

Welcome to the Lighthouse annual report

We considered long and hard the tone and organizing philosophy of our annual report, believing that it would be great to incorporate the tone and plot of an adventure story: A hero struggles against adversity, and eventually overcomes many obstacles to achieve her mission, to satisfy her deepest desire. What nonprofit organization wouldn't celebrate such a narrative?

But we need to work up to that. This year, we start with a more modest proposal: to base our annual report on a poem.

"The Red Wheelbarrow," by William Carlos Williams, is a quintessential high modernist poem;\* it argues that the good in the world comes from small details, engaging images, and subtle shades of emotion and meaning.

Much like an annual report, whose success depends on small details, engaging images, and subtle shades of emotion and meaning.

And it's meant to inform, as well.

.....

All best,

Michael Henry	Andrea Dupree
Co-founder	Co-founder
Executive Director	Program Director

\*William Carlos Williams was a pediatrician and one of the leading figures in contemporary poetry for most of the 20th century. Perhaps his greatest poem, "The Red Wheelbarrow," in total, goes like this:

so much depends  
upon

a red wheel  
barrow

glazed with rain  
water

beside the white  
chickens.





## So much depends upon

The Lighthouse community. Lighthouse is not a thing, it's an idea, a web of supportive relationships, a confluence of passion and intelligence and creativity.

Furthermore, Lighthouse shares the belief that writing and reading are infinitely important to us as a species. It's what makes us human. We need and depend upon the power of words. And we depend on you, our community. Thank you for everything you've done for Lighthouse this year.

### Here is where we name names:

#### THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Jay Kenney, President	Janelle Lassonde, Treasurer	Josh Dinar
Nancy Graham, Vice President	Charles Bloomfield	Diane Marty
Emily Sinclair, Secretary	Carleen Brice	Tiffany Q. Tyson

#### THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS:

<b>OVER \$5,000</b>	<b>\$500 TO \$999</b>		<b>UP TO \$99</b>	
Chad Kenney	Nick Arvin	Jon Hammer	Phyllis Barber	Joann Milavec
Jay Kenney	Lisa Kenney	Darlene Jamison	Robert Brocker	Kristen Nelson
Emily Sinclair	Tiffany Tyson	Jennifer Korman	Cathy Capozzoli	Noelle Nicholson
<b>\$1000 TO \$4,999</b>	<b>\$100 TO \$499</b>	Barbara Moe	Claude Convers	Patrick O'Driscoll
Josh Dinar	James Bainbridge	Mary Moser	Susan Friberg	Susan Osgood
Nancy Graham	Marcela Bird	Sarah Ockler	Renata Hill	Jakki Savan
Janelle Lassonde	Carleen Brice	Joan Ringel	John Holley	Kenneth Spooner
Stella Lillicrop	Denise Dupree	Andy Rooney	Josephine Jones	Vivian Tapp
Scott and Joy Sawyer	Wendy Fryke	Gary Schanbacher	Paul Kennebeck	
	Mack Green	Sonya Unrein	Ellen Kowitt	
		Joyce Vandever	Joannah Merriman	

Thanks to our volunteers, who schlepped coffee, washed dishes, took out the garbage, tapped the keg, made a chapbook (or thirty): Joyce Vandever, Roy Hohn, Dale Schellenger, Joy Vernon, Jeanette Edelstein, Scott and Joy Sawyer, Doni-Marie Rutledge, Nicola Kearns-Beattie, Jeni Rinner, John Holley, Rosemary L'Esprit, and Meghan Wilson.

#### THANK YOU TO THE ORGANIZATIONS AND SUPPORTERS UPON WHOM SO MUCH (ALSO) DEPENDS:

<i>5280 Magazine</i>	Kinder Morgan Foundation
Bloomfield Foundation	Rock Bottom Brewery
<i>Bloomsbury Review</i>	Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD)
Colorado Humanities	Tattered Cover Bookstore
Denver Office of Cultural Affairs	Whole Foods
Hooked On Colfax Coffee	



the red wheel  
barrow

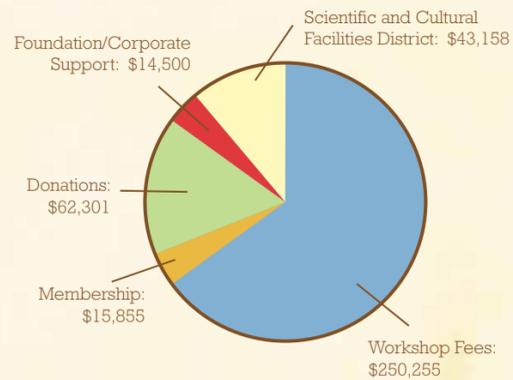


glazed with rain  
water

A wheelbarrow full of cash and coin is a common metaphorical image that represents good times. At Lighthouse, we like to think in terms of two wheelbarrows—one bringing money in, one sending programs and support out. Both are on a mission to build community, support writers, sustain the organization, and haul stuff.

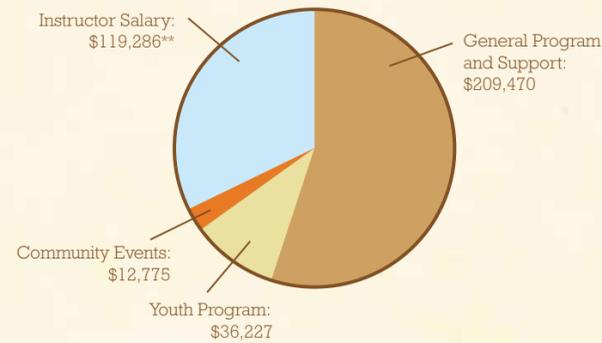
Assuming you wish to see how our dual wheelbarrows work, we humbly serve up some financial pie (graphs).

2008 INCOME:



TOTAL INCOME: \$386,069

2008 EXPENSE:



TOTAL EXPENSE: \$377,758

\*\* Includes \$9,000 in teaching salary donated by Executive Director and Program Director.

And since we're immersed in numbers, here's a summary of our growth over the years.

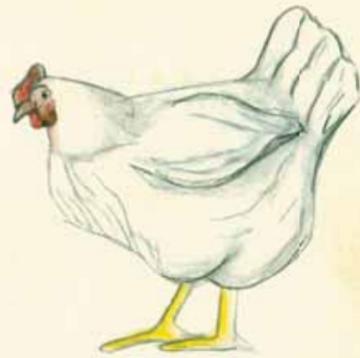
Year	Total Revenue	# of Students	# of Members
2008:	\$386,069	1,660	484
2007:	\$343,703	1,520	369
2006:	\$300,576	1,507	395
2005:	\$232,769	895	296
2004:	\$195,588	808	322

Member publications, awards, and other recognition—they rain down on us and make us flourish. As do many of our testimonials. Perhaps the recent successes of Lighthouse members are a kind of deluge, or a steady drizzle. [Or perhaps it's the opposite: a beacon, a brilliant, glazed, searching light that cuts through the dark storm of the writer's solitude.]

(If you can think of a better deconstruction of these lines, please write us at [info@lighthousewriters.org](mailto:info@lighthousewriters.org).)

Here are some bright lights from the past year:

- Of the literary categories at the 2008 Colorado Book Awards, Lighthouse student-members and faculty took major prizes in literary fiction (Gary Schanbacher, *Migration Patterns*) nonfiction (Kim Field, *No Safe Place*), and anthology (Laura Pritchett, *Home Land: Ranching and a West that Works*).
- David Wroblewski, one of our members, saw his novel, *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*, selected by Oprah and topping the *New York Times*' bestseller list. He presented a free lecture to a group of 200+ at the Lab at Belmar on the art and craft of writing, the podcast of which we've made available to anyone in the country who wishes to hear his wisdom.
- Long-time student and volunteer Sarah Ockler received a two-book, six-figure deal with Little, Brown for a young adult series. She cites her work at the 8-week workshops, the Lit Fest, and the Grand Lake Retreat as major motivators for the completion of her novel.
- Of the four young poets selected for the City of Denver's Poetry in Motion program, wherein their work will be featured on Denver buses, three of them were Lighthouse students and their poems were written in our workshops. We received a "Book of Thanks" from the kids at the Mapleton Expeditionary School that highlights how hungry the kids are for this kind of creative outlet. Our evaluations at the end of the programs have indicated that over 80% feel like better, more confident writers after workshops than they felt before.
- Carleen Brice, longtime Lighthouse member and current board member, won the 2009 First Novelist Award from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association for *Orange Mint and Honey*.
- In an increasingly difficult financial climate, Lighthouse was able to keep workshop and membership fees reasonable, and we've also been able to continue creating and offering free events to the public, both of which support the writing community. At a time when many non-profits are contracting, Lighthouse has been able to hold steady and even modestly expand.



## beside the white chickens

Have you ever tried to catch a chicken? Ever try to reach an ambitious goal?

Please be reassured that at Lighthouse, we never, ever, count our white chickens before they hatch.

Snagging a chicken with limited resources can be accomplished. But it's not easy.

### Goals Achieved or in Progress:

We've expanded our young writers programs into local schools, including Morey Middle School, Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts, and others.

We've created the Beacon Award, which acknowledges and celebrates a talented, dedicated faculty member each year, granting them a cash award of \$1,000. And throwing a party in their honor.

We've made our annual Lit Fest the literary event of the summer, with over 1,400 attending workshops, parties, salon talks, and weekend intensives. One nationally renowned literary agent wrote us after the last one and said, "This was the best writing conference I've ever attended."

Our signature event—the Writer's Studio Weekend—has become our most popular event of the year. Past guests have included Tobias Wolff, Mark Irwin, Pattiann Rogers, Chris Offutt, Francine Prose, and Mark Strand.

Coming in October 2009 to the Writer's Studio: Lorrie Moore, author of *Birds of America*, *Like Life*, *Self-Help*, *Anagrams*, and the forthcoming *A Gate at the Stairs*, and winner of the coveted Rea Award for the Short Story (\$30,000).

We're working hard to improve our development, fundraising, and membership programs, in order to keep workshop fees reasonable. Such improved development will also make Lighthouse better able to feed and house our chickens.

### Ways you can help us (catch our chickens):

- Take a workshop.
- Get your wonderfully creative kid signed up for a workshop.
- Renew your membership.
- Donate money.
- Volunteer to help at events and workshops.
- Bring your clippers and help with Ferril House landscaping.
- Tell other writerly types about us.

Lighthouse is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that complies with all federal rules and regulations in providing equal access and opportunities in both learning and employment. We do not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, physical disability, sexual orientation, race, or religion.

Our mission is to educate, support and develop community among writers and readers in Denver, Colorado and beyond.

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