Hope has many meanings. During 2017, we were hopeful in many ways. We confidently believed that we made a difference in the lives of the youth we worked with and in their impact on the Great Lakes. We desired to deeply impact youth with longer and/or more rigorous programs. We trusted that the funds to financially support our programs would be attained. **Our hope became reality because of you.**

Throughout this annual report you will see how hope has permeated all that we do. As you join us in reflecting back on 2017, please **consider the impact you have** had on the Great Lakes and the youth you support. There will always be a new horizon (e.g., new programs, updated facilities, another vessel), but we continue to hope for fair seas as we navigate each new direction. You, our volunteers and donors, give us reason to continue to hope.

Our mission at ISEA is to ignite a spark of curiosity in our students. We strive to inspire them, through our many STEM programs, to become the next generation of scientists, engineers, designers, innovators, community leaders and stewards of our precious Great Lakes. We hope to see you, your family and friends, on one of our tall ships or in our boat shop exploring, learning and having a great time. Thank you for putting your hope in us.

**CAMPUS UPDATE**

In December 2017, thanks to our donors, the mortgage on our Education Center was paid off. The next phase of our Suttons Bay campus renovation will begin Spring 2018. In this phase we will take down the old storage barn on the property, build a new ramp into the facility, add the exterior dorm room doors, put new siding on the front of the building, and landscape the property on the main entry side all the way to the bay. We expect this phase will be completed by the middle of June 2018.

Also this spring, solar panels will be installed on the edge of the wetlands along the parking lot as well as a panel on the roof. This project is possible because of a grant from Herman Miller Cares. It is estimated that the output from these panels will be enough to power 95% of our building needs. We are researching ways in which we can reduce our electrical needs to make up the other 5%. One goal throughout this campus renovation project is to become 100% sustainable for our ongoing electrical needs.

**Herman Miller Cares**

We expect to start Phase 2 of the building project in early 2019. This phase includes renovation of the facility’s lower level to include dorms and bathroom/shower facilities. Watch for more about this phase in the fall of 2018. Our hope is to complete the entire remodel by 2020.
PROGRAMS

At Inland Seas, we put our hope for the future of the Great Lakes in the hands of our youth. We are dedicated to providing quality programs for students of all ages and varied levels of Great Lakes interest. In 2017, 5,231 people participated in ISEA programs. Below is a summary of participation in these programs.

**Participant Summary by Type of Program**

- **Schoolship Programs**
  - Traditional Schoolship
  - Next Gen Schoolship
  - Diving Deeper Schoolship

- **Beyond Schoolship Programs**
  - Underwater ROV Challenge
  - 21st Century
  - Boat Building

- **Public Programs**
  - Young People in STEM
  - Great Lakes Discovery Sails
  - What’s in the Great Lakes Food Web?
  - Steady the Ship
  - Great Lakes Under the Microscope
  - Fishes of Lake Michigan
  - Astronomy Sails
  - Specialty Sails
  - Below the Bay ROV program

“I love the opportunity for the students to do REAL science; collect, analyze important/relevant data; get the kids connected to their environment; increase their concern for the Great Lakes.”

- 2017 Participating Teacher

“My trip with Ben [grandson] was so enjoyable, I decided to take all six of my grandchildren for schooner trips on the Inland Seas.”

- Margaret Bennett, Ann Arbor

(See full story on next page.)

More information about our programs can be found in our 2017 Program Evaluation Report.
My grandfather, Captain John Lake Bennett, was a 'schooner man.' He owned and 'skippered' small, wooden ships in Newfoundland in the early 20th century, long before Newfoundland was part of Canada.

I grew up sailing Lightning class sailboats with my Dad on Michigan's inland lakes and heard numerous stories of Grandpa's adventures sailing the North Atlantic once my grandparents lived in Detroit. Grandpa's trips across the ocean to Gibraltar and Portugal, including Long Island and up the west coast of Newfoundland, in these small, wooden sailing ships with no special equipment except for a compass, always fascinated me.

Twenty years ago, while on a trip to Traverse City from my home in Ann Arbor, I learned about ISEA, and their trips on Grand Traverse Bay. I soon arranged to be part of one of their trips. It was, of course, most enjoyable; I felt like I got a bit in touch with my seafaring ancestry.

I was so pleased with my sailing trip on the schooner Inland Seas, I decided to treat my 9-year-old grandson, Ben, to a trip, also. Ben got well right into the experience, getting soaking wet helping to raise the anchor; and participating in other on-board activities. Ben told me he would “never forget this trip.” When I said I wouldn’t either, he pointed out that he would have more years to remember than I would!

My trip with Ben was so enjoyable, I decided to take all six of my grandchildren for schooner trips on Inland Seas. My sons were agreeable; so the trips with ISEA became an on-going part of our lives. [We plan to take my youngest grandson, Joel, for his trip next summer.]

Usually, we took the young people one at a time, which made it a special family time. [My appropriate sons go on these trips with their children, too.] But, we did take Aaron (14) and his cousin, Brooke (also 14), together. They are about the same age and have been friends since they were small.

In 2012, while we were planning Max’s trip, our relatives in England announced they were planning a 3-week-trip to the U.S. in the summer. Cousin Frank Reedy, with his wife, Katherine, and, son, John, would spend the last week of their trip in Michigan—with us in Ann Arbor.

In agreement with my son, Jon, (Max’s dad), we invited the Reedy family to accompany us on Max’s ISEA trip. After I convinced Frank that he would NOT have to be a champion swimmer to sail on the Inland Seas, he and his family decided to accompany us. After Frank and his family returned to the UK, he told me that their trip on the Inland Seas may have been the ‘highlight’ of their American travels. [Picture on previous page. Left to right: Jonathon, Margaret (sitting), Max, Katherine, Frank, and John Reedy.]

So far, none of our young people have chosen careers as limnologists (fresh water marine biologists), but at least they spent time on one of our Great Lakes and have become aware of some of our family history. Sailing trips on the Inland Seas are NOT only fun, but are a historical experience, and an important way to get in touch with our world-famous Great Lakes!

Thank you, Margaret, for sharing your story with us! If you would like to share how ISEA has impacted your life, please fill out this form or email your story to lisa@schoolship.org.
VOLUNTEERS

We could not provide the quality programs we do without our volunteers. As of November 2017, Inland Seas had 208 active volunteers. Of those volunteers, 11 were youth (students). Our volunteers take on roles as instructors or crew members on the ships, maintain our Education Center fish tanks, take care of our grounds and facilities, serve on boards and committees, assist with data entry and office tasks, help in fundraising efforts, and much more. During the 2016-17 fiscal year, volunteers donated 8,421 hours. The breakdown below shows where these hours were spent.

Hope [hōp]: the feeling that what is wanted can be had

“I feel much pride and satisfaction for being a member of your team. For me, it’s all about the mission and the enthusiastic, professional approach to accomplishing it. And by golly, I just have a lot of fun when I’m there.”

~ 2017 Volunteer
We couldn’t make the impact we do without our volunteers. Their commitment to the Great Lakes and Inland Seas Education Association continues to amaze and encourage us. Thank you!

Annabelle Ackley
Keith Adler
Jesus Alcala
Dave Anderson
Rob Baier
Andrew Bakker
Baylor Baldwin
Barry Banks
John Bevington
James Bielak
Don Bogue
Kaitlyn Bolger
Rachel Bolger
Christine Butler
Chris Campbell
Andrew Carman
Ken Cerny
Mike Cherry
Sue Chrostek
Terry Ciesielski
Marcia Clone
Patt Cole
Eddee Collins
Tom Comfort
Stu Corpe
Michael Csurgo
Pat Curtin
Crystal Dailey
Jane Damschroder
Bruce Deboer
Dave Degeneffe
Ed DeRosha
Chuck Dickerson
Janet Dickerson
Ian Donahue
Barbara Dove
Maycee Duncan
Allan Edford
Jill Egan
Kim Eike
Linda Farrell
Kate Fiebing
Kathy Flegel
John Fletcher
Maureen Fletcher
Mark Forbes
Nancy Giffels
Jim Glover
Jim Graczyk
John Gray
Harry Greanya
Tina Greene-Bevington
Susan Greenfelder
Bob Hagerman
Elaine Hall
Fred Hall
Gail Hastings
Sue Hayden
Alan Heckl
Lee Hepner
Salvador Hernandez
Vera Hernandez
Craig Holmes
Tracy Huffman
Stuart Hutzler
Bette Jackson
Claudette Johnson
Keith Johnson
Rick Johnson
Fritz Keeslar
Bob Kelly
Emma Kelly
Judy Kelly
Karen Kennedy
Len Klein
Dino Kortesis
Andi Kramer
Mary Krantz
Janice Lane
Harold Lassers
Phil Loud
Brad Lyman
Pete Magoun
Mary Markel
Jaclyn Mayler
Dave Maynard
Michele McClintock
Randy McClure
Paul McEwan
Paul McEwen
FINANCIALS

Our Get on Board Campaign ended in 2017 with 432 new first-time donors during the three-year campaign. During 2017, Inland Seas also participated in the SwingShift and the Stars fundraiser with an anticipated goal of $50,000 for STEM programming to be matched by The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation. Both faithful and new donors rose to the challenge and exceeded this goal. Inland Seas takes this continued trust in us seriously. Like good stewards of the lakes, we hope you see that we are also fiscally responsible with your money.

On the horizon for 2018

Hope [hōp]: a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen

» A new entrance to the Education Center including new landscaping along the south side of the property.
» A U.S. Coast Guard license to carry passengers on the schooner Utopia.
» Planning for Phase 2 of the Suttons Bay campus renovations - the dorms!

Please consider donating to these projects at schoolship.org/donate.

THANK YOU

for providing the resources for students to learn about the Great Lakes.


The 2016-17 Audited Financial Statements can be found online at schoolship.org/about-isea. Scroll down to Financial Reports.
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