



To help all, especially the young, gain a greater understanding of the world and its people through hostelling.

HI-USA  
MICHIGAN COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT 2008



**Special points of interest:**

- The Berkley building was sold in August, 2008
- We had 1017 participants attend our cultural travel education programs
- About 865 members and friends enjoyed our hike/bike and Paddle activities
- Donations are DOWN due to the economic conditions in Michigan

**LOOKING TO THE FUTURE AND HONORING THE PAST . . .**

Period Ending September 30, 2008

**Introduction**

The Michigan Council emphasized our cultural educational programs during the 2008 fiscal year. (See adjoining "Program Delivery" section)

Thanks to the efforts of Realtor Rick Axe and HI USA Counsel William Evans, the MI. board was able to sell the building located at 3020-3026 Coolidge Highway in Berkley, Michigan.

The Michigan Council board had a few changes in membership during the year, as is typical for volunteer organizations. We continue to add younger, technically talented members who have a passion for our mission.

Volunteers continued the weekly hike/bike activities and we sponsored International Dinners and Paddle to the Symphony. However, due to the Michigan economic decline, our year has ended in a financial loss.

**Program Delivery**

Joan Smykowski was retained for an additional year as our contracted Volunteer Coordinator. Due to her effective networking, many new organizations and relationships were added to our community network in order to continue the training and delivery of our cultural travel education programs.

The Michigan Council was presented with an award by HI USA for presenting our World Travel 101 program to the highest number of participants throughout the period of 2006-7. During the 2008 fiscal year, we again surpassed our target of participants, allowing us to continue receiving income from HI USA's National Funding Pool, our major source of funds.



HI USA awarded grants to the Michigan Council for two programs: a Continuation Grant to fund World Travel 101/Trip Planning for Girl Scouts, and to deliver Cultural Kitchen and/or Community Walls programs for youth agencies of all kinds; a grant to secure a Campus Outreach Coordinator to enhance awareness of HI Michigan and HI USA on the college campus during the 75th Anniversary of HI USA during 2009. Sharif AliDinar, Wayne State University student and President of the HI MI Club on campus, has been retained for as our liaison and is working with Dr. Robert Holley, lifetime member of our council, and Joan Smykowski in planning and delivering a variety of programs and activities at Wayne State in the coming months.

Joan continues volunteer training sessions for all programs.

**Developing our Hostel Network**

As we deliver our programs to various groups, our volunteers emphasize the value of staying in Hostelling International hostels, both in the United States and abroad. The value of meeting or sharing a meal informally with individuals and groups from different communities enhances understanding of various cultures more readily than any other forum.



Locally, the Chicago hostel and Stanford House and Malabar

Farms in Ohio HI USA hostels are closest to us in proximity. Those in Minnesota and Wisconsin provide a varied atmosphere also for travel in the Midwest. We encourage program participants and groups to visit these locations, emphasizing their security, comfort, and above all, amazing cultural benefits.

Expose our youth to the world!



**Promoting our Network**



"Get Ready to Travel" with Youthville-Detroit at Madonna University



International Coffee Hour at Wayne State University.

CU.Same with Shalom Street, the Address for Jewish Discovery, The Arab American



National Museum, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, and the Henry Ford Museum.

**Future Networking Plans**

- Enhanced web site capability and virtual communication forums
- Develop a Michigan Council Intranet
- Continue adding relationships with public institutions and groups

## Michigan Vision Statement

**Hostellers become caring world citizens who are catalysts for intercultural exchange and understanding, and who are stewards of the earth.**



Council President Sue Trudeau received an award honoring the Michigan Council's participation in the Wayne State University International Students' Coffee Hour program.



The HI MI booth during Earth Day celebrations at Milford Central Park, promoting **GREEN TRAVEL**.

## MICHIGAN COUNCIL

### Building our Membership

During the fiscal year ending in September 2008, the State of Michigan experienced a significant economic downturn. This has effected all non-profit organizations in the area. Memberships are down all around the State.

Susan Trudeau, President of the Michigan Council, took part in a discussion during the Fall Midwest Regional Meeting in Chicago based on a membership survey conducted for HI USA. The results of that survey will help the national council board determine the value of memberships at HI USA.

During our programs, we promote all forms of membership including the free group memberships available for qualifying non-profit groups. We also have membership give-aways at various events and programs in order to promote the use of HI USA hostels especially.

As HI USA, in conjunction with IYHF determine the best use and benefits of membership in the Hostelling International organization, we will continue to promote their various attributes and look forward to a final decision as it affects those of us in the United States.

### Expanding our Resources

The Michigan Council has alleviated some of its debt load with the sale of the Berkley building. This will allow us to have more liquid funds for potential uses such as travel scholarships for youth, and other functions that will help promote our mission in the public domain. Due to the favorable resolution, past concerns of potentially having to repair the building are now dismissed. We can look to the future without having to worry about a large outlay of money for the building.

The HI USA Funding Pool is being downsized, which also affects the monies donated to the Michigan Council from that source. However, due to favorable grant procurement, we are able to continue with projects started in past years and also enhance our capabilities in the public through additional and varied programming and events. We thank the HI USA board and staff for their offerings and the Michigan Council has taken each opportunity favorably in regards to the HI USA grants.

As we continue networking with various local universities and organizations, we also add to our base of potential donors. We are planning to be more involved in this type of resource development via promotion of the 2009 Anniversary of Hostelling celebration.

The use of our extensive historical presence in Michigan and the mission of enhancing cultural understanding are two strong reasons for gaining funds by various means. We just need strong volunteers willing to commit the time and effort to help the Council.

### SHAPING OUR ORGANIZATION



Youth representing 4 different cultures share and learn at The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn.

By bringing together youth of varying cultures, we enhance understanding of our differences, and recognition of our similarities. The benefit and end result include a more peaceful world. That is our vision and hostelling provides the forum for mutual understanding to take place.

### Officers and Members of the Board of Directors

**Susan Trudeau, President**  
Retired  
Waterford Township, MI

**Sally Janecek, Vice President**  
Marygrove College  
Waterford Township, MI

**Janel Yamashiro, Secretary**  
Inst. Tech. Masters Candidate, WSU  
Detroit, MI

**Matt Ripper, Treasurer**  
Teacher and Small Business Owner  
Livonia, MI

**Carol Galle, Board Member**  
Owner, Special D Events  
Royal Oak, MI

**Mike Willihnganz, Board Member**  
Electrician, Self Employed  
Highland, MI

**Markques McKnight, Board Member**  
Sr. Consultant, MarketSphere Consulting LLC  
Lake Orion, MI

**Amanda Trathen, Board Member**  
Acct. Mgr/Sales Analyst, Delphi Product Service  
Detroit, MI

**Alan Heavner, Board Emeritus**  
Owner, Heavner Canoe Rental

Fiscal Year 2008 has been a trial. We have saved expenses due to the sale of the building in Berkley. However, we have lost revenue due to declining memberships on a national basis for HI USA, and with loss of donations due to the economic downturn affecting all organizations in the area.

The Michigan Council has acted responsibly by moving funds into safe accounts while earning the highest return available. Our focus is on our programming in the community, and we use volunteers for committees, program delivery and activities. By contracting our Volunteer Coordinator, we have enjoyed the benefit of "staff" without the full expense of an employee.

Our goal for 2009 is to increase revenue through promotion of HI USA's 75th Anniversary.

### Financial Results

CATEGORY	AMOUNT	%
<b>INCOME</b>		
Net Memberships	N/A	N/A
Hostel Operations	N/A	N/A
Contributions	16494.00	61
Events and Programs	10,527.00	39
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b><u>27,021.00</u></b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program Services	32,668.00	66
Fundraising	7416.00	15
Administrative	9443.00	19
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>49,5527.00</u></b>	
<b>BEGINNING NET ASSETS</b>	81,741	
<b>ENDING NET ASSETS</b>	59242	

#### Our Location

The Michigan Council is a  
Virtual Council.

Web: [www.hi-michigan.org](http://www.hi-michigan.org)

Email: [hiusamichigan@gmail.com](mailto:hiusamichigan@gmail.com)

Phone: 248 302-8026

Snail Mail: PO Box 510228

Livonia, MI 48151

Thank you to  
**Joan Smykowski,**  
Volunteer Coordinator  
for the  
Michigan Council.  
She has provided a  
fantastic service  
throughout the year  
and is a major reason for  
our success.



Volunteers are  
the heart of our  
Council

