



*Building a better society,  
one neighborhood at a time.*

## Coho/US 2010 Annual Report

January 1, 2010 through April 1, 2011

2010 was the culmination of several years of strategic planning and restructuring by the Board of Directors and the Association and the beginning of a series of ambitious programs to execute on the strategic plan.

Some of our exciting **new activities** have focused on bringing the cohousing message to a larger national audience, engaging in systematic research on the benefits of cohousing, and providing a broader range of services and resources to help communities form and thrive.

We have established an ongoing and long-term **advocacy and outreach** effort to connect and collaborate with organizations with similar or related goals and to raise awareness of cohousing and its benefits in the political arena, with the long-term goal of influencing policy and legislation and bringing more resources to communities nationwide. Some recent efforts included: conducted survey and published report on methods used by cohousing communities to increase affordability of units; received great receptivity when meeting with fifteen (15) national housing and finance organizations and HUD in Washington, DC, Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 2011 with follow-up underway; examined ways to improve national housing policies to increase opportunities for affordability in cohousing development; began campaign in US Congress to raise cohousing awareness and the need for policies promoting greater affordability.

Coho/US has begun a large **research** and data collection effort. We are completing the first phase of a three-phase research project to systematically gather information about cohousing. To date, we have administered a 60-question survey to 80 completed cohousing communities to ascertain basic data and degrees of social, economic, and ecological sustainability. A report on this phase will be available in June 2011. The second and third phases will continue through 2011. In addition, we are working to coordinate, collect, and disseminate research on cohousing. A coalition of researchers and writers was brought together at the 2010 conference and is meeting again at the 2011 conference.

We have begun to expand on the many **resources and services** already offered by Coho/US, primarily through our website and online services. For our contacts database: the database of people interested in cohousing has been expanded and improved; and we have developed and are offering a web-based service to access that database. We anticipate more improvements in our services in the near future.



Hearthstone, Denver CO

### **New and Anticipated Activities**

- ◆ Public policy advocacy, especially affordability
- ◆ Increased outreach to cohousing communities, allied organizations and movements
- ◆ Research and data collection on cohousing
- ◆ Contact database and associated services
- ◆ Expanded on-line resources



Nubanusit Neighborhood and Farm,  
Peterborough NH



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We haven't lost sight of our **core activities and services**: to provide a high-quality annual national conference; to support regional bus tours; to offer a large array of services, primarily through our website; to establish and continue relationships with communities, regional associations, and professionals; to raise funds and improve the organization of the Association to support our activities providing the key set of resources used by people around the world to learn about cohousing.

The Association's **annual conference** has become the heart-beat of the cohousing movement, as people from all over the world gather to exchange information and ideas - and renew their energy through the inspiration made possible by a community of communities. The 2010 conference in Boulder, Colorado, one of the hot-spots of cohousing activity, was another high point of the year. Our theme, Sustainability through Community, reflected the aspirations of our Association and movement and resonated in our host city. It was highlighted by our key-note speaker, Bill McKibben, American environmentalist, writer, and founder of 350.org. Attendance again reached more than 300 with more international attendees than ever before and participation by Boulder's mayor and other regional politicians. It also saw the introduction of a two-day intensive pre-conference format, Coho University, which was very popular and included the first Research and Writers workshop. Saturday's banquet and auction surpassed our goals as our prime source of funds to support the organization's work. The Lifetime achievement award given to Jim Leach was a highlight of the evening.

Hundreds of people every year get their first "taste of cohousing" through our regional **bus tours**. Over forty (40) communities were visited on about ten (10) tours in Seattle, Portland, SF Bay Area, Boulder, Massachusetts, and North Carolina.

The Cohousing.org **website** provides the Communities Directory, an up-to-the-minute and edited database of cohousing news coverage, hundreds of articles, online versions of cohousing books, Professionals Directory, Classified Ads, and other resources of great value to thousands of people every year - whether they are discovering cohousing, creating new communities, or living in cohousing today.

Cohousing Now!, a **monthly e-newsletter**, delivers the latest cohousing news, articles, cohousing books, advertisements, and more. to an audience of 8,000. Readers particularly appreciate In the News and classified ads for opportunities to move in to communities.



#### **Ongoing Activities and Services**

- ◆ Annual national conference
- ◆ Regional bus tours
- ◆ Coho/US website: content and services
- ◆ Communities Directory (with FIC)
- ◆ Cohousing Now! E-newsletter
- ◆ Advertising services for groups and professionals
- ◆ General information resources
- ◆ Response to media inquiries
- ◆ Fundraising activities
- Organizational development



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**Coho/US representatives support** the movement and are frequently interviewed by media, especially for facts and figures. Both our past research and the cohousing directory are the definitive information sources used by reporters, planners, academics, developers, forming groups, and other thought leaders. Using classified ads, newsletter advertisements and targeted emails, our advertising manager assists forming groups, professionals, and communities as they seek new members, clients, or buyers for existing homes.

Besides the **connections** made with **communities and professionals** through the annual conference and regional tours, members of the Board and staff visited over 40 communities in 2010 to learn more about their needs, build relationships, share our goals for the movement, and explore ways to support each other. Coho/US representatives participated in the board meeting of the Federation of Intentional Communities (FIC) in May 2010 which was hosted by a Board member community; attended two Northwest Intentional Communities Association (NICA) events in the Seattle area, and a Cohousing workshop at the World Fellowship Center in New Hampshire. The Coho/US board also met with the board of the Mid-Atlantic Cohousing regional organization (MAC). A Professional's Advisory Council was established.

The combination of focused Board energy and leadership of the Executive Director has better enabled the Association to develop the capacity of the **organization** to serve it's mission. Many **infrastructure** improvements were made in 2010. See the sidebar on Organization and Administrative Activities for details.

In late 2010, we formed a **Fundraising** team comprised of board members, staff and volunteers that has laid the groundwork for a more sustainable income base and to allow the association to take on more activities.

We look forward to building on our efforts throughout 2011 and beyond and thank all our staff, volunteers, communities, and professionals for your tremendous and ongoing support.

### **Organization and Administrative Activities**

- ◆ Complete 2010-2013 strategic plan
- ◆ Transfer Executive Director position to employee status
- ◆ Hire Volunteer Coordinator
- ◆ Hire Office Manager
- ◆ Revise and approve Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, and Conflict of Interest statements
- ◆ Improve business & financial management practices
- ◆ Initiate State registrations for donations
- ◆ Conduct CPA review
- ◆ Draft conference planning guide
- ◆ Improve Board organizational structure
- ◆ Expand Board
- ◆ Pilot Board evaluation process
- ◆ Draft Board manual
- ◆ Begin new Executive Director search



Wild Sage Cohousing, Boulder CO



Takoma Village Cohousing, Washington DC  
courtesy of Libia McDonough

## Annual Financial Report

January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010

Coho/US's 2010 financial results reflect the planned drawdown of a large initial cash balance and an adjustment resulting from CPA review to remove duplicate deposits from 2010 and prior years.

Revenues	
Advertising	\$ 27,869
Events Income (incl Product Sales)	102,012
Donations	42,784
Other	224
Total	\$172,889

Expenses	
Program	\$162,864
Management and General	45,143
Fundraising	1,608
Total	\$209,615

Change in Unrestricted  
Net Assets (\$36,726)

Net Assets (Cash)	
Beginning of Year	\$69,828
End of Year	\$33,102

### Paid Staff

Craig Ragland - Executive Director, Songaia Cohousing, Bothell WA  
Barbara Bansenauer – Advertising Manager, Songaia Cohousing, Bothell WA  
Brian Bansenauer – Bookkeeper, Songaia Cohousing, Bothell WA  
Catya Belfer-Shevett – Technical/Web Director, Mosaic Commons, Berlin MA  
Marilyn Hanna-Myrick – Office Manager, Songaia Cohousing, Bothell, WA  
Melanie Mindlin – Volunteer Coordinator, Ashland Cohousing, Ashland OR  
Marta Rivera Monclova – Database Manager, Boston, MA  
Neil Planchon – Tours Director, Swan's Market Cohousing, Oakland CA  
Georgette Vigil – News Editor, Boulder, CO

### Board of Directors

David Entin – Rocky Hill Cohousing, Northampton MA; since 2007  
Laura Fitch – Pioneer Valley Cohousing, Kraus-Fitch Architects, Amherst MA; since 2010  
Pam Gilchrist – ElderGrace Cohousing, Santa Fe NM; since 2010  
Arlene Hopkins – Santa Monica, CA; since 2011  
Terri Huggett – Daybreak Cohousing, CircleLinks, Portland OR; since 2009  
Grace Kim – Capitol Hill Urban Cohousing (forming), Schemata Workshop, Seattle WA; since 2007 – 2009 Conference Chair  
Richard Kohlhaas – Casa Verde Commons, Colorado Springs CO; since 2010  
Meg Ludlum – Duwamish Cohousing (formerly), Ellensburg WA; since 2008  
Diane Margolis – Cambridge Cohousing, Cambridge MA; since 2007  
Lisa Poley- Shadowlake Village Cohousing, Blacksburg VA; since 2008 - 2011 Conference Chair



Mosaic Commons, Berlin MA



Daybreak Cohousing, Portland OR



La Querencia, Fresno CA

### Strategic Teams

- ◆ Advocacy and Outreach
- ◆ Research
- ◆ Resources
- ◆ Website Services
- ◆ Conferences and Tours
- ◆ Fundraising
- ◆ Finance and Administration

### Executive Team

- ◆ President – Terri Huggett
- ◆ Vice-President – David Entin
- ◆ Treasurer – Meg Ludlum
- ◆ Secretary – Grace Kim