Friends of Saguaro thanks all the members of our Board of Directors and our Advisory Board for their service during the past year.

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- **Fred Stula** (Executive Director)
  Friends of Saguaro National Park
Dear Friends,

Friends of Saguaro was founded in 1996 and has raised over $6 million to: protect wildlife and habitat, preserve cultural resources, promote environmental education, improve recreational trails, enhance visitor experiences and build environmental stewardship at Saguaro National Park. Our founder’s vision in establishing this organization was simple, they, like all of us, love Saguaro National Park and want to help others; Discover Saguaro- by reconnecting youth to nature, and encouraging the exploration and discovery of the resources, heritage and recreational opportunities at the Park, Protect Saguaro- by assisting the preservation and conservation of the natural and cultural resources of the Park, and sustaining its wilderness character, and Support Saguaro- by strengthening community partnerships, and building environmental stewardship through philanthropy, public education and volunteerism.

In 2018, Saguaro National Park had over 957,000 visitors. Those visitors supported 866 local jobs and had a cumulative benefit to our local economy of about $90 million.

2018 was a very successful year for Friends of Saguaro. Our metrics of success are straightforward and direct: donors engaged, money raised, partnerships sustained, and volunteers involved.

Donors Engaged- Friends received donations from 125 new donors and added 175 new names to our monthly e-newsletter and quarterly Saguaro Rib Newsletter. 280 guests attended our Annual Friendship Dinner and Auction and we gained 500 new followers on social media.

Money Raised- Friends raised $654,351 from all sources and provided the Park with $435,656 in project specific grants (page 3). This success was accomplished while remaining transparent and accountable to our stakeholders and general public. We maintained a balanced operating budget, prudent operating reserve and continued to devote more than 85% of our total expenditures to programs, rather than fundraising or overhead costs.

Partnerships Sustained- Friends strengthened collaborative partnerships with; Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection, National Parks Traveler, Find Your Park Campaign with the National Park Foundation, Public Lands Alliance, National Parks Conservation Association, Sky Island Alliance, Ironwood Tree Experience and National Parks Second Century Coalition. Additionally, we have created and revitalized partnerships with the University of Arizona, Citizens for Picture Rocks, Saguaro Horseman Association, Southern Arizona Roadrunners and many more.

Volunteers Involved- Friends helped connect 736 volunteers to Saguaro National Park who completed 33,000 hours of service. Time and talent valued by Independent Sector at over $800,000. These volunteers provided critical support to park staff across all divisions. They assisted with interpretive and environmental education programs, helped out in visitor centers, removed invasive buffelgrass, worked as citizen scientists to assist in field research and helped maintain park facilities and trails.

Our success would not have been possible without the dedicated support of our donors, corporate partners, volunteers and board of directors. We’re grateful for your passion and commitment to support this beautiful park.

Thank you,

Fred Stula
Executive Director
2018 Financial Summary

Revenues

- Unrestricted Gifts / Donations (37%) $239,470
- Restricted Gifts / Grants (63%) $414,881
- TOTAL REVENUES $654,351

Expenses

- Operations Expense Subtotal (26%) $150,854
- Payroll (11%) $62,838
- Payroll Taxes (1%) $5,460
- Health Insurance (1%) $3,658
- Retirement/Tuition Reimbursement (1%) $5,000
- Expenses for Annual Dinner (6%) $32,756
- Printing (1%) $6,117
- Office Rent (1%) $3,000
- Accounting/Professional Services (1%) $5,957
- Newsletter (1%) $5,117
- Phone/Computer/Internet (<1%) $2,703
- Liability Insurance/D&O Policy (<1%) $1,558
- Office Equipment & Supplies (<1%) $1,735
- Postage (<1%) $1,893
- Board & Staff Expenses (<1%) $1,174
- Events (<1%) $784
- Property Taxes / Depreciation (<1%) $2
- Bank / Credit Card Fees (1%) $5,339
- Dues/Memberships/Donations (<1%) $600
- FOSNP Capacity-Building Expenses (1%) $5,163
- Direct Program Grants to the Park (74%) $435,656
- TOTAL EXPENSES $586,510

Fiscal Transparency & Accountability—At Friends of Saguaro, we continue to work hard to earn your trust by being careful stewards of your gifts. Our complete audited financials and IRS 990 Form are posted on our website and we’ve maintained our status with the leading nonprofit transparency and accountability organizations.
$363,515 for the innovative Next Generation Ranger Corps internship program- Friends established this program in January 2015, designing it to enable young people to discover Saguaro National Park and its different operational divisions, by providing them with a supportive, engaging and educational working opportunity at the park. The program has employed 70 diverse interns who receive targeted training, mentoring and work experiences. All of the graduates have gone on to work in the environmental field, 20 currently work for federal land management agencies and 12 work here at Saguaro. 70% of the interns were women, 48% were from underserved communities and 72% worked at least 640 hours, qualifying them for the “Public Land Corps” hiring authority.

This program has expanded the parks capacity to complete research, maintain trails, deliver environmental education programs and provide the nearly 1 million annual park visitors with a first class experience. This paid internship is helping local youth develop the skills and experiences required to actively compete for positions at Saguaro National Park and other federal land management agencies. The NextGen program is the beginning of a lifetime of involvement, advocacy, and support for national parks, public lands and the environment.

$16,500 for high elevation natural and cultural resource surveys at the park- Friends supported the second year of the first-ever inventory at 7,000 - 8,700 ft. in the wilderness area of the Rincon Mountains. The results have been truly amazing and resulted in the discovery of; 20 springs, 17 native plants that have never been documented in the park, 8 plants that haven’t been seen in the park in over 100 years, 6 prehistoric archaeological sites including a large cave and 3 historic cabin foundations.

$10,372 for School Transportation- Friends provided school transportation reimbursements for all local schools and hiking clubs. This funding allowed over 15,000 youth from southern Arizona to visit the Park and participate in hands-on, placed-based, Environmental Education programs.

$9,085 for Teacher Rangers- Friends provided funding for 8 Education Rangers who engaged underserved schools with the park. They organize and lead group of students on hikes and provide interpretive talks.
$7,500 for a new Pack Mule-
Trail work in the remote congressionally designated wilderness areas of the Park is often completed with the use of pack mules (to haul equipment and supplies) and Friends support enabled the Park to purchase a new lead riding mule, “Red.”

$4,000 for the Saguaro Blooms Project- Funds from the Adopt-a-Saguaro revenue helped to complete research and photographic evidence of the circular blooming patterns of saguaro cacti.

$3,258 for Community Engagement Events- Friends supported the park’s community outreach and engagement initiatives which allowed the park to participate in popular community events such as; the Tucson Festival of Books, Rodeo Parade, Holiday Parade of Lights and hold several special events at the park. The park was able to connect with over 50,000 individuals with this funding.

$2,440 for the Park’s Volunteer Picnic- Friends supported the Park’s annual volunteer picnic to recognize, thank and celebrate the volunteer achievements.

$2,000 for First Aid Supplies- Friends provided funds for the park to purchase required first-aid supplies for law enforcement rangers, who serve as first-responders at and around the park.

$1,630 for Youth Hiking Clubs- Friends supported the Park’s 8 youth hiking clubs. Each club has 10-15 students from underserved schools and is led by an Education Ranger who organizes monthly hikes and bi-annual camps at the park where the students learn lifetime fitness skills as they hike in the park.

$1,608 for the National Park Challenge Coins- Friends purchased the coins that are given by supervisors as a “thank you” to park staff that have excelled at their duties.

$747 for the Diamond Junior Ranger Program- Friends provided funds to allow the park to bring a modified version of the Junior Ranger Program to children who are patients at Banner Diamond Children’s Hospital. It provides the children with activity books, crayons and a small stuffed animal to take back to their rooms.
Friends of Saguaro National Park acknowledges its donors throughout the year in the Saguaro Rib newsletter, as well as in our Annual Report and on our website (www.friendsofsaguaro.org). We greatly appreciate the generosity of these individual donors during the past year, and we apologize for any errors or omissions.

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Donations of $5,000 or More

National Park Foundation

Southern Arizona Roadrunners

Southwest Gas Corporation

The Bess Spiva Timmons Foundation

Tucson Electric Power

Donations of $1,000 to $5,000

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