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Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No 1545-1150

2011

Open to Public
Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code
(except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)

▶ Sponsoring organizations of donor advised funds, organizations that operate one or more hospital facilities, and certain controlling organizations as defined in section 512(b)(13) must file Form 990 (see instructions). All other organizations with gross receipts less than \$200,000 and total assets less than \$500,000 at the end of the year may use this form.

▶ The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements.

A For the 2011 calendar year, or tax year beginning January 1, 2011, and ending December 31, 20 11

B Check if applicable:
 Address change
 Name change
 Initial return
 Terminated
 Amended return
 Application pending

C Name of organization
Common River

Number and street (or P O box, if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite
72 Hazel Ave.

City or town, state or country, and ZIP + 4
Mill Valley, Ca 94941

D Employer identification number
33-1185352

E Telephone number
415-559-6527

F Group Exemption Number ▶

G Accounting Method: Cash Accrual Other (specify) ▶

H Check if the organization is not required to attach Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF).

I Website: ▶ **www.commonriver.org**

J Tax-exempt status (check only one) - 501(c)(3) 501(c) () ◀ (insert no) 4947(a)(1) or 527

K Check if the organization is not a section 509(a)(3) supporting organization or a section 527 organization and its gross receipts are normally not more than \$50,000. A Form 990-EZ or Form 990 return is not required though Form 990-N (e-postcard) may be required (see instructions). But if the organization chooses to file a return, be sure to file a complete return.

L Add lines 5b, 6c, and 7b, to line 9 to determine gross receipts. If gross receipts are \$200,000 or more, or if total assets (Part II, line 25, column (B) below) are \$500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ ▶ \$

Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances (see the instructions for Part I.)
 Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part I

	Description	Code	Amount
Revenue	1 Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received	1	89161
	2 Program service revenue including government fees and contracts	2	0
	3 Membership dues and assessments	3	0
	4 Investment income	4	0
	5a Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory	5a	0
	b Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	5b	0
	c Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (Subtract line 5b from line 5a)	5c	
	6 Gaming and fundraising events		
	a Gross income from gaming (attach Schedule G if greater than \$15,000)	6a	
	b Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ of contributions from fundraising events reported on line 1) (attach Schedule G if the sum of such gross income and contributions exceeds \$15,000)	6b	
c Less: direct expenses from gaming and fundraising events	6c		
d Net income or (loss) from gaming and fundraising events (add lines 6a and 6b and subtract line 6c)	6d	0	
7a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	7a		
b Less: cost of goods sold	7b		
c Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (Subtract line 7b from line 7a)	7c		
8 Other revenue (describe in Schedule O)	8		
9 Total revenue. Add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6d, 7c, and 8 ▶	9	89,161	
Expenses	10 Grants and similar amounts paid (list in Schedule O)	10	25,650
	11 Benefits paid to or for members	11	0
	12 Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits	12	0
	13 Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors	13	0
	14 Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance	14	0
	15 Printing, publications, postage, and shipping	15	252
	16 Other expenses (describe in Schedule O)	16	35,208
	17 Total expenses. Add lines 10 through 16 ▶	17	61,105
Net Assets	18 Excess or (deficit) for the year (Subtract line 17 from line 9)	18	28,056
	19 Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)	19	11,831
	20 Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	20	12,767
	21 Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 18 through 20 ▶	21	52,654

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Part V Other Information (Note the Schedule A and personal benefit contract statement requirements in the instructions for Part V.) Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part V

		Yes	No
33	Did the organization engage in any significant activity not previously reported to the IRS? If "Yes," provide a detailed description of each activity in Schedule O		✓
34	Were any significant changes made to the organizing or governing documents? If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the amended documents if they reflect a change to the organization's name. Otherwise, explain the change on Schedule O (see instructions)		✓
35a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year from business activities (such as those reported on lines 2, 6a, and 7a, among others)?		✓
b	If "Yes," to line 35a, has the organization filed a Form 990-T for the year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O		✓
c	Was the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization subject to section 6033(e) notice, reporting, and proxy tax requirements during the year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III		
36	Did the organization undergo a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or significant disposition of net assets during the year? If "Yes," complete applicable parts of Schedule N		✓
37a	Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions. ▶ 37a _____		
b	Did the organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?		✓
38a	Did the organization borrow from, or make any loans to, any officer, director, trustee, or key employee or were any such loans made in a prior year and still outstanding at the end of the tax year covered by this return?		✓
b	If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II and enter the total amount involved 38b _____		
39	Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:		
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 9 39a _____		
b	Gross receipts, included on line 9, for public use of club facilities 39b _____		
40a	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on the organization during the year under: section 4911 ▶ _____ ; section 4912 ▶ _____ ; section 4955 ▶ _____		
b	Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year, or did it engage in an excess benefit transaction in a prior year that has not been reported on any of its prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I		✓
c	Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under sections 4912, 4955, and 4958 ▶ _____		
d	Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. Enter amount of tax on line 40c reimbursed by the organization ▶ _____		
e	All organizations. At any time during the tax year, was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? If "Yes," complete Form 8886-T.		✓
41	List the states with which a copy of this return is filed. ▶ _____		
42a	The organization's books are in care of ▶ _____ Telephone no. ▶ _____ Located at ▶ _____ ZIP + 4 ▶ _____		
b	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: ▶ _____ See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for Form TD F 90-22.1, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts .		✓
c	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization maintain an office outside the U.S.? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: ▶ Ethiopia	✓	
43	Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-EZ in lieu of Form 1041 —Check here ▶ <input type="checkbox"/> and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the tax year ▶ 43 _____		
44a	Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ		✓
b	Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ		✓
c	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the year?		✓
d	If "Yes" to line 44c, has the organization filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O		✓
45a	Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?		✓
45b	Did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," Form 990 and Schedule R may need to be completed instead of Form 990-EZ (see instructions)		✓

46 Did the organization engage, directly or indirectly, in political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I

Part VI Section 501(c)(3) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts only. All section 501(c)(3) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts must answer questions 47-49b and 52, and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51.

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part VI

47 Did the organization engage in lobbying activities or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II

48 Is the organization a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E

49a Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization?

b If "Yes," was the related organization a section 527 organization?

50 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated employees (other than officers, directors, trustees and key employees) who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

Table with 5 columns: (a) Name and address of each employee paid more than \$100,000; (b) Title and average hours per week devoted to position; (c) Reportable compensation (Forms W-2/1099-MISC); (d) Health benefits, contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation; (e) Estimated amount of other compensation. Row 1 contains 'none'.

f Total number of other employees paid over \$100,000

51 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated independent contractors who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

Table with 3 columns: (a) Name and address of each independent contractor paid more than \$100,000; (b) Type of service; (c) Compensation. Row 1 contains 'none'.

d Total number of other independent contractors each receiving over \$100,000

52 Did the organization complete Schedule A? Note: All section 501(c)(3) organizations and 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts must attach a completed Schedule A

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here: Signature of officer (Donna Sillan), Date (2/12/2012), Type or print name and title (Donna Sillan, Chief Operating Officer)

Paid Preparer Use Only: Print/Type preparer's name, Preparer's signature, Date, Check if self-employed, PTIN, Firm's name, Firm's EIN, Firm's address, Phone no.

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Public Charity Status and Public Support

OMB No 1545-0047

2011

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Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. ▶ See separate instructions.

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization
Common River

Employer identification number
33-1185352

Part I Reason for Public Charity Status (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.

The organization is not a private foundation because it is: (For lines 1 through 11, check only one box.)

- 1 A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i)**.
- 2 A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)**. (Attach Schedule E.)
- 3 A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**.
- 4 A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**. Enter the hospital's name, city, and state: _____
- 5 An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 6 A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v)**.
- 7 An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 8 A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 9 An organization that normally receives: (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions—subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See **section 509(a)(2)**. (Complete Part III.)
- 10 An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See **section 509(a)(4)**.
- 11 An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2). See **section 509(a)(3)**. Check the box that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 11e through 11h.
 - a Type I b Type II c Type III—Functionally integrated d Type III—Other
- e By checking this box, I certify that the organization is not controlled directly or indirectly by one or more disqualified persons other than foundation managers and other than one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2).
- f If the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, or Type III supporting organization, check this box
- g Since August 17, 2006, has the organization accepted any gift or contribution from any of the following persons?
 - (i) A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (ii) and (iii) below, the governing body of the supported organization?

	Yes	No
11g(i)		
 - (ii) A family member of a person described in (i) above?

	Yes	No
11g(ii)		
 - (iii) A 35% controlled entity of a person described in (i) or (ii) above?

	Yes	No
11g(iii)		
- h Provide the following information about the supported organization(s).

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1–9 above or IRC section (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization in col (i) listed in your governing document?		(v) Did you notify the organization in col (i) of your support?		(vi) Is the organization in col (i) organized in the U S ?		(vii) Amount of support
			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
(A)									
(B)									
(C)									
(D)									
(E)									
Total									

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**SCHEDULE E
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Name of the organization

Schools

▶ **Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 13, or Form 990-EZ, Part VI, line 48.**
▶ **Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.**

OMB No 1545-0047

2011

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Employer identification number

33-1185352

Common River

Part I

		YES	NO
1	Does the organization have a racially nondiscriminatory policy toward students by statement in its charter, bylaws, other governing instrument, or in a resolution of its governing body?	✓	
2	Does the organization include a statement of its racially nondiscriminatory policy toward students in all its brochures, catalogues, and other written communications with the public dealing with student admissions, programs, and scholarships?	✓	
3	Has the organization publicized its racially nondiscriminatory policy through newspaper or broadcast media during the period of solicitation for students, or during the registration period if it has no solicitation program, in a way that makes the policy known to all parts of the general community it serves? If "Yes," please describe. If "No," please explain. If you need more space, use Part II	✓	

4	Does the organization maintain the following?		
a	Records indicating the racial composition of the student body, faculty, and administrative staff?	✓	
b	Records documenting that scholarships and other financial assistance are awarded on a racially nondiscriminatory basis?	✓	
c	Copies of all catalogues, brochures, announcements, and other written communications to the public dealing with student admissions, programs, and scholarships?	✓	
d	Copies of all material used by the organization or on its behalf to solicit contributions? If you answered "No" to any of the above, please explain. If you need more space, use Part II.	✓	

5	Does the organization discriminate by race in any way with respect to:		
a	Students' rights or privileges?		✓
b	Admissions policies?		✓
c	Employment of faculty or administrative staff?		✓
d	Scholarships or other financial assistance?		✓
e	Educational policies?		✓
f	Use of facilities?		✓
g	Athletic programs?		✓
h	Other extracurricular activities? If you answered "Yes" to any of the above, please explain. If you need more space, use Part II.		✓

6a	Does the organization receive any financial aid or assistance from a governmental agency?		✓
b	Has the organization's right to such aid ever been revoked or suspended? If you answered "Yes" to either line 6a or line 6b, explain on Part II.		✓
7	Does the organization certify that it has complied with the applicable requirements of sections 4.01 through 4.05 of Rev. Proc. 75-50, 1975-2 C.B. 587, covering racial nondiscrimination? If "No," explain on Part II	✓	

SCHEDULE O
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization
Common River

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

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The Christensen Fund provided funding for the following program: Sidama Sustenance, Shelter and Senior Spirit.

The following activities were implemented:

- 1) encouraged local agricultural techniques and planted a Sidama garden for the school lunch program
- 2) facilitated traditional Sidama builders to become viable business to preserve their architectural artistry
- 3) formed a Senior Sidama Council and documented Senior Case Histories
- 4) Published a Sidama Cookbook to document the foodways of the Sidama tribe

OTHER CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES: \$12,767

The grant funding period was from April 1, 2011-March 31, 2012. The grant funded activities through December, 31, 2011 represent only three quarters, or 75% of the grant. The remaining activities of the grant culminated in the first quarter of 2012, such as the publication of the Sidama Cookbook, the Sidama Builder's brochures and the senior interviews. These items were completed and paid in 2012.

The remaining \$101 were petty costs incurred by the Program Directors.