

# 2014 Annual Report

Great Northern Services







GNS is a non-profit, community based agency serving all of Siskiyou County whose mission is to improve the quality of life for rural communities and individuals through partnerships, technical assistance and access to resources.

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# Standing Strong Even in a Time of Crisis

This year was a landmark one like no other in Great Northern's thirty-six year history. The September 15th Boles Fire completely destroyed our historic office building and food warehouse. It did not destroy us!

**W**e were up and running four days after the disaster in a new location, quickly becoming the "go-to" place for food distribution as we coordinated with the City of Weed, disaster relief agencies, the Family and Community Resource Center of Weed and volunteers. We are determined to remain in Weed and committed to its long term recovery with active participation and offerings of our technical knowledge in housing, infrastructure, business capital, emergency needs and services.

In the broader picture, 2014 featured successes in business start-ups and expansions. 80% of the loans and grants we managed were women-owned. Forever creative, innovative and optimistic about

economic development in Siskiyou County, we are very excited to offer new loan programs for the upcoming year. At GNS we don't just underwrite - we mentor, we provide resources and we work with our partners through the long haul.

"A Place at the Table," a movie we showcased in 2014, stirred a discussion on local hunger issues. We published the results of our Community Food Assessment where we found that one out of four children in our county go hungry at least once a month. Families run out of food towards the end of each month and state commodities support has dropped its funding each year. The movie documented that in the 1970's the U.S. was on the verge of eliminating hunger in America but unfortunately today we are faced with more hunger and less resources.



Get to know us and you will see firsthand that our recipe for success is hard work and hustle mixed with a dash of creativity and the right amount of risk taking. Our staff is strong and passionate as we embrace a common philosophy: Barriers are made to be jumped and expectations are meant to be exceeded. Why not join forces with Great Northern?

**Bonnie Kubowitz**  
Executive Director

## What do we do?

We offer relief from hardship to residents in our communities.

We partner with local government to bring substantial funds into our region to support business loans, infrastructure betterment, and improve living conditions of Siskiyou County residents.

## Community Development 2014 ~ over \$380,000 in projects

In 30 years, 256 homes have been rehabilitated and an influx of over \$25 million has come into the cities and the county. During that same time, over \$12 million was acquired for infrastructure improvements. County-wide, GNS has collectively recirculated \$2.3 million earned from loan repayments back into our communities.

## Home Energy 2014 ~ over \$1.5 million in assistance

In the past 30 years, GNS has provided heating fuel to more than 45,000 households. Our Weatherization crew has made over 4,200 homes truly energy efficient. The Energy program has infused over \$40 million in our communities to better lives.

## Community Food 2014 ~ \$290,000 in projects and distribution

In 20 years, \$3.2 million in emergency food assistance has reached over 400,000 individuals in the county. In 2014, the GNS Food department which has grown from two to ten programs, together with its partners supplied 25,000 bags of emergency food that included protein and fresh produce.

## HIV/AIDS 2014 ~ \$123,000 in annual care

For the past 20 years the Siskiyou County HIV/AIDS Foundation and GNS have brought in over \$3.7 million to help individuals who are HIV positive with access to healthcare and support services.

## Economic Development 2014 ~ over \$160,000 in loans

In 19 years, GNS has successfully partnered with cities and 118 business owners to put \$9.1 million in loans to work, generating over 396 jobs.

## Community Services 2014 ~ over \$109,000 to fund services

New to GNS in 2013, this creative program identifies a variety of needs, and works to find resources and solutions to improve our communities.

# Community Ties



Great Northern's Community Food Program strengthened its ties to community in 2014 as we worked with partners to respond to community needs and imagine new projects.

## Spreading the Holiday Cheer with Turkeys

We're proud of our efforts to assist community holiday food projects around the county. In 2013, GNS began providing turkeys to community holiday food basket projects operated by volunteers, community organizations, churches, and Family and Community Resource Centers. In 2014, partners gave Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets out in 21 communities to over 800 households.



We focused on our partners as we reached out to work with schools, deepen our relationships with farmers and continue to provide food for those in need. Projects envisioned in 2014 for implementation in 2015 include a school snack program, a fresh produce program in Mt. Shasta, and a county-wide fresh produce network.

## Exploring the Dream of a Community Food Center

Based on feedback received in the 2013 Siskiyou County Community Food Security Assessment, we tested interest in the concept of a local community kitchen facility. An in-depth survey asked questions about how people would use the facility, the types of products they would make, the business and training support needed and community events envisioned for such a food center. In partnership with Jefferson Economic Development Institute (JEDI), three planning meetings were held in South Siskiyou County to explore the idea with residents, business owners and entrepreneurs. In late 2014, we applied for and received a USDA Local Food Promotion Program grant to conduct a local food center feasibility study.





Friday, May 10, 2019  
Dear Boles Fire Food Distribution Center,  
Hi, my name is Isabella, and I'm  
a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Fairview  
Elementary in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania.  
We came up with this idea when  
we were studying the regions of  
the U.S. and natural disasters. We're  
helping because it's the right thing  
to do. We are a team, and so is  
everybody else, right? Anyway, I  
hope you enjoy the food we sent  
Sincerely,  
Isabella



## Our Role in the Boles Fire Recovery

GNS assisted in the Boles Fire recovery by providing a place for the Boles Fire Food Distribution effort to receive, store and give out food. We also worked with community partners to implement the Boles Fire grocery card project, funded through Shasta Regional Community Foundation. In support of Great Northern, just three days after the fire, California Foodlink sent two truckloads of USDA commodities food to ensure that people all around the county would receive their commodities bags on time.



We lost our delivery van, along with our inventory of food and the warehouse in the Boles Fire. Through a generous anonymous donation made to Shasta Regional Community Foundation's Disaster Relief Fund and a contribution from the Weed Rotary, GNS was able to purchase a new delivery van. We're deeply grateful for this timely support!



## Scooping snow for seniors

In Mt. Shasta, a snowfall leaving berms along the street often spells injury or blocked access to food or medicine for some vulnerable seniors. This City program also puts local contractors to work for community benefit.

# Community Services

Positive impacts on the well-being and health of infants, children, and seniors made possible by Community Development Block Grants and other partners.



## Diaper Needs—the Silent Crisis

According to the National Diaper Bank network, most Federal benefits cannot be spent on diapers. Our goal is to have county residents covered, getting supplies to resource centers to those that struggle to meet the essential needs of children. The GNS Diaper Bank relies on donations and small grants to also distribute incontinent supplies in partnership with the staff at Adult Services.





**Fresh food link.** In addition to USDA Commodities, low-moderate income families in Mt. Shasta will have access to fresh fruits and vegetables in 2015. This innovative program established in the City of Mt. Shasta also supports local agriculture for sourcing and additional distribution at the Farmers' Market.



Through the generous support of the Pacific Power Foundation, 69 households that lost their homes in the Boles Fire each received \$500 worth of assistance in the form of heating fuel, rent, and gas or gift cards. Many donations—such as baby needs kits—arrived packaged with a sweet, personal touch.

## Making a Move

The Security Deposit Assistance Program is ready to support low-moderate income families in securing safe and affordable housing within the city limits of Mt. Shasta.

# Economic Development

We couple innovative individuals with money from the federal government to generate jobs and tax revenue for our communities.

Many businesses blossomed under Microenterprise and Business Assistance Loans, Grants, and a Rural Assistance Program.



## Ethnic Grocery Store in Weed

In Weed, Byron Mathes opened Li Laos Market and offers a variety of Asian products and take-out food.

## Building on Investment in Etna

Mountain Healing Spa's owner Mary Martin started with a small business loan and grew her clientele and services. This Etna city loan partnership is now leading to an expansion!



*"I am so happy to have this space and the opportunity to provide a place for children to grow. Adults have re-kindled their love for dance as well. The studio is making it possible for our family to stay. Thank you!"*

- Wendy James, Shasta Studio

## Ballerinas in the making

Wendy's family owned and operated Schumacher's School of Dance in South San Francisco. A dancer for over 30 years, Wendy has performed on Broadway in Sister Act and Irving Berlin's White Christmas, toured the U.S. with Mary Poppins, and played London's West End in Showboat. She moved to Mt. Shasta hoping to create a better life for herself and her two children and to share the magic of the performing arts.



## Longtime dream come true

John Redmond's dream has always been to have a beer joint with good food, good beer and room to play. His outgoing nature is a natural fit to being a proprietor of such a social establishment. Handsome John's Speakeasy, a glorified garage bar located in Mt. Shasta, offers the community a place to meet and have fun.

***"When businesses succeed it is good for the community—from sales tax revenue driving city services to meet the needs of residents and tourists to the trickle-down effect of money circulating in the community."***

- Muriel Howarth Terrell, Finance Director, City of Mt. Shasta



**Little Doves** is more than a children's clothing consignment shop. Locals can sell their handmade cloth diapers, nursing covers, slings, clothing and accessories, as well as promote other community endeavors geared toward children. The boutique provides a sweet, quiet space where mothers can feed and nurse their babies, and spacious accommodations for even the most pregnant mama to try on clothes from a beautiful selection of consigned maternity wear.

## Two places of business

Mary Lorenzini, a long term Siskiyou County resident, was able to open Liberty Tax Service in Weed, expanding the business she already operates in North County.

# Infrastructure

Public infrastructure is the backbone of each and every community. Especially critical in Siskiyou County, where all municipalities are faced with aging systems that are no longer compliant or performing as they should.

**G**reat Northern helps our partners navigate the study, funding and administrative complexities for many elaborate projects. Our duties while under contract include monitoring wage compliance on all public works projects, conducting employee interviews and assuring correct language in all contracts.

In Dorris, funding was secured to repaint the water tank in a camouflage motif. The Montague airport will soon sport an ADA compliant restroom. The Inflow and Infiltration water study in Montague is now in its third and final phase.

And in Weed, a new domestic water well has been drilled and capped and replacement of one aging water storage tank is underway.

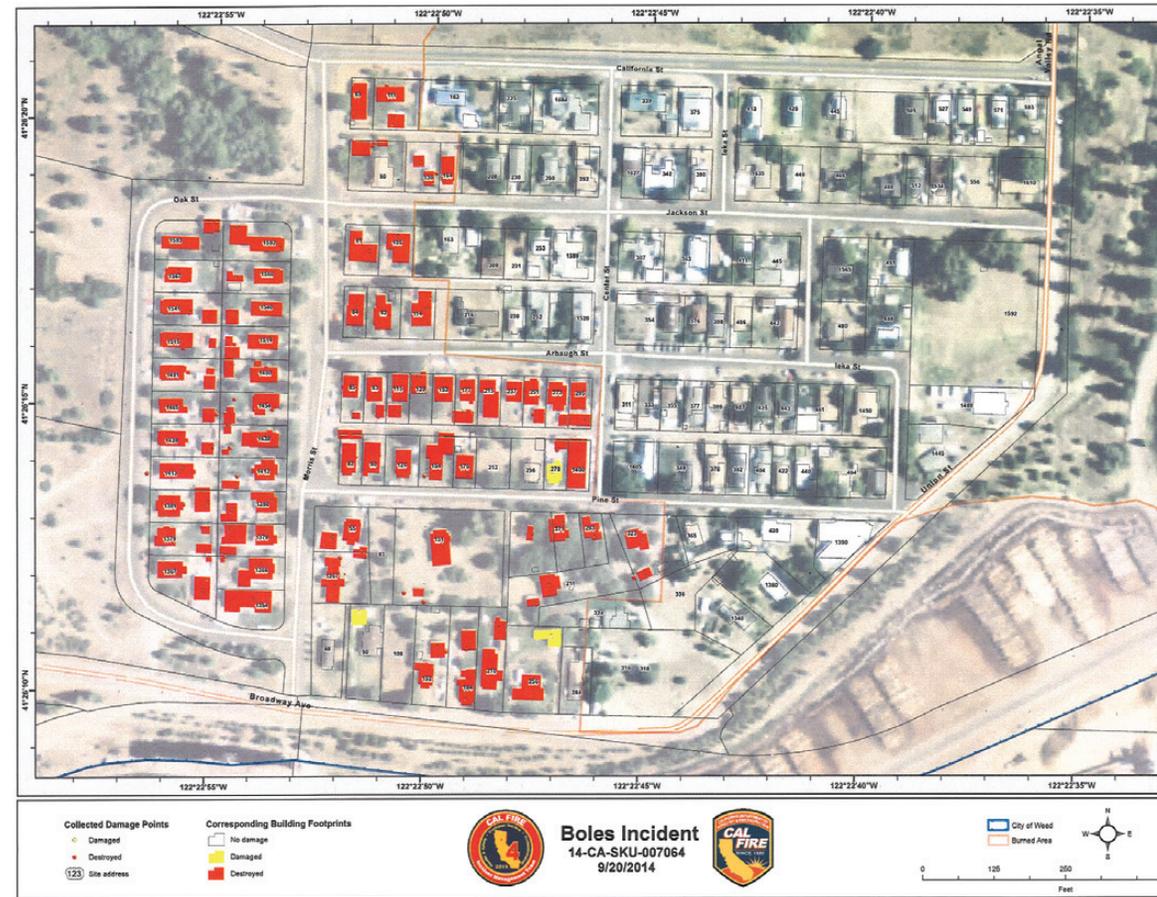


**GNS proficiency**  
makes development strategies happen.



*“What does Weed desire to become? Whole. We would like to heal. We had a major catastrophe and would like to see our residential neighborhoods rebuilt, our two churches rebuilt, our library services restored, and our community center open and operational once more.”*

- Ron Stock, Weed City Manager



After the Boles Fire, GNS found itself on both sides of recovery—planning for our own long term building relocation and bringing forth our expertise to assist the City of Weed with planning for projects and researching funding opportunities. Timely action was needed to insure that the Angel Valley neighborhood infrastructure could be in place for rebuilding efforts.



The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Rehabilitation Program is designed to provide assistance to income eligible home owners in the form of loans to finance the cost of **necessary repairs**. Designated areas that offer the program share our goal to provide the owners with a healthy, safe, sanitary and code compliant home.

Brandy Chadwell inherited a dilapidated home in the city of Dorris and moved in. Her husband and their two children sharing the 2 bedroom-1 bath house; one of the children slept in a makeshift room in the garage. For several years they applied for a loan and were turned down each time. A sudden change in her husband's professional life allowed them to qualify for a CDBG loan through the City. Unfortunately, as is often the case, the projected appraised value of the new home was still under the amount needed for improvement.

*The solution: The Chadwells did the total demolition work of the old house, saving hundreds of dollars.*

Once they were done tearing down the old structure, a brand new manufactured home was put in its place. The family now enjoys having 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and living under the same roof.



# Housing

A little creativity helps  
build a strong foundation



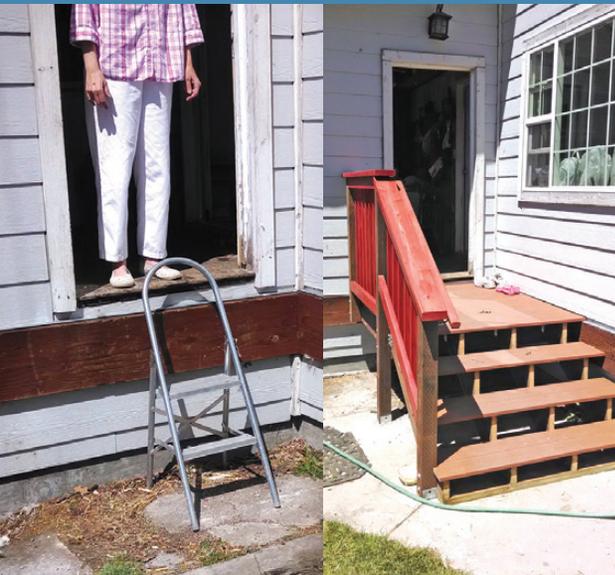
# Weatherization

It was a really big and long project, the GNS Weatherization crew was there all week. The kids were home schooled, they followed the crew around and asked a lot of questions.

At the end of the job the young children came running up waving pictures they had drawn as a gesture of thanks. This job made the crew feel connected to the family because of the kids. The pictures are prominently displayed in the crew's office as "a nice affirmation about why we come to work and what we do; that we are doing nice things for people and we are appreciated."



Warm energy efficient homes are all about the kids.



**G**NS matches home improvement projects through our Weatherization Program (WX) and Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) opportunities.

These two programs are perfect partners in helping residents to lower energy costs and make improvements to many substandard houses around Siskiyou County.

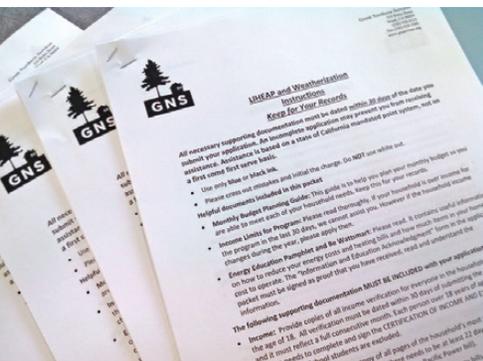


Each program has its restrictions and limitations, but together they work well.

A wood burning stove installed in Hornbrook replaced multiple space heaters in a home with very high electric bills. In a Dunsmuir home, the conversion from propane fuel to electrical triggered the opportunity to make additional energy efficient upgrades—including a new water heater, stove and refrigerator. Replacing drafty windows makes a huge difference in keeping families warm.



Since 1981, thousands of low-income households have received help to offset the cost of heating their homes. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded program managed by GNS that provides a direct grant payment to the utility or heating provider for an income eligible household.



“Our primary goal for the Siskiyou County Jail Work Program is to offer offenders a chance at rehabilitation to reduce offender recidivism,” says Allison Giannini, Sheriff’s Office community services program manager. “Through the work program, offenders learn job skills, work ethic and other important life skills.”

This year the Siskiyou County Jail worked with Great Northern to make additional firewood available to targeted households made up of the elderly, disabled or those that included children under 5 years old.

## Energy

Siskiyou County Jail teams up with Great Northern to warm the hearth for hundreds in Siskiyou County.

We were able to help low income households affected by the Boles Fire with emergency funds from our LIHEAP grant. The Severe Weather Energy Assistance and Transportation Services (SWEATS) funds are only available during declared emergencies and allow households to receive additional energy assistance without the burden of more paperwork.





## Boles Fire Response

The immediate response to the Boles Fire by partners who have come to know our work emphasized the value these relationships have on the community. The timely response by the Shasta Regional Community Foundation to establish a Disaster Relief Fund, and our long standing partnership with them, allowed us to work together to turn generous donations from Pacific Power and others into support and services to those in dire need. Cross Petroleum generously made available vouchers for gas, heating fuel and equipment maintenance for us to distribute in the wake of the disaster. Working with the Family and Community Resource Center of Weed as the hub of recovery along with the city staff, we continue our commitment to Weed's long term recovery.

▶ To view video go to [www.gnsservices.org](http://www.gnsservices.org).

## Connections, Relationships, Partnerships

It is in our partnerships where our true service strength lies. Relationships built over time have grown into partnerships that have made a difference for our communities. We are grateful to USDA Rural Development and their site visit for exploring solutions with us to improve our Community Food program. And, in addition to the amazing collaboration of our partners in response to the Boles Fire, we had great partnership support for other accomplishments during the year:

An educational series of videos targeted to reduce childhood obesity became a reality thanks to a Dignity Health Community Grant. Colorful lunch boxes, budgeting tips and CalFresh program information were distributed to participants from Head Start families and Family Resource Centers.

▶ To view videos go to [www.gnsservices.org](http://www.gnsservices.org).

When children are hungry, it's difficult to focus on learning. Food insecurity, as it affects classroom behavior of elementary school students, was addressed by initiating a successful snack purchase program thanks to a \$3,000 grant from Pacific Power Foundation.

Through improved communications and outreach, relationships with the valuable network of Family and Community Resource Centers have been strengthened.



## HIV/AIDS Assistance

Through the Siskiyou County HIV/AIDS Foundation, we help residents with HIV to stay healthy and live longer.

Regardless of the budget cuts incurred over the past six years, Great Northern is committed to providing access to good medical care and resources to make sure that over 40 HIV positive individuals in Siskiyou County stay emotionally and financially stable. We make it possible for an HIV specialist to help clients with food, transportation, housing and utility expenses.

## Board of Directors



**Heather Weldon**  
President



**Robert Menzies**  
Vice President



**Terry Mazingo**  
Director



**Frank Goulart**  
Director



**Bonnie Kubowitz**  
Executive Director

## Staff

Angela Nathan, Audra Gibson, Becky Kubowitz, Brandy Caporaso, Christine Meadows, Claudia Trevisan, Crystal Aston, Dawn Blockman, E. Seata Madison, Jeff Holmquist, Kaysha Madison, Ken Shanahan, Larry Luce, Marie-Josée Wells, Mike Hardin, Renee Casterline, Rod Merys, Ron Morris, Stan Drucker, Sue Tofflemire, Vickie Daniels, Zach McCrillis



# Financial Statement

For over 35 years, GNS has been dedicated to fiscal responsibility, transparency and the careful stewardship of donor assets. GNS funds are consistent with our mission while also balancing short and long term needs. To do so, we rely on the governance of a strong board of directors, the expertise of our accounting advisor and the high caliber of GNS staff. We've earned the trust of our funders, and in order to keep that trust, we maintain the highest standards of financial accountability. To that end, GNS undergoes an annual Single Audit by an independent certified public accounting firm that encompasses both financial and compliance components.

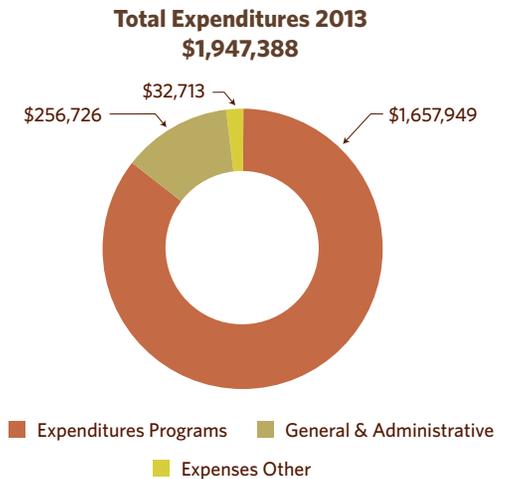
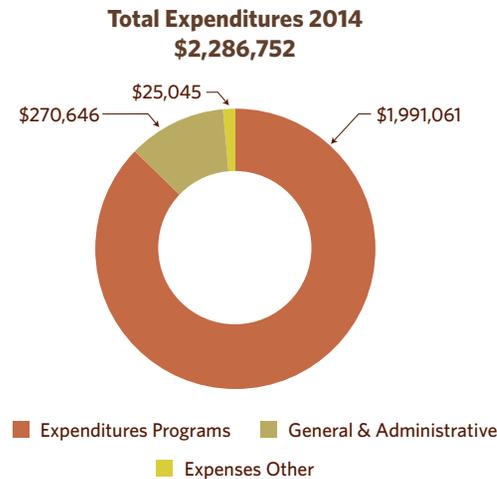
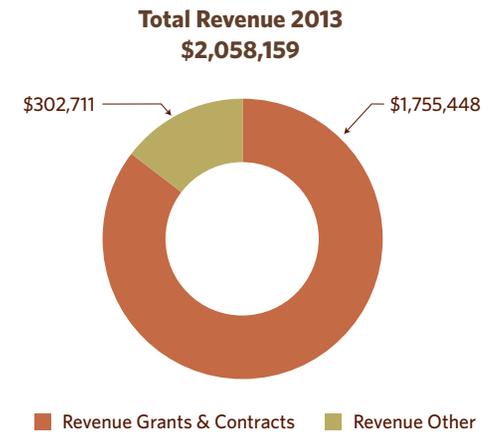
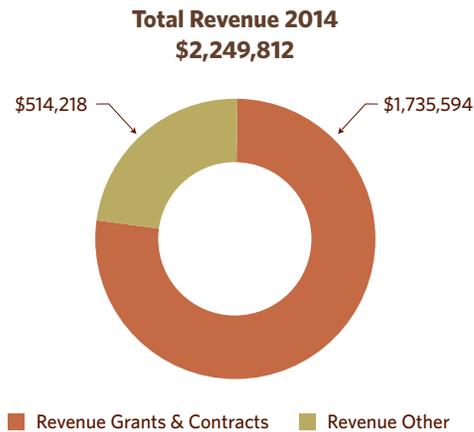
## Assets:

	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>528,155</b>	<b>569,505</b>

## Statement of Activities:

<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,249,812</b>	<b>2,058,159</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>2,286,752</b>	<b>1,947,388</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(36,940)</b>	<b>110,771</b>

2014 GNS was destroyed by fire—contingencies based on insurance settlement.





**Solutions to improve lives and enrich communities**

**Great Northern Services (GNS)**

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