



For Immediate Release

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LEARNING LABS AT THE GRAIL

Loveland, OH—October 22, 2018, The Grail in the U.S. has launched a new initiative –Learning Labs— at its site Grailville located in Loveland, Ohio. The Grail invites Community Partners (schools, community-based organizations, faith communities, nonprofits, etc.) to “double their ability” through land-based micro projects designed to extend opportunities and services otherwise not available or through an innovative approach. Approved projects will be temporary, replicable and portable and will also advance at least one of the 17 United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals.

The Grail (International) has had NGO observer status at the United Nations (UN) since 1951 and holds special consultative status through ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) since 1998. The UN has identified 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are being advanced through 2030. The Grail in the US strives to make these SDGs a daily part of its work and mission.

According to The Grail in the US Executive Director, Terrie Puckett, “While this new initiative might seem to be a radical departure from our recent history at Grailville, it in fact draws on almost 75 years of our history in providing educational experiences, from doubling one’s talents during the Year School days to “Learning is the act of the learner” [from long-time Grail member Janet Kalven’s seminal work “Women Breaking Boundaries”] from our college credit programs of the ‘60s and ‘70s.

The Grail recognizes that in the United States people are fluid—they change jobs, change homes, change communities. There is also a strong movement embracing micro spaces and ever-smaller carbon footprints, which The Grail in the US has advanced since its inception. The current and upcoming land-based micro-projects at The Grail target these changes and expectations and embrace The Grail’s 75-year history in providing knowledge for today and for the future.

In addition to the direct experience and education the applicant groups will achieve, the Learning Lab projects will showcase to community members utilizing the open-to-the-public outdoor space how they too can take small steps in supporting the renewal of earth at their homes and in their daily lives.

Over the last four years, The Grail took the first steps in developing the Learning Labs by creating temporary and moveable learning sites through a series of Eagle Scout projects. These included a floating wetland (Sayre Stejbach, Troop 55), a butterfly garden (Ben Volk, Troop 55),

a welcome kiosk (Jakob Hockl, Troop 402), an edible forest (Alex Almaguer, Troop 635), two moveable sheds (Sean Grinsted, Troop 55), and a garden water catchment system (Evan Sugrue, Troop 55). With the anticipated addition of a portable mini-greenhouse, The Grail has developed the infrastructure necessary for moving forward.

Ms. Pamela Cobey, from National Leadership team of The Grail in the US added, “We believe in the value of failure. Too often we do not try something new because we are afraid of failing. We double our ability when we challenge our fear because even when what we have tried does not succeed, we learn. Bob Johansen [in his book *The New Leadership Literacies*] echoes this when he suggests that we all need to learn how to “fail interestingly.” We hope that by providing this space to try something new our community partners will give innovation a chance.”

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The Grail in the US is a 501 (c) (3) registered with the State of Ohio. For more information about The Grail, please contact Terrie Puckett, Executive Director, at 513.683.2340 ext. 10 or tpuckett@grailville.org