

# SPI 2014/2015

## SPI: Where Science and Play Intersect

### SPI 2014/2015 Preview Report

SPI has changed its fiscal year from July-June to January-December. This report will cover our shortened 2014 Calendar Year (July-Dec 2014), as well as serve to give an update for the first ten months of 2015.

### SPI has a future home

SPI is partnering with Kenyon College to share the Buckeye Candy Building. SPI Spot will occupy most of the first floor of the renovated building with 3300 square feet. The renovation is expected to be complete by the end of 2016.

### Contraptions A-Z

SPI brought Contraptions A-Z, a traveling exhibit by Clifford Wagner to Knox County. The exhibit is of a collection 26 whimsical contraptions, one for each letter of the alphabet, demonstrating physics and mechanical principles.



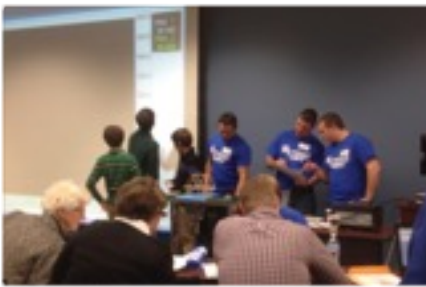
## SPI's Increasing Impact

As Science Play-Space Initiative passes five years of existence, we are very proud to have facilitated visits from over 11,000 people in the past year to SPI Spot Discovery Space and SPI programming elsewhere. Our mission is to enhance the Knox County community by bringing people of all ages together to explore science and technology through play. Initially, SPI had five strategies for how we would implement our mission. The first was: to *provide an enriching space for visitors to learn through playful activities.*

In our second year of existence, 2012, we created our own space at 14 S. Main St with the generous financial support of the Ariel Foundation and the Community Foundation of Mount Vernon and Knox County. In 2013, we moved to our current location at 227 S. Main St. In fully meeting this goal we expect to have secured a more permanent space in partnership with Kenyon College at the Buckeye Candy Building at 400 S. Main St. in the fall of 2016. Each of our spaces have playfully engaged thousands

## STEMfest Knox

SPI worked with Kenyon College, MVNU, COTC, Ariel Corporation, and The Works in Newark to put on the STEMfest Knox, a STEM competition for middle and high school teams. Twenty-seven teams chose one of the three challenges: toothpick bridge engineering problem, a solar heater challenge or a 3-D printing challenge. Volunteers from other local industries rounded out the event.



## SPI Fundraising Gala

SPI Spectacular Science Setups



Gala in May 2015 raised \$12,000 for operating costs. Science research and science activities were on display, and Kenyon President Sean Decatur spoke about the importance of play and curiosity in scientific discovery.

of visitors over the years. With 5400 visits to SPI Spot Discovery Space in the past ten months and a permanent space on its way, we have fully implemented this part of our vision. Every year we have served an increasing number of people and have been asked to bring science play to more places.



The visitors to SPI Spot in 2015, who come during our regular operating hours, represent over 600 different families. The vast majority of visitors are from Knox County, but families from all over Ohio and as far away as China have visited our space. This population reflects the geography: the majority are from Mount Vernon, followed by Howard, Gambier, Fredericktown and the surrounding areas. About a quarter of these families include grandparents. Sixty percent of visiting families are yearly or monthly members, and most of the rest pay \$5 family daily admission. A small percentage of visitors pay reduced admission due to membership at COSI or The Works or receive free admission for other reasons. Of those daily admissions, about half were repeat visitors and half made their first visit to SPI Spot this year.

Our second and third goals for implementing our mission: *Take opportunities to explore science into venues beyond the space, and provide informal science education.*

SPI Spot Discovery Space visitors, have also taken part in supporting informal science activities such as Pi Day, Nano Days

during spring break, and weekly discovery activities. In addition, preschools, other groups, and almost all of Mount Vernon's third graders took field trips to SPI Spot in 2015. SPI activities are not limited to SPI Spot Discovery Space, and we have seen almost as many visitors to our activities at community venues as we have in the Discovery Space.

SPI hosted the Contraptions A-Z exhibit for six weeks in December 2014-January 2015 at the CA&C Depot, attracting 1,800 visitors. This traveling exhibit was our first success at informal education for all ages; adults and children alike were equally engaged. We plan to provide more opportunities for older audiences to take part in informal science education.



We also expanded informal education by using our Programming Space at 225 S. Main St. for

- Science Olympics Camp (Instructed by Girl Scouts)- July 2014
- Contraptions Camp- July 2014
- Weekly CSI (Cool Science Investigators) middle school after school science club. Fall 2014
- Lego Camp July 2014, 2015
- Android Code Camp July 2015
- Techbridge for girls (Instructed by Girl Scouts) Oct 2015

Currently we are pleased to host the Knox County 4-H STEM Robotics (KNOX BOTS) club in our Programming Space so children have a venue for Lego Robotics all year.

Additionally, we provide science activities geared for children and families at other venues. SPI has provided science play activities since July 2014 at:

- Hiawatha and Riverside Parks, weekly in the summer
- Summer Music in the Garden, monthly in the summer
- Family Farmers Market
- Ohiolina
- Salvation Army Carnival
- Columbia School After School Program (South Vernon United Methodist Church), weekly during the school year
- Head Start Family Night
- STEMfest (COTC)



- Earth Day Festival (KAC)
- Library Summer Reading Kickoff program at Gambier, Danville, Fredericktown and Mount Vernon
- Camp Invention (Twin Oak School)
- Nature Camp (two weeks) at the BFEC (Brown Family Environmental Center)
- Ariel-Foundation Park, weekly in the summer and July 4, KCH Family Fun Day ; Revolution Pi Concert
- The Salvation Army Summer Camp and Feeding program, weekly in the summer
- Knox County Fair Resource Zone
- BFEC Harvest Festival

Our fourth strategy was to *provide opportunities for volunteering*. We started out as an all-volunteer organization. Currently, we benefit from about 200 volunteer opportunities each year as well as the significant time given by our volunteer board, and we now have a volunteer application process. As our organization matures we are learning when and how best to use volunteers so both the volunteer and the organization benefit.

Our last goal has been addressed by teachers visiting our space and employing future teachers, and we expect to *provide opportunities for training future educators* that have a greater impact in the future by providing professional development workshops for teachers and intern opportunities for college students.

SPI has come a long way since its inception as an idea in the spring of 2011, and we continue to implement our mission of enhancing the Knox County community with science and play.

### *SPI Finances*

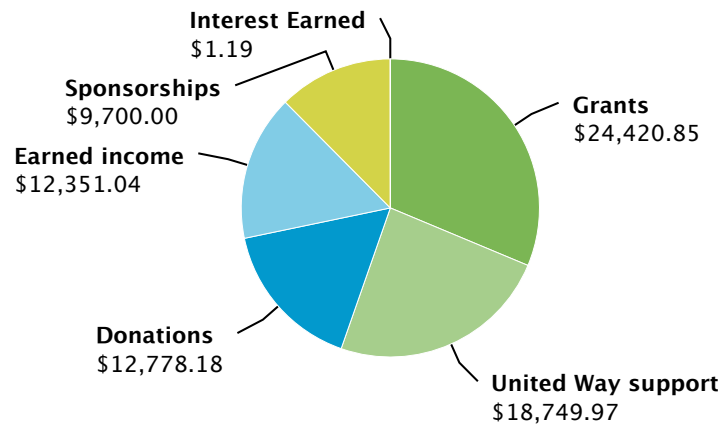
Implementing these programs and offering them either free or at subsidized rates required grants, sponsorships, donations, and fundraising events, as well as our new partnership with the United way that began investing in our programming in December 2014.

Treasurer's note covering our short fiscal year July 2014-Dec 2014:

*My name is Ashley Daniels, and I became the treasurer of SPI in July 2015. July 2014 was the first month of the short tax year to bring SPI Spot into its new calendar tax year beginning January 2015. During the July 2014 – December 2014 fiscal year, the gross income was \$48,238.60 and the net income was (\$4,288.68). Compared to the July 2013 – December 2013 amounts, income increased by \$14,788.20 and expenses increased by \$12,709.11. The increase in income was due to funding for hosting the Contraptions exhibit, and the main increases in expenses were Contraptions and increased payroll expenses.*

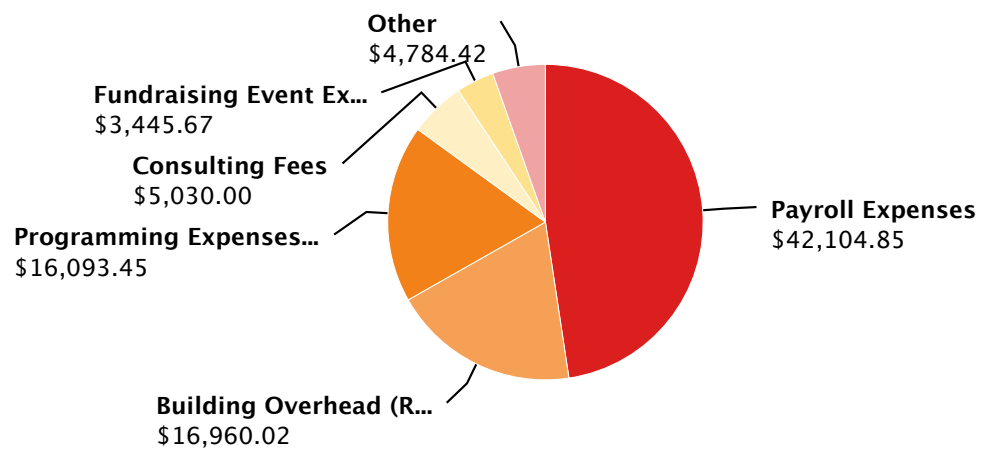
Financial data for the first ten months (January-October) of 2015 can be visualized below:

## SPI Spot Income By Category



%	Category	(\$) Amount
31.31%	Grants	24,420.85
24.04%	United Way support	18,749.97
16.38%	Donations	12,778.18
15.83%	Earned income	12,351.04
12.44%	Sponsorships	9,700.00
0.00%	Interest Earned	1.19

## SPI Spot Expense By Category



%	Category	(\$) Amount
47.62%	Payroll Expenses	42,104.85
19.18%	Building Overhead (Rent, Utilities, insurance, etc.)	16,960.02
18.20%	Programming Expenses/Supplies	16,093.45
5.69%	Consulting Fees	5,030.00
3.90%	Fundraising Event Expenses	3,445.67
5.41%	Other	4,784.42

*SPI Donors July 2014-October 2015**(Yearly memberships, grants, and event sponsorships are not included below)*

## \$1000+

Elizabeth Ring and Gwin Mather Fund  
 Meier Family Trust  
 Peters Creek Fund  
 Ken & Jan Reynolds  
 Karen Buchwald Wright & Tom Rastin

Elizabeth Mayo  
 B.E. Jr. & Heidi McCrory  
 Hewlet McFarlane & Andrea White  
 Carol Navin  
 Charles Otting & Miriam Dean-Otting

## \$500-999

Tom & Lori Beach  
 In Memory of Denita Jones  
 Frederick & Deborah Reeder  
 Jan Schild

Susan K. Pastor  
 Ramanadharao Pamulapati  
 The People's Bank  
 Susan Ramser  
 Larry & Sarah Reed

## \$250-499

The Energy Cooperative  
 John & Jane DeCosky  
 Jim & Mary Lou Imel  
 Kroger Community Rewards  
 Christopher Kuchers & Amy Murnen  
 Ohiolina  
 South Vernon United Methodist Church

Mary F. Rodstrom  
 Kurt & Sandy Schisler  
 Ted & Ann Schnormeier  
 Ruth Sinclair  
 Audrey Spearman  
 Jana Stewart  
 Ian & Charlotte Watson  
 Dave & Chris Widrig

## \$100-249

Anonymous  
 Clinton & Kelly Bailey  
 Duane Barber  
 Russell & Carolyn Batt  
 James & Maureen Buchwald  
 Keith & Kate Burley  
 Patty Burns & Wade Powell  
 Andrew & Colleen Clarkson  
 Richard & Susan Cunningham  
 Josh Ganz & Karen Hicks  
 Kathy & Chris Gillen  
 P.J. & Grey Glandon  
 Drs. Geoff Gregg & Debbie Shepherd-Gregg  
 Jennie Jacobson & Jim Huang  
 Timothy & Susan Kahrl  
 Kahrl & Co  
 Ann Laudeman  
 Richard Mavis

## \$0-99

Anonymous  
 AmazonSmile  
 Kathleen Fernando & Frank Peiris  
 J. Kenneth & Claudia J. Grove  
 Michael & Terri Hillier  
 John & Gwen Hollback  
 J.M. & Mary Ann Houghton  
 Linda & John Legros  
 Ben & Kay Locke  
 Ric & Ellen Sheffield  
 Joan Slonczewski  
 Linda Spurgeon  
 Linda Stanley  
 Marcie Steen  
 Martha Stuller

*Current SPI Board Members and Employees*

Board Officers	Board Members	Part Time Employees
Sarah Goslee Reed <i>Co-President</i>	Brian Ball	Rachel Garcia <i>Executive Director</i>
Andrea White <i>Co-President</i>	Duane Barber	Josh Ganz <i>Play-Space Manager</i>
Ruth Sinclair <i>Vice-President</i>	Colleen Clarkson	Jenny Cadoret
Ashley Daniels, <i>Treasurer</i>	Jason Hughes	Madelyn Strickling
Jessica Oler <i>Secretary</i>	Josh Kirby	LeAnne Tindall
	Ann Laudeman	
	Scott Patterson	
	Jan Schield	