



HONEYBEE FUND – 2015 SUMMARY

I am delighted to present the annual report for our Honeybee Fund. As you may recall, this fund was created four years ago with the goal of providing philanthropic support to organizations that are connected with and contributing to our own thinking (and doing). So far this has proven a wonderful vehicle for the Honeybee “pollination model”: the majority of Honeybee profits are dedicated to this fund, which then supports endeavors that are aligned with our key philosophical and investment themes. So, your support of Honeybee has positive leverage: it directly impacts our own work, while also having a ripple effect out in the broader world... which then inspires and assists us all the more. A wonderful cycle!

Thanks to Honeybee’s thriving business, our giving this year is UP more than 50% from last year’s level, and is now well into six figures. We look forward to continuing this trend!

THANK YOU for your support, which has enabled this terrific gift-based pollination.

THEMATIC SUMMARY:

As you might deduce from the list of organizations, there are several categories of focus for the Honeybee Fund to date:

- **Creative thinking** – putting creative and energetic thought to giant complex issues.
- **Slower, more direct, more local investing** – yes, I said slower. Organizations that are reconnecting investment with the actual world, and the pace thereof. Models for investing in local communities, including local food systems and education. Less synthetic, more connected.
- **Investing in women and girls** – take infinite potential + an under-invested opportunity set and you have an investor’s dream come true. Huge ROI.

These categories in turn correspond to some of Honeybee’s key research themes, which will be familiar to most readers:

- **(RE)CONNECTION:** Connecting ideas amongst varied fields - creative, independent thought! We believe this is what leads to optimal long-term decision-making.
- **(RE)INVESTMENT:** Reconnecting investing to the real world. True investing (as opposed to trading or speculation) is inherently a connected activity, intertwined with the real world, and of benefit to that same real world - not confined to the world of bits and bytes on the screen.
- **(RE)GENERATION:** Fostering new models. Different approaches – philosophical, intellectual, and operational – that help to re-align investing with its original purpose: service to our communities and our planet.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SUPPORTED ORGANIZATIONS:

(RE)THINKING:

- **SANTA FE INSTITUTE** <http://www.santafe.edu> *Most of you already know how much I love learning from the folks at SFI, an oasis of creative, interdisciplinary work on complex adaptive systems. I'm honored to be on their board, and look forward to many more SFI lessons in the future.*
- **HARVARD DIVINITY SCHOOL** <http://hds.harvard.edu> *The biggest revelation from my time at HDS was how immediately pertinent all of my studies were to the practice of investing. Our giving at HDS is focused on increasing ties between the Divinity School and the Business School, with the hope that these two areas of excellence will be more and more intertwined in the future.*
- **CRITERION INSTITUTE** <http://criterioninstitute.org> *We have benefitted especially from Criterion's leadership in systems thinking and their (re)Value Gender initiative... and their 1k Churches project is pretty amazing too.*
- **POP TECH INSTITUTE** <http://poptech.org> *As you've read many times in our pages, PopTech provides connection to an amazing breadth of artistic, scientific, and applied creativity through its conferences and programs. We love the smallish scale as well, which allows for more personal connections.*
- **OMEGA INSTITUTE** <http://www.eomega.org> *Omega is a terrific resource, and I am a particular fan of the work of their Women's Leadership Center, and Sustainable Living Center. They are focused on innovation and leadership in all sorts of ways – the kind of leadership that starts from within.*
- **NEW ENGLAND COMPLEX SYSTEMS INSTITUTE** <http://www.necsi.edu> *This innovative complex systems research group focuses on the intersection of "science and society"- such as their great work linking speculation in agricultural commodities to social unrest.*
- **MARION INSTITUTE** <http://www.marioninstitute.org> *The Marion Institute is a constantly evolving organization, an incubator for programs and projects that get to "root cause solutions". I deeply admire their commitment to thoughtful, inclusive, creative action.*
- **LONG NOW FOUNDATION** <http://longnow.org> *Long Now orients our thinking towards the long term – the REALLY long term. Their clock is set for thousands of years, not days or quarters... this automatically leads to differentiated insights. They are also trying to Jurassic-Park the woolly mammoth, but that's a story for another day.*
- **SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE/DONELLA MEADOWS INSTITUTE** <http://donellameadows.org> *Mission: "to bring economic, social and environmental systems into closer harmony with the realities of a finite planet and a globally powerful human race by using the disciplines of systems thinking, system dynamics, and collaborative learning." Let's do that.*

- **CAPITAL INSITUTE** <http://capitalinstitute.org> *The Capital Institute is devoted to creating the Regenerative Economy, linking thought and action in a profound way. Their Regenerative Capitalism white papers are highly recommended reading for all Honeybees.*
- **ED-X** <http://edx.org> *It is no surprise that we're big fans of any endeavor that spreads high quality thinking and learning to a broader audience. "Free education for everyone."*

(RE)INVESTMENT:

- **ACUMEN** <http://acumen.org> *I've learned tremendously from Acumen's work and their investment in companies, leaders, and ideas that are improving lives worldwide. "Standing with the poor... creating hope in a cynical world."*
- **WOMEN'S WORLD BANKING** <http://womensworldbanking.org> *A global network of organizations that provide financial products for low-income women. "A woman who controls her own finances controls her own future."*
- **SLOW MONEY INC** <http://slowmoney.org> *Soil first! The Slow Money movement seeks to redirect attention and investment to our local communities, specifically our local food systems.*
- **SAVORY INSTITUTE** <http://savoryinstitute.org> *Healing the land, empowering others, removing barriers to effective land management. See founder Alan Savory's TED talk for more detail on holistic land management: <http://go.ted.com/zHa>*
- **ROOT CAPITAL** <http://rootcapital.org> *Finance and farming. Lending, training, connecting. Thriving markets, thriving farmers, thriving communities. Dig it.*
- **BUSINESS ALLIANCE FOR LOCAL LIVING ECONOMIES** <http://bealocalist.org> *You've heard of shop local, or eat local, but how 'bout full-fledged local living? How 'bout supporting the broad, deep systems that are needed for local economies to really thrive? That's what BALLE does.*
- **WOMEN EFFECT** <http://womeneffect.com> *This group helps to connect the dots for who are interested in investing in women and girls in a strategic way. Though the work has been ongoing for quite some time, Women Effect is early-on in its life as a formal organization. This endeavor is led by Suzanne Biegel and their fiscal sponsor is Criterion Institute.*

(RE)GENERATION:

- **BIOMIMICRY INSTITUTE** <http://biomimicry.org> *By now you all know of my passion for biomimicry; the Institute is the nonprofit arm that promotes the transfer and use of these ideas in the world. See the super-cool examples at the <http://asknature.org> site for just one example of how this is done.*

- **BIONEERS (COLLECTIVE HERITAGE INSTITUTE)** <http://bioneers.org> *“Breakthrough solutions for restoring people and planet... we connect people with solutions.” Their incredible annual gathering has just celebrated its 26th year!*
- **RESEARCH ON HONEYBEES:** *This year we are happy to be able to create a small portfolio of grants to key biologists who research honeybees. About 1/3 of our food supply depends on healthy pollinators, and of course they are our company’s inspiration, so the impact of this research is both meaningful and positive.*
 - **CORNELL UNIVERSITY – DR. TOM SEELEY**
 - **UNIVERSITY OF MN – DR MARLA SPIVAK**
 - **WELLESLEY COLLEGE – DR. HEATHER MATILLA**
- **SUSTAINABLE AMERICA** <http://sustainableamerica.org> *Sustainability at the intersection of food and fuel. I love that this organization combines traditional nonprofit activity, strong research, and investment in innovative solutions.*
- **LAST MILE HEALTH** <http://lastmilehealth.org> *The ebola crisis last year brought home this essential point – the crisis was not a virus, it was the lack of a robust, resilient local system of care. Given our interest in systemic resilience, there is no better or more pressing case study to support than this one - building a vibrant, vital community health system for rural communities. A health worker for everyone, everywhere, every day.*
- **NEID** <http://neidonors.org> *Giving is often an oddly solitary endeavor – sure, it is personal, but that’s no reason for it to be isolated. NEID helps international donors in New England to connect in a consistent, substantial way, creating community while increasing the quality of decision-making. This kind of “connective tissue” is exactly the sort of endeavor we want to support.*
- **GREEN AMERICA** www.greenamerica.org *Green America’s mission is to harness economic power—the strength of consumers, investors, businesses, and the marketplace—to create a socially just and environmentally sustainable society. They support a long list of creative, action-oriented initiatives towards these ends – bravo!*
- **GIRL UP** <http://girlup.org> *“Girl Up envisions a world where all girls, no matter where they live, have the opportunity to become educated, healthy, safe, counted and positioned to be the next generation of leaders.” Yeah. That.*
- **FERN (FOOD & ENVIRONMENT REPORTING NETWORK)** <http://thefern.org> *FERN is the first and only independent, non-profit news organization, producing in-depth journalism on food, agriculture, and environmental health. Check out their reporting!*
- **FARM SCHOOL INC** <http://www.farmschool.org> *The Farm School is just that – a school that’s a farm, and a farm that’s a school. Fantastic.*

In the interest of full disclosure, please note that I hold board or advisory positions with the following organizations: Last Mile Health, Santa Fe Institute, Criterion Institute, Sustainable America, Omega Institute, Harvard Divinity School. As you can see, I am trying to increasingly align the gift of time with the gift of funding!

Our sincere thanks to those who have supported the Honeybee Fund.

If you would like to contribute...

Option 1: If you would like to support this fund by supporting Honeybee Capital's work, please see our website or [this link](#) (this option allows for easy online payments, supports our own operations, and is not tax deductible).

Option 2: If you would like to support the Honeybee Fund directly via charitable donation, please contact me at kc@honeybeecapital.com (this option requires paper checks, goes 100% to our charitable fund, and is tax deductible).

Please note that the mechanics of the Honeybee Fund are managed via a donor-advised fund, so all of the benefits of this type of charitable contribution – as well as constraints – apply.



***Best wishes to all for a joyful holiday season
and a peaceful, prosperous New Year.***