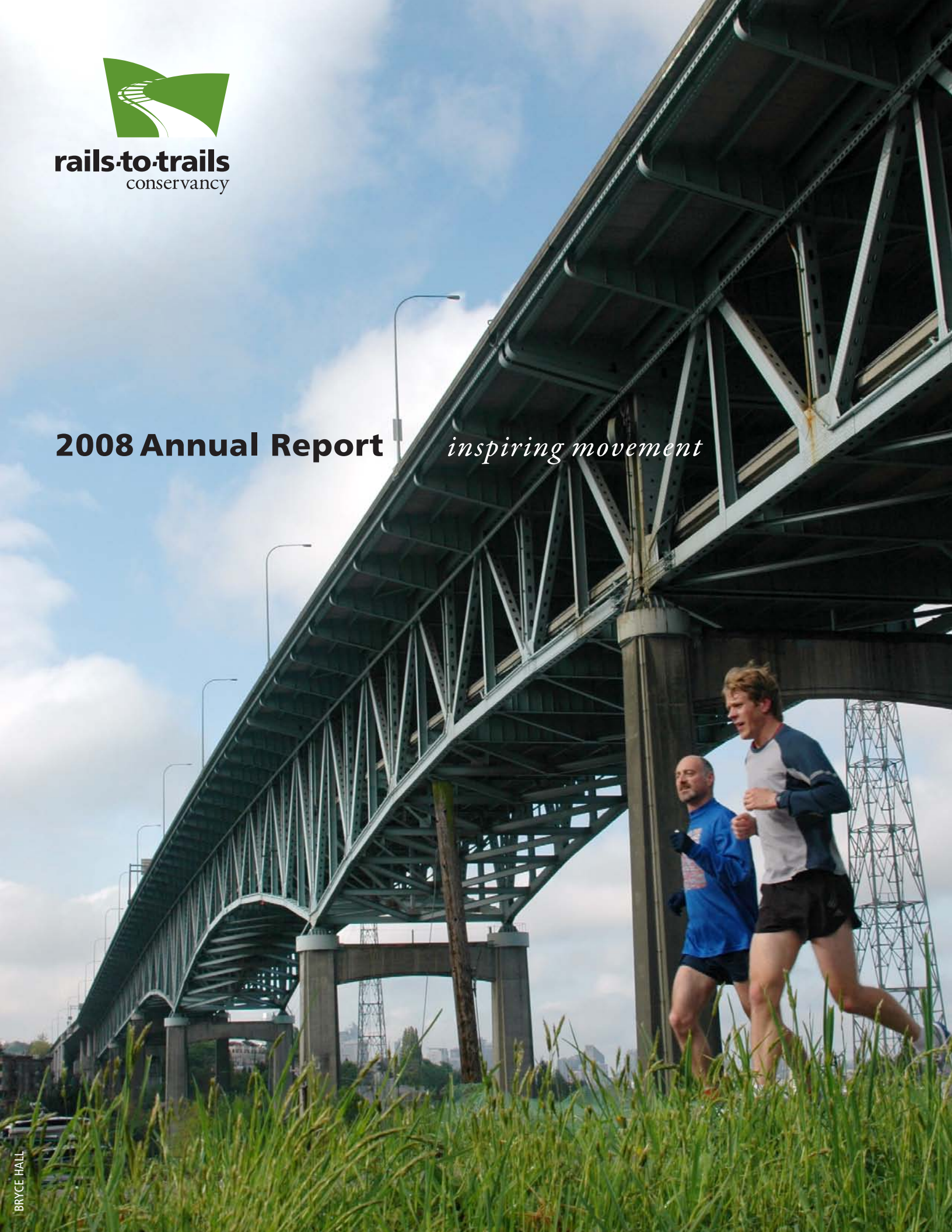




**rails-to-trails**  
conservancy

# 2008 Annual Report

*inspiring movement*





JON LOWENSTEIN

THE MISSION OF RAILS-TO-TRAILS CONSERVANCY IS TO CREATE A NATIONWIDE NETWORK OF TRAILS FROM FORMER RAIL LINES AND CONNECTING CORRIDORS TO BUILD HEALTHIER PLACES FOR HEALTHIER PEOPLE.

**When we opened our doors 23 years ago, there were 200 miles of open rail-trail in America. Today, our work has made it possible for millions of Americans to walk, run, skate and cycle on more than 15,000 miles of completed rail-trail in rural, suburban and urban communities.**

Our initial vision, experience and expertise, put us in the forefront of efforts to preserve these open spaces for walking, hiking, and biking in communities nationwide. Over time, we came to recognize the importance of developing connections between these rail-trails and other trails and open spaces, and we are unique among green space and transportation advocates in understanding how robust trail networks simultaneously support personal, environmental, and economic health.

This evolution in our understanding and growth in our expertise led us to develop our vision for the 21st century, that **by 2020, 90 percent of Americans will live within three miles of a local trail system.**

2008 was a challenging year for many, RTC included. In spite of historic demands upon our resources, demands that continue into the following years, we successfully combined our trail development experience, our policy expertise, and exciting communications and mapping technology in ways that would make the most efficient use of opportunities to advance both our mission now and our vision for the future.

## Providing Planning and Technical Assistance: The Bedrock of

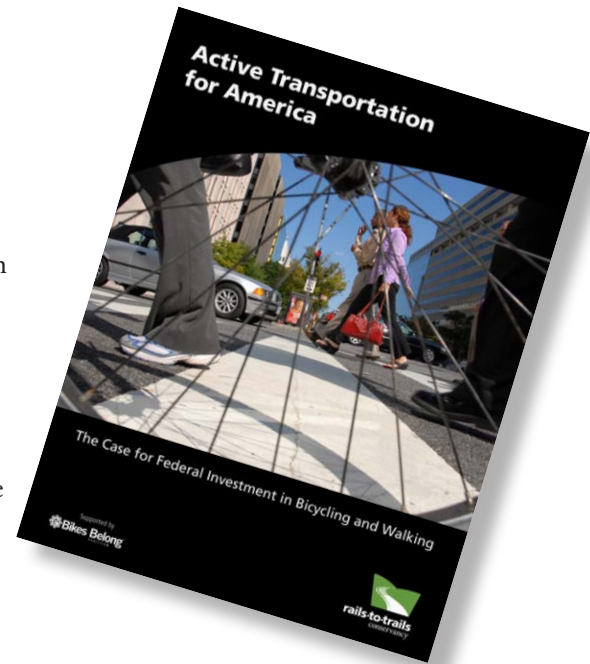
**RTC's Work** In 2008 our trail development staff answered calls for technical assistance from more than 1,500 individuals and communities wishing to identify, preserve, or establish trails on abandoned railroad corridors and connecting corridors. In addition, we worked more closely with scores of projects across the country, providing assistance on topics including corridor acquisition, plans for building and maintenance, and community education and outreach.

In partnerships with both foundation and corporate sponsors, RTC put growing emphasis on its work in underserved, densely populated urban communities by launching our Urban Pathways Initiative (UPI). UPI will allow us to provide in-depth technical assistance to local partners who wish to identify and implement improvements to enhance access and foster community ownership of existing trails. RTC is expanding its existing work in Washington, D.C., Camden, N.J., and Jacksonville, Fla., and engaging in new programs in Compton, Calif., New Orleans, La., Springfield, Mass., and Cleveland, Ohio.

**Advocating for Federal Policies that Support Trails** RTC's national policy advocacy expertise secured policies and funding that created the vast majority of the 15,000 miles of open rail-trail in three successive authorizations of the federal surface transportation statute. In 2008, this work continued through our *Campaign for Active Transportation*, focused on the next authorization of the federal statute. We coached 50 communities through the process of developing active transportation case statements that demonstrate how focused local investments could drive rapid growth in bicycling and walking. That effort informed *Active Transportation for America* (released in fiscal year 2009), RTC's report that quantified the national benefits of federal investment in bicycling and walking infrastructure and programs. This report will be a critical tool as we make our case to federal decision makers about the benefits from significant federal funding for active transportation in communities.

At the same time, RTC was vigilant that prior gains not be lost. Our efforts include work with Rep. James Oberstar (D-Minn.) and other supporters to pass legislation protecting Transportation Enhancements (TE) funding from disproportionate cuts in response to a United States Department of Transportation order that states return \$3.15 billion in transportation funds. We also testified before a congressional subcommittee against a proposed amendment to exempt railroad structures from the federal historical preservation act. Bridges, tunnels, culverts and other historic features would have been put at risk if the provision had passed. Our testimony helped secure a compromise that continues to protect historic rail-trail infrastructure.

In 2007, RTC explored the abandoned, boarded up Cal Park Tunnel in Marin County, Calif. In 2008, as part of the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program that RTC helped get through Congress, work began on reopening the tunnel for bicycle, pedestrian and potentially transit use. At right, local activist and RTC partner Deb Hubsmith celebrates breaking through the tunnel's far side. (Photo: Jim Kirsner)





Top left: In May, RTC President Keith Laughlin presented a Hall of Fame sign to representatives of the Missouri DNR for the Katy Trail State Park. Top right: Crowds turn out for the September celebration of the opening of the State Line Gateway Park—where the Silver Comet Trail in Georgia meets the Chief Ladiga Trail in Alabama—made possible with funding provided by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy through a grant from The Coke Cola Foundation.

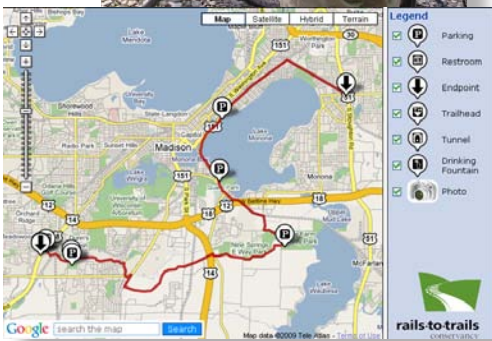
**Promoting and Celebrating Success** In its second year, our Rail-Trail Hall of Fame welcomed new trails into this popular program. We celebrated the earlier induction of the 225-mile Katy Trail in Missouri as the program's second member. The Katy was soon joined by other inductees representing some of the best rail-trails across the country: Florida's Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail, Alabama's Chief Ladiga Trail and Georgia's Silver Comet Trail (connecting across the state line), Massachusetts' Minuteman Bikeway and the Illinois Prairie Path. To complement the Hall of Fame celebrations, this year RTC launched a signage program to recognize a larger number of trails as part of a national network of rail-trails. By its conclusion in 2009, more than 500 signs will be posted on rail-trails nationwide, alerting users to the historic and community significance of these greenways.

Hall of Fame celebrations and other trail events provided scores of opportunities for print and broadcast promotion of the community and personal health benefits to be derived from rail-trails. We gained national press as well, including a three-minute television segment promoting rail-trails that aired on AARP's Retirement Living cable show, "My Generation," and featured RTC and several of our supporters.



**Informing and Inspiring our Members** As part of our GIS Mapping Initiative, we mapped trails in all 50 states, and completed line and waypoint data on more than 10,000 of the 15,000 miles of rail-trails nationwide. This data, along with trail descriptions and pictures, were made accessible to trail users on TrailLink.com. As TrailLink.com grows to become the most comprehensive, free database of publicly accessible trail information in existence, its popularity has increased as well. The number of unique visitors increased from 35,000 per month in summer 2007, to more than 70,000 in summer 2008.

Data gathered for the GIS Mapping Initiative went into production of our series of rail-trail guidebooks. To date, new editions of the Southeast, Mid-Atlantic and New England regions have been published. We collected data for the Western and Midwest regional guides, which will join the series next year.



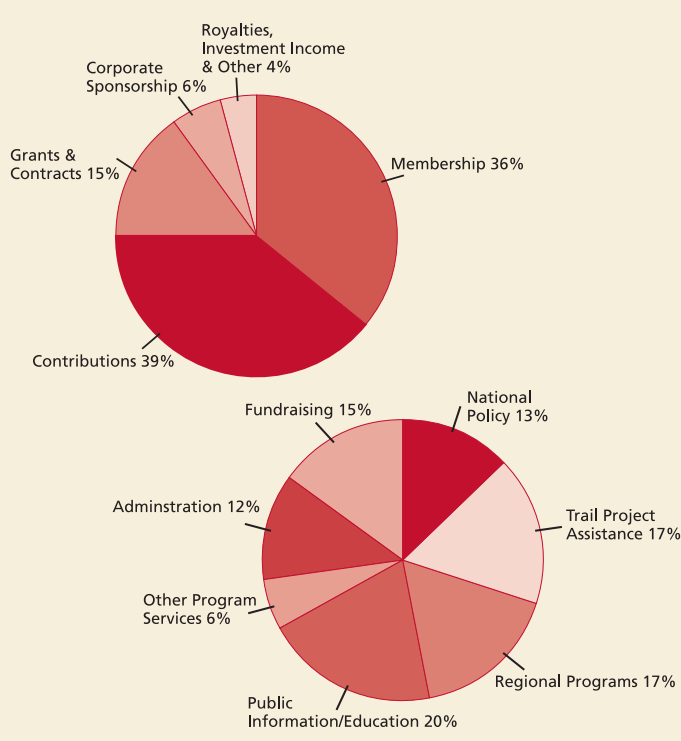
# Summary of Activities & Changes in Net Assets

For the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008

REVENUE		PERCENTAGES
Membership	\$2,238,340	36%
Contributions	\$2,428,944	39%
Grants & Contracts	\$915,972	15%
Corporate Sponsorship	\$413,442	6%
Royalties, Investment Income & Other	\$265,530	4%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$6,263,278</b>	<b>100%</b>

EXPENSES		
Program		
National Policy	\$821,701	13%
Trail Project Assistance	\$1,012,841	17%
Regional Programs	\$1,045,314	17%
Public Information/Education	\$1,259,791	20%
Other Program Services	\$384,624	6%
Administration	\$728,731	12%
Fundraising	\$929,132	15%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,182,134</b>	<b>100%</b>

Changes in Net Assets from Operations	\$81,144
Nonoperating Income (see note 1)	(\$213,569)
Total Change in Net Assets	(\$132,425)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$1,936,523
Net Assets, End of Year	\$1,804,098



Note 1: Investment Income represents realized and unrealized gains and losses on investment of restricted assets. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy is a nonprofit charitable organization as qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Codes.

# Board of Directors

Reflects board members and their affiliations at the end of Fiscal Year 2008

**Richard W. Angle, Jr.** (treasurer)  
Angle Associates  
Guilford, Conn.

**Joseph Lewis Barrow, Jr.** (chair)  
The First Tee  
Jacksonville, Fla.

**Kathy Blaha**  
Miami Beach, Fla.

**Robert Campbell**  
Malvern, Pa.

**Jennie E. Gerard** (at large)  
Oakland, Calif.

**Peter Goldman**  
Washington Forest Law Center  
Seattle, Wash.

**David Ingemie**  
Snow Sports Industries of America  
McLean, Va.

**M. Katherine Kraft, Ph.D.**  
Princeton, N.J.

**Charles N. Marshall** (vice-chair)  
Genesee & Wyoming Inc.  
Pottstown, Pa.

**Rebecca R. Riley**  
Bronxville, N.Y.

**Guy O. Williams** (secretary)  
G.O. Williams & Associates LLC  
Ypsilanti, Mich.

## Staff

Reflects staff members at the end of Fiscal Year 2008

Keith Laughlin, President

### Trail Development

Jeff Ciabotti, Vice President of Trail Development  
Stephen Miller, Coordinator of Trail Development  
Kelly Pack, Manager of Trail Development

### Policy

Kevin Mills, Vice President of Policy  
Marianne Fowler, Senior Vice President of Federal Relations  
Franz Gimmler, Director of Transportation Initiatives  
Thomas Gotschi, Director of Research  
Andréa Smith, NTEC Program Coordinator  
Kartik Sribarra, Manager of Policy Outreach  
Graham Stroh, NTEC Senior Program Coordinator

### Development

Andrea Brock, Vice President of Development  
Michelle Bosau, Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations  
Benjamin Carter, Manager of Major Gifts

Milo Bateman, Membership Coordinator  
Farr Prickett, Development Coordinator

### Finance and Administration

Cindy Dickerson, Vice President of Finance & Operations  
Elton Clark, Manager of Human Resources  
Irma Joseph, Senior Staff Accountant  
Roxanna Kiely, Controller  
Glenda Owens, Customer Service & Office Administrator  
Tim Rosner, GIS Specialist  
Frederick Schaedtler, Director of Information Technology

### Communications

Jennifer Kaleba, Vice President of Communications  
Jennifer Grizzard Ekzarkhov, Director of Online Communications  
Barbara Richey, Graphic Designer  
Katie Test, Public Relations Manager

Karl Wirsing, Manager of Communications/  
Managing Editor, *Rails to Trails* Magazine

### Florida Office

Ken Bryan, State Director

### Midwest Regional Office

Rhonda Border-Boose, Regional Director  
Eric Oberg, Manager of Trail Development  
Ryan Phillips, Program Coordinator

### Northeast Regional Office

Tom Sexton, Regional Director  
Carl Knoch, Manager of Trail Development  
Patricia Tomes, Program Coordinator

### Western Regional Office

Laura Cohen, Regional Director  
Ben Gettleman, Manager of Trail Development  
Anne Zuparko, Program Assistant



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fax: 202.223.9257

### Florida Field Office

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Tallahassee, FL 32317  
tel: 850.942.2379  
fax: 850.877.3007

### Midwest Regional Office

10 South High Street, Suite A  
Canal Winchester, OH 43110  
tel: 614.837.6782  
fax: 614.837.6783

### Northeast Regional Office

2133 Market Street, Suite 222  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
tel: 717.238.1717  
fax: 717.238.7566

### Western Regional Office

235 Montgomery Street, Suite 769  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
tel: 415.814.1100  
fax: 415.989.1255

