

# SPI 2015

---

SPI: Where Science and Play Intersect

---

## Presidents' Message

SPI continues to grow tremendously, servicing more than 11,000 people in our space and throughout the community in 2015. If you haven't been to SPI Spot, you have probably seen us bring science activities to Ariel Foundation Park, Riverside Park, Hiawatha Park, the Brown Family Environmental Center, public library events, the Children's Garden, or on Main Street during First Fridays with our Imagination Playground. A great percentage of our interactions with the public occur at free events at or outside our home on South Main Street, which makes SPI an affordable experience for all of Knox County.

We have terrific employees who work well together. Their synergy in action can be seen in our dynamic Discovery Space as they develop new programs and activities, such as the current Antarctic learning theme, featuring penguin activities and the growing milk jug igloo that attracts children of all ages. Our current employees have painted and decorated our Programming Space, making it more inviting to host birthday parties and the Knox Bots 4-H club. Our solid volunteer base allows us to operate at many of the above mentioned outreach locations.

We are looking forward to our incredible new space in the Buckeye Candy Building and are working with designers and funders to bring the best Spot for science play to the Knox County community. While we are excited to be developing new and modern exploration play spaces in the renovated building, we are proud to be preserving significant historic aspects within the building. Our Observation Zone will feature the large in-floor produce scale, and the Discovery Lab at the front of the building will preserve the beautiful tile floor and expertly crafted wooden cabinetry in the former reception area. Our capital campaign has already begun, and we look forward to full support from the community to realize our vision.



Sarah Goslee Reed and Andrea White, co-presidents

# SPI 2015

## SPI: Where Science and Play Intersect

### SPI 2015 Annual Report

A retrospective: SPI began as an idea in the winter of 2011 and now can look back at five years of development from an idea into an organization that operates SPI SPOT Discovery Space, and leads numerous enriching outreach activities in our community.

### 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.



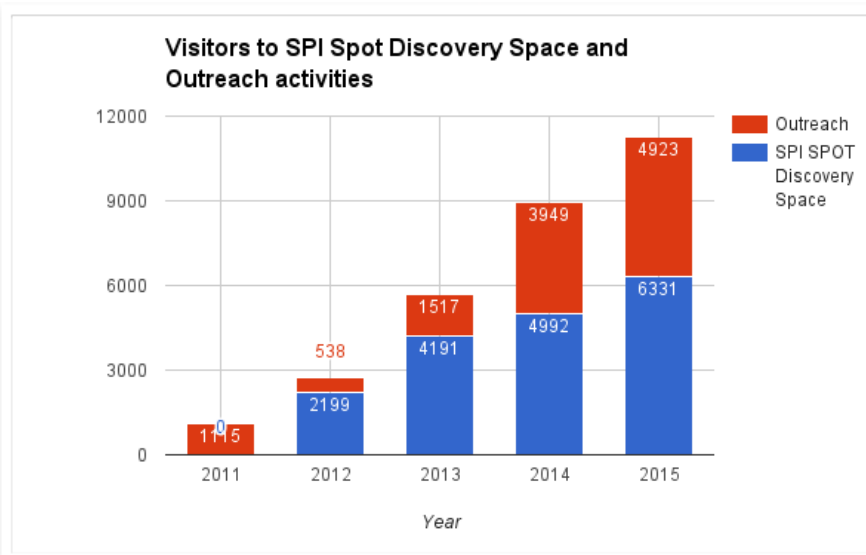
## SPI Fundraising Gala

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 over 6,000 visits to SPI Spot Discovery Space in the past year 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 500 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. First Fridays, Second Saturdays and other free events at SPI Spot account for 30% of visits, making our space accessible to the whole community regardless of financial circumstance.



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 began 2015 in the middle of hosting 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

- Lego Camp July 2015
- Android Code Camp July 2015
- Techbridge for girls (Instructed by Girl Scouts) Oct 2015
- Hosting 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 in 2015 at:

- Hiawatha, Riverside, and Ariel-Foundation Parks, weekly in the summer
- Summer Music in the Garden, monthly in the summer
- Family Farmers Market
- Ohiolina
- 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.

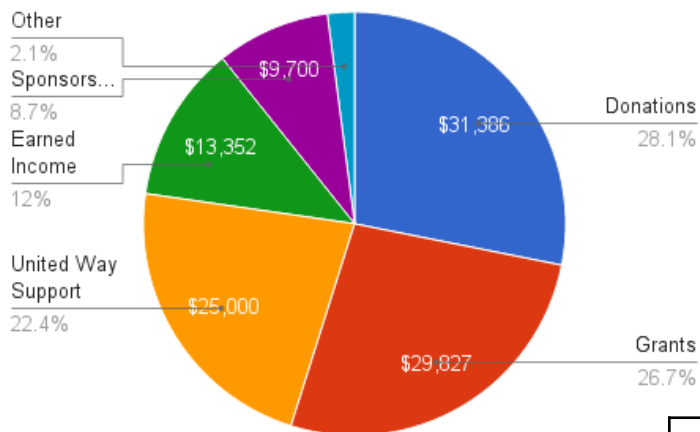
SPI has come a long way since its inception as an idea in the spring of 2011, and we continue to implement our mission of enhancing the Knox County community with science and play.

### *SPI Finances*

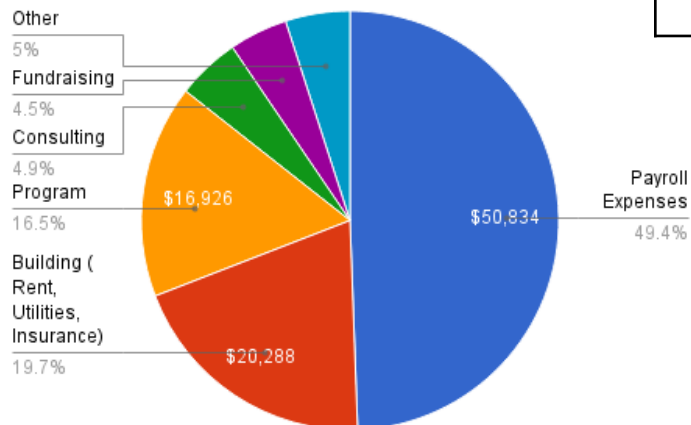
Implementing these programs and offering them either free or at subsidized rates required grants, sponsorships, donations, and fundraising events, as well as our new partnership with the United Way that began investing in our programming in December 2014.

Financial data for 2015 can be visualized on the next page:



**Income**

| 2015 Income |                    |             |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Percent (%) | Category           | (\$) Amount |
| 28%         | Donations          | \$31,386    |
| 27%         | Grants             | \$29,827    |
| 22%         | United Way Support | \$25,000    |
| 12%         | Earned Income      | \$13,352    |
| 9%          | Sponsorships       | \$9,700     |
| 2%          | Capital Campaign   | \$2,301     |

**Expenses**

| 2015 Expenses |                                       |             |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Percent (%)   | Category                              | (\$) Amount |
| 49%           | Payroll Expenses                      | \$50,834    |
| 20%           | Building (Rent, Utilities, Insurance) | \$20,288    |
| 16%           | Program                               | \$16,926    |
| 5%            | Consulting                            | \$5,030     |
| 5%            | Fundraising                           | \$4,659     |
| 5%            | Other                                 | \$5,140     |

| <b>SPI Spot</b><br><b>Profit and Loss Summary</b><br><b>January - December 2015</b>                            |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
|  | Total                    |
| <b>Income</b>  |                          |
| Buckeye Building Capital Campaign  | <b>\$2,300.00</b>        |
| Donations  | <b>\$31,386.38</b>       |
| Total Earned income (Admission/membership, program/camp fees; invited outreach program fees, birthday parties) | <b>\$13,532.29</b>       |
| Grants   | <b>\$29,827.10</b>       |
| Total Sponsorships   | <b>\$9,700.00</b>        |
| United Way support   | <b>\$25,000.00</b>       |
| <b>Total Income</b>  | <b>\$111,745.77</b>      |
| <b>Gross Profit</b>  | <b>\$111,745.77</b>      |
| <b>Expenses</b>  |                          |
| Bank Charges   | <b>\$59.25</b>           |
| Total Building Overhead (rent, utilities, insurance, etc.)   | <b>\$20,288.39</b>       |
| Total Business Costs (employees, accounting, office)   | <b>\$2,206.72</b>        |
| Architectural/Design Consulting Fee  | <b>\$5,030.00</b>        |
| Total Fundraising Expenses   | <b>\$4,659.34</b>        |
| Total Marketing/Publicity  | <b>\$1,677.64</b>        |
| Membership Dues (HCA, Chamber of Commerce)   | <b>\$200.00</b>          |
| Total Payroll Expenses   | <b>\$50,833.85</b>       |
| Professional development   | <b>\$1,011.25</b>        |
| <i>Programming Expenses/Supplies</i>   | <i>\$553.03</i>          |
| <i>Discovery Space</i>   | <i>\$2,817.65</i>        |
| <i>Scholarships for Camp Invention</i>   | <i>\$140.00</i>          |
| <i>Science in the Community</i>  | <i>\$9,912.71</i>        |
| <i>STEM Enrichment</i>   | <i><u>\$3,502.76</u></i> |
| Total Programming Expenses/Supplies  | <b>\$16,926.15</b>       |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>  | <b>\$102,892.59</b>      |
| <b>Net Operating Income</b>  | <b>\$8,853.18</b>        |



*December 2015 SPI Board Members and Employees*

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

*SPI Donors 2015\**

## \$1000+

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

## \$500-999

Anonymous  
 Tom & Lori Beach  
 Sean Decatur and Renee Romano  
 In Memory of Denita Jones  
 Frederick & Deborah Reeder  
 Larry & Sarah Goslee Reed  
 Steve Short

## \$250-499

The Energy Cooperative  
 John & Jane DeCosky  
 Sandra Hughes  
 Jim & Mary Lou Imel  
 Denise Kramer  
 Kroger Community Rewards  
 Christopher Kuchers & Amy Murnen  
 Ohiolina  
 South Vernon United Methodist Church  
 Ian & Charlotte Watson

## \$100-249

Anonymous  
 Clinton & Kelly Bailey  
 Duane Barber  
 Russell & Carolyn Batt  
 James & Maureen Buchwald  
 Keith & Kate Burley  
 Meghan Burley-Durbin  
 Patty Burns & Wade Powell  
 Janet Chandler  
 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

## Kenyon College Psychology Club

Ann Laudeman  
 Ben & Kay Locke  
 Richard Mavis  
 Elizabeth Mayo  
 B.E. Jr. & Heidi McCrory  
 Hewlet McFarlane & Andrea White  
 Steve & Jeanne Mullendore  
 Amy Murnen  
 Carol Navin  
 Charles Otting & Miriam Dean-Otting  
 Susan K. Pastor  
 Ramanadharao & Meeribai Pamulapati  
 The People's Bank  
 Susan Ramser  
 Mary F. Rodstrom  
 Marthalee Schaub  
 Kurt & Sandy Schisler  
 Ted & Ann Schnormeier  
 Ruth Sinclair  
 Audrey Spearman  
 Jana Stewart  
 Paula Turner  
 Dave & Chris Widrig

## \$0-99

Anonymous  
 AmazonSmile  
 Joel & Sally Daniels  
 Kathleen Fernando & Frank Peiris  
 Alysse & Morgan Giles  
 J. Kenneth & Claudia J. Grove  
 Phillip and Dina Herald  
 Michael & Terri Hillier  
 John & Gwen Hollback  
 J.M. & Mary Ann Houghton  
 Linda & John Legros  
 Charles and Josephine Rice  
 Jack Scott  
 Ric & Ellen Sheffield  
 Joan Slonczewski  
 Linda Spurgeon  
 Linda Stanley  
 Marcie Steen  
 Martha Stuller

*\*(Yearly family memberships, operating/programming grants, United Way support and event sponsorships are not recognized in the list above)*

## Summer Music Garden Concerts 2015

[www.summermusicgarden.com](http://www.summermusicgarden.com)

The third season of the Summer Music Garden Concerts took place on **June 21, July 12 and August 9**. The first concert was moved to Ariel Foundation Park in the First Knox Pavilion due to threatening weather, and the second two were in the Children's Garden at the Knox County Career Center. All three were well attended, although the first one had fewer attendees than in the past, due to timing and location. Although the pavilion provides cover from rain, it can be very windy and is not an ideal place for our purposes, so in the future we hope to use the Clock House as a rain location.

The sponsorship by the Ariel Foundation, the Community Foundation and Knox Community Hospital was greatly appreciated and helped publicize the event as well as provide payment to the performers. The goal of the concerts is to encourage everyone to be outside, experience the wonders of nature, socialize with friends and meet new people - all while listening to live music. In addition, it allows SPI to meet its mission of bringing science to the public.

**June 21 - The Rain Crows** returned to the stage with their creative original songs and were a "natural" choice for this garden setting. Julie Zickefoose and Bill Thompson, Wendy Clark, Craig Gibbs, John Borchard and Skip Trask kept everyone entertained. SPI provided small sail boats for building and decorating, and there were lots of puddles for floating due to the recent rainfall



**July 12 - Linda Dachtyl Quartet** delighted everyone with their special blend of jazz on the Hammond B3 organ, accompanied by Cary Dachtyl, Mark Donovan and Dan Hales. SPI helped kids make fizzy bath bombs - a big hit with the band as well!

**August 9 - Elixir** - Chris Petee, Mike Petee and Gerry Rensel - performed their unique version of music of the 1800's to a big crowd, and SPI provided small flower pots, beads and twine which the children fashioned into bells.



All concerts were free, and lasted from 4-6 pm. The first concert had 50 people and a dozen children; the other two had about 60-75 people and 25-30 children at each concert. The 2016 season is planned for June 26, July 24 and August 21.

