

# SHENANDOAH NATIONAL TRUST

2015 IMPACT REPORT



We've called this publication an *Impact*Report because the work that you made possible last year was so much more than merely projects on a checklist. Your philanthropic support

gave us the resources we needed to be bold. We launched new programs. We forged new partnerships. We affected the lives of young people.

We finished 2015 strong, exceeding our revenue goals, thanks to your generosity. This makes for an excellent start to 2016.

A premier national park like Shenandoah deserves a premier philanthropic partner. Thank you for stepping up to that call.

signature to come

**David Aldrich,** Chairman, The Shenandoah National Park Trust



It's a privilege to work in one of America's premier national parks. I'm inspired every day by Shenandoah's breathtaking beauty and by the commitment of my park service colleagues who dedicate their

professional lives to maintaining these 200,000 acres and serving our visitors.

The work isn't easy. We're continually balancing the need for long-term management with responding to immediate concerns. Your philanthropy helps us on both fronts.

On behalf of all of us who work at Shenandoah National Park, thank you sincerely for your partnership. It makes a difference every day in what we're able to accomplish.

Oa Novemp

**Jim Northup,** Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park



Your park offers 200,000 of the most breathtaking acres in America. Shenandoah's mountains and meadows are home to a glorious abundance of wildlife. Its trees, grasses and wildflowers attract visitors from across the nation and around the world. And our park harbors the headwaters of three major river systems.

Protecting Shenandoah's landscapes plants and re-establish native habitat and wildlife requires good science, in project sites across the park. Moresmart planning and diligent manage- over, you provided the resources that ment. Park Rangers must play both allowed us to help extend this work offense and defense as they imple- beyond the park boundary. The result ment strategies for long-range pro- is a new collaborative of federal, state tection while defending against an and local agencies; nonprofits; and onslaught of threats—like exotic private landowners joining forces to plants, pests and diseases. We put your protect biodiversity across three philanthropy to work on the ground— million acres. literally—to clear out non-native



Our national parks tell the stories of who we are as Americans. Shenandoah's stories are of mountain families who worked this land before it became a national park, of a U.S. president who chose Shenandoah for his summer retreat, and of the "boys" of the Civilian Conservation Corps who built so much of our park's infrastructure.

In 2015, you responded to a call for but for its functionality. Every year, the restoration of one of our park's some 700 visiting researchers and the Pinnacles Research Facility. building. Were it not for your tion Corps, circa 1935, is a critical into deeper disrepair and possibly asset not only for its historic value, been torn down.

most significant historic features: volunteers live and work in this This relic of the Civilian Conserva- support, Pinnacles would have fallen





## Who will nurture our parks when our generation is gone? Who will support them?

Today's youth are tomorrow's park school, from Washington, DC, New stewards, advocates and leaders. But York and beyond. today's youth are less connected to their natural world than previous In particular, new partnerships with ity touched the lives of children from they could. elementary school through high

generations. We rely on you to help Big Brothers Big Sisters and Boys and us reach thousands of children each Girls Club introduced underserved year. Your philanthropy brings kids youth in Virginia to their national to Shenandoah, supports outstanding park. They left their cell phones at educational programming, places home, learned to pitch tents and cook Park Rangers in classrooms, and outdoors, and returned to their city creates internship opportunities for lives with a commitment to seek out young adults. In 2015, your generos- nature wherever and whenever



Shenandoah's waterfalls are breathtaking. Its vistas are awe-inspiring. The truth is, though, that Shenandoah's Park Rangers are our park's most important resources.

The 200 men and women who work Park. The Robert Jacobsen Employthere carry diverse credentials—from ee Development Fund, named for a biologists to builders to educators to beloved former Shenandoah Nationlaw enforcement officers and more. al Park Superintendent, allows park They protect everything you love employees to pursue professional about Shenandoah and help ensure development opportunities that that you have an extraordinary expe-would otherwise be unattainable, due rience every time you visit.

Thanks to you, we have developed two sectors whose skills enhance work leagues' outstanding work. underway in Shenandoah National

to limited discretionary monies available through congressional funding.

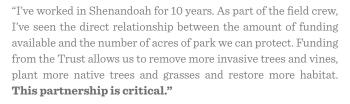
funds to support our park colleagues. Your support of our Research Grant The Expert in Residence Fund Program, Artist in Residence, and enables our park to draw on special- Teacher-Ranger-Teacher also add a ists from the public and private margin of excellence to our park col-





"A lot of people think you need to go to an art museum to see beauty. But they just need to come to a national park. Here, you get to experience beauty with all your senses. The sight of wildflowers on a mountain. The sound of the wind whistling through trees. The smell of clean air. All of this is art. I'm so grateful I got to experience this in Shenandoah this summer."

**- Bukhari Brown,** Youth Summer Camp Participant



- Jake Hughes, Shenandoah National Park





"I earn a living, in part, as a hiking guide in Shenandoah. A couple years ago, I gathered a group of women friends for a casual hike in 'my' park. Just for fun. Many of them had never been to Shenandoah before. Not surprisingly, they all fell in love with the park. We've continued to hike together monthly in Shenandoah, and we each make a donation to the Trust every time, because we value what the Trust is doing to support this park we love. Our group, which we affectionately call the Mighty Mountain Mamas, gets great satisfaction seeing the impact of our donations, every time we hike a trail the Trust helps maintain."

- Melanie Perl

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- Bukhari Brown, Youth Summer Camp Participant

"I've worked in Shenandoah for 10 years. As part of the field crew, I've seen the direct relationship between the amount of funding available and the number of acres of park we can protect. Funding from the Trust allows us to remove more invasive trees and vines, plant more native trees and grasses and restore more habitat. This partnership is critical."

- Jake Hughes, Shenandoah National Park



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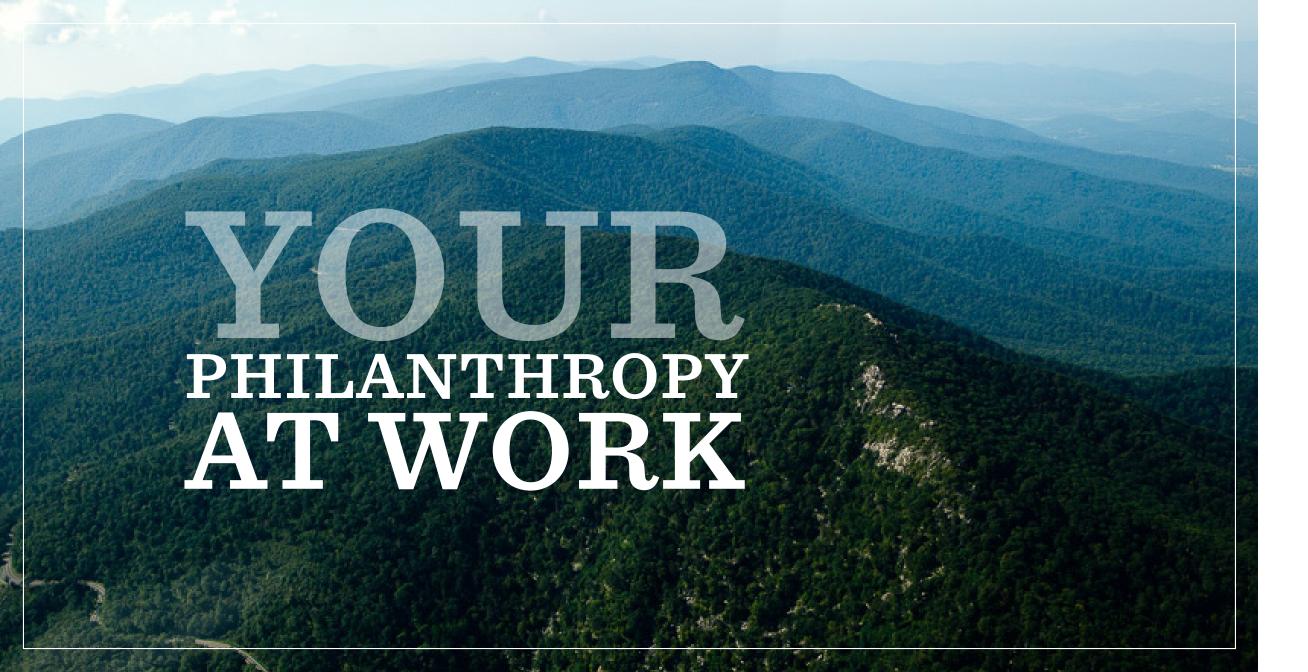
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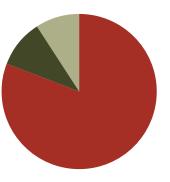


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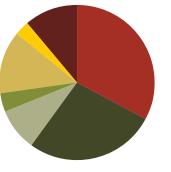


### YOUR PHILANTHROPY AT WORK

Progran

Fundraising

Management



### SOURCES OF SUPPORT

Individual Donors

Foundation & Corporate Support

Event Income

SNP Lodge Check-Out Program Support

SNP License Plate Income

Donated Goods and Services

Investment/Endowment Income



2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. This centennial year emboldens us to aim high! Our goal is to increase our financial support of park-related programs by 55 percent. This level of funding will allow us to maintain ongoing programs in preservation and education, and to support new initiatives. For example, we're investing in an exciting "big data" project that will help us envision our park and the region over the next 50 years as climate, air and water quality and development patterns change. This "future scenario mapping" will help guide park and reginal decision-making.

Join us for another year of partnership!

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### PHOTO CREDITS:

Jack Looney Denise Machado Skyland Resort at Shenandoah National Park Service

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