

RISE

RESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE
ON THE STUDY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

ANNUAL REPORT — JUNE 2024



Dear Friends,

THIS YEAR WE CELEBRATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OUR FIRST \$1 MILLION ENDOWMENT TO SUPPORT RISE STUDENTS. With this endowment RISE is now able to attract and retain students who without additional support might not fulfill their dream of attending college. This will allow us to recruit a more diverse cohort of future environmental leaders. We are deeply grateful to Gary and Sue Farha for their generous gift and commitment to a sustainable future.

This year we also celebrate new partnerships that enrich and expand our ability to engage students in meaningful social justice work. These partners include Kevin Leonard, Interim Director of the MSU Native American Institute and Elias Lopez, College Acceptance Migrant Program and Paige Emerson, Community Director 1855 Apartments. These partnerships connect RISE students with members of the MSU community who have historically been oppressed, marginalized, and underserved. By growing these partnerships, we renew our commitment to providing RISE students opportunities to engage in work that expands their sense of purpose.

We hope this report gives you a glimpse into the life of a RISE student and inspires you to come visit us! Please feel free to reach out to schedule a visit. We would love to see you in the upcoming year.

— Laurie and Jorhie

A RISE SNAPSHOT

\$1 MIL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

\$100,000 STUDENT TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP

25 RISE FRESHMEN TRAVEL TO UC BERKELEY BIONEERS CONFERENCE

RISE NEAR-PEER MENTORING PROGRAM ASSISTS WITH TRANSITION FROM HS

RISE 'CURBSIDE' RECYCLING RETURNS TO BAILEY HALL

RISE CAMPUS CHANGE POLLINATOR PROJECT LOOKS AT **REDUCING LAWN MONOCULTURE**

40 RAISED BEDS BUILT FOR 1855 GARDEN

20 LBS SEED PACKAGED FOR GREATER LANSING FOOD BANK GARDEN PROJECT FAMILIES

This year we celebrated a major milestone in establishing a \$1 million endowment that will fund academic scholarships for deserving RISE students. Thanks to a generous gift from Gary and Sue Farha we now have the Farha Family Go Green Scholarship and the \$100,000 Farha Family Go Green Student Travel Fund. These two funds significantly change the ability of the RISE program to recruit and retain students pursuing degrees in environmental studies.



“This generous gift from Gary and Sue Farha sends a critically important message to our students that we need and support future leaders for a sustainable future. I look forward to awarding our emerging leaders in RISE with financial support for their education in all disciplines that intersect with climate science and environmental sustainability.”

— Dr. Laurie Thorp
RISE Director

Gary has always been committed to the development of young people, particularly in his field of renewable energy and sustainability, said Sue, who earned her Master of Business Administration from MSU in 1982. By establishing this scholarship fund at MSU, we can provide opportunities for students to pursue their passion in this field and contribute to the exciting challenges that lie ahead.

As a result of this gift, 24 RISE first year students were able to attend the 2024 Bioneers conference held at UC Berkeley in March. Here students were able to network with experts in a variety of disciplines related to sustainability. Students were also exposed to new concepts and global initiatives in ecological restoration, conservation and environmental justice. This type of travel is typically out of reach for freshmen due to the expense of conference travel. Now thanks to the Farha's and the establishment of this endowment, first year students are able to have complete access the professional

development and scholarly growth that is gained by attending professional conferences.

One RISE student reflected, *Throughout the trip we had the privilege of meeting a diverse array of individuals who share their unique perspectives and experiences. From fellow attendees to the speaker, each interaction served as a reminder of the power of human connection and the importance of fostering meaningful relationships.*

Another RISE student had this to say, *Throughout the conference experience I felt a type of grounding that I've never felt before. I feel like I know where I am going.*



1855 PLACE COMMUNITY GARDEN

This year, RISE forged a new partnership with the 1855 Place Community Garden. Constructed in 2019 by students, the garden was designed for residents of the 1855 Place Apartments as a place to develop a sense of belonging and increase access to healthy foods. 1855 Place Apartments provide housing primarily to international graduate students and their families. This year the garden will host 50+ gardeners from 25 different countries.

The partnership started as a campus change project initiated during the RISE Retreat in the summer of 2023. Incoming RISE students

had a strong interest in addressing food insecurity on campus and felt that the 1855 Place Community Garden was an ideal space to explore solutions to food insecurity. The idea was further developed among RISE students in NSC 192 fall semester. Throughout the year, students helped prepare the site by laying fabric, building raised beds, seeding culturally inclusive transplants, and more.

This project complements the weekly food distribution that supplied produce from the Student Organic Farm (SOF) to Spartan Parent Resource Center (SPRC) families during September and October. With these

partners, RISE supported the distribution of over 3600 pounds of fresh food to the residents at the 1855 Place Apartments. Additionally, this project spurred a new partnership with the Greater Lansing Food Bank Garden Project, with which the 1855 Place Community Garden is now registered.

In line with the 2030 MSU Strategic Plan, we feel that this project supports a sense of belonging among international graduate students and first-year undergraduate students seeking to build community here at MSU.

PARTNERS:
Residence Education and Housing Services (REHS)
Spartan Parent Resource Center (SPRC)
Student Organic Farm (SOF)
Paige Emerson (Community Director)
Zach Grover (Community Director)
Greater Lansing Food Bank Garden Project (Mike Tosto)

100 HS SENIORS
ATTENDED RISE
OPEN HOUSE



**200 CUPS
OF COFFEE**
SERVED DURING
RISE COFFEE
HOUR



40 INCOMING FRESHMEN
ATTENDED RISE AUGUST
RETREAT ON CAMPUS



30,000 BEES
RESIDING ON OUR
GREEN ROOF



2,000 LBS OF FOOD
GROWN BY RISE
STUDENTS IN BAILEY
GREENHOUSE



RISE
BY THE
NUMBERS

**50 LBS OF OYSTER
MUSHROOMS**
GROWING IN OUR
FUNGI TENT



35 STUDENTS
ENGAGED IN RISE
CAMPUS CHANGE
PROJECTS



**3,619 LBS OF
FOOD DONATED**
FROM SOF
VIA RISE/ SPRC



**40 INCOMING
FRESHMEN**
ATTENDED RISE
PRE-NSO WORKSHOP



2000 WORMS
EATING OUR
FOOD WASTE

