

A young girl with long hair, wearing a blue jacket, purple leggings, and a colorful knit hat, is running on a dirt path. The background shows a vast, open field with some trees and a distant town under a clear sky. The foreground is filled with dry grass and twigs.

The Ojai Foundation

timeless wisdom ~ timely action



Annual Report
2012-2013

A message from the President



Dear Friends,

The Ojai Foundation (TOF) experienced significant growth in programming and reach over the past year — at our Land Sanctuary in Ojai, in Los Angeles schools, in social service agencies across Southern California, and beyond. While our work offering timeless wisdom for modern times continues to meet the needs of the communities we serve, the ever-increasing breadth and complexity of those communities and their needs has also necessitated continued reflection on the efficacy of our organizational structure and strategy.

Thus, we are pleased to announce that at the end of the current fiscal year, TOF will be spinning off our two outreach initiatives, Council in Schools (CIS) and the Center for Council Practice (CCP). While CIS and CCP will continue to offer Council trainings at the Land Sanctuary and remain in partnership with TOF as sister organizations, on June 30, 2014, CIS and CCP will each become an independent organization with its own legal, financial, and administrative identity.

Growing CIS and CCP into independent, sister organizations has been part of the original vision of TOF to “bring the practice of Council off the Land and into the world” and incubating those programs until they would be ready to run themselves. This transition is a fulfillment of that vision.

While this transition will enable CIS and CCP to strengthen their focus and effectiveness in the urban settings where they serve, it will also enrich the Land Sanctuary in Ojai by allowing TOF to refocus and reinvigorate a vision of the Land as sanctuary, incubator, and center for an awakened new world. As such, the destinies of each of the parts can unfold to their full potential, and we rejoice in the possibilities ahead for all.

Please enjoy the following pages outlining the successes of our 2012-13 season and stay tuned for details regarding this exciting moment in TOF’s evolution and our continuing role in awakening an experience of interconnection, interdependence, and love.

For future generations,


Laura S. Whitney, President

Ojai Foundation Highlights (2012-2013)

Over **15,000** students in Southern California regularly participate in Council.



Over **600** youth participated in programs at The Ojai Foundation’s Land Sanctuary.



Trained and supported over **13** organizations in bringing Council into their workplaces and/or communities.



82 Southern California schools have received staff training and are sustaining Council programs.



Trained over **200** people in Council practice (16-hour workshop).



Over **2,000** educators have taken the 16-hour *Introduction to Council for Educators*



Over **600** people abroad have been introduced to or trained in Council practice.



62 Affiliated Council Trainers certified by CCP, with 19 more on the Trainer’s Path



7,500 volunteer hours supported TOF’s work on the Land and in the world.



Council programs through The Ojai Foundation are taking place throughout the United States as well as in Canada, Australia, Europe, the Middle East, Mexico and Africa.



Leif Skogberg
Land Steward &
Facilities Manager

Judy Piazza
Program Manager

THE LAND SANCTUARY



Diana Kelly
Administrative
Assistant

Alana Mitnick
Volunteer & Hospitality
Coordinator

For nearly 40 years, The Ojai Foundation's Land Sanctuary has been a living ecological-social experiment and example of holistic land care and stewardship through a variety of Earth-friendly ecological practices and initiatives. These include living lightly on the land, off-grid solar energy, earth art and sacred geometry, "deep green" natural "living" buildings, composting systems, waste reuse and recycling, bio-dynamics gardening methods and Permaculture design.

These ancient and modern methods of optimizing ecological performance have strengthened in 2013, as our dedicated land and facilities team of volunteers, contractors, and staff worked towards our holistic goal of resiliency, regenerative systems, and healthy relationships with all of life. We are proud to be working with our local County fire, police, and planning as well as building and safety departments to implement the most sustainable safe



practices currently allowed by government regulations. In the coming year, we plan to work with local regulators regarding the built environment. We hope that work towards "legalizing sustainability," allowing more appropriate use of simple indigenous technologies, as well as continued use of local and on-site materials in building restoration, maintenance and new construction and design, will be allowed for everyone in our area. In addition to ecological performance, our small resident community continued to live and exemplify the Way of Council and the "Beauty Way," providing an optimum container for student groups and retreats to carry out their work while on the Land.

Land Sanctuary Highlights (2012-2015)

315 total program days fostered a diversity of offerings and collaborations, with nearly 100 of those program days serving youth.

600 young people participated in Rites-of-Passage, Ropes Course programs, and other youth-related trainings and retreats. Two off-site programs accommodated larger groups in beautiful wilderness settings.

10 elders from a variety of cultural and wisdom traditions came to the Land to offer teachings and ceremony, made possible by contributions to the *Wisdom Keepers Fund*.

15 fully-sponsored youth attended the *Second Annual Gathering of the Ages: Intergenerational Celebration of Indigenous Wisdom*, bringing added diversity to the gathering.

40 professional guides attended a gathering for rites-of-passage leaders.

66 program days were devoted to community in the form of Living Council Immersions, Work Retreats, and seasonal community gatherings.

300 revelers from the community of Ojai attended our annual *Winter Solstice & Spiral of Lights Celebration*.

5 articles prominently featuring Land Sanctuary programs and work appeared in local/regional newspapers and periodicals.

100 program days served 21 aligned groups, teachers, and organizations.

Our personal retreatant and work exchange programs brought many to the Land for life-changing lessons in living lightly on the Earth and council-based community.



Joe Provisor
CIS Director

COUNCIL IN SCHOOLS

www.cis.ojaifoundation.org



Monica Chinlund
CIS Associate
Director

The Council in Schools (CIS) mission is to inspire engaged and compassionate school communities through practices that connect academic and social-emotional learning. CIS accomplishes this mission by bringing Council to schools around the world. When Council is integrated into the school and classroom, the learning environment is transformed.



Collaborations

Council in Schools is actively collaborating with diverse organizations to foster justice, health, community, self-awareness, and expression. Our partners include: LAUSD School Operations Division, the USC Keck School of Medicine, the Loyola Marymount University Center for Restorative Justice, the Community Conferencing Center of Baltimore, the Center for Movement Education and Research, YouThink (a program of the Zimmer Children's Museum), and SOS Mentor.

*"As a teacher for over four decades, Council training is one of the best — if not **the** best — tools I ever learned."* ~ K. Hesli, Ojai teacher

Council in Schools Highlights (2012-2013)

CIS sustained programs in **27** schools. • Staff from at least **55** other schools have received training and are sustaining Council programs independently of direct CIS oversight. • Over **2,000** educators have taken the 16-hour *Introduction to Council for Educators* workshop • Over **15,000** students participate in Council in Southern California alone • CIS is in its **12th year** of integrating Council practice into the *Cal State Los Angeles Lifespan Development* curriculum • CIS trained over 70 administrators and teachers in Ventura and Ojai • CIS provided training in Council and Restorative Justice to **50** LAUSD Operations Coordinators, **200** principals, and **60** staff members from the *LA County Office of Education* • CIS presented at *Loyola Marymount University's* conference on Restorative Justice • CIS Bi-weekly *Educator Collaboratives* offer Council practitioners a place to share best practices

- Trainings and programs continue throughout the United States as well as in schools in Canada, Europe and the Middle East.



CENTER FOR COUNCIL PRACTICE



Jared Seide
CCP Director

The Center for Council Practice (CCP) has been an integral part of The Ojai Foundation for over 15 years, initiating, seeding, and fostering the emergence of Council programs in community-based organizations worldwide, and offering training, coaching, and professional certification in the practice of Council.

Center for Council Practice Highlights (2012-2013)

In 2012-13, CCP engaged hundreds of service providers and staff of community, faith-based, and social service organizations to create collaborative programming grounded in Council practice. Partnerships include:

1) Social Justice Council Project. With the generous support and participation of the Angell Foundation, CCP has undertaken an ambitious program introducing Council into social justice and social service organizations throughout Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties. This 18-month program offers training and ongoing mentoring to up to 25 key staff members from each organization. Approximately 325 people will be trained, and these staff members, in turn, will train their co-workers and clients in Council.

2) Prison/Reentry Council Project is a pilot training of 20 motivated and self-selected inmates serving long-term sentences at the *Salinas Valley State Prison (SVSP)* at Soledad, California, and who are interested in becoming Council facilitators. These inmates are committed to maintaining Council practice on the yard and will lead a Council program for other inmates at SVSP who are preparing to parole and reenter society. In addition, CCP is designing an ongoing Council circle for prison guards, which is intended to serve and support that population independently.



3) Foster Youth Alumni Co-Mentoring Project.

Beginning in 2009, CCP has collaborated with the *Southern California Foster Family and Adoption Agency (SCFFAA)* and *Kehillat Israel Synagogue* to offer unique co-mentoring programs for foster youth in Los Angeles. A nine-month program was developed to bring together young adults moving out of the foster care system with a community of congregants seeking a more meaningful engagement in service and building community.

4) CCP continues to be a hub for training and certification of Council trainers and facilitators, offering regular Council Training workshops throughout the year, in Ojai and elsewhere. Currently, 62 Council trainers are certified by CCP with 19 more moving through the rigorous certification process.

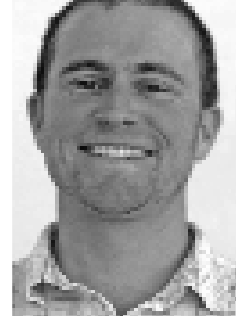
5) CCP supports and collaborates with international Council trainers through the **European Council Network (ECN)** and **Ma'agal Hakshava**, delivering trainings in Israel, Greece, Great Britain, Scotland, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Poland, Rwanda and Kenya.





Patricia Johnson
Business Manager

FINANCIAL REPORT



Adam Rumack
Director of
Communications &
Outreach

THE OJAI FOUNDATION Statement of Activity for Fiscal Year 2012-2013

REVENUES AND GAINS

Program Service Fees	628,368
Interest Income	854
Other earned revenue	<u>9721</u>
Total Revenue and Gains	638,943

SUPPORT

Contributions	656,229
Operating Grants	<u>5,000</u>
Total Support	661,229

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE **1,300,172**

EXPENSES

Program Services	
Land Sanctuary	351,918
Council in Schools	404,801
Center for Council Practice	250,246
Other Grant funded Programs	<u>105,444</u>
Total Program Services	1,112,409

General and Administrative	123,662
Depreciation	50,288
Fundraising	<u>61,607</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES **1,347,966**

Change in Net Assets **-47,794**

For more information, look for the IRS Form 990 on our website www.ojaifoundation.org

Visit our new website!

TOF has a beautiful, brand new website. Check it out at:

www.ojaifoundation.org

Many thanks to Robert Sullivan for his generosity and expertise in web design.



Vanessa Kay, Uqualla and Hiroji, presenters at the Summer Solstice Gathering of the Ages, thanks to generous contributions to our Wisdom Keepers Fund.

"In a very short period of time, the context of listening and explaining one's story ran deep and quick and the honesty that pervaded in the room was very real and authentic and combined with emotion. The culture and the growth effects the surrounding community. That's where I see that Council drills down." ~R. Grounds, Warden, Salinas Valley State Prison

Council at the Marilton School, LAUSD school for deaf and hard of hearing students.



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Web Design, James Seligman Films,
and Timothy Teague Photography.
And as always to the
Happy Valley Foundation*

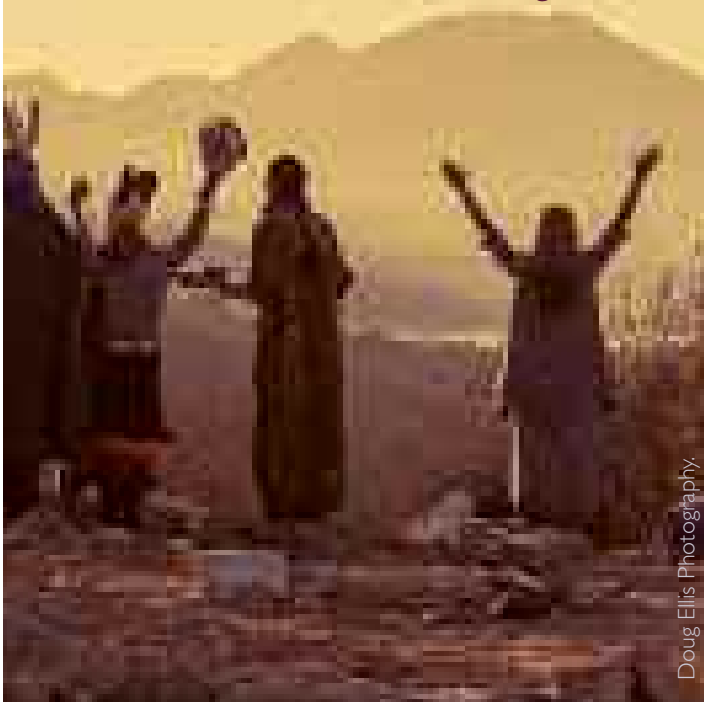
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OUR MISSION

To foster practices
that awaken connection
with self, others
and the natural world.

Council,
the practice of listening
and speaking from the heart,
is at the core of all offerings.



Doug Ellis Photography.

Sunrise Ceremony at the Land Sanctuary.

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www.ojaifoundation.org

or for *Council in Schools*

www.cis.ojaifoundation.org

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Family-Community Council at Wilshire Park Elementary.

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