

# The International Focusing Institute

## ANNUAL REPORT Summer 2016

### **BUILDING A RENEWED INSTITUTE**

With remarkable resilience, we have navigated the first two years of transition from being Founder-led. Focusers all over the world have great goodwill and commitment to the Institute and share a dedication to common goals: keeping Focusing alive and available to the world, protecting it and fostering its development; spreading understanding of the philosophy that undergirds it, and maintaining our sense of community with one another.

The Focusing Institute has a central role to play in these goals, and through strategic planning we are discerning the mission and key goals of the Institute. Along the way, we have invited all of you to join us in this process. **Thank you** for your active participation.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS**

Much of the work that the Board, International Leadership Council (ILC) and Executive Director have done this year has been to engage in strategic planning through joint meetings once a month (in addition to their two regular monthly meetings -- they are a dedicated group!). We began this process in Spring 2015 under the leadership of Joe Colletti, who helped us craft our mission statement, with active input from the worldwide community. At the Seattle International Focusing Conference, we developed four goals, and received an enormous response from participants to our request for feedback on the goals and possible strategies to fulfill them. After returning from Seattle, we found that we needed more time for felt sensing some key issues, especially the role of the International Leadership Council. We are grateful for the guidance of Rosa Zubizarreta, who helped us to identify issues that had remained under the surface. This entire process has been an instance of the Institute working in a truly international, inclusive and felt sensing way. We have honored the individual experience of each, while working to identify commonly-held priorities and commitments.

### *OUR MISSION*

*Why "Focusing" ?*

*Everyone has the potential to access and live from their unique bodily-felt knowing. Focusing, a process grounded in experiential listening, is a powerful way of interacting with this body-felt knowing that leads to mutual respect, authenticity and compassion. In this way, Focusing fosters peace and harmony in the world.*

*Who We Are*

*The Focusing Institute is an international, cross-cultural organization dedicated to supporting individuals and groups world-wide who are teaching and developing Focusing and its underlying philosophy.*

*What We Do*

*The Focusing Institute is committed to the promotion of Focusing and encourages a wide variety of Focusing-based applications and educational methodologies. It also serves as a catalyst for Focusing research, an information hub and custodian of Focusing-related literature, and provides physical and virtual meeting spaces for education, dialogue and interaction. In these and other ways, the Focusing Institute is committed to sharing and advancing the work of its founder, Eugene Gendlin, and those who have built on his legacy.*

### *OUR GOALS*

*1 - Build an Organization that has the capacity to keep Focusing alive and available to everyone.*

*2 - Preserve the Integrity of Focusing and foster its Development*

*3 - Catalyze the development and expand the world-wide availability of programs and applications that are vital, responsive and contextually relevant*

*4 - Raise the visibility of TFI and effectively communicate the benefits of bodily felt-sensing as a way for people to carry life forward.*

We continue our work and anticipate that a full Strategic Planning document will be available at the end of 2016.

## INCREASING OUR INTERNATIONAL AND MULTI-LINGUAL CHARACTER

- We are now **The International Focusing Institute (TIFI)** in acknowledgement of what has always been our international character. The change has been discussed for many years, and finally came in response to the recommendation of both the International Leadership Council and the Coordinators who met in Seattle in 2015.
- The creation of the **International Leadership Council (ILC)** serves to institutionalize internationalism within the Institute's leadership structure.
- We have created a **Spanish language Facebook** page and hope to create such pages in other languages in future.
- One of our top priorities in the overhaul of our website is to allow for **content management in many languages**.
- For the first time in the Institute's history, we had a **non-English speaker presenting at the Weeklong**: Tomeu Barceló presented all of his workshops in Spanish with simultaneous translation.
- Our **Pause for Peace** program is working with Nuevos Rumbos (in El Salvador) and the Palestine Trauma Centre to bring Focusing to people in strife-torn areas of the world.

## INCREASING ACCESSIBILITY

The Institute is committed to making itself more accessible to you, and Focusing more accessible in the world. Some ways in which we are carrying this forward:

- As mentioned above, our **Strategic Planning Process** has actively invited input from our members on our mission statement and the goals that we've identified.
- The Board has authorized the hiring of a Project Manager to oversee the revision of our **website**. We believe that our website is key to serving our mission. It will be re-designed to be **multiple-language-friendly** and to allow certified members to upload classes, workshops and other offerings easily and have them be more easily found.
- We have created the **Focusing Highlights** series of webinars to allow for a wide variety of teachers, and to allow those new and old to Focusing to take courses at a "pay what you can" price.
- Our Executive Director has traveled to this past year to **meet with Focusers** at events in Israel, Argentina and Chile and held **online meetings** with Coordinators from the Netherlands, Japan, Switzerland, Belgium, Quebec, Italy, China, France and Israel, as well as participating in meetings of European Coordinators and other individuals and groups in order to listen to your thoughts, ideas and priorities.
- The Board and ILC write **regular columns** in the InFocus newsletter to allow you to get to know them.
- We now have an active presence on **Facebook** to keep in better communication with you, including a **Members' Forum**, where members can post events, or express opinions and ideas.
- We've connected our academic philosophers with one another through an online **Philosophy Forum**, with the purpose of making certain that the **Philosophy of the Implicit** and Gene Gendlin's work remain relevant in academia.
- Members of the Board and International Leadership Council rotate terms to allow more access to leadership and are chosen through a **nominations process** where we ask the input of members.
- We have a **Membership Committee** made up of members from all over the world, who are looking for ways in which the Institute can better serve its membership. Watch for announcements soon on initiatives in English and Spanish from this committee.
- The ILC is working with world Coordinators to help ensure that the **certification process** is fair, transparent and coherent.
- The Weeklong now includes "**Contributing Coordinators**" to broaden the scope of who leads this flagship program.

## EVENTS, PROGRAMS, CLASSES AND INITIATIVES

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- FISS (Focusing Institute Summer School) - August 21-27, 2016
- The Advanced and Certification Weeklong - October 1-7, 2016
- International Focusing Oriented Psychotherapy (FOT) Conference - June 22-25, 2017
- Coordinators' meeting preceding the FOT Conference - June 20-21, 2017

**ONGOING CLASSES:**

- Focusing Highlights courses - pay what you can courses offered online monthly
- Focusing Basics with Ruth Hirsch - this is an 8-week online course offered several times a year
- Advanced Focusing Training with Ruth Hirsch - this is an 8-week online course offered several times a year
- Two Year Focusing On-line Interactive Certification Program for Mental Health Professionals with Charlotte Howorth

**ONGOING INITIATIVES:**

- Philosophy Forum - this is an international group of academic philosophers who are experts in the Philosophy of the Implicit and have been meeting periodically to further their work and to ensure that Gene Gendlin's work will continue to remain relevant in academic circles
- Membership Committee - this is a committee of the Board, seeking to serve the needs of our membership
- Research Functional Whole - this "functional whole" (self-forming committee) has been working to raise the profile of research on Focusing and get more research done.

**NEW CLASSES AND GATHERINGS HELD THIS YEAR:**

- Building a Successful Business Using Focusing with Sally Tadmor - held over 6 months at a member rate of \$250
- First Northeast (USA) FOT Regional Conference - held October 2015
- Follow Your Flow International Retreat (Niagara Falls, Canada) - held June 2016

**FINANCIALS**

These charts give a snapshot of the Institute's finances over the last 5 years. A few highlights:

Membership commitment to the Institute has remained strong and steady over these years.

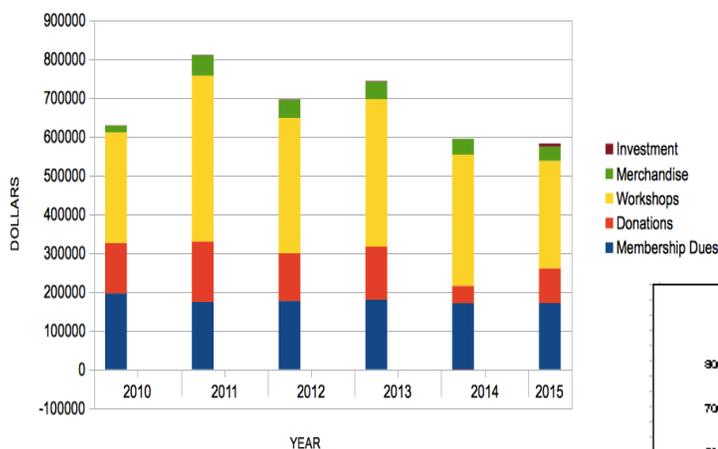
2011 was our strongest recent year; workshop income was especially high, allowing for a surplus that year of about \$100,000.

In 2014, the first year of transition from being Founder led, our expenses were the highest in recent years, but our income dropped substantially -- especially from donations, but also from workshops.

In 2015, donations have begun to bounce back, but revenues from workshops continued to shrink while costs are rising. We had a nice, but probably one-time, bounce in investment income. We have brought expenses down substantially, mostly by reducing payroll expenses (despite increasing our staff).

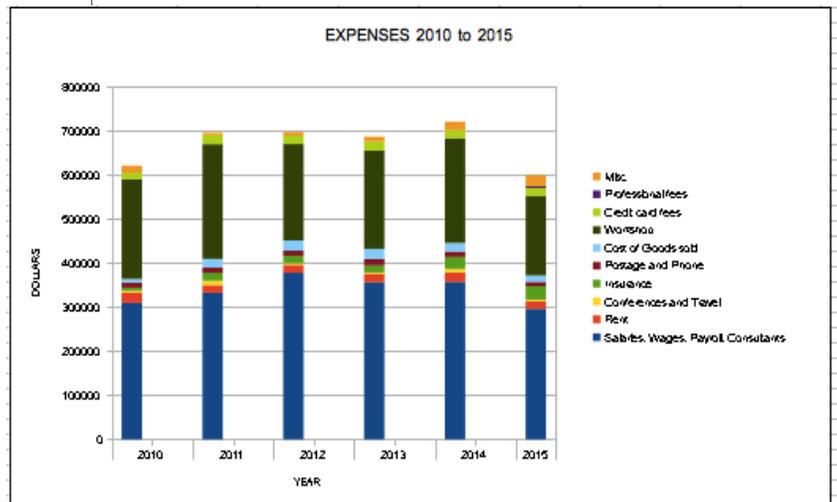
The great news is that we went from a deficit in 2014 of over \$100,000 to a nearly balanced budget in 2015.

REVENUES 2010 to 2015



*More detailed financial information is available upon request*

EXPENSES 2010 to 2015



## **BOARD, INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL AND STAFF**

We thank with all our hearts the members of the International Leadership Council and Board who served over the last two years and are now stepping down to make room for new members. They each served with enormous dedication and we love them all:

*Marine de Freminville (ILC, Canada)*  
*Jim Iberg (Board, USA)*  
*Susan Lennox (Board, USA)*  
*Barbara McGavin (ILC, United Kingdom)*  
*Jane Quayle (Board, Australia)*

### The Board:

David Rome, President (USA)  
Kevin Krycka, Treasurer (USA)  
Dana Ganihar (Israel)  
Mary Jennings (Ireland)  
Paula Nowick (USA)  
Susan Rudnick (USA)

*More information available at [www.focusing.org/board](http://www.focusing.org/board). The board can be contacted at [board@focusing.org](mailto:board@focusing.org).*

### The International Leadership Council:

Akira Ikemi (Japan)  
Roberto Larios (Mexico)  
Ruth Hirsch (Israel)  
Hejo Feuerstein (Germany)  
Sergio Lara (Chile)  
Donata Schoeller (Switzerland)

*More information available at [www.focusing.org/ilc](http://www.focusing.org/ilc). The board can be contacted at [ilc@focusing.org](mailto:ilc@focusing.org).*

### Personnel:

Eugene Gendlin (Founder)  
Catherine Torpey (Executive Director)  
Elizabeth Cantor (Administrator)  
Rita Kirsch (Membership and Administrative Assistant)  
Bill Silverman (Webmaster -- consultant)  
Scott Will (Publicity and web support)  
Henry Chen (Executive Assistant)  
Liz Maynard (Executive Assistant and grantwriting)  
Siyang He (unpaid Intern, graphic design)  
Maria Lillo (unpaid Intern, social media)  
Mariana Pisula (unpaid Intern, Spanish language support)

### **BE PART OF IT** *Please stay connected!*

Maintain your membership or become a member if you aren't already and donate above your dues when possible.

Contact us whenever you have questions or ideas.

Participate in classes or offer one yourself.

Volunteer -- if anything you've seen hear strikes your interest, contact us to see how you can connect around it.

Take actions that seem right to you and let us know how we can be connected with your efforts!

### **THANK YOU**

*Thank you for all the ways in which you've participated, and for your encouragement and support.  
We feel it and appreciate it!*