Dear LSNC family,

I’m proud to present the LSNC 2012-2013 Annual Report. This was a year of reflection and change for us, and your support and donations, program participants, neighbors, staff, and volunteers—has allowed us to grow and broaden our commitment to the community. One change we carried out is reflected in this report: a shift to our internal calendar, bringing us into alignment with our audiences in a way that will improve our effectiveness. 2012 was a transitional 10-month fiscal year.

This was a wonderful year for us. We introduced Firefly Fun, a monthly campfire event, free and open to all. As a welcomed space for the community to gather, the events were an immediate success, as people of all ages and backgrounds joined us around the fire to share stories, enjoy the outdoors, and get to know one another. Throughout the year, we were privileged to take LSNC to unique settings and bring environmental education and hands-on natural science to new audiences, including programs for families, patients, and staff at C.S. Mott’s Children’s Hospital and VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System, as well as a second year of programming with residents of Oakland Children’s Village.

Here on our site, we were able to make significant physical improvements to our Critter House throughout the year, better supporting our educational animals as well as our ability to teach visitors. In December 2011, new pathway construction was completed on our site; this millage-funded project made our buildings accessible at ADA standards and reflects our commitment, supported by the City of Ann Arbor, to be an organization that welcomes everyone in our community.

I invite you to read through the information in this Annual Report, and to visit any time—you are always welcome at our programs, on our hiking trails, visiting our nonreleasable birds of prey, or even just stopping by to say hello!

Susan Westhoff
Executive Director, Leslie Science & Nature Center
Leslie Science & Nature Center
2012-13
Annual Report

Leslie Science & Nature Center
is a nonprofit organization that provides
environmental education and experiences for children,
families, and other individuals to honor and
perpetuate the legacy of Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Leslie by
fostering understanding, appreciation,
stewardship, and respect for
the natural world.

Board of Directors
Jennifer Santi Hall—Chair, Rebecca Nielsen—Vice Chair, Doug Kelly—Treasurer, Wendy Lawrence—Secretary, Susan Westhoff—President, Lisa Brush, Lyle Dahlberg, Marie Deveney, Anne Glendon, Alan Jackson, Kristopher Korvun, Becky Lentz, Tom McKarns, Ryan Noel, Kelly Orringer, Beverly Seford

LSNC staff worked with teachers to assure a close fit with our curriculum. Perfect for Girl Scouts. Wonderful program gave the students practical, hands-on experience for the science concepts we are studying. The sketching and journaling were especially good. What a great experience for students and teachers alike. Lots of activities were great and gained knowledge about nature. Leslie Science & Nature Center was a great experience between these two days.

The program was great! I was very impressed with how my daughters did in such a short period of time! I took our curriculum into consideration and gave us what we asked for!! Expectations were always high and we were met well. I wouldn’t change a thing about this program. The teachers were very friendly and organized and conducted the camp professionally. My children had a wonderful time and the scientific facts they shared while doing the volcano eruption project the most. But also love the camp staff members are so kind, and understanding. The camp was well run. My family and I had a great experience. The kids and we all liked that all the camp needs to come together and enjoy the games to teach adaptation concepts. We were excited about everything he learned. This is a very positive and fun week for my son – thanks to you all for your work. My daughter was excited about all the outdoor fun and knowledgeable adults who like to share what they know about nature. The program gave the students practical, hands-on experience for the science concepts they were studying. I wouldn’t change this place about this program. Thank you for your work.