at the heart of all we do.

This year, our counselor team expanded to 40, as teen mentors joined homeschool and afterschool programs in both Columbia and Berkshire Counties. As counselors, teens develop compassion, leadership skills, and confidence while providing younger students with skilled and caring role models.

We see every day the powerful impact of nature connection on young people’s lives, which has inspired us to prioritize the expansion of our public school programming, in order to reach children and teens who otherwise might not receive these opportunities. Our initiatives in this direction over the past year included:

- Our second year with the STEAM collaboration at BCC, which doubled its enrollment this summer and nurtured 56 Pittsfield third and fourth graders
- The creation of a coming-of-age program at a local public middle school, making Flying Deer’s renowned adolescent programming accessible to more students
- Foundation support to help launch a multi-year effort to reach more students in West Pittsfield through afterschool programming
- The establishment of the David Laskin Honorary Fund, which supports the participation of Columbia County schools in Flying Deer opportunities.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: We gave 66 financial assistance awards for a total of $19,100 awarded, and served more than 260 public school students at no cost to their families.

HOMESCHOOL and FOREST KINDERGARTEN: 100+ students thrived in our Homeschool and Forest Kindergarten programs in three different locations.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS: In addition to new programs at Monument Valley Regional Middle School in Great Barrington and Conte Community School in Pittsfield, we built a new longhouse in Chatham and facilitated seven additional programs, reaching a total of 353 children.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS: We are thrilled to have a new partnership with the Columbia County Land Conservancy and to continue our work with Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, IS183 Art School, and Berkshire Community College through the STEAM summer camp. We are excited to continue building partnerships in New Concord and Chatham, as well as with all of our school partners.

HOW YOU CAN HELP
Donate to support our mission-driven programming: FlyingDeerNatureCenter.org/donate
Check out volunteer opportunities and view our wish list: FlyingDeerNatureCenter.org/volunteer
Spread the word about Flying Deer: Invite a friend to one of our programs, or share our social media posts.

Michelle Apland | Executive Director  Devin Franklin & Josh Wood | Program Directors
A Huge Thank You to All of Our 2017–2018 donors!

So much gratitude to all of our volunteers who donated their time and energy throughout the year! Your generosity makes our work possible.

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So much gratitude to all of our volunteers who donated their time and energy throughout the year! Your generosity makes our work possible.

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