



HONEYBEE FUND – 2014 SUMMARY

I am delighted to present the annual report for our Honeybee Fund. As you may recall, this fund was created three years ago with the goal of providing philanthropic support to organizations that are connected with and contributing to our own thinking (and doing). So far this has proven a wonderful vehicle for the Honeybee “pollination model”: a significant portion (like, more than half) of Honeybee profits are dedicated to this fund, which then supports endeavors that are aligned with our key philosophical and investment themes. So, your support of Honeybee has positive leverage: it directly impacts our own work, while also having a ripple effect out in the broader world... which then inspires and assists us all the more. A wonderful cycle!

**Thanks to Honeybee’s thriving business, our giving this year is UP,
even as we invest significantly in our own work and the systems that support it.**

THANK YOU for your support, which has enabled this terrific gift-based pollination.

THEMATIC SUMMARY:

As you might deduce from the list of organizations, there are several categories of focus for the Honeybee Fund to date:

- **Creative thinking** – putting creative and energetic thought to giant complex issues.
- **Slower, more direct investing** – yes, I said slower. Organizations that are reconnecting investment with the actual world, and the pace thereof. Models for investing in local communities, including local food systems and education. Less synthetic, more connected.
- **Investing in women and girls** – take infinite potential + an under-invested opportunity set and you have an investor’s dream come true. Huge ROI.

These categories in turn correspond to some of Honeybee’s key research themes, which will be familiar to most readers:

- **Connecting ideas** amongst varied fields - creative, independent thought! We believe this is what leads to optimal long-term decision-making.
- **Reconnecting investing to the real world.** True investing (as opposed to many parts of finance) is inherently a connected activity, intertwined with the real world, and of benefit to that same real world - not confined to the world of bits and bytes on the screen.
- **Fostering new models.** Different models – philosophical, intellectual, and operational – are needed to re-align investing with its original purpose: service to our communities and our planet.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SUPPORTED ORGANIZATIONS (in reverse alphabetical order):

- **WOMEN'S WORLD BANKING** <http://womensworldbanking.org> *A global network of organizations that provide financial products for low-income women. "A woman who controls her own finances controls her own future."*
- **SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE/DONELLA MEADOWS INSTITUTE** <http://donellameadows.org> *Mission: "to bring economic, social and environmental systems into closer harmony with the realities of a finite planet and a globally powerful human race by using the disciplines of systems thinking, system dynamics, and collaborative learning." Let's do that.*
- **SUSTAINABLE AMERICA** <http://sustainableamerica.org> *Sustainability at the intersection of food and fuel. I love that this organization combines traditional nonprofit activity, strong research, and investment in innovative solutions. (I am also on SA's board.)*
- **SLOW MONEY INC** <http://slowmoney.org> *The Slow Money movement seeks to redirect attention and investment to our local communities, specifically our local food systems. Soil first!*
- **SAVORY INSTITUTE** <http://savoryinstitute.org> *Healing the land, empowering others, removing barriers to effective land management. See founder Alan Savory's TED talk for more detail on holistic land management: <http://go.ted.com/zHa>*
- **SANTA FE INSTITUTE** <http://www.santafe.edu> *Most of you already know how much I love learning from the folks at SFI, an oasis of creative, interdisciplinary work on complex adaptive systems. I'm honored to have joined their board, and look forward to many more SFI lessons in the future.*
- **ROOT CAPITAL** <http://rootcapital.org> *Finance and farming. Lending, training, connecting. Thriving markets, thriving farmers, thriving communities. Dig it.*
- **PROSPERITY CATALYST** <http://www.prosperitycatalyst.org> *Prosperity Catalyst is the non-profit sister org for Prosperity Candle, which has a great model for training women to own their own businesses, while providing coordinated and supported distribution for their beautiful products.*
- **POP TECH INSTITUTE** <http://poptech.org> *As you've read many times in our pages, PopTech provides connection to an amazing breadth of artistic, scientific, and applied creativity through its conferences and programs.*
- **OMEGA INSTITUTE** <http://www.eomega.org> *Omega is a terrific resource, and I am a particular fan of the work of their Women's Leadership Center, and Sustainable Living Center. They are focused on innovation and leadership in all sorts of ways – the kind of leadership that starts from within.*
- **NEW ENGLAND COMPLEX SYSTEMS INSTITUTE** <http://www.necsi.edu> *This innovative complex systems research group focuses on the intersection of "science and society"- such as their great work linking speculation in agricultural commodities to social unrest.*

- **MARION INSTITUTE** <http://www.marioninstitute.org> *Amongst other things, the Marion Institute organizes the awesome Connecting for Change conference, a truly inclusive and thoughtful gathering – all too rare, and very much appreciated.*
- **LONG NOW FOUNDATION** <http://longnow.org> *Long Now orients our thinking towards the long term – the REALLY long term. Their clock is set for thousands of years, not days or quarters... this automatically leads to differentiated insights. They are also trying to Jurassic-Park the woolly mammoth, but that's a story for another day.*
- **GREEN AMERICA** www.greenamerica.org *Green America's mission is to harness economic power—the strength of consumers, investors, businesses, and the marketplace—to create a socially just and environmentally sustainable society. They support a long list of creative, action-oriented initiatives towards these ends – bravo!*
- **GIRL UP** <http://girlup.org> *“Girl Up envisions a world where all girls, no matter where they live, have the opportunity to become educated, healthy, safe, counted and positioned to be the next generation of leaders.” Yeah. That.*
- **FERN (FOOD & ENVIRONMENT REPORTING NETWORK)** <http://thefern.org> *FERN is the first and only independent, non-profit news organization, producing in-depth journalism on food, agriculture, and environmental health. Check out their reporting!*
- **FARM SCHOOL INC** <http://www.farmschool.org> *The Farm School is just that – a school that's a farm, and a farm that's a school. Fantastic.*
- **CRITERION INSTITUTE** <http://criterioninstitute.org> *We have benefitted especially from Criterion's leadership in systems thinking and their (re)Value Gender initiative... and their 1k Churches project is pretty amazing too. (Full disclosure, I am involved on the board here too.)*
- **COLLECTIVE HERITAGE INSTITUTE (BIONEERS)** <http://bioneers.org> *“Breakthrough solutions for restoring people and planet... we connect people with solutions.” Their incredible annual gathering has just celebrated its 25th year!*
- **BUSINESS ALLIANCE FOR LOCAL LIVING ECONOMIES** <http://bealocalist.org> *You've heard of shop local, or eat local, but how 'bout full-fledged local living? How 'bout supporting the broad, deep systems that are needed for local economies to really thrive? That's what BALLE does.*
- **BIOMIMICRY INSTITUTE** <http://biomimicry.net> *By now you all know of my passion for biomimicry; the Institute is the nonprofit arm that promotes the transfer and use of these ideas in the world. See the super-cool examples at the <http://asknature.org> site for just one example of how this is done.*
- **ACUMEN** <http://acumen.org> *I've learned tremendously from Acumen's work and their investment in companies, leaders, and ideas that are improving lives worldwide. “Standing with the poor... creating hope in a cynical world.”*

***Our sincere thanks to all who have
supported the Honeybee Fund,
whether directly or indirectly.***

*If you would like to contribute directly to the fund,
please contact me at kc@honeybeecapital.com .*

*Please note that this is a donor-advised fund, so all of the benefits of this type
of charitable contribution – as well as constraints – apply.*



***Best wishes to all for a joyful holiday season
and a peaceful, prosperous New Year.***