

## RAVEN HILL DISCOVERY CENTER

Also Known As:  
4737 Fuller Rd  
East Jordan, MI 49727

*Institutional funders should note that an organization's inclusion on guidestar.org does not satisfy IRS Rev. Proc. 2011-33 for verifying charitable status and identifying supporting organizations.*

### Contact Information

#### RAVEN HILL DISCOVERY CENTER

Also Known As:

**Physical Address:** 4737 Fuller Rd  
East Jordan, MI 49727

**Web Address:** [www.MiRavenHill.org](http://www.MiRavenHill.org)

**Telephone:** 231- 536-3369

**Contact:** Ms. Cheri Leach  
[info@miravenhill.org](mailto:info@miravenhill.org)  
CEO and Program Director  
231- 536-3369 tel

### At A Glance

Formerly Known As:

**Category (NTEE):** A Arts, Culture, and Humanities /A99 Other Art, Culture, Humanities Organizations/Services N.E.C.

A Arts, Culture, and Humanities /A57 Science & Technology Museum

A Arts, Culture, and Humanities /A52 Children's Museums

**Areas Served:** Local  
National  
International

**Year Founded:** 1991

### Mission Statement

Raven Hill Discovery Center's mission is to provide a place that enhances lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history and art. This mission guides the Center's growth and development. Raven Hill ([www.MiRavenHill.org](http://www.MiRavenHill.org)) is the only place in northern Lower Michigan where children and adults can link science, history & the arts with hands-on activities and explorations both inside and out. Connections emerge through exhibits, facilities & programs that provide opportunities for all ages to learn, create, grow & play. Since opening in 1992, Raven Hill's focus on the connections between science, history & art has strengthened. Visitors experience the strands of science & technology, history and the arts interwoven through the Center's hands-on exhibits.

### How This Organization Is Funded

- Grants & Contributions - \$268,223
- Program service revenue - \$56,401
- Memberships - \$12,260

### Financial Data

[FAQs on Financial Data](#) | [Digitizing IRS Form 990 Data](#)

Financial Data For Fiscal Year Ending 2017

To see financial data from prior years, subscribe to [GuideStar Premium](#).

### Revenue and Expenses (GuideStar Nonprofit Profile, May 2018)

Fiscal Year Starting July 1, 2016  
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017

#### Revenue

Contributions	\$268,223
Program Services	\$56,401
Membership Dues	\$12,260
Special Events	\$17,390
\$2,359.00	\$4,536
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$356,633</b>

#### Expenses

Program Services	\$181,438
Administrative Costs	\$15,066
Payments To Affiliates	—

Total Expenses	\$210,383
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#### Assets & Liabilities

Total Assets	\$898,118
Total Liabilities	\$334,773
Net Assets or Fund Balance at the end of year	\$563,345

#### Balance Sheet (Form 990)

Subscribe to [GuideStar Premium](#) to view this information, if available.

#### Forms 990 Received from the IRS ?

- [2016 Form 990](#)
- [2015 Form 990](#)
- [2014 Form 990](#)

#### Forms 990 Provided by the Nonprofit

#### Financial Statements

Subscribe to [GuideStar Premium](#) to view this information, if available.

#### Annual Reports

- [2013 Annual Report](#)

#### Formation Documents ?

Subscribe to [GuideStar Premium](#) to view this information, if available.

#### Program: Raven Hill Discovery Center's Facilities and Exhibits (GuideStar Nonprofit Profile, May 2018)

**Budget:** --  
**Category:** General/Unspecified  
**Population Served:** Families  
**Program Description:**

Raven Hill Discovery Center is located on 166 acres in northern Lower Michigan adjacent to Little Traverse Conservancy's Raven Ridge Nature Preserve. Facilities include the Main Museum, which houses many hands-on exhibits including light, sound, motion, magnets, music, earth & life sciences; an exotic animal room; periodic room with a periodic table of elements; Art Corridor with science, history and how-to of art mediums; and the Great Room with natural history and multipurpose uses. Other facilities are the Fiber Studio, Print Shop, Wood Shop, School House, Alternative Energy House and the Evolving Technologies (ET) Building. Outdoor exhibits range from Medicinal Gardens; Art & Architecture in Smalville; Earth Tones Music Garden; Beyond Jurassic Park: The Earth's Geologic History; Tree House; Wetlands Boardwalk; Taxonomic (Taxi) Trail; The Ancient World; Whisper Dishes; the Pond and Learning Gardens. The Ancient World includes the Americas with a raised crop bed and Mayan Ball Court; Africa with a step pyramid and sphinx; Oceania with an Easter Island Head; Europe with the Bluestones of Stonehenge and an amazing Obelisk and much more including a Neolithic house. Visitors of all ages experience the strands of science & technology, culture, history and the arts interwoven throughout the Center's hands-on exhibits and displays. Raven Hill is a teaching institution whose students are its visitors and its teachers are the collections and displays, just as much as the staff and volunteers.

**Program Long-Term Success:**

**Program Short-Term Success:**

**Program Success Monitored by:**

**Program Success Examples:**

#### Program: Programs at Raven Hill Discovery Center (GuideStar Nonprofit Profile, May 2018)

**Budget:** --  
**Category:** General/Unspecified  
**Population Served:** K-12 (5-19 years)  
**Program Description:**

RHDC programs vary by location, age & interest. Science, history & art classes, with connections between them, take place year round for all ages. Classes include Arts & Crafts, Astronomy, Chemistry, Geology, History, Life Science Physics & Survival. Participants choose from listed classes to fit their interest or put together a custom hands-on class/classes to meet individual needs & ages. Classes are by appointment. Special classes are offered all year. Summer brings Luke Buck, a watercolor artist, to Raven Hill for a two day Watercolor Workshop. In 2014 Raven Hill is collaborating with NASA to present a Lunar and Meteorite Certification Workshop & a STEM Workshop for Teachers focusing on Force and Motion. Both workshops are free with lunch included. Other presentations have included a flute making class in a Native American style; a series in collaboration with the Charlevoix County History Preservation Society on the Todd Family, pioneers in the Northern Michigan area, with a visit to the Todd Family homestead on Raven Hill Discovery Center's property! Field trip groups to Raven Hill Discovery Center enjoy the full benefits of fun, hands-on & educational activities for children and adults in small group settings. Groups choose from activities to fit their interests or put together custom hands-on lessons to meet classroom objectives, regardless of age. ALL ACTIVITIES are chosen to fit ages, needs & interests of the classroom or organizations such as boy or girl scouts and homeschool groups. Possible field trip activities & topics include to arts & crafts, astronomy, chemistry, geology, life science, mathematics, museum, Native American, physics, pioneer living, process skills, survival & technology. Field trips are by appointment. Non-traditional Career Expos are offered each year to middle school students. FREE (Families Reaching for Educational Excellence) Second Saturdays occur on the second Saturday of each month and are free for families, who enjoy all the hands-on exhibits in the Main Museum and meet the reptiles and amphibians in the Animal Room. Families are then welcome to enjoy the other facilities and exhibits outside all the while learning science, history & art and the connections between them! Teachers can complete work for graduate credit in history, art or science through Central Michigan University Off-Campus Programs presented at Raven Hill Discovery Center year-round. The Center is host to Northern Michigan Astronomy Club (NOMAC). The Center is NOMAC's primary viewing site & host to their Annual Star Party. Programs such as Char-Em ISD Young Adult summer work program for students with special needs and 2013 & 2014 GUTSEE Girls for at-risk students target special populations. Other activities include Open Houses, Hands-On Holidays, Equinox & Solstice Celebrations, Earth Day Celebrations & a Winter Holiday Gathering. Raven Hill Discovery Center is a wonderful place to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries or any special day.



Program Long-Term Success:  
Program Short-Term Success:  
Program Success Monitored by:  
Program Success Examples:

#### Program: Raven Hill Discovery Center's Outreach (GuideStar Nonprofit Profile, May 2018)

Budget: --  
Category: K-12 (5-19 years)  
Population Served: Families  
Program Description:

Raven Hill provides quality experiences for all ages through outreach. Connections are interwoven between art & culture, history, science & technology and emerge through the use all senses. Hands-on sessions are: available in science, history, & arts; designed for all ages, abilities & interests; and offered year-round. Programs include: Classroom Assemblies; a wide variety of STEM and STEAM programs; Museum To Go (animals, history, art, science of all types); Field Trip To Go; Under Michigan; Magic in the Air; History Alive; Professional Development; and outreach designed for a specific group. 2014 grants awards for GEAR UP (Great Engineering Adventures in Robotics for Unlimited Potential) & STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) to Go allowed Raven Hill to present hands-on STEM programs in local schools. Museum To Go brought museum experiences into classes, giving students time to explore art, history & science hands-on-making links to grade level science & social studies objectives. Outreach programs such as CASH (Connecting Art Science and History) for Kids (a 2014 MCACA Artist In Education Residency award) tie art to social studies & science curriculum. The Center provides quality programs to libraries, preschools, schools, and many groups & organizations. The Center provides outreach programs for many area events such as the Polish Festival and SoBo. Raven Hill is a presenter in the 2012-15 Michigan Arts & Humanities Council Touring Directory. Raven Hill's off-site outreach programs are planned to be accessible to all.

Program Long-Term Success:  
Program Short-Term Success:  
Program Success Monitored by:  
Program Success Examples:

#### Chief Executive (GuideStar Nonprofit Profile, May 2018)

Ms. Cheri Jean Leach

##### Chief Executive Profile:

Co-founder of Raven Hill. BA from Albion College in Albion, Michigan; Master of Science Education from University of Michigan; Sheldon Laboratory Award Winner in 1991, Eleanor Roosevelt Fellow in 1991-2.

#### Board Chair (GuideStar Nonprofit Profile, May 2018 )

Mr. Steve Roote

##### Term:

Since 2016

##### Institution Affiliation:

Green Horizons Metal Roofing

#### Board Co-Chair

#### Board of Directors (GuideStar Nonprofit Profile, May 2018)

Name	Institution Affiliation
Trent Graham	East Jordan High School
Nancy Hellman	Retired Teacher
Caroline Keson	Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
Georganna Monk	Friar Tucks Frame Shop
Steve Roote	Green Horizons Metal Roofing
Holly Sasso	Retired from Michigan Department of Education

#### Board Leadership Practices (GuideStar Nonprofit Profile, May 2018)



<b>Board Orientation &amp; Education</b> Does the board conduct a formal orientation for new board members and require all board members to sign a written agreement regarding their roles, responsibilities, and expectations?	False
<b>CEO Oversight</b> Has the board conducted a formal, written assessment of the chief executive within the past year?	False
<b>Ethics &amp; Transparency</b> Have the board and senior staff reviewed the conflict-of-interest policy and completed and signed disclosure statements within the past year?	False
<b>Board Composition</b> Does the board ensure an inclusive board member recruitment process that results in diversity of thought and leadership?	True
<b>Board Performance</b>	

**Board Information**

Has the board conducted a formal, written self-assessment of its performance within the past three years?

**False****Officers for Fiscal Year** (Form 990)Subscribe to [GuideStar Premium](#) to view this information, if available.**Highest Paid Employees & Their Compensation** (Form 990)Subscribe to [GuideStar Premium](#) to view this information, if available.