We know the most effective way to apply our innovative approach to civic engagement—putting citizens and communities back in the driver's seat of democracy—is to work with organizations whose reach, skill, and expertise complement ours. That's why we thoughtfully and consistently pursued collaborative programs with policy organizations, government agencies, academic researchers, and other engagement practitioners throughout the year.

In 2014, we kicked off 2014 by collaborating with Healthy Democracy to design and test a streamlined version of the award-winning Citizens’ Initiative Review in preparation for its expansion beyond Oregon. This new format was used in Colorado, Arizona, and Oregon during the 2014 election.

In partnership with the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, we conducted the first Rural Climate Dialogue in Morris, Minnesota. Community members came together in June in a multi-day deliberative event to recommend action addressing climate change. Since then, Morris residents have organized a composting program, begun efforts to build a community solar installation, and are pursuing funding from foundations and state agencies to implement key recommendations.

In Fall, we launched our Student Civic Leadership program with Minneapolis Community & Technical College. In collaboration with Professor Lena Jones, the Bipartisan Policy Center, and the Native American Community Development Institute, MCTC students developed and hosted Minnesota’s only student-led candidate forum for a statewide office, hosting the Secretary of State candidates in early October.

In addition to building new partnerships, we diversified our fund development efforts in 2014. We tapped into federal and private foundation grants, reached new individual donors, and expanded our earned income program. We’re now in a position to double our program budget for 2015.

In Full, we engaged our Student Civic Leadership program with Minneapolis Community & Technical College in collaboration with Professor Lena Jones, the Bipartisan Policy Center, and the Native American Community Development Institute, with the goal of increasing resources and creating an opportunity for students to lead a real candidates forum for a statewide office.}

Strong Financial Footing

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In 2012, we kicked off a campaign to double our program budget for 2015. We’re now in a position to double our program budget for 2015.

In 2015, we expanded our program budget to $1,000,000. We’re now in a position to double our program budget for 2015.

In 2016, we expanded our program budget to $1,000,000. We’re now in a position to double our program budget for 2015.

We’re now in a position to double our program budget for 2015.

Thanks to you!

We were able to kick off such an amazing 2014 without the passion and dedication of our donors, partners, participants, and supporters. Thank you for making a commitment to us and to a stronger democracy—a democracy that actively includes every American.