Transition US
A Year in Review – 2018

UNLEASHING THE COLLECTIVE GENIUS
TO REIMAGINE AND REBUILD OUR WORLD
Letter from the Transition US Team

2018 was a landmark year for Transition here in the US, with our national movement turning 10 years old. While we took ample time to celebrate our accomplishments - through our 10 Stories of Transition in the US series, our first national online summit, and “Celebrating Our Local Luminaries: An Evening of Gratitude and Light” - we were also called this year to deeply contemplate the increasing urgency of the climate crisis as well as how Transition can help to bring about a better world for all, not just a privileged few.

As a result, we have continued to evolve our approach to cultivating community resilience in several important ways:

- In response to more frequent and devastating wildfires, hurricanes, floods, and droughts, we co-facilitated a “Stories to Action: Before and After Disaster” learning cohort and began development of Ready Together: A Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Handbook;

- To provide space for Transitioners to explore the important psychological and emotional dynamics of living through this time of rapid and highly disruptive change, we helped to launch and supported the emergence of a national Inner Resilience Network; and

- As part of our ongoing efforts to create a more equitable society and become a more inclusive movement, we convened a national Social Justice Working Group and participated in many transformative conversations about race, privilege, diversity, and decolonization.

These and many other threads will continue to be woven into our work throughout 2019 and beyond. We’ll also be organizing online and in-person national gatherings, offering new and advanced training programs, developing essential resources like Transition Streets On-a-Budget and Transition Streets: Water-Saving Edition, and sharing even more stories of inspiring and replicable Transition projects.

As more and more people wake up to the reality of climate change and systemic injustice, we will be ready to welcome them and help them move into effective action. By engaging in a process of continual evolution and ensuring that all of our activities are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local Transition organizers, we are prepared to greatly broaden, deepen, and scale-up our impacts as a movement.

Here’s to another 10 years of Transition in the US!

Don Hall & Carolyne Stayton
Co-Directors

Marissa Mommaerts
Director of Programs

Nils Palsson
Communications Director
2018 – A Year in Review

Overview

Transition is a movement that began in the UK in 2005 and has grown to communities around the world. Its premise is simple: to bring community members together, engage their knowledge and love of place, and unleash their collective genius to address some of the most pressing issues of our time. Currently, 1,200 Transition Initiatives are active in 50 countries on every continent except Antarctica, revitalizing local food systems, strengthening local economies, and reducing dependence on fossil fuels in response to resource depletion, climate change, and economic instability.

Transition US is the national hub for this international effort. Founded in 2009, the mission of Transition US (www.TransitionUS.org) is to catalyze and strengthen a national network of people-powered groups who are building local resilience through community action. There are now 164 official Transition Initiatives in 38 states activating the public, reclaiming the economy, sparking entrepreneurship, reimagining work, reskilling community members, weaving webs of connection and support, hosting courageous conversations, and patiently mending the torn fabric of society.

To support these initiatives, we provide in-depth trainings, share replicable models, develop a wide variety of resources and tools, inspire thousands of local food, water, and energy projects, hold National Gatherings and Movement Strategy Summits, foster the growth of several regional hubs, and convene learning cohorts and working groups focused on the new economy, inner resilience, emergency preparedness, and more. After a decade of success, we believe that our national Transition Movement is currently poised for another leap forward in its reach and impact.

To effect greater change on the neighborhood, community, regional and national scales, our focus for the next three years will be on improving and enhancing all of our current offerings mentioned above, plus developing a concerted national strategy to bridge social justice and environmental efforts, develop specific materials that build social cohesion, and strengthen collaborative partnerships across related movements.

Mission and Vision

Our mission at Transition US is to catalyze and strengthen a national network of people-powered groups building local resilience through community action.

We accomplish this mission by inspiring, encouraging, supporting, networking and training individuals and their communities as they consider, adopt, adapt, and implement the Transition approach to community empowerment and change.

Ultimately, we envision a United States in which each community engages its collective creativity to unleash an extraordinary and historic transition to a future beyond fossil fuels — one that is more vibrant, abundant, resilient, and ultimately preferable to the present.
Building the Movement

As you can see from our mission and vision statements, the central purpose of Transition US is to support community resilience-building efforts that are forming or already underway throughout this country. For years, Local Initiatives and Collaborations & Partnerships were our main focus in this area. However, more recently, we have also begun to support the emergence of Regional Hubs, National Working Groups, and our Collaborative Design Council. Currently, we are weaving together all of these strands into a comprehensive National Organizing Framework.

Local Initiatives

Altogether, 164 local Transition Initiatives in 38 states throughout the US have been officially recognized by Transition US since 2008. Our newest official initiative, Transition Town Glassboro in New Jersey, was recognized just this past November! A complete list of official initiatives with links to more information is available at www.TransitionUS.org/Initiatives-Map.

In addition to continuing to support these initiatives through all of our events, projects, and communications, we began a process in 2018 to collect updated and expanded information from each initiative for our forthcoming, redesigned website. In 2019, we will complete this process and plan to repeat it annually moving forward, ensuring more regular communication between each initiative and Transition US, as well as a more interconnected national network overall.

This year, we will also be reaching out to around 200 “mullers,” offering our support and encouraging them to become official.
Regional Hubs
The Transition US Regional Hubs Group met virtually ten times in 2018, with the following groups participating: Mid-Atlantic States Transitioners (MAST), Sustainable Communities All Over Puget Sound (SCALLOPS), Northern California Community Resilience Network, and Transition Twin Cities. The goal of these meetings was for regional hub organizers to connect and build relationships, learn from each other, share ideas and resources, and explore how to best collaborate with Transition US to increase the capacity of regional hubs (as well as local Transition Initiatives and other community resilience groups in their respective regions). Discussions topics included bioregionalism, partnering with other organizations and groups, capacity building, and more. In addition, regional organizers provided feedback on Transition US’ draft National Organizing Framework, particularly in relation to roles and responsibilities of Regional Hubs.

National Working Groups
Inner Resilience:
Inner resilience (applying the Transition lens to our personal lives and relationships) was a major theme for the US Transition Movement throughout 2018. In addition to the related webinars described below, a national Inner Resilience Network was formed that is currently engaging Transitioners from all over the country. This group held 12 monthly online meetings during 2018, diving deeply into topics such as finding balance, working with climate grief, responding to apathy, expanding our sense of gratitude, and many more. They are currently planning to develop an Inner Resilience Handbook, design a new training on this subject, and host a multi-day retreat in 2019.

Justice and Diversity:
To bridge social justice and community resilience and foster greater diversity throughout our network, our first step has been to form a national Social Justice Working Group, which is comprised of grassroots leaders from all over the country and has recently begun meeting monthly together online. Now fully established, this group will take the lead on advancing social justice literacy throughout our movement, building more authentic relationships with social justice organizations, hosting a second National Gathering and Movement Strategy Summit on this topic, and continuing to build momentum for social justice and diversity by incorporating key insights and replicable models into everything we do.

REconomy:
The REconomy US Community of Practice met virtually five times in 2018, with participation from community resilience and local economy organizers from across the US, many of whom had participated in the 2017 REconomy Intensive workshop at the first Transition US National Gathering in Minneapolis. Meetings covered a number of diverse REconomy-related topics including a presentation on the Local Entrepreneur Forum model by Tabitha Green (organizer of the Winnishiek Idea House in Decorah, Iowa); a discussion about “Cryptocurrencies & Community Resilience” featuring alternative currency expert Chong Kee Tan and cryptocurrency developer Troy Bengerdes; and a series of discussions around the values, ethics, and practices of REconomy, which led to the collective creation of new messaging and language for the REconomy US project (to be featured on the forthcoming new Transition US website).
Collaborative Design Council
Our Collaborative Design Council was convened in March 2016 in order to strengthen the US Transition Movement by increasing grassroots participation in national-level strategy and program development. After helping to plan our first National Gathering in 2017, Council members were instrumental in producing our first Online Summit in 2018. Current members include:

- Aleisa Myles, Transition Town Media
- Asher Miller, Post Carbon Institute
- Don Hall, Transition US
- Janice Lynne, Transition Fort Collins
- Jessica Cohodes, Transition Milwaukee
- Jul Bystrova, Inner Resilience Network
- Laura Philon, Wilmington in Transition
- Leslie MacKenzie, Transition Twin Cities
- Sari Steuber, Transition Town Media
- Shaktari Belew, Transition Trainer
- Sylvia Holmes, Transition Pasadena
- Theo Talcott, Transition Town Manchester
- William Mutch, Transition Palo Alto

Collaboration & Partnerships
We regularly collaborate with a number of partners, including: Transition Network (comprised of members from 50 countries), Shareable, Post Carbon Institute, The New Economy Coalition, NewStories, EcoDistricts, NorCal Resilience Network, Carnegie Mellon University, and The Forbes Funds. In the coming year, we will be working on building collaborative relationships with several more, including: FEMA’s Emergency Management Institute, several California Water Agencies, and a number of social justice organizations including the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.
**National Organizing Framework**
Following the 2017 Transition US National Gathering and building on increased momentum for national and regional-level Transition organizing in the US, Transition US began developing a National Organizing Framework (thanks in part to a seed grant from Transition Network) to guide and enhance collaboration and organization at all levels of the US Transition network, including the Transition US 501c3 non-profit organization, the Collaborative Design Council, Regional Hubs, National Working Groups, and local Transition Initiatives. The National Organizing Framework draws from best practices from other social movements and organizations, including the international Transition movement. It clarifies roles and responsibilities for each respective group or “organizing circle” within our network and suggests best practices for agile governance and decision-making, effective collaboration, and more. After receiving an initial round of feedback on the draft National Organizing Framework from stakeholders including Regional Hubs, National Working Group organizers, and Transition Network staff in 2018, in 2019 Transition US will facilitate a broader process of soliciting and integrating feedback from the larger Transition US network (including local Transition Initiatives).

**Leadership Development**

Top Row from left: Tom Llewellyn, Ridhi D’Cruz, Sebastian Collet, Kaia Svienn. Bottom Row: Rebecca Blanco, Erik Ohlsen, Lynette Marie Hanthorn & Michael Brownlee, and David Cobb.

**Webinars**
Transition US offered seven free webinars in 2018 on the following topics:
- [The Transition Healthcheck: An Essential Tool for Thriving Groups](#) with Michael Thomas of Transition Network
- [Reclaiming Our Soul from the Industrial Growth Society](#) with Rebecca Blanco and Kaia Svienn of the Inner Resilience Network
- [How to Get Media Attention for Your Community Project](#) with Tom Llewelyn of Shareable
- [Igniting the Local Food Revolution in Your Community](#) with Michael Brownlee and Lynette Marie Hanthorn of Local Food Catalysts
- [Join the Village Building Movement](#) with Ridhi D’Cruz and Sebastian Collet of City Repair
• **Building the Solidarity Economy** with David Cobb of Cooperation Humboldt
• **Scaling Up Regenerative Solutions** with Erik Ohlsen of the Permaculture Skills Center

298 people participated live in these webinars last year and 4,253 have watched the recordings online via Facebook and YouTube. Altogether, more than 10,000 people have participated live and over 60,000 have watched or listened to recordings of 414 Transition US webinars and teleseminars since 2009.

**Trainings**
In 2018, Transition US began offering our core Transition Launch and Effective Collaboration trainings online for the first time. 35 people participated in our **first round of Transition Launch Online Training** in March through May, 45 people participated in our **first round of Effective Collaboration Online Training** in July through August, and 29 people participated in our **second round of Transition Launch Online Training** in September through December. Participants included grassroots leaders from all over the world and members of various groups including **Columbia Resilience**, **MN350**, the **OMNI Center for Peace, Justice, & Ecology**, and **Phoenixville Area Transition**.

In 2019, we will be partnering with Post Carbon Institute to offer a **Think Resilience Guided Course** in January through February, presenting a second round of Effective Collaboration Online Training in April through May, and developing the first-ever online version of **Transition Thrive Training**, to be piloted in the fall.

**Online Summit**
On October 27th, Transition US hosted its first-ever national online summit, titled “Unleashing the Collective Genius: Celebrating 10 Years of Transition in the US!” Sponsored in part by the **Abundant Earth Foundation**, this event brought together community members and organizers from across the country for a day of education, inspiration, and celebration. Over 100 individuals from all over the world participated directly in our livestream and 33 “watch parties” were held in 19 different states, including:

- **Transition Town Charlotte** (Charlotte, VT)
- **Transition Twin Cities** (Minneapolis, MN)
- **Transition Town Williston** (Williston, VT)
- **Transition Town Glassboro** (Glassboro, NC)
- **Transition Howard County** (Howard County, MD)
- **Transition Palo Alto** (Palo Alto, CA)
- **Transition Fort Collins** (Fort Collins, CO)
- **Transition Oahu** (Oahu, HI)
- **The Bridge** and **Grow Permaculture** (Brooksville, FL)
- **Transition US** and the **Permaculture Skills Center** (Sebastopol, CA)
- **Transition Catskills** (Catskill Mountains Area, NY)
- **Local 20/20** (Port Townsend, WA)
- **Transition Bluffton** (Bluffton, OH)
- **Transition Town Media** (Media, PA)
- **Radio Kingston** (Kingston, NY)
- **Transition Pasadena** (Pasadena, CA)
- **Transition Newburyport** (Newburyport, MA)
- **Transition Richmond** (Richmond, VA)
- **Transition Marquette County** (Marquette, MI)
- **Wilmington In Transition** (Wilmington, DE)
- **Sustainable Berea** (Berea, KY)
- **Penobscot River Region Transition Town** (Bangor, ME)
- **Transition Town Manchester** (Manchester, VT)
- **Sustainable Fairfax** (Fairfax, CA)
The Online Summit featured:

- A keynote interview on ”Creating Islands of Sanity: Leading Well in This Time of Increasing Turbulence” with world-renowned author, educator, and activist Margaret J. Wheatley.
- A panel discussion on “The Wider Movement” with Asher Miller of Post Carbon Institute, Aleisa Myles of Transition Town Media, and Ruah Swennerfelt of Transition Town Charlotte.
- An update from Transition US staff and an awards ceremony, featuring 17 special guest speakers, including Permaculture pioneer David Holmgren.

The recordings of all of these sessions were posted to YouTube and have now been viewed by an additional 614 people.

Our Online Summit was followed by an International Network Call on “What’s Working in Transition?” with Transition Network on November 19, 2018. This was attended by 46 global leaders and the recording has been watched by 54 additional people.

Annual Celebration
In mid-December Transition US collaborated with a sister organization, the Sebastopol Grange, and hosted Celebrating Our Local Luminaries! An Evening of Gratitude and Light. The event was attended by more than 130 people and included a gourmet spread, local award-winning beverages, stirring TEDx-style presentations and awards to local community luminaries, including Post Carbon Institute senior fellow Richard Heinberg and well-known Permaculture teacher and writer Erik Ohlsen.

Even though this event placed great focus on a handful of local luminaries and the work they do in this world, the evening’s participants were invited to fill out cards at a “Gratitude Station” to their own personal luminaries who had inspired them along the way. The night invited gratitude for all the great work in each person’s life, the magnitude and importance of community support, and the many moments of genuine care that have been touched us and made impact in our lives.

Community Cohesion Projects

Following 2017’s hurricanes, earthquakes, and wildfires, we recognized that growing social cohesion on a neighborhood scale (or even street-by-street) was essential. In 2018 we expanded our Community Resilience = Emergency Preparedness campaign to include the development of Ready Together: A Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Handbook, along with an enhanced water-saving edition of our Transition Streets neighborhood energy-, water-, and waste-reduction program for drought-prone areas, as well as a second learning cohort and podcast series of our Stories to Action: Building a Community of Results project focused on building social cohesion pre- and post-disaster. In 2019, Transition Streets Water-Saving Edition, Transition Streets On-A-Budget and Ready Together will all be piloted and published.
Transition Streets

*Transition Streets* is a neighborhood carbon-, water-, and waste-reduction project adapted from the UK’s Transition Network by a host of extraordinary volunteers convened by Transition US. The Transition Streets project is comprised of: a seven-chapter curriculum of practical, concrete actions that reduce household energy consumption; a set of facilitation and outreach guides; plus support and additional resources from Transition US.

Visitors to the [Transition Streets website](https://www.transitions.org) find the handbook, a rich array of support materials (including a one-minute [Transition Streets animation](https://www.transitions.org)), and everything else needed to successfully implement this project in their neighborhoods.

To further the adoption of Transition Streets and increase its relevance, Transition US is working on a *Transition Streets Water-Saving Edition* for residents in drought-prone areas, and *Transition Streets On-A-Budget* for renters and those on tight budgets.

The Emergency Preparedness Handbook *Ready Together* can serve as a standalone guide for action-oriented gatherings with neighbors, or as a prequel or sequel to Transition Streets.

**Ready Together: A Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Handbook**

*Ready Together* brings together clusters of near-neighbors over several sessions to work through a user-friendly handbook full of practical, affordable tips to help each household prepare for emergencies of any kind.

The self-guided handbook’s topics include: potential home and neighborhood hazards and their mitigation, essential supplies of food, water and medicine to have on hand; go-bags to cover all household members in case of evacuation; emergency response and contingency plans to facilitate calmness and clarity in critical times; mapping our neighborhoods so that no one falls through the cracks; hands-on strategies for dealing with specific crisis situations; and ways to connect with fire departments, community emergency response teams and other support structures.

The presence of the gentle peer pressure of neighbors; as groups work through our highly accessible curriculum; ensures that people do get prepared and; that behaviors do change.

Supplementing and supporting *Ready Together* are webinars for group-catalyzers, workshops for the community, additional resources, and a variety of facilitation, partnership and outreach guides. A Community of Practice, facilitated by Transition US, will provide additional, ongoing support for community leaders.

2018 was the year for planning, collecting information and amassing the team. 2019 will be the year for completing the handbook, piloting it in a number of varied communities across the country, and rolling the project out nationally.
From Stories to Action: Building a Community of Results

Community leaders often rely on clear community-engagement and resilience-building models that they can easily adapt, readily replicate, and scale up as needed. In 2018, in partnership with Shareable, Post Carbon Institute, and New Stories (our collaborative partners), disaster response models were gathered and disseminated as inspirational stories via podcasts.

In the action component, interested community leaders were supported through a "Stories to Action: Before and After Disaster" learning cohort comprised of field experts and peer mentors, staffed by Transition US and New Stories. This effort provided an arc that took participants from their original inspiration through to project implementation. Engaged in this were participants from three countries, each bringing gifts, expertise, and a longing to employ their gifts and skills right there in in their own communities, and create more positive possible outcomes - before a disaster strikes. With this learning cohort support, more than a dozen local projects got their footing during the six-month period.

Some of these projects were:

- An online toolkit shares resources and best practices across three countries.
- An apartment complex picnic was used to catalyze residents in creating an emergency plan that recognizes their particular skills and needs, and builds up their supplies. A sample go-bag at the event sparked interest by a police officer living at the complex to have the organizer (a learning cohort member) talk about this to their local police department.
- The “Earth Grief Project” seeds conversations about collective grief to be offered on a college campus.
- The “Be Resilient Project” created a neighborhood emergency response plan that builds on protocols already in place (through local fire departments, etc.).
- The “Changing World Project” is a website that bridges the best of emergency and disaster preparedness with ecological wisdom and self-reliance skills.
- In concert with the Asheville-Buncombe Food Policy Council, a food resilience project looks at the big picture to understand redundancies, gaps, and potential complementarities.
- “Cycling without Age” has helped seniors increase their mobility, get out and about in the fresh air and increase their feeling of agency, all of which will help them in disaster situations. This project has also rippled out to create a similar initiative in adjacent communities.
- Meeting with all of the city’s faith leaders are underway to discuss their responses to climate change and determine their support roles in climate crises.

Building the Movement

Presentations

In 2018, members of our staff team gave 15 in-person presentations for approximately 600 people at events organized by groups other than Transition US. These talks and workshops included:

- “The Global Future and the Transition Movement: From Oil Dependence to Community Resilience” at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, California
- “Community Resilience and Regenerative Economy” at the Art at Work Symposium in Paonia, Colorado
- “Community Resilience = Emergency Preparedness” at the NorCal Permaculture Convergence in Hopland, California
- “Community Resilience: Preparedness and Response” at the Bioneers Conference in San Rafael, California
• “Transition to Permaculture: Scaling Up for Community Resilience” at the Florida Permaculture Convergence in Sebastian, Florida

One of our Co-Directors, Don Hall, also gave a web-based presentation on “Transition Towns: Intentional Communities for the 99%” for the Fellowship for Intentional Community in April. More than 300 people have watched the recording of this talk so far.

Articles & Interviews

Transition US staff were also interviewed for the Simple Living Works! Podcast, A Green Way Forward, WSLR 96.5 FM in Sarasota, FL, WMNF 88.5 FM in Tampa, FL, and WIOX 91.3 FM in the Catskills Mountains of New York.

10 Stories of Transition in the US
Throughout 2018, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Transition Movement here in the United States, Transition US published a series of 10 informative and inspiring stories of successful Transition projects from all over the country:

1. Transition Sarasota’s Suncoast Gleaning Project
2. The Spread of Repair Cafes
3. Transition Twin Cities’ Grove of Life
4. The Evolution of Transition Town Media
5. Woodstock NY Transition’s Working Group Support
6. Local 20/20’s Local Investing Opportunities Network
7. Transition Milwaukee and the Victory Garden Initiative
8. Building Community with Transition Streets
9. Transition Fidalgo & Friends’ Vision 2030
10. Justice and Diversity in Transition

All 10 stories were written by multimedia artist and author Steve McAllister, and have since been republished by Resilience.org and TransitionNetwork.org. Thanks to support from Transition US Board President Mark Juedeman and the Cottonwood Foundation, we are currently working with Lisa Berry of Wish Media to design a digital and print collection that will be distributed nationwide in the spring of 2019.
Online Communications
- Newsletter: Transition US gathers community-building resources, pertinent events, and inspiring stories from across the movement. These it compiles into regular e-newsletters that it sends out to a mailing list of 8,500. The newsletter is syndicated on the websites of numerous Transition Initiatives, allies, and community groups both inside and outside of the US, and archived on our website.
- Website, Blogs, and Listserv: The main Transition US website, the Transition Streets website, and the newer Transition Gathering website continue to draw traffic, adding value for Transition Initiative leaders whose stories are featured, and for visitors seeking easy access to tools, inspiration, and replicable models. The listserv provides a base for substantive and varied discussions amongst Transition leaders.
- Social Media: Our Facebook and Twitter presence has seen consistent growth and now has over 15,500 combined followers.

People Power
None of the projects described above would have been possible without the dedicated efforts of Transition US staff, our Board of Directors, and the generous contributions made by volunteers and interns. Beyond their direct involvement in Transition US activities, the many people listed below have also profoundly shaped our strategy, demonstrating that Transition is truly a people-powered, bottom-up, grassroots movement.

Staff
Our staff team remained essentially the same throughout 2018, with Co-Directors Carolyne Stayton and Don Hall leading the organization, supported by Director of Programs Marissa Mommaerts and Director of Communications Nils Palsson. It is a testament to their commitment and creativity that so much was accomplished this past year with just four part-time staff tasked with supporting a large and growing national movement.

Board of Directors
2018 saw two major additions to our Board of Directors, as well as two members rotating off the Board. Trathen Heckman left Transition US in May after eight years of phenomenal service as our Board President and Elana Gurney departed in September after three years on the Board. Our two new additions are Mario Yanez, who joined in February, and Samantha Weschler, who joined in November. Here are their bios:

Samantha (Sam) Wechsler joined the Transition US board in October 2018. Currently, Sam provides interim leadership for organizations going through executive transitions, consults with non-profits, and provides executive coaching for women in nonprofit leadership and middle management. She is known for her expertise in group facilitation; leadership and personal development; and designing and facilitating participatory trainings and workshops that draw people into engaging conversations about difficult topics, helping participants to develop a deeper sense of themselves and their role in social change efforts. From 2008-2011, Sam served as the Executive Director of Bikes Not Bombs, where she oversaw a major organizational turnaround, and from 2012-2014, she worked with the Institute for Policy Studies and the Jamaica Plain New Economy Transition.
Mario Yanez is dedicated to envisioning and inspiring a transition toward life-sustaining, resilient human communities. He has an academic background in finance, information systems and ecology. He has several decades of experience applying systems thinking to developing and funding cutting-edge programming and creating provocative and relevant active-learning curriculum supportive of a much-needed cultural evolution. As a Permaculture practitioner, he is applying design at various scales, implementing regenerative productive landscapes, enterprises, and organizational and social systems. Mario is native to the Greater Everglades.

We also want to celebrate Asher Miller, Executive Director of Post Carbon Institute, for continuing his 10 years of service to the Board as Secretary and Treasurer, and Mark Juedeman, for stepping up to be our Board President in May. Other Board members continue to be Maggie Seeley of Transition ABQ and Erik Lindberg of Transition Milwaukee.

Volunteers & Interns
The US Transition Movement would simply not exist without the heartfelt dedication of countless volunteers working every day to build community resilience through their engagement with local initiatives, regional hubs, and national working groups. For their courageous and inspiring efforts, we are eternally grateful.

In 2018, the development of our new website was supported by 255 hours of professional and non-professional services from a talented seven-member volunteer team, including Kerry Thompson, Michael Howard, Diane Stradling, Lauren Todd, Jennifer Wilkerson, and Claudette Morell. Connecticut College student Sarah Bass completed a 300-hour internship with us this past summer, assisting with web development, updating our database of official Transition Initiatives, and supporting our online training programs. Sarah had this to say about her experience:

“This past summer I had the amazing opportunity to intern with Transition US. I had learned about them through a global environmental governance class but never thought I would be able to intern with them! At first, I was slightly worried about doing the internship remotely via Zoom and Skype, but I soon realized that it was not a constraint at all. In fact, this online format was actually very beneficial because it allowed me to meet so many inspiring and committed people from the broader movement.”

Financial Overview

Our total income for 2018 was $136,562, which included a $20,000 general operating grant from the New Visions Foundation, $10,000 from a collaborative Water Foundation grant for Transition Streets Water-Saving Edition, a $8,344 Threshold Foundation grant for our second Movement Strategy Session, and a general operating grant of $5,000 from the Appleby Foundation. This was all supplemented by $9,510 in earned income from our online trainings, and special events contributions of $5,455 from our first National Online Summit and an annual community-building fundraiser.

Transition US received gifts of all sizes from more than 204 individual donors. Of these donors, 108 responded to our Ready Together crowdfunding campaign which raised over $6,400. By year’s end, individual contributions totaled $55,567.

Small nonprofit grants, corporate contributions, and sales of books provided our remaining income.
Expenses for the year totaled $150,891. These included:

- $21,254 in contract services, which included trainers for our online trainings, program services including 10 Stories of Transition and Ready Together;
- $101,000 in staff wages, taxes, and benefits;
- $8,890 for awards paid out to our “Stories to Action” collaborators;
- $6,020 in operations and project expenses;
- $9,682 in rent and insurance; and
- $2,667 in business admin expenses.

Total income for 2018 was $46,210 lower than in 2017 and expenses were $25,440 less. The primary discrepancy between the two years was the income and expenses of our 2017 National Gathering. This multi-day event provided $56,277 in revenue, and cost a similar amount in expenses.

Entering into 2018 we had a cash forward balance of $70,394 and coming into 2019 our cash forward is $55,145, with an additional pledge of $40,000 expected in February.
Some snapshots from the publication *10 Stories of Transition*

Grove of Life, Twin Cities, MN

Fixed! At the Repair Café in Pasadena, CA

Grove of Life, engaging almost 1,000 community members in the Twin Cities, MN
*(Watch this delightful video!)*

Transition Fildago and Friends, Fildago, WA

Transition Town Media Free Store, Media, PA

Victory Gardens, Milwaukee, WI
Looking Forward to 2019 and Beyond

Together with our national Transition network and in collaboration with many other allied organizations, institutions, networks, sustainability professionals, grassroots leaders, and volunteers, we will:

**Support and grow our movement** by publishing expanded listings for all official Transition Initiatives on our website, encouraging groups to take the Transition Healthcheck annually, helping “mullers” to become officially-recognized, and continuing to mentor initiative leaders, including those wishing to revive inactive groups.

**Provide transformative educational opportunities** by hosting monthly webinars, facilitating quarterly National Network Calls, developing new and advanced training courses, organizing online and in-person national gatherings, and presenting at various conferences throughout the country.

**Facilitate networking and peer-to-peer learning** by establishing a National Organizing Framework, adding an interactive discussion forum to our website, and continuing to support our Collaborative Design Council, Regional Hubs Group, Social Justice Working Group, and the Inner Resilience Network.


**Strengthen Transition US communications** by launching a new website, inviting Transition leaders to contribute content, expanding our social media presence and mailing list, giving interviews and writing articles for publication in major media outlets, and distributing print and digital collections of 10 Stories of Transition in the US.

**Increase our organizational capacity** by expanding our fundraising efforts, establishing a new sponsorship program, revising our volunteer and internship programs based on current needs, and actively cultivating a more diverse Transition US.

For more information about Transition US and its programs and offerings go to: [www.TransitionUS.org](http://www.TransitionUS.org) or call us at (707) 824-1554.

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