

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



SACRED  FIRE

DEAR FRIENDS OF SACRED FIRE

Thanks to your generosity, Sacred Fire is supporting people looking for a different way to live – a way that is led by the heart and connected to divine and to the natural world. We know that the world is speaking to us: the pandemic is an opportunity to look deeply at how we want to live and what we need for a fulfilling life. In a very real way, the divine world is asking each of us to bring our unique gifts forward. But how? That is the missing link for much of our culture. World events in 2020 have brought us to these questions in a way that nothing else could. Is this the way to live? Are we connected to each other? To spirit? To the natural world that provides us with everything we need to live?

Finding a way forward together and answering these profound questions is the work of Sacred Fire. We are helping people connect to their hearts and to the ancient wisdom of those who came before us.

The mission of Sacred Fire is to help people expand and enrich their lives and relationships through the connective and transformative spirit of Fire by providing a doorway to healing, growth, and learning for themselves, their families, and their communities.

It is a challenging time for all people. Together we can make our way through these difficulties and create a more meaningful and balanced world. Imagine a world where fire pavilions exist in towns everywhere and offer a sacred space to work out differences; a world where people once again feel and understand their essential place in the web of life and a deep connection to nature; a world where timeless wisdom guides us through the stages of our lives and each generation helps the next. We know this world is possible with your help and involvement. We intend to bring it about—one Community Fire and one Lifeways Program at a time—always guided by the sacred and timeless wisdom of the spirit of Fire itself.

We are offering something that the world wants and we are confident in the value that we bring to the world. All of your donations, volunteering, and prayers of support are helping us expand this heart-centered vision.

The following report is a brief summary of our accomplishments in 2020. Despite the impact of the pandemic on our in-person programming, we were able to create virtual opportunities to maintain our connection to each other and to continue to learn and to grow. Your support and donations are contributing to the success of Sacred Fire's mission. Please continue to support our mission with your time, talent, donations, invitations to others to participate—and as always—with your prayers.



Larry Messeman
Executive Director
Sacred Fire





Our vision is of a world where people from all walks of life regularly gather to connect, heal, work through conflicts, and renew their sense of purpose. In this world, people move through life's cycles with courage, dignity, and learning, giving birth to deep wisdom as they age.

Registered in the United States as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community service organization, Sacred Fire provides programs engaging people across seven countries to connect with community and awaken healing insight into their lives and their relationships with each other and the divine natural world.

We are completely funded by contributions and program registrations and are deeply grateful to all of the individuals and foundations who have made generous donations that allow our work to continue helping more people.

We have spent the majority of our resources on finding new ways to bring people the transformation and joy that come from living a heart-centered life. The work of our Outreach and Communications team is paying off with the *Ignite!* E-zine and our Bringing Fire to the People campaign. The result has been 2,000 more individuals engaging with our organization and our mission. We also offered two Wisdom Webinars with Don David Wiley that were attended by nearly 1,000 people—of which 41% were new. All of our program areas showed growth in 2020!



"I grew up going to sacred fires in Tepoztlán along with other young people from my generation. At the time, I thought the fires offered us a very special way to connect to others—new and old, different ages, different generations. Over time however, I realized the biggest impact the fires have blessed me with is the valuable tools that still help me in my day-to-day life a decade later. To put it simply: Remembering to listen to my heart and not believe everything that my mind has to say."

Anonymous, Tepoztlán, Morelos, MX



OUR PROGRAMS

Fire Speaks



Fire Speaks events are our most precious offering. They allow people to connect directly with the divine presence of Fire in an intimate format where questions are asked and answered, sacred stories may be told, and teachings on a heart-centered life are offered. Despite pandemic restrictions, we were able to collaborate with local firekeepers and their communities to put on six Fire Speaks events with Covid-19 protocols in place. Nearly 25% of participants were attending a Fire Speaks event for the first time!

LifeWays and LifeCycle Living



LifeWays programs help people benefit from the unique gifts available from each stage of life, and in turn enrich their families and communities as they develop and grow. Once the pandemic hit, LifeWays quickly shifted to producing highly successful, online programs. This included the launch of our Living with the Cycles of Life four-part webinar series in the U.S., Australia and England as well as a Conflict for Couples webinar and a Men's LifeWork three-part seminar series with participants from Australia, Canada, Mexico, Ireland, the U.K. and the U.S.

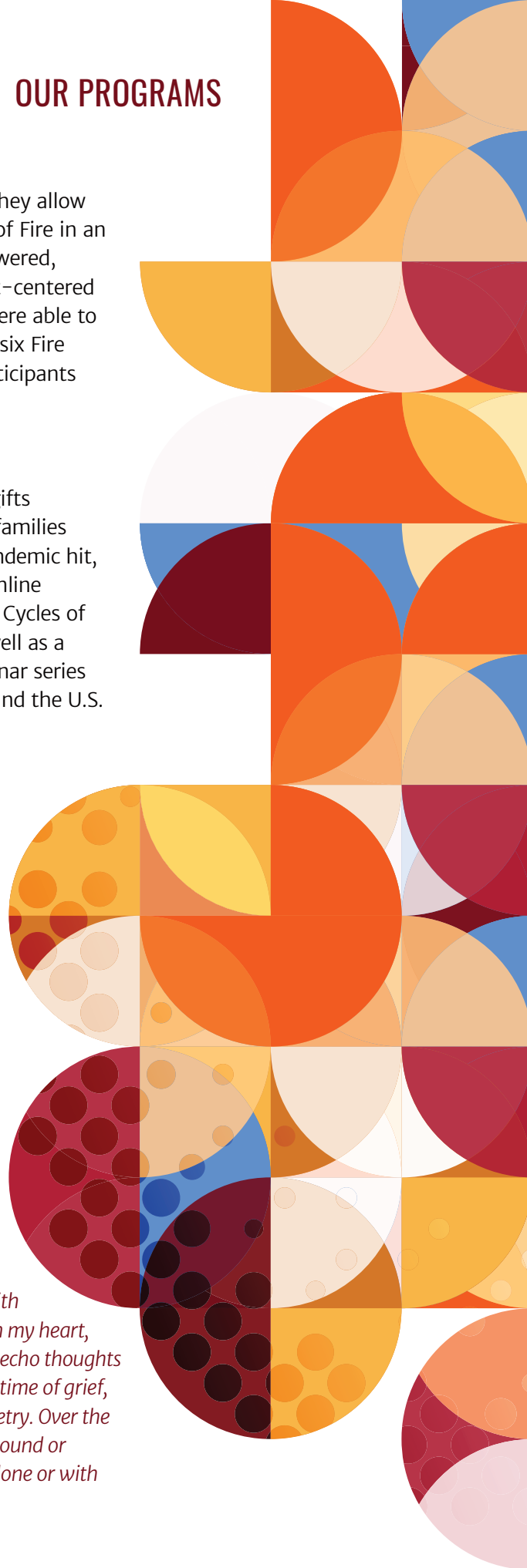
Community Fires and Firekeeping



Our Community Fires have acquired heightened importance at a time when people are feeling even more socially isolated because of the Covid-19 pandemic. With the arrival of the virus, nearly all of our Firekeepers had to quickly reorient themselves to providing online gatherings via Zoom. While most have moved back to offering in-person gatherings of limited size, some persist with online virtual fires where local health regulations continue to prohibit in-person gatherings. This includes much of the UK and Australia, along with some parts of the U.S. A successful outreach campaign to recruit new Firekeepers resulted in 19 people expressing interest in this important work. At this challenging time, Sacred Fire organized monthly webinars for Firekeepers to help them stay connected to each other and continue their urgent task of hosting community fires. Currently 64 Firekeepers are hosting monthly fires in 48 locations.

"The Community Fires are deeply grounding and connecting. When I am with the Fire I find myself, without any effort, going inward to a deeper place in my heart, where distance is no barrier to communication. The people round the Fire echo thoughts I have forgotten to vocalise or even forgotten to think! The Fire can hold a time of grief, sharing a language of sorrow, or they can be full of song, laughter and poetry. Over the years they have varied from mainly families with little children running around or immersed in stories or themselves telling jokes to mostly people coming alone or with an adult friend. Everyone is always welcome and feels it."

Jocelyn Jones, Brighton, East Sussex, UK



YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

Expenses 2020

Lifeways	\$48,076	28%
Fire Speaks	\$41,456	25%
Firekeeping	\$52,008	31%
Administration	\$26,198	16%
TOTAL	\$167,738	

Revenue 2020

Donations	\$131,037	85%
Earned Revenue	\$23,404	15%
TOTAL	\$154,441	

The work of the Blue Deer Center, the Sacred Fire Foundation and Sacred Fire brings ancient wisdom to modern times, supports indigenous wisdom, and brings about a better way of living for all people. I've experienced the beauty, richness, healing and personal growth that come with being vulnerable – not only with others, but with myself. Sitting around the fire in community with others, being witnessed, held, supported, and seen is the safest I have ever felt. I appreciate everyone I've ever sat around a fire with and I am especially grateful for the precious relationships that have developed through the Sacred Fire community.

Britt, Utah, US





LAWRENCE I. MESSERMAN, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
(720) 262-9181
LARRY@SACREDFIRE.ORG

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SACREDFIRECOMMUNITY

WWW.SACREDFIRE.ORG