In 2015, the Posner Center became more than a building; it became a community.

Colorado is home to a large community of international development organizations—a surprising fact to many that don’t call our beautiful state home. Now that we have found each other, our task is to help make each other better. In line with the Posner Center’s vision, we are now working to make our community the leader of collaborative international development. While maintaining and bettering our fantastic space remains a priority, our focus is now on finding new ways to strengthen our growing network of 50+ Tenants and 100+ Members in Colorado and to increase their ability to combat global poverty in countries around the world.

One of the most important steps the Posner Center took in 2015 was defining our core values to include Collaboration, Education, Innovation, Impact, Entrepreneurship, and Diversity. All Posner Center programming is rooted in these values.

In 2015, the inaugural round of International Collaboration Fund grants supported seven projects—from Denver to Tanzania to Cambodia—and engaged over 20 of our Tenants and Members.

We also broadened our network by holding four roundtables to explore collaboration with Colorado businesses, service organizations, refugee and immigrant organizations, and local, state, and federal government partners. In addition, our new IEEE Global Classroom supported dozens of trainings—helping to build capacity in areas like fundraising and cultural awareness—as well as a new Development Practice Certificate from Regis University.

Finally, our inaugural Poverty Hack, an international development hackathon focused on developing innovative solutions to organizational challenges, engaged over 100 Tenants, Members, and stakeholders from around the U.S. and the world.

The Posner Center will continue to build on these programs in 2016, but will focus even more on our other values of Impact, Entrepreneurship, and Diversity. We will build on baseline survey results included in this report to assess the impact of Coloradoan international development organizations and determine how we can help them do their jobs better. In addition, we will explore new partnerships to ensure that our Tenants and Members provide aid when needed, but are also working to develop sustainable, business-focused solutions to global poverty. Finally, we will redouble our efforts to ensure that the Posner Center community is inclusive and that our Colorado-based organizations and businesses are representative of the people they serve in developing countries around the world.

Thank you for all that you have done to make the Posner Center and Colorado the home of collaborative global solutions.

Doug Vilsack
Executive Director
TRULY GLOBAL

Our Tenants and Members work in nearly 100 countries across the globe.

Did you know that Colorado is home to over 200 international development organizations? We are truly a state with global impact, and the Posner Center is a central hub for the majority of these groups, either as Tenants or Members. See the full list of our Tenants on the last page of this report.

2015 By the Numbers

**TRULY GLOBAL**

Our Tenants and Members work in nearly 100 countries across the globe.

Did you know that Colorado is home to over 200 international development organizations? We are truly a state with global impact, and the Posner Center is a central hub for the majority of these groups, either as Tenants or Members. See the full list of our Tenants on the last page of this report.
Posner Impact

Why collaborate? And, exactly how does co-locating 60 international development organizations in one building really create impact? How is the Posner Center model different, and why does it matter?

These are questions we’ve asked from day one. We were confident that a mission-driven center focused on collaborative international development could change the game, but there were still many questions about how it would play out.

We believed that working collaboratively, rather than in a silo, would result in more resources for our Tenants and Members; we believed that a beautiful space, filled with inspiring, entrepreneurial organizations, could foster creativity and innovation; and, we believed that employing meaningful programming would establish avenues for powerful relationship-building—even increasing individual happiness and performance. But we had to prove it.

So, from very early on, we made evaluation a priority. This was not just so that we could prove our hypothesis correct, but so that we could clearly articulate to everyone—our donors, our potential and current Tenants, other development organizations, and shared spaces around the world—specifics about our impact.

Here, we show you our first real look at results.

**ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT**

How being at the Posner Center impacted Tenant organizations the most in 2015:

- **Formed stronger networks**: 79% [61 of 77 individuals either agreed (37) or strongly agreed (24) with this statement]
- **Learned from other Tenants**: 79% [61 of 77 individuals either agreed (41) or strongly agreed (20) with this statement]
- **Increased organizational visibility**: 75% [58 of 77 individuals either agreed (41) or strongly agreed (17) with this statement]
- **Collaborated more**: 74% [57 of 77 individuals either agreed (38) or strongly agreed (19) with this statement]
- **Improved staff morale**: 73% [56 of 77 individuals either agreed (26) or strongly agreed (30) with this statement]

**ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT**

How being at the Posner Center supported Tenant organizations the most in 2015:

- **Friends of ENCA Farm** was awarded their first ever grant and hired their first in-country staff member in the Philippines.
- **LeAnn of World Child Cancer USA** went from working in complete isolation at her kitchen table, far away from her UK-based colleagues, to having the benefit of an entire building of potential partners to turn to for support and other resources.
- **Lakin of World Child Cancer USA** went from working in complete isolation at her kitchen table, far away from her UK-based colleagues, to having the benefit of an entire building of potential partners to turn to for support and other resources.
- **Envisioning Bridges and Engineers Without Borders USA** worked together to review their respective models and to co-design a bridge in Guatemala.
- **Engineers Without Borders USA** launched a new Domestic Programs Initiative that will enable them to use their expertise to solve infrastructure challenges right here in the US.

**FAVORITE THINGS**

Tenants’ three favorite things about working out of the Posner Center:

- The great space / vibe / atmosphere
- Being part of an international development community and culture
- The ability to collaborate with like-minded organizations and people
forward, their work will focus more on building infrastructure, particularly schools, as a mechanism for long-term development.

iDE initiated agricultural rehabilitation activities to allay further hardship and to support communities in their emotional and psychological healing. These activities included the provision of seeds and seedlings as well as the development of eight nurseries to centralize the production of seedlings. This allowed farmers to continue rebuilding efforts and simultaneously supported food security.

EA partnered with a local organization to develop and deliver a First Aid Train-the-Trainer program that trained 75 teachers and nine students, who represented 16 schools with 4,500 total enrollments. EA also supported an additional local partner to implement, evaluate, and improve programs that support livelihoods and agricultural diversification in two earthquake-affected districts.

EWB-USA mobilized teams of qualified structural engineers to support Namlo and All Hands Volunteers, two NGOs already working on the ground. These volunteers dedicated 2,200 hours to long-term reconstruction planning, and produced a manual on safe demolition practices for the 750,000 damaged structures. They also inspected headquarters buildings for Namlo and iDE to allow for their continued safe operations.

iDE, EA, EWB–USA, and Eo7’s work in Nepal after the earthquake demonstrates the dual importance of relief and longer-term, resilience-building activities. It is through organizations like these, combined with the efforts of local communities and the broader international network, that countries can recover from natural disasters.
In 2015, the Posner Center launched the International Collaboration Fund (ICF). This strategic grantmaking program is aimed at supporting innovative thinking and fostering collaboration among organizations in our network and beyond.

In its inaugural year, the Posner Center funded seven ICF proposals, ranging from $5,000 to $20,000, for a total of $60,000 disbursed. Grants covered three categories: scoping grants to assess a collaborative project or effort, capacity-building grants for strengthening the Posner network, and project grants for implementing collaborative activities. Funds for the ICF were provided by Joanne Posner-Mayer, CoBank, the Shuyler Family, and numerous individual donors.

A scoping grant to Children’s Future International (CFI), Denver Urban Gardens (DUG), and IDE demonstrates the value of a collaborative approach to development. The goal was to assess the feasibility of developing an income-generating program at CFI’s learning center in Battambang, Cambodia, by using their land for agriculture. IDE’s Farm Business Advisors in Cambodia contributed technical expertise and market research while DUG provided resources and training for supporting community-led gardening efforts. Their approach drew on the strengths of each organization and resulted in a plan to develop a demonstration plot on CFI’s land that builds on IDE’s agricultural expertise in the region.

In 2016, the Posner Center plans to strengthen the ICF, increasing opportunities for sharing successes and challenges, and raising additional funds to support innovative approaches to development.

To learn more about giving to the International Collaboration Fund, email info@posnercenter.org.
IEEE GLOBAL CLASSROOM

In 2015, The Posner Center was awarded a $50,000 grant from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the world’s largest professional association for the advancement of technology. IEEE’s goal is “the advancement of technology for humanity,” and its investment in creating the IEEE Global Classroom has strengthened Tenants’ ability to learn from, connect to, and support change in the communities in which they work.

The Details
- Two High-Definition pan-tilt-zoom cameras for capturing participants and facilitators
- A beam-forming microphone for capturing audience participation throughout the room
- Advanced noise-canceling technology
- Wall-mounted touch panel for all room functions
- Videoconferencing capability
- Ability to record all presentations and meetings

EDUCATION
In the Fall of 2015, Regis University launched a Development Practice Graduate Certificate in the IEEE Global Classroom. This program was designed to utilize technology to integrate students in the developing world as practitioners of development who remain in, learn from, and actively contribute to, their communities.

Instead of traveling to the United States for schooling, international students engage with classmates around the world and in Denver through the Classroom’s unique technology.

For the first course, there were 24 students from nine nations, aged 19-81. Faculty from institutions across Colorado, including the University of Colorado and Colorado State University, were engaged as instructors.

The Master of Development Practice Program has been approved by Regis University and will incorporate a sliding price scale, with some international students able to earn a Master’s degree for 1% of the cost of a similar degree at Columbia University.

Right: Dan Wessner, Professor at Regis University and Posner Center Board Member, leads a Development Practice class in the IEEE Global Classroom.
Challenging Ourselves

Innovation is closely linked with creativity, risk, curiosity, and vulnerability. Creating spaces for new ideas is central to cultivating innovation. The Posner Center intentionally facilitates programming that generates dynamic dialogue, spurs new ideas, and supports innovation in international development.

Tech Salon

In 2015, Posner began participating in a program called The Technology Salon, an intimate event that generates frank discussions between information and communication technology experts and international development professionals. The network of Tech Salons held in cities around the world, including Washington D.C. and Nairobi, confront new applications of technology in international development. The first Tech Salon, held in September 2015, focused on Improving Monitoring and Evaluation with Information Communication Technology and featured lead discussants from GeoPoll, TechChange, Cause Labs, and TerraFrame.

Innovators Dinner

In May 2015, Posner Center hosted the first annual Innovators Dinner, a fundraiser highlighting leaders in the global international development community. The first Innovators featured were Tom Vilsack, a world leader in agriculture and rural development, and Christie Vilsack, a world leader in international education.
POSNER POVERTY HACK

International development is complex and organizations do not always possess all of the skills and tools needed to address challenges in communities where they work. The first ever Posner Poverty Hack, a unique take on a traditional “hackathon” format, brought people from across sectors and geographies together to collaborate in teams and come up with solutions for real challenges faced by Tenant organizations in their field work. From July 15th–17th, 47 participants—with expertise in areas ranging from business, to technology, to government—hacked solutions and competed to be selected as the best, most feasible solution. Members of the winning team received prizes. The Posner Center secured funding and consulting work for the winning Tenant organization (Comunidades Unidas Peru) to take its proposed solution from idea to implementation.

ACCELERATING INNOVATION

Before joining the Posner Center as Tenants, the leadership of Comunidades Unidas Peru (CU Peru) wondered if they could manage the modest cost of a half-seat lease. As a small nonprofit organization founded and run by health students, the organization typically had a limited footprint in the Loreto Region of the Peruvian Amazon.

In 2015, CU Peru was selected to become a ‘Challenge Organization’ for the Posner Poverty Hack. To their surprise, the CU Peru team was selected as the winner, securing $5,000 in prize money, 40 hours of custom software development from Quick Left, and 20 hours of branding time from Chromedia to implement the winning solution. They are using this support to develop CliNexo, a text-message system to improve communication between community health agents and other health care providers in the Loreto Region. Indicating the transformative value of the event for CU Peru and the communities in which they work, COO Allison Maytag said, “It’s so incredible to have this idea just a couple of months ago and have no expertise in technology and...to be able to take something to go all over Loreto is mind-blowing.” CliNexo, when fully implemented, will provide an extremely affordable, reliable mechanism for communication between remote villages, strengthening health care provision and increasing trust in and utilization of the health care system.
Living our Values
The Posner Center has made great strides in incorporating our core values of Collaboration, Education, and Innovation into our programming, but we must work strategically to mainstream our values of Impact, Entrepreneurship, and Diversity throughout our network.

We know that we are having a positive IMPACT on our network; our Tenants and Members say so, and our building is jam-packed. But how can we quantify our contribution to the work of our Tenants and Members and determine if they are doing development better than those that aren’t interested in collaboration? To answer this question, we will do a better job of listening to and documenting the needs of our Tenants and Members, and will visit their operations in-country to better understand the challenges that they face.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP is the key to lasting sustainable development. In fact, a desire to mainstream this value was the key reason our founding organization, iDE, decided to build the network of organizations that would become the Posner Center. To better live this value, we will take advantage of Colorado’s strong startup community and other partners around the world to develop programming that supports business-focused, scalable solutions to global poverty.

Our greatest challenge is DIVERSITY. We are a center focused on international development located thousands of miles from the communities where we work. How do we best support development that is truly grounded in the needs and strengths of communities worldwide? There is no easy answer to this question, but we will work hard to address this challenge by partnering with refugee and immigrant communities here in Colorado, promoting capacity-building opportunities for the in-country staff of our Tenants and Members, and connecting in-person with the communities in which our organizations work around the world.

WHERE WE CAN IMPROVE

LOOKING FORWARD

Colorado’s Big International Tent
The Posner Center has succeeded in bringing together the majority of international development-focused organizations and social ventures in the Denver Metro Area, but we must engage new partners in the broader international community here in Colorado. In 2016, we will develop additional programming to support:

• Colorado businesses with international operations that are interested in partnering in the development of communities and emerging markets where they do business.
• Colorado universities and colleges interested in developing practical, real-world curricula to train the next generation of international development practitioners and investing in the education of students from developing countries themselves.
• Government and civil society organizations in Colorado and beyond that are interested in partnering to promote our state as a hotbed of international collaboration.

Beyond Colorado
The Posner Center is one-of-a-kind, and we receive many requests for information about how we are structured and if we plan to expand our footprint in Colorado and beyond. We will consider that question deeply in 2016 through conversations and consulting opportunities with international development networks in other cities in Colorado, throughout the United States, and internationally. Please send an e-mail to info@posnercenter.org if your organization or business is interested in collaborating.
Being at the Posner Center has had a significant impact on our organization. We now have program space that suits nearly every need. We aren’t spending staff time scrambling for meeting space, or paying extra for it. — Posner Tenant

## 2015 Financials

### 2015 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

#### Assets

- Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted: $148,077
- Cash and cash equivalents - temporarily restricted: $55,000
- Accounts receivable: 3,560
- Contributions receivable - unrestricted: 15,000
- Contributions receivable - temporarily restricted: 19,911
- Prepaid deposits: 212,970
- Property and equipment - net: $454,518
- **Total assets:** $822,385

#### Liabilities and Net Assets

- Accrued expenses: $11,428
- Note payable: 37,617
- **Total liabilities:** $822,385
- **Net assets:** $454,518

#### Net assets

- Unrestricted: $122,503
- Operating: $179,630
- Temporarily restricted: 70,000
- **Total net assets:** $372,133

#### Total liabilities and net assets

- **Total:** $454,518

### 2015 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

#### Revenue & Other Support

- **Total revenue and other support:** $830,508

#### Expense

- Program services: $630,846
- Supporting services: 56,672
- **Total expense:** $721,288
- **Change in net assets:** $109,240

#### 2015 Board Members

- Richard Shuyler - Board Chair
- Elizabeth Ellis - Vice Chair
- Chris Woldum - Treasurer
- Dan Wessner - Secretary
- Mary Perkins

### 2015 Key Supporters

- Harry L. Willett Foundation
- Roy A. Hunt Foundation
- Biennial of the Americas
- iTriage
- QuickLeft
- Global Accelerator Network

### 2015 Posner Tenants

- access.mobile
- Africa Agenda
- Africa Development Promise
- AfricAid
- Bridges to Prosperity
- Building Bridges
- Cafepan Design
- Children’s Future International
- ChineseFunds
- Colorado Mental Wellness Network
- Comunidades Unidas Peru
- Cross Polarine Consulting Solutions
- DeAgua
- East African Social Impact Fund
- Edge of Seven
- Elephant Energy
- Engineers Without Borders USA
- Facing History and Ourselves
- Friends of ENCA Farm
- Foundation for Global Scholars
- Getches-Wilkinson Center
- Global Accelerator Network
- Global Health Connections
- Global Health Foundation
- Global Hope Network International
- Global Livingstone Institute
- Governors’ Climate and Forests Fund
- Grassroots Global Development Foundation
- Hope Shines
- IDE
- IEEE Smart Village
- Into Your Hands-Africa
- Kaffa House Coffee Company
- Kimetrica
- Konkordit International
- Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking
- Magneti
- Market Share Associates
- Meet the Middle East
- Mobile Accord
- Mortensen Center for Engineering in Developing Communities
- National Native American AIDS Prevention Center
- One Acre Fund
- One Person Acted
- Peace Corps
- Recreation Project, The
- Regis University
- Renew Strategies
- Restoration Project International
- Rights Consulting & Investigations
- Rural Community Assistance Corporation
- S.O.U.L. Foundation
- Sahay International
- SCOPE International
- Spencer Associates, Inc.
- Technology Partnership
- Vertlle House, The
- Walking Tree Travel
- Women With A Cause
- Women’s Bakery, The
- World Affairs Challenge
- World Child Cancer

### Revenue & Other Support

- Tenant rentals: $488,310
- Individual and corporate contributions: 179,591
- Foundations: 12,170
- Other program income: 33,340
- Interest income: 25
- Net assets released from restrictions: 0
- **Total revenue and other support:** $830,508

### Expense

- Program services: $630,846
- Supporting services: 56,672
- **Total expense:** $721,288
- **Change in net assets:** $109,240

#### Net assets

- Beginning of year: 262,893
- End of year: 372,133
The Posner Center is a community of nearly 60 international development-oriented businesses and organizations in a 25,000 square-foot shared space in Denver’s Curtis Park neighborhood, spurring innovation by enabling groups to cross-pollinate through the exchange of ideas, the overlap of programming, and the generation of more comprehensive and lasting solutions to global poverty.

For any questions, please contact:
720-382-7631 • info@posnercenter.org