



# A Gift of Real Impact Help Us Save the Great Lakes

Huron Pines is leading the way to address climate challenges across the region.

October 23, 2023

Dear friend,

Never underestimate the power of an origin story. I recently caught up with a former Huron Pines AmeriCorps member, whose passion and purpose **speaks to our vision for community-driven conservation**, and where we're headed in the 50 years to come.



For Maddie Khuri, it was never just one single thing. She always wanted to know more about the world, and from early on had a deep love for wildlife. Maddie's Huron Pines AmeriCorps service with the U.S. Forest Service in Mio, Michigan was a great fit. After college in Alabama and Peace Corps service in Zambia, Maddie worked to bring communities and people closer to the Kirtland's Warbler and their unique habitat through community education and outreach. This helped to solidify Maddie's passion for community, conservation and teaching.

"The unique service opportunities with Huron Pines AmeriCorps were the key to my being more connected to a place here in Northern Michigan than anywhere else in my life," Khuri reflects on her time and how it has impacted her current work as Huron Pines' Community Education Project Manager. The volunteers Maddie works with through our Community Education programs are making a direct impact on wildlife habitat and quality of life in small communities across our region.

Very few initiatives can impact a region like this effort.

**Empowering people to protect nature drives our vision for community-driven conservation.**

Once people see themselves as agents of change, they are encouraged to find solutions. Maddie's experience and leadership are bringing people together to experience nature on our preserves, along a river and in their hometowns and backyards.

Conservation is for everyone, and we need your help now. None of this urgent work can happen without you:

**1. Preserving natural resources and building community leaders.**

AmeriCorps leaders like Maddie know that protecting natural lands, habitat health and water quality is urgent. By engaging volunteers of all ages and abilities in meaningful acts of conservation, they make conservation accessible to everyone. Your support helps our AmeriCorps program create future leaders and innovators in community conservation.





**2. Taking action in coastal communities to ensure the long-term health of Lake Huron, forever.**

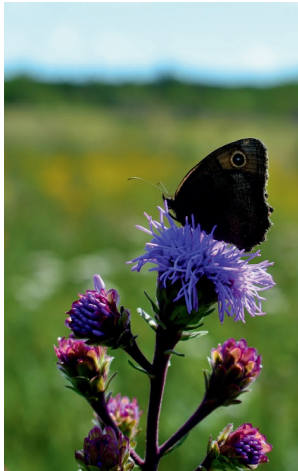
Working with city and state partners, we're bringing infrastructure improvements that will help increase water quality to many coastal towns and areas, including Rogers City. Along with improving tree canopy coverage for water quality, we're assisting Rogers City with a road project that will result in two new bioretention areas along major thoroughfares to reduce runoff and collect over 150,000 gallons of runoff (full of salt, sediment, oils and fertilizer) that would otherwise pollute nearby Lake Huron.



**3. Saving and stewarding land in priority watersheds now.**

Help us protect and preserve the character of wild places by volunteering time and resources to this effort. Together, we can expand our restoration impact and make new acquisitions around Northeast Michigan, such as along the AuSable River and connecting wildlife habitat corridors in the Pigeon River Country State Forest.

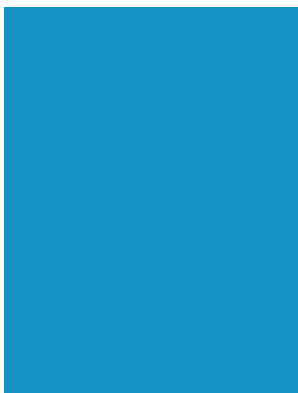
Our origin story began with the realization that we have to act today, because the future isn't a given.



**In celebration of 50 years at Huron Pines, it is our goal to raise \$1,000,000 to protect the Great Lakes.** With \$616,000 raised so far, you can help us move this needle. **This is not just a campaign, but a movement to build the resources needed to address evolving threats head-on and make solutions possible for the next 50 years to come.**

**Your gift, no matter the size, helps us protect fragile spaces and deepen engagement in our call to action.**

As a Huron Pines donor, you value healthy water, protected places and vibrant communities. Please join this movement by making a gift today to our Community-Driven Conservation Campaign. Visit our website to donate, volunteer or plan a visit to our protected places.



With gratitude,

*Brad Jensen*

Brad Jensen  
Executive Director

P.S. Please make a gift to the Community-Driven Conservation Campaign your priority for year-end giving; help us take the leap to make our next 50 years stronger than ever.

