

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Great Northern Services



Change: a positive mission in action

Great Northern Services invigorates communities by initiating positive social change to improve economic conditions.



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*"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it
is like wrapping a present and not giving it."*

William Arthur Ward

This 2016 Annual Report contains just a sample of the work Great Northern is doing to make life better every day for Siskiyou County residents. I am deeply grateful for the many hard working hands, committed hearts, and creative minds on which that work depends.

Great Northern would not be the standout organization it is without the dedicated staff who work hard to expand our outreach while strengthening our programs and services. I am humbled to lead a team with the energy and caring needed to achieve the many positive outcomes you'll read about in these pages.

Likewise, we would not be the organization we are today without the support of our partners, donors, volunteers, and friends. I am honored to work on behalf of these valued supporters. They share our visionary, collaborative, results-oriented approach to serving struggling children, families, and communities around the county.

Visionary... because when we confront complex and pervasive issues like child hunger, we develop creative solutions. In 2016, for instance, we launched a mini food pantry in Weed Elementary School, which we have since expanded to Mount Shasta Elementary. Now teachers in those schools can feed students who haven't had enough to eat and they can even pack some nutritious snacks for them—right there in school, just when the kids need energy to focus and learn.

Collaborative... because every program and service we manage or provide involves partnership with other organizations, businesses, and individuals. In 2016 we finalized plans for a multi-use subdivision to be built on land Great Northern owns in Weed. Our team? CalPoly, COS, and the City of Weed. Working together, we are poised to produce affordable housing for working families.

Results-oriented... because we are committed to operating our organization as effectively and efficiently as possible. We consider and plan carefully when identifying needs and creating programs to meet those needs, and we routinely ask the essential question: Is it working? We do so to ensure that the greatest positive impact is achieved for the community and, as diligent stewards of our funders' generous contributions, that the intended objectives are met.

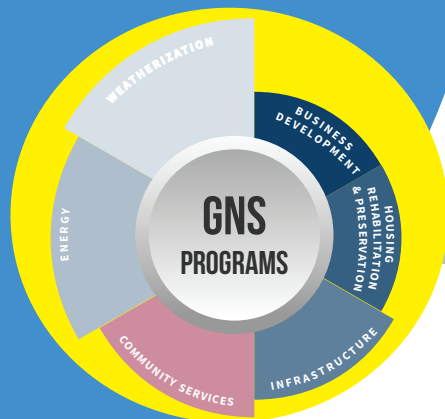
To the many of you who have tirelessly committed time, energy, and financial resources to the success of our organization, I offer a heartfelt thank you. And for those of you who are new to the Great Northern community, I welcome you and look forward to working with you in 2017.

Bonnie Kubowitz
Executive Director

When we make a plan, we mean business!

Sound business planning and our ability to implement well-organized programs have been key to Great Northern's success as a community service provider for more than three decades.

A glance at some of our recent achievements shows that we understand the needs in our community and have the skills to successfully address those needs.



In 2013, GNS Emergency Food Programs transitioned to a Community Services Department, thanks to multiple forms of shared resources and financial donations. As of 2016, this department is sustained by donations from businesses, foundations, non-profits, and individuals as well as resource partnerships with CA Foodlink, USDA, the County of Siskiyou, local Rotary clubs, individual volunteers, Siskiyou County Family and Community Resource Centers, and others who share our vision to do the most good for those in need.



In 2014, our goals included implementing a healthy snack program for children, a fresh produce program in Mount Shasta, and a county-wide fresh produce network. We got it done in 2015 and we continue to expand these services today.



In 2015, we wanted to expand our Summer Food program to multiple locations, get started on building a multi-media conference room for community use, and help develop a template for rural Resiliency Planning. In 2016 we quadrupled the number of places kids could eat free summer lunches, we helped produce a Resilience Plan for the City of Weed that can be used as a template for other rural communities, and we constructed the multi-media conference room.



Plans for 2017?

It's a sure bet – we'll get it done!

In 2016, our goals included expanding our *Summer Food* program into still more communities, building affordable housing in Weed for working families, taking the next steps to create the Local Food Marketplace at the Landing in Mount Shasta as part of our vision “local food for local places,” making our new multi-media conference room available for community use, and hosting a Summer Food Summit.

How big can we plan?

It's up to you! *Your business can make a difference.*

What can your business help make possible in the Siskiyou County community?

With your help, we'll develop ground breaking new programs and we'll see them through.

The strength of your business is also important to community health.

In that light, we offer the following to our business and corporate donors and sponsors:

- Acknowledgement of your generosity in our Annual Report
- Logo/acknowledgement on our website
- Feature article in one of our quarterly newsletters
- Customized sponsorship of one of our fundraising drives – we'll do the work, and promote your business! What better use for your Public Relations budget?

Business, Corporate, and Foundation partners already helping us make a difference

- **Union Pacific Foundation** – food programs
- **Pacific Power Foundation** – energy assistance
- **Dignity Health Foundation** – food & educational programs
- **McConnell Foundation** – multi-media community conference center
- **Ford Family Foundation** – holiday food baskets, special projects
- **Shasta Regional Community Foundation** – managing directed donations



How does California's CDBG program help us all? We're glad you asked.

I truly appreciated the service you provided. It gave me great peace of mind as a disabled senior, knowing my driveway would be ploughed and I didn't have to try to keep finding someone to help me whenever it snowed. Thank you so much!

— Anonymous



In Great Northern's capable and compassionate hands, California's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program makes a real difference in the lives of families, seniors, small businesses, and cities throughout our county.

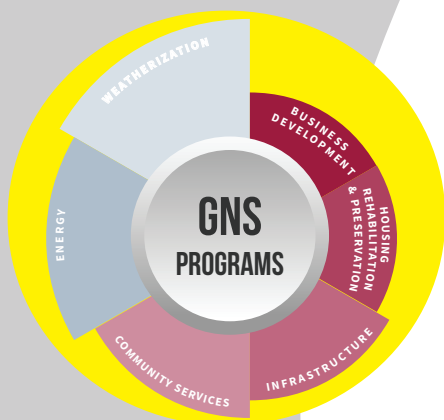
For instance...

Many people don't think twice when they put fresh produce in their grocery basket. But there are also many for whom fresh produce is a luxury they forego all too often. Thanks to *Mount Shasta Fresh*, qualifying Mount Shasta residents can enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the summer months. In partnership with Mount Shasta City and the Mount Shasta Farmers Market produce growers, GNS is making sure CDBG funds put fresh food on the tables of those who need it most.

Our *Snow Removal for Seniors* program may not have been necessary back in the days when families lived closer together and any enterprising kid with a shovel could earn a few bucks shoveling an elderly neighbor's drive. But times have changed. Seniors who thrive living independently may not be up to the rigors of shoveling. That's where CDBG funding comes in for Mount Shasta City residents who need a little help with the snow.

Small Business Loans are a lifeline for small business owners who want to start or expand a business. Using federal funds administered by the state through the CDBG program, GNS underwrites loans for cities and partners with the Jefferson Economic Development Institute to ensure loan recipients receive the technical assistance they need to help them develop and sustain their businesses. The result? Tax revenue is a boost for cities. Jobs created help local dollars stay local. Successful businesses draw other new businesses into town. It's win-win-win!

Infrastructure is not something most folks think about every day. It's the underlying foundation on which a system is built, the basic facilities and services a community needs to function. But it's more or less invisible until it fails – until sewer mains back up, power lines go down, aging water storage tanks don't adequately serve, or roads wash out in a storm. Great Northern works with cities whose



CDBG funding helps ensure that viable infrastructure will keep the lights on, the roads strong, and the water flowing.

Sagging roofs or substandard plumbing systems are not just inconvenient – they're health and safety concerns that some families can't afford to correct. Problems such as deferred maintenance, ADA accessibility, health and safety issues, and crumbling drywall, that may not be covered by other GNS programs, are taken care of through our *Housing Rehabilitation* program. We help cities by providing capacity and technical assistance to homeowners who qualify for CDBG funded low cost, long term loans that help them revitalize their homes into safe,

comfortable, and attractive assets for their families and their neighborhoods.

Sometimes people need just a little bit of help to make the really big changes. Mount Shasta City's CDBG-funded *Security Deposit Assistance*, administered by Great Northern, can make all the difference for qualified individuals and families who need to cover up-front security deposit costs when it's time for a new home.

Siskiyou County CDBG funding is helping make sure recipients of monthly *Food Commodities* get additional nutrition in the form of fresh produce and protein items. The much needed supplements to the commodities provisions are available year round at all 23 commodities distribution locations in Siskiyou County. In keeping with our commitment to a thriving local economy, Great Northern utilizes local and regional retailers and produce when purchasing the supplemental food.

"Most small cities don't have the personnel to administer the kinds of services the City of Mount Shasta offers residents in need. Our partnership with Great Northern Services over the decades has allowed us to take the best possible care of these residents and to implement unique pilot programs not found elsewhere in California, like our Snow Removal for Seniors."

Muriel Terrell

Finance Director, City of Mount Shasta



Thank you!

When you see the need around you and wonder, “But what can I do?”... Ask us!

GNS is a trusted community service provider with a 38 year track record, making a difference where people are most in need. We not only help the community, we can also help **you** help the community by putting your donations and volunteer hours to best use for the sake of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Do donations really make a difference? You bet they do.

Reliable funding from partners like Dignity Health, the Union Pacific Foundation, and the Ford Family Foundation allow us to establish and maintain programs that feed the hungry in our community. But individual and corporate donors allow us to grow those programs so that more children in more parts of the county get the nutrition they need.

Did you know that more than a third of Siskiyou County children do not have reliable access to an adequate supply of nutritious food?

When we learned that, we went into action – and donations have been helping us make a difference in these kids' lives. Our *Summer Food* program helps make sure hungry children can count on a nutritious lunch on weekdays during the summer when school lunches aren't available. Our *Snack Bag* program provides them with healthy snacks during other vacations from school.

This year we found a way to help teachers at Weed Elementary and Mount Shasta Elementary schools get needed nutrition to hungry students during the school day as well. Food pantries set up in both schools allow teachers to slip *Care Bags* filled with tasty, healthy food into the backpacks of students who need it.

Not everyone can count on affording a festive and satisfying dinner to celebrate the holidays. Donors play



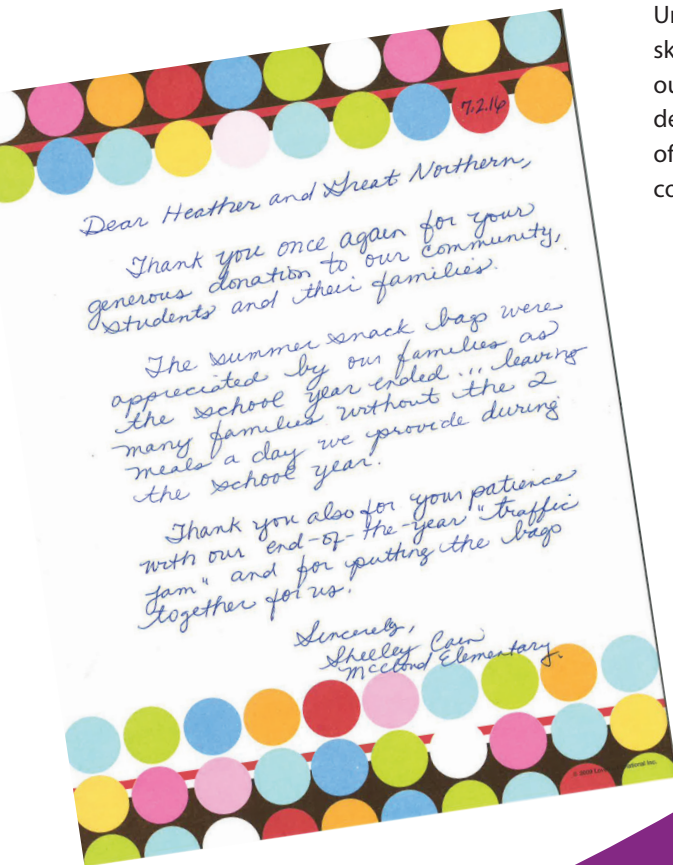
an important part in helping us provide turkeys and hams for the *Holiday Food Baskets* that other caring organizations distribute to people in need county-wide.

And speaking of dinner...Weed Elementary School junior high teacher Allison Blankenship is helping her students jumpstart their culinary skills with an annual *Cooking Class*. This year Great Northern expanded the program by giving each student an apron and a printed cookbook filled with the "kid approved" recipes they'd learned during the year.

All qualifying households get to enjoy free, fresh produce throughout the summer at the biggest tailgate parties our county-wide community has likely ever seen. Our *Summer Produce Tailgate Parties* get fresh food where it's needed thanks to donated produce from farmers and growers throughout the state. California Emergency Foodlink, working with the California Department of Social Services, coordinates the donations and gets the food to Siskiyou County, and Great Northern administers the program locally.

Something you may not have thought of...

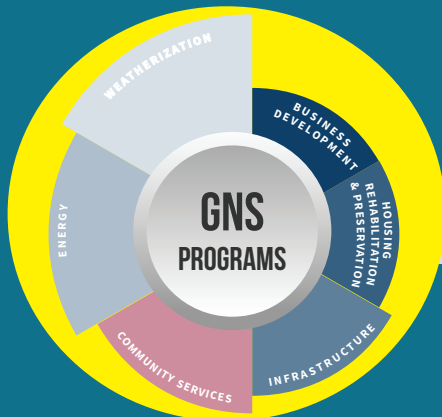
Unrestricted donations allow us to hire and retain skilled staff members who implement and grow our programs. Their creativity is also critical in developing new Great Northern programs that offer relief from hardship to residents in our community.



Join the fun at our Summer Produce Tailgate Parties and help get free, fresh produce to neighbors in need!

Join the growing number of community volunteers who serve children free, nutritious lunches during the summer and help coordinate “after-lunch” activities!

Join the ranks of helpful volunteers who staff emergency food assistance sites around the county!



When part time Great Northern employee Dodie Dickson completes her office hours, she doesn't always actually leave the work behind. Last summer she volunteered for the Summer Food program at the Mountain View Apartments in Weed every weekday at lunch time, serving up food for hungry kids.

Dodie said the first week of Summer Food lunches went well, and she was glad when Monday rolled around and it was time for the second week.

But when she arrived at the Mountain View Apartments, four little brothers came running out of their apartment and confronted her.

“They asked me ‘Where were you this weekend? We didn't get to eat!’ It touched my heart deeply. It's so clear they are appreciating us and we know they're counting on us,” she recalled.

Retired from full time work, Dodie says she enjoys volunteering. And when she's tired or begins to feel discouraged, she thinks of moments like she had with the four little brothers that Monday.

“One little thing like that will just re-pump the volunteer spirit right through your system,” she said with a smile.

“We know they're counting on us.”

- Dodie Dickson,
Summer Food volunteer

Dodie Dickson and Robin White



Our volunteers help put our mission into action

Many of our service programs are tailor made for volunteer contribution.

“I don’t want any child to be hungry.”

- Sue Tavalero,
Summer Food volunteer

Ask *Summer Food* volunteer Sue Tavalero why she volunteers for this Great Northern program and her answer is clear and to the point: “We are fully aware that kids are hungry and I don’t want any child to be hungry.”

Sue’s volunteer efforts anchored the first season of *Summer Food* in Weed’s Bel Air Park. Then she came back and did it all over again the second year. Not only was she on hand every day to get the kids lunch, but she arranged special activities for them as well.

“The kids love climbing through the fire engines and other emergency vehicles. And they loved

the library sponsored art camp. They’re happy any time they can participate and interact,” she noted.

Service to people in need is an integral part of Sue’s spiritual path. She says she looks at the world and sees the needs of so many people, such as refugees, and knows there is not much she can do on a global scale.

“So then I think, what can I do in my own community?”

Sue and her husband Scott moved to Weed more than 20 years ago and raised their children

here. She has volunteered for Weed Elementary School and Weed High School Cougar Power; served for years on the boards of the Siskiyou Union School District and the Weed Rec and Park district; and was recently elected to the Weed City Council.

Will she be back in Bel Air Park for season three of the *Summer Food* program?

“I’m definitely on for next year,” Sue promised. “I want kids to have food.”



Sue Tavalero

Energy efficiency + critical repairs = warmth, safety, savings

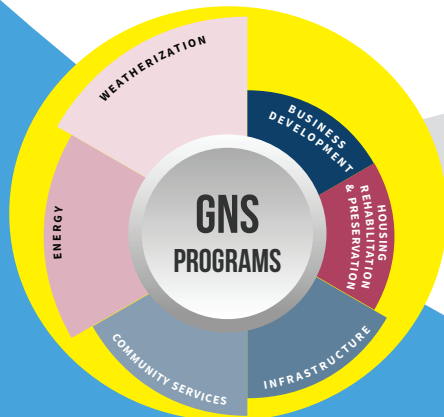
Our *Weatherization* program makes sure basic energy efficient features and fire safety devices are in place to keep the homes of qualifying families safe and warm, thanks to funding from the US Department of Health and Human Services (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program/ LIHEAP) and Department of Energy, Pacific Power, and generous local donors. And another benefit kicks in when our team stops those chilling winter draughts – heating costs go down, making a real difference for strained budgets.

Families sleep better knowing their home is safe to live in. So when homes need a bit more help to make them truly safe and comfortable, the GNS *Housing Preservation* program accesses federal grant funding through USDA Rural Development to pick up where weatherization stops. Qualified homeowners are eligible for a variety of health

and safety improvements like correcting unsafe wiring and replacing unsafe staircases or rotting siding.

Heating costs in our mountainous northern county can shred the most carefully balanced budget, but what a difference a warm home means to kids trying to study, elderly residents trying to stay healthy, and working adults trying to keep their families happy and strong... Through our *Energy Assistance* program, Great Northern helps keep the lights on and the house warm for hundreds of families, 1,200 in 2016. Once a year, qualifying residents may apply to have one month's energy bill paid through this program, funded by LIHEAP, the US Department of Energy, and generous local donors. (Yes, donations help keep this program thriving so that our vulnerable neighbors can thrive as well!)

We believe that families
in need around our
county deserve to thrive
in any kind of weather.





GROW YOUR SMALL BUSINESS!

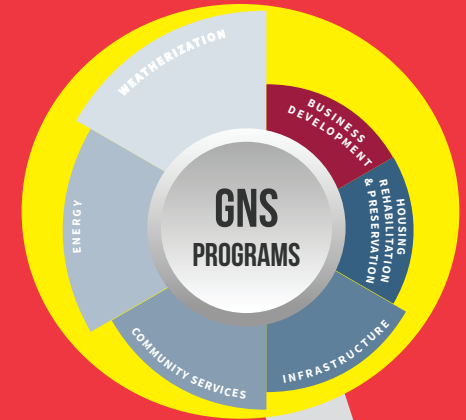
Economic Development = fuel for community success

“Economic development” is more than a business concept or municipal goal – it is the fuel that drives possibility and prosperity for every community and every resident in our county.

As such, it's one of the keys to solving the overarching problems of poverty and need we see all around us. When dreams of productive financial independence become real world business successes, communities succeed and grow. When communities succeed and grow, employment opportunities and still more business possibilities open up for residents.

Great Northern helps put those possibilities into action through its *Business Development* programs. We administer loan funds from the USDA *Rural Micro-enterprise Assistance Program (RMAP)* that provide working capital, technical assistance, training, and funds for other business expenses to qualifying rural micro-entrepreneurs and micro-enterprises.

This program and our *Small Business Loan* program are important Business Development components of the overarching economic development efforts led by the Siskiyou County Economic Development Council.



What's new/what's next for Great Northern?

An increase in the innovative and vibrant partnerships Great Northern has formed and nurtured over the past several years has given rise to a new logo for our organization. We hope you'll take a moment to consider the image that visually represents how we see ourselves and our work in the world – “Weaving a stronger community, together...”



Sharing our Community Room

It will soon be our pleasure to welcome the community into our new state-of-the-art multi-media Community Room, made possible by the generosity of the McConnell Foundation.

- A large computer monitor at one end of the room for video conferencing and media presentations;
- Seating for 24 at two long conference tables with an optional visual divider available to partition off half the room for smaller meetings;
- USB and HDMI data ports and power outlets at each of the conference tables;
- Free access to GNS Wi-Fi;
- A small kitchen area with a dishwasher and refrigerator.

Non-profits organizations may reserve and use the center free of charge, for-profit entities will be charged a nominal user fee.



GREAT NORTHERN services

Weaving a stronger community, together...

Expanding food programs

Ongoing hunger in our community makes expansion of our food programs a critical goal in the coming year – and every year. Kids' Cooking Classes, Snack Bags, Care Bags, Produce Tailgate Parties, Summer Food for Kids, School Pantries, and Mount Shasta Fresh are well established in Weed and/or Mount Shasta. Community donors and volunteers are getting more involved, excited by the opportunity to help make sure kids and families have enough to eat. Your participation will help make a difference in our efforts to feed those in need in even more communities.

Hosting a Food Summit

Thanks to funding from the Ford Family Foundation, Great Northern will organize and host a 2017 Summer Food Summit, inviting the "doers" and the leaders from communities around the county to talk about feeding hungry kids during the summer vacation months. We are excited to hear about the challenges other communities face, share information and lessons learned about our Summer Food program, and help pave the way for feeding kids in communities such as Etna, Dorris, McCloud, and Dunsmuir.

Building affordable housing

In the coming year we will also begin addressing the need for affordable housing in our community by building family housing in Weed on the land where the Great Northern's offices burned down in the 2014 Boles Fire. Three bedroom/two bath homes will be designed as part of a multi-use subdivision for young families and first time home buyers by our partners on CalPoly's planning, architecture and construction management teams. CalPoly students will work with the City of Weed to obtain the necessary permits and will then work side by side with students in College of the Siskiyous' construction class so our local students can learn how to build and put together these homes. COS has committed continued partnership with us to help complete this project over time. Great Northern will sell the homes at an affordable market rate so we can continue to build out the subdivision.

Planning the Marketplace

An implementation grant is in the works that will move forward the Marketplace at the Landing project in Mount Shasta. Great Northern is excited to be part of the planning for a facility that will establish an expanded, year-round Farmers Market as well as permanent kitchen facilities for rent by small and start-up food businesses and the opportunity for them to sell products year-round on site; a food business incubator program; and expert business development support. Working with partners such as the City of Mount Shasta, the Jefferson Economic Development Institute, USDA Rural Development, the McConnell Foundation, the Shasta Regional Community Foundation, College of the Siskiyous, and the County of Siskiyou, we are proud to be part of the effort to expand the horizons of local food entrepreneurs to help the community participate in the county's food security and contribute to its economic development.

Executive Director:

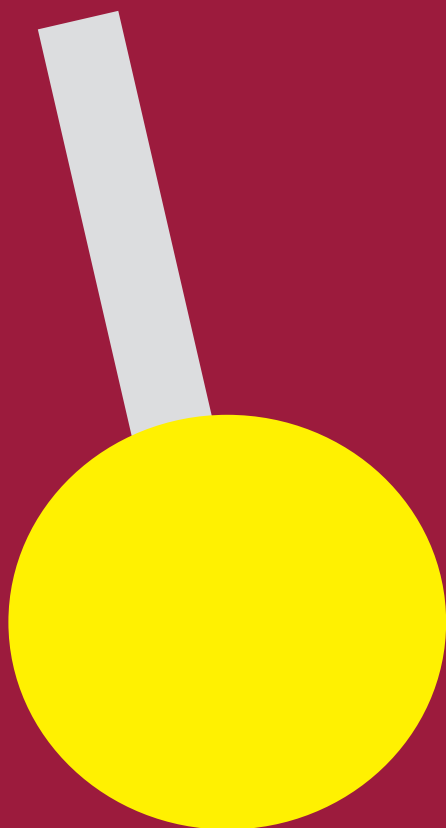
Bonnie Kubowitz
Board Director

Staff:

Angela Nathan
Betty Leas
Christine Meadows
Claudia Trevisan
Coral Gross
Deborra Brannon
Dodi Dickson
Heather Solus
Jeff Holmquist
Jeremy Porteous
Larry Luce
Marie-Josée Wells
Nichole McCown
Rod Merys
Seata Madison
Sue Tofflemire
Vickie Daniels
Zach McCrillis

Financial Statement

For more than 38 years Great Northern has been dedicated to fiscal responsibility. GNS fund disbursements align with our mission as we balance short and long term needs. The expertise of our accounting advisor, the governance of a strong board of directors and the high caliber of our staff ensure the highest standards of financial accountability. We've earned the trust of our funders and do what is necessary to preserve that trust, undergoing annual Single Audits by an independent certified public accounting firm that examines both financial and compliance components.



Assets:

Total Liabilities and Net Assets

December 31, 2016

2,233,264

December 31, 2015

1,054,202

Statement of Activities:

Total Revenue

2,464,887

2,919,087

Total Expenditures

2,061,345

2,389,542

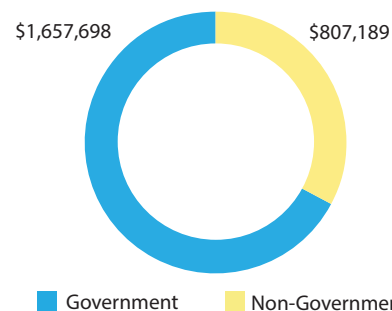
Net Income

403,542

529,545

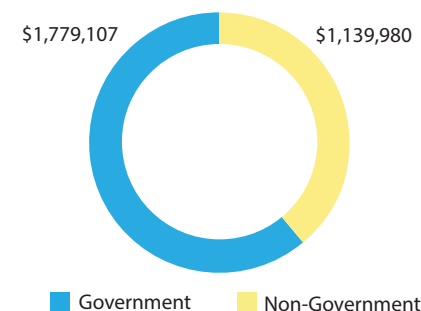
Total Revenue 2016

2,464,887



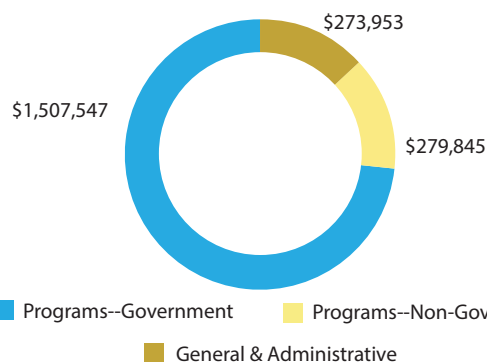
Total Revenue 2015

\$2,919,087



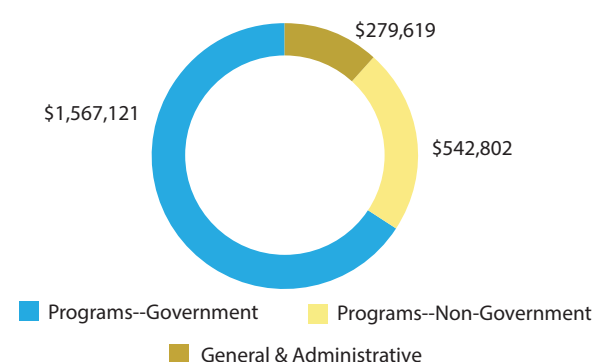
Total Expenditures 2016

2,061,345



Total Expenditure 2015

\$2,389,542





Heather Weldon

Yreka Branch Manager for Banner Bank

Board President

"As president of the GNS board, I am proud to be part of a great organization with great leadership. Great Northern is not only dedicated to serving the needs of Siskiyou County, they also give back to individuals, families, small businesses, and our rural communities."



Anna Guzman

Weed Branch Services Manager for Scott Valley Bank

Board Director

"As an individual, one can only do so much to help others in need. As a member of the GNS board, my efforts are amplified. That is satisfying to me personally and I am proud to be associated with such a fine organization that is so effective in its support for our region."

Board of Directors



Robert Menzies

Botanist, Owner of Menzies Native Nursery

Board Vice President

"Community, volunteerism, and a commitment to those who develop programs that enhance and help the lives within this county—these are my reasons for serving on the Great Northern Services board and helping to affect its policies."



Terri Mazingo

Real Estate and Investment Broker

Board Secretary & Treasurer

"The good that GNS does for the community is awesome, and it's a privilege to be part of it. I appreciate the positive direction the organization is moving in under the current leadership of Bonnie Kubowitz and through the excellent efforts of the entire Great Northern staff."



Retired Officer Frank Goulart

Mount Shasta Police Department

Board Director

"I had the opportunity to help others every day, and it's a great feeling. I believe in and support Great Northern Services because of the outstanding work they do in the community."



GREAT NORTHERN
- services -

Weaving a stronger community, together...

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www.gnservices.org

