MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

This has been a year unlike any in our lifetimes. The isolation, the disruption, the tragedy has been staggering. And we’ve learned a lot.

At Isles, we develop long-term strategies for self-reliance — building gardens to show how community action yields change and fresh vegetables, teaching skills that students use in future-focused careers, fixing homes to prevent child lead poisoning, and so much more. But this year, we were challenged by an existential, short-term crisis as well.

COVID began to threaten the health of our communities in the Spring, and an anti-racism reckoning came to Trenton over the Summer while gun violence spiked simultaneously. We responded by re-tooling our organization, connecting even more deeply to families and students we serve and our local partners.

We sewed and distributed masks with our Social Profit Center tenant, Inspired Threads. We expanded gardens across the city, donated produce to emergency food providers, and successfully transitioned all our Isles Youth Institute students to virtual classes. We held individual, socially-distant graduation ceremonies to celebrate their achievements over the summer. Despite the shutdowns and supply chain disruptions, we completed construction at our Social Profit Center and opened in early 2021.

In this Annual Report, you can sense Isles’ response to this once-in-a-generation crisis, and the outcomes we achieved to meet the immediate threats, while still fostering long-term self-reliance and healthy communities.

While we persevered this past year, our neighborhoods were hit hard. Many lost jobs and too many lost loved ones. But our communities are resilient. As we prepare for life getting back to ‘normal’ later this year, Isles’ tools are more vital than ever. Families want to re-build their own dreams — a good education, a healthy home, sound financial planning, job training that works and more.

As we reach a milestone anniversary this April and reflect on our 40 years of impact, we remain so grateful for your support and partnership. If you have known about our work for decades or if you are just learning about us, visit isles.org and let us know what you think. In times like these, your voice and support matter more than ever.

In community,

Sean Jackson

We responded by re-tooling our organization, connecting even more deeply to those we serve.
TRAIN & EDUCATE

Isles Youth Institute (IYI) offers an alternative path to a high school diploma, leadership skills, and job opportunities for students who have become disengaged from traditional schooling. Isles also trains adults from across New Jersey in future-focused green jobs and in energy and environmental fields. The Center for Energy and Environmental Training (CEET) offers contractors, home health visitors and community members training and national certificates in lead safe home renovation, energy efficiency, and environmental health.

BUILD WEALTH

Isles counsels and supports families wanting to buy their first home, as well as those facing the potential loss of their home through foreclosure. In addition, Isles Financial Solutions (IFS) offers financial wellness coaching for low-wage workers to take control of their everyday financial building blocks like budgeting, credit, savings, and debt to foster positive, long-term behavior change.

LIVE GREEN & HEALTHY

Every year, lead poisons thousands of New Jersey children, who ingest it mostly through dust in their own homes. Isles tests homes and removes lead and other environmental hazards. We also educate the public, help other community-based organizations, and improve public policies that help kids thrive. Isles also helps residents and youth to grow their own food in community and school gardens. Families save money, access great food, learn to work together, and clean and beautify vacant land.

REVITALIZE COMMUNITIES

Isles partners with residents and other stakeholders to develop community plans, then work with them over time to make positive change. We clean and reactivate buildings, gardens, parks, and open spaces, integrating mobile recreation, community events, and locally-created public art to change how visitors experience them. In addition, we operate the Social Profit Center at Mill One, a historic former textile mill converted into an innovative 70,000 square foot office, studio, and warehouse facility for social profit organizations, artists, and events.
**SPRING**

When the pandemic hit in March, Isles quickly adapted, converting our services to virtual where possible and meeting the needs of our customers in new ways. Many staff began to work remotely, while in-person work that was allowed to continue (such as gardening) adapted new COVID-safe protocols, social distancing, and mask wearing.

We knew many customers were food insecure, especially our IYI students who relied on our in-house food pantry. So, we delivered 500 pantry bags and hot meals to families, as well as provided healthy homes kits and educational activities for young children in partnership with Princeton University.

Isles Youth Institute transitioned into a virtual learning environment. We provided chromebooks and internet access to students to continue their education and stay connected to us.

Masks were scarce in our communities, and we partnered with Social Profit Center tenant Inspired Threads to sew high-quality masks. By year’s end, we distributed more than 6,000 to customers, residents and local businesses, and other nonprofits.
SUMMER
As the pandemic stretched into the summer, anti-racism protests heated up in Trenton and elsewhere in response to the police killing of George Floyd and other Black individuals. At the same time, Trenton suffered from a spike in gun violence, including the shooting of a 12-year-old girl outside of our Wood Street offices.

Isles reaffirmed our commitment to becoming a more explicitly anti-racist organization. We made Juneteenth an organizational day of reflection and service, and launched an internal anti-racism workshop series designed to critically look at our services and move the meter toward greater anti-racism policies and practices.

At the same time, our work continued: more than 1,000 lbs of produce were donated to emergency food providers, and we continued to map food access sites across the city. We partnered with Trenton Health Team and Reinas Y Diamantes to teach families and youth about healthy cooking and nutrition.

We held socially-distant, personalized Graduation Ceremonies for our Isles Youth Institute students, finding safe ways to celebrate their achievements with their families.
We hosted our first virtual event, the Harvest Celebration. This event, held at the Social Profit Center at Mill One, showcased our new office space while commemorating the transition between Isles’ Founder Marty Johnson and new CEO Sean Jackson.

FALL/WINTER
By fall, it was clear that COVID-19 would continue well into 2021. Isles continued to refine our ability to offer virtual services and webinars, while also preparing for a post-pandemic future. We continued construction at the Social Profit Center at Mill One and purchased Wood Street Housing — 46 units of subsidized affordable housing and two commercial units — in partnership with Community Asset Preservation Corporation (a part of New Jersey Community Capital).

We continued to hold financial coaching webinars to help families weather the economic impacts of COVID as well as virtual cooking and nutrition classes for youth, and Community Health Worker trainings on healthy homes work.

Our year-end holiday party was held virtually, giving staff a chance to re-connect and celebrate their work over the year. They sent well wishes to a colleague recovering from COVID after a brief hospital stay.

We finished major construction at the Social Profit Center and prepared to open in early 2021.
### 2020 Highlights – By the Numbers

**Train & Educate**

- **204** individuals trained in energy efficiency and environmental health
- **29** IYI students participated in the Leadership Academy as well as meaningful community service projects
- **44** certifications earned by IYI students in CPR, OSHA, and Pre-Apprentice Construction Training

**Build Wealth**

- **296** participated in first-time homebuyer and foreclosure prevention counseling, and 243 received financial coaching
- **112** customers earned housing certificates (to qualify for financial assistance)
- **29** customers purchased a first home

**Live Green & Healthy**

- **70** healthy home assessments provided and 9 homes made lead-safe (with work halted between March and July)
- **300** pounds of honey harvested from 12 Isles-managed beehives. We received first place in the blind taste test division of the annual NJ Beekeepers Association Honey Show!
- **581** elementary school students received gardening and nutrition lessons on a weekly or biweekly basis

**Revitalize Communities**

- **46** units of subsidized affordable housing and two commercial units purchased in partnership with Community Asset Preservation Corporation (a part of New Jersey Community Capital)
- **26k** sq ft of space leased at the Social Profit Center as construction completes and we open early 2021
- **12** gardens added to our network, for a total of 75 school and community gardens

Visit isles.org/outcomes for more outcomes from the past year.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gary Gray, Chair
Tim Manahan, Vice Chair
Matthew Wasserman, Treasurer
Rukiya Blackwell
Rachel Cogsville-Lattimer
Stephen Longley
Karen McGuinness
Ronald Stark
Sean Jackson, CEO, ex-officio

isles.org

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2020

2020 Actual Revenue
$6,376,426

- Government Grants 39%
- Foundations & Corporate Grants 18%
- Other Income 15%
- Rental Income 5%
- Events 2%
- Carry Forward 12%
- Other Income 15%
- Individual 9%

2020 Actual Expenses
$5,964,123

- Youth Institute 17%
- Administration 13%
- Real Estate 11%
- Green Job Training & Healthy Homes 28%
- Community Planning & Urban Ag 23%
- Financial Self Reliance 3%
- Resource Development 5%
- Green Job Training & Healthy Homes 28%

A complete audited financial statement will be available at our office or at isles.org/financials.
Judith and Robert Smith  
In Honor of Marty & Liz Johnson  
Mary Flynn-Day and C. Thomas Smith  
Vance Smith  
Mary and Kenneth Snedeker, Jr.  
Penelope Snoodyk  
Robert Socolow Fund of the  
Jewish Communal Fund  
Mary E. and Paul A. Sohler  
Frank and Julie Sosinski  
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In Honor of Sean Jackson  
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Marjorie Steinberg  
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Sam Stephens and Bernard McMullen  
Daniel Stern  
Janet L. Stern and George Theodoridis  
Virginia, Willam and Ethan Stewart  
Sally and Carl Stillwell Charitable Account at Schwab Charitable  
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Janis and Alan Stoddard  
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Jessie and Edward Thompson  
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Micki Timmins  
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Alison Titus  
Sean Titus  
Janis and Alan Todd  
Kieran Todd  
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Marc Tolo  
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Melissa Toro  
Rolando Torres  
Robert Torricelli  
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Joanna Vizzard  
Jim Vizzard  
Meg Vizzard  
Sean Vizzard  
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Ron Voorhees  
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Richard A. Zimmer and Marty Goodspeed  
Jon Zoll  
In Memory of Lighton Loughlin  
Daniel J. Ball and Paul D. Zuck  
Andrew Zwicker

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Mylo Mechanical LLC  
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NJ Insurance Group  
Northfield Bank  
Philadelphia Insurance Company  
PNC Bank  
Princeton Public Affairs Group  
PSE&G  
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Rowe Carpentrey LLC  
Santander Bank  
Soble & Co., LLC Certified Public Accountants  
Sourland Mountain Spirits  
Taf Communications  
Trentypo Inc.  
Walsh Pizzi O’Reilly Falanga, LLP

GOVERNMENT

City of Trenton  
County of Mercer, New Jersey  
NJ Council for the Humanities  
NJ Department of Children & Families  
NJ Department of Community Affairs  
NJ Department of Health  
NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development  
NJ Juvenile Justice Commission  
US Department of Agriculture  
US Department of Labor

IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

Sophie Ban  
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Classics Used Bookstore  
Fernbrook Farms  
FoodCorps  
Howell Farm/Mercer County Park Commission  
Jimmy Gloss Black  
Jones Farm/Department of Corrections  
Leon Rainbow  
One Up One Down  
Rita Rosenkranz  
Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Mercer County  
Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County  
Sourland Mountain Spirits  
Brooke Stoltig  
Terhune Orchards

Isles seeks to recognize all donors who so generously supported us in 2020. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact us to request any corrections.
Become a Bridge Builder

Annual donors of $1,000 or more build a bridge between those we serve and those who want to make a difference. They bridge theory with innovative, practical solutions to real life challenges. Join our growing group of friends for special gatherings to learn about and celebrate the change Bridge Builders bring!

Join the Innovators Circle

Individuals who pledge a multi-year commitment of Bridge Builder support are part of the Isles Innovators Circle — a group of thoughtful, inspired individuals who have gifted Isles long-term stability and the resources to adapt to the unique needs of our community.

Double your impact

Increase your donation with a matching gift! Your employer may match your gift to Isles. Visit matchinggifts.com/unh to search for your company’s policy and forms.

Become a Monthly Donor

Monthly donors create long-term, sustainable funding for the organization, helping Isles to make lasting commitments to projects and work in the communities we serve. By making recurring donations to Isles, you are able to create a greater impact as a lifelong member of the Isles family.

Leave a Legacy

Include Isles in your will. A bequest could be the most important charitable gift you ever make. It will ensure that future generations benefit from fair, healthy, and sustainable communities. Local and national friends (including Vanguard founder Jack Bogle) have supported Isles this way to assure this important work grows.

For more information on ways to give, visit isles.org/donate or contact Patricia Walker at 609-341-4734 or pwalker@isles.org.