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Form 990



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

▶ Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public

▶ Information about Form 990 and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990

OMB No 1545-0047

2014

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2014 calendar year, or tax year beginning 01-01-2014 , and ending 12-31-2014

B Check if applicable ☐ Address change ☐ Name change ☐ Initial return ☐ Final return/terminated ☐ Amended return ☐ Application pending	C Name of organization BENCHMARKS		D Employer identification number 56-1136423
	% MS ELLYN DUVALL Doing business as		
	Number and street (or P O box if mail is not delivered to street address)	Room/suite	E Telephone number (919) 828-1864
	2609 ATLANTIC AVENUE Suite 105		
	City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code RALEIGH, NC 27604		G Gross receipts \$ 1,146,509
F Name and address of principal officer KAREN MCLEOD 2609 ATLANTIC AVE SUITE 105 RALEIGH, NC 27604		H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? ☐ Yes ☒ No H(b) Are all subordinates included? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "No," attach a list (see instructions) H(c) Group exemption number ▶	
I Tax-exempt status ☒ 501(c)(3) ☐ 501(c) () ◀(insert no) ☐ 4947(a)(1) or ☐ 527			
J Website: ▶ WWW.BENCHMARKSNC.ORG			

K Form of organization ☐ Corporation ☐ Trust ☒ Association ☐ Other ▶	L Year of formation 1977	M State of legal domicile NC
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Part I

Summary

Activities & Governance	1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities BENCHMARKS IS AN ALLIANCE OF 85+ N C AGENCIES SUPPORTING CHILDREN, ADULTS, AND FAMILIES IN N C WHO NEED SUPPORT IN THE AREAS OF MENTAL HEALTH, CHILD (CON'T ON SCHED O) 																								
	2 Check this box ☐ if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets																								
	<table><tr><td>3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)</td><td>3</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)</td><td>4</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>5 Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2014 (Part V, line 2a)</td><td>5</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)</td><td>6</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>7a Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12</td><td>7a</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34</td><td>7b</td><td></td></tr></table>	3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	14	4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	14	5 Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2014 (Part V, line 2a)	5	9	6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	14	7a Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a	0	b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34	7b							
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Expenses	<table><tr><td>13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1–3)</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5–10)</td><td>446,507</td><td>540,553</td></tr><tr><td>16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)</td><td>0</td><td>719</td></tr><tr><td>b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶2,646</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a–11d, 11f–24e)</td><td>444,475</td><td>547,053</td></tr><tr><td>18 Total expenses Add lines 13–17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)</td><td>890,982</td><td>1,088,325</td></tr><tr><td>19 Revenue less expenses Subtract line 18 from line 12</td><td>174,553</td><td>58,184</td></tr></table>	13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1–3)	0	0	14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	0	0	15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5–10)	446,507	540,553	16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	0	719	b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶2,646			17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a–11d, 11f–24e)	444,475	547,053	18 Total expenses Add lines 13–17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	890,982	1,088,325	19 Revenue less expenses Subtract line 18 from line 12	174,553	58,184
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Net Assets or Fund Balances	<table><tr><td></td><td>Beginning of Current Year</td><td>End of Year</td></tr><tr><td>20 Total assets (Part X, line 16)</td><td>610,144</td><td>698,625</td></tr><tr><td>21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)</td><td>81,351</td><td>111,648</td></tr><tr><td>22 Net assets or fund balances Subtract line 21 from line 20</td><td>528,793</td><td>586,977</td></tr></table>		Beginning of Current Year	End of Year	20 Total assets (Part X, line 16)	610,144	698,625	21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	81,351	111,648	22 Net assets or fund balances Subtract line 21 from line 20	528,793	586,977												
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Part II

Signature Block

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	2015-05-01 Date
	Karen McLeod PRESIDENT Type or print name and title	

Paid Preparer Use Only	Print/Type preparer's name Wm James Black Jr	Preparer's signature Wm James Black Jr	Date	Check ☐ if self-employed	PTIN P00175233
	Firm's name ▶ BATCHELOR TILLERY & ROBERTS LLP			Firm's EIN ▶	
	Firm's address ▶ 3605 GLENWOOD AVENUE SUITE 350 RALEIGH, NC 27612			Phone no (919) 828-1864	

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions) ☒ Yes ☐ No

Part III

Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III

1

Briefly describe the organization’s mission

BENCHMARKS IS AN ALLIANCE OF NATIONALLY ACCREDITED AGENCIES COMMITTED TO PROVIDING QUALITY CARE, LEADERSHIP, AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN SERVICES TO CHILDREN, ADULTS, AND FAMILIES IN NORTH CAROLINA

2

Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ?

Yes

✓

No

If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O

3

Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services?

Yes

✓

No

If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O

4

Describe the organization’s program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported

4a

(Code) (Expenses \$ 1,029,614 including grants of \$) (Revenue \$ 202,737)

BENCHMARKS IS AN ALLIANCE OF 85+ MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE MISSIONS, GENERALLY, ARE TO SUPPORT NORTH CAROLINA'S MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN, ADULTS, AND FAMILIES, WHO EXPERIENCE NEGLECT, ABUSE, AND/OR REQUIRE TREATMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH-RELATED DISORDERS, INTELLECTURAL/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE THROUGH THE COLLECTIVE VOICE OF ITS MEMBERS, BENCHMARKS AGAIN THIS YEAR ADVOCATED FOR AND PROMOTED QUALITY WELFARE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, ADULTS, AND FAMILIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE BENCHMARKS' MISSION IS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH A UNIFIED VOICE, COLLECTIVE EXPERIENCE, TRAINING, SHARING BEST PRACTICES, COLLECTION OF DATA, AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES LEADERSHIP THIS YEAR, AS IN PAST YEARS, BENCHMARKS WAS INTEGRAL IN THE PREVENTION OF SIGNIFICANT STATE FUNDING CUTS FOR MH/IDD/SAS AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES BENCHMARKS SPONSORED LEGISLATION IN THIS YEAR'S LEGISLATIVE SESSION THAT DIRECTLY SUPPORTED SERVICES OF ITS MEMBERSHIP AND BENEFITED NORTH CAROLINA'S CHILDREN, ADULTS, AND FAMILIES

4b

(Code) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4c

(Code) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4d

Other program services (Describe in Schedule O)

(Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4e

Total program service expenses ▶ 1,029,614

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

	Yes	No
1 Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? If "Yes," complete Schedule A 	1 Yes	
2 Is the organization required to complete Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors (see instructions)? 	2 Yes	
3 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I 	3	No
4 Section 501(c)(3) organizations. 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 	4 Yes	
5 Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III 	5	No
6 Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I 	6	No
7 Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II 	7	No
8 Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III 	8	No
9 Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21 for escrow or custodial account liability, serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X, or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV 	9	No
10 Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V 	10 Yes	
11 If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable		
a Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI 	11a	No
b Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII 	11b	No
c Did the organization report an amount for investments—program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII 	11c	No
d Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX 	11d	No
e Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X 	11e Yes	
f Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X 	11f Yes	
12a Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII 	12a Yes	
b Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional 	12b	No
13 Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E	13	No
14a Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?	14a	No
b Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV	14b	No
15 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for any foreign organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV	15	No
16 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or other assistance to or for foreign individuals? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV	16	No
17 Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I (see instructions)	17	No
18 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II	18	No
19 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III	19	No
20a Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? If "Yes," complete Schedule H	20a	No
b If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?	20b	

Part IV

Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

21	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to any domestic organization or domestic government on Part IX, column (A), line 1? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II . . .</i>	21		No
22	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for domestic individuals on Part IX, column (A), line 2? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III . . .</i>	22		No
23	Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J . . .</i>	23	Yes	
24a	Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25a . . .</i>	24a		No
b	Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception? . . .	24b		
c	Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds? . . .	24c		
d	Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year? . . .	24d		
25a	Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I . . .</i>	25a		No
b	Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I . . .</i>	25b		No
26	Did the organization report any amount on Part X, line 5, 6, or 22 for receivables from or payables to any current or former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, or disqualified persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II . . .</i>	26		No
27	Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III . . .</i>	27		No
28	Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions)			
a	A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV . . .</i>	28a		No
b	A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV . . .</i>	28b		No
c	An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee (or a family member thereof) was an officer, director, trustee, or direct or indirect owner? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV . . .</i>	28c		No
29	Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M . . .</i>	29		No
30	Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M . . .</i>	30		No
31	Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I . . .</i>	31		No
32	Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II . . .</i>	32		No
33	Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I . . .</i>	33		No
34	Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part II, III, or IV, and Part V, line 1 . . .</i>	34		No
35a	Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	35a		No
b	If "Yes" to line 35a, did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2 . . .</i>	35b		
36	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2 . . .</i>	36		No
37	Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI . . .</i>	37		No
38	Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? Note. All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O . . .	38	Yes	

Part V

Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096. Enter -0- if not applicable.		
1b	Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable.		
c Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?		Yes	
2a	Enter the number of employees reported on Form W-3, Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements, filed for the calendar year ending with or within the year covered by this return.		
b If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns? Note. If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to e-file (see instructions).		Yes	
3a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year?		No
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? If "No" to line 3b, provide an explanation in Schedule O.		
4a	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)?		No
b If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: See instructions for filing requirements for FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR).			
5a	Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year?		No
b	Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?		No
c	If "Yes," to line 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T?		
6a	Does the organization have annual gross receipts that are normally greater than \$100,000, and did the organization solicit any contributions that were not tax deductible as charitable contributions?		No
b	If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible?		
7 Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).			
a	Did the organization receive a payment in excess of \$75 made partly as a contribution and partly for goods and services provided to the payor?		No
b	If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided?		
c	Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282?		No
d	If "Yes," indicate the number of Forms 8282 filed during the year.		
e	Did the organization receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?		No
f	Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?		No
g	If the organization received a contribution of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required?		
h	If the organization received a contribution of cars, boats, airplanes, or other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C?		
8 Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds. Did a donor advised fund maintained by the sponsoring organization have excess business holdings at any time during the year?			
9a	Did the sponsoring organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966?		
b	Did the sponsoring organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person?		
10 Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter			
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12.		
b	Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities.		
11 Section 501(c)(12) organizations. Enter			
a	Gross income from members or shareholders.		
b	Gross income from other sources (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them).		
12a Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts. Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041?			
b	If "Yes," enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year.		
13 Section 501(c)(29) qualified nonprofit health insurance issuers.			
a	Is the organization licensed to issue qualified health plans in more than one state? Note. See the instructions for additional information the organization must report on Schedule O.		
b	Enter the amount of reserves the organization is required to maintain by the states in which the organization is licensed to issue qualified health plans.		
c	Enter the amount of reserves on hand.		
14a	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the tax year?		No
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O.		

Part VI

Governance, Management, and Disclosure

For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to lines 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions.

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI

Section A. Governing Body and Management

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year	14	
If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain in Schedule O			
b	Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent	14	
2	Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?	2	No
3	Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?	3	No
4	Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?	4	No
5	Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?	5	No
6	Did the organization have members or stockholders?	6	No
7a	Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body?	7a	No
b	Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?	7b	No
8	Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following		
a	The governing body?	8a	Yes
b	Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	8b	Yes
9	Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O	9	No

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

		Yes	No
10a	Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?	10a	No
b	If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?	10b	
11a	Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?	11a	Yes
b	Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990		
12a	Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13	12a	Yes
b	Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	12b	Yes
c	Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done	12c	Yes
13	Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	13	Yes
14	Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	14	Yes
15	Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?		
a	The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official	15a	Yes
b	Other officers or key employees of the organization	15b	No
If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process in Schedule O (see instructions)			
16a	Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?	16a	No
b	If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?	16b	

Section C. Disclosure

17	List the States with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed▶
18	Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Form 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply. ☒ Own website ☐ Another's website ☒ Upon request ☐ Other (explain in Schedule O)
19	Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how) the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year
20	State the name, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records ▶MS ELLYN DUVALL 2609 ATLANTIC AVE SUITE 105 RALEIGH,NC 27604 (919) 828-1864

Part VII

Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VII

Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

1a Complete this table for all persons required to be listed. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation. Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid.
- List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any. See instructions for definition of "key employee."
- List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee or key employee) who received reportable compensation (Box 5 of Form W-2 and/or Box 7 of Form 1099-MISC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations.
- List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, or highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.
- List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

List persons in the following order: individual trustees or directors; institutional trustees; officers; key employees; highest compensated employees; and former such persons.

☐ Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W- 2/1099- MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W- 2/1099- MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional Trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(1) MELISSA ARKIN TRUSTEE	1 0 0 0	X						0	0	0
(2) TARA LARSON TRUSTEE	1 0 0 0	X						0	0	0
(3) BRIAN MANESS TRUSTEE	1 0 0 0	X						0	0	0
(4) REYNOLDS CLODFELTER TRUSTEE	1 0 0 0	X						0	0	0
(5) VICKIE YELVERTON TRUSTEE	1 0 0 0	X						0	0	0
(6) GARY LEE TRUSTEE	1 0 0 0	X						0	0	0
(7) ANNIE SMITH TRUSTEE	1 0 0 0	X						0	0	0
(8) RICHARD EDWARDS TRUSTEE	1 0 0 0	X						0	0	0
(9) BRETT A LOFTIS JD TRUSTEE\	1 0 0 0	X						0	0	0
(10) VERNON WALTERS VICE-CHAIR	1 0 0 0			X				0	0	0
(11) PEGGY TERHUNE TREASURER	1 0 0 0			X				0	0	0
(12) CINDY DAVIS-BRYANT CHAIR	1 0 0 0			X				0	0	0
(13) CELESTE DOMINGUEZ SECRETARY	1 0 0 0			X				0	0	0
(14) KAREN MCLEOD PRESIDENT/CEO	40 0 0 0			X				147,431		14,870

Part VII

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional Trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			

1b	Sub-Total			
c	Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A			
d	Total (add lines 1b and 1c)	147,431	0	14,870

2 Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization ►1

		Yes	No
3	Did the organization list any former officer, director or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>	3	No
4	For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than \$150,000? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>	4	Yes
5	Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person</i>	5	No

Section B. Independent Contractors

1 Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation

2 Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization 0

Part VIII

Statement of Revenue

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII

			(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512-514	
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts	1a	Federated campaigns	1a				
	b	Membership dues	1b	479,005			
	c	Fundraising events	1c				
	d	Related organizations	1d				
	e	Government grants (contributions)	1e				
	f	All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f	425,656			
	g	Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f \$					
	h	Total. Add lines 1a-1f		904,661			
Program Service Revenue	2a	ONLINE TRAINING	Business Code 611430	127,518	127,518		
	b	REGISTRATION FEES	611710	75,219	75,219		
	c						
	d						
	e						
	f	All other program service revenue					
	g	Total. Add lines 2a-2f		202,737			
	Other Revenue	3	Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)		5,485		5,485
4		Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds		0			
5		Royalties		171		171	
6a		Gross rents	(i) Real	(ii) Personal			
		b	Less rental expenses				
		c	Rental income or (loss)	0	0		
		d	Net rental income or (loss)		0		
7a		Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities	(ii) Other			
		b	Less cost or other basis and sales expenses				
		c	Gain or (loss)				
		d	Net gain or (loss)		0		
8a		Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1c) See Part IV, line 18	a				
		b	Less direct expenses	b			
		c	Net income or (loss) from fundraising events		0		
9a		Gross income from gaming activities See Part IV, line 19	a				
		b	Less direct expenses	b			
		c	Net income or (loss) from gaming activities		0		
10a		Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	a				
		b	Less cost of goods sold	b			
		c	Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory		0		
Miscellaneous Revenue		Business Code					
11a	MISCELLANEOUS	611710	33,455	33,455			
b							
c							
d	All other revenue						
e	Total. Add lines 11a-11d		33,455				
12	Total revenue. See Instructions			1,146,509	236,192	5,656	

Part IX

Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A).

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

☐

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.		(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1	Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21.	0			
2	Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22.	0			
3	Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16.	0			
4	Benefits paid to or for members.	0			
5	Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees.	143,831	134,482	8,630	719
6	Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B).	0			
7	Other salaries and wages.	307,604	283,186	23,106	1,312
8	Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions).	26,432	24,455	1,858	119
9	Other employee benefits.	22,646	20,952	1,592	102
10	Payroll taxes.	40,759	37,711	2,865	183
11	Fees for services (non-employees):				
a	Management.	0			
b	Legal.	3,301	3,301		
c	Accounting.	7,267		7,267	
d	Lobbying.	30,000	30,000		
e	Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17.	0			
f	Investment management fees.	0			
g	Other (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O).	262,195	262,195		
12	Advertising and promotion.	0			
13	Office expenses.	8,342	7,471	851	20
14	Information technology.	13,024	12,315	666	43
15	Royalties.	0			
16	Occupancy.	25,577	23,512	1,941	124
17	Travel.	31,409	31,315	94	
18	Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials.	0			
19	Conferences, conventions, and meetings.	53,232	51,987	1,245	
20	Interest.	0			
21	Payments to affiliates.	0			
22	Depreciation, depletion, and amortization.	7,500	7,500		
23	Insurance.	5,298	4,902	372	24
24	Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O):				
a	ONLINE TRAINING	89,786	89,786		
b	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	4,197	985	3,212	
c	MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	5,925	3,559	2,366	
d					
e	All other expenses				
25	Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e.	1,088,325	1,029,614	56,065	2,646
26	Joint costs. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here ☐ if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720).				

Part X

Balance Sheet

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part X

				(A)		(B)
				Beginning of year		End of year
Assets	1	Cash—non-interest-bearing		5,482	1	42,622
	2	Savings and temporary cash investments		583,816	2	637,525
	3	Pledges and grants receivable, net		0	3	0
	4	Accounts receivable, net		5,602	4	10,670
	5	Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees Complete Part II of Schedule L		0	5	0
	6	Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B), and contributing employers and sponsoring organizations of section 501(c)(9) voluntary employees' beneficiary organizations (see instructions) Complete Part II of Schedule L		0	6	0
	7	Notes and loans receivable, net		0	7	0
	8	Inventories for sale or use		0	8	0
	9	Prepaid expenses and deferred charges		5,966	9	6,030
	10a	Land, buildings, and equipment cost or other basis Complete Part VI of Schedule D	10a61,594			
	b	Less accumulated depreciation	10b61,594	7,500	10c	
	11	Investments—publicly traded securities		0	11	0
	12	Investments—other securities See Part IV, line 11		0	12	0
	13	Investments—program-related See Part IV, line 11		0	13	0
	14	Intangible assets		0	14	0
	15	Other assets See Part IV, line 11		1,778	15	1,778
	16	Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)		610,144	16	698,625
Liabilities	17	Accounts payable and accrued expenses		90	17	35,301
	18	Grants payable		0	18	0
	19	Deferred revenue		57,238	19	48,784
	20	Tax-exempt bond liabilities		0	20	0
	21	Escrow or custodial account liability Complete Part IV of Schedule D		0	21	0
	22	Loans and other payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons Complete Part II of Schedule L		0	22	0
	23	Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties		0	23	0
	24	Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties		0	24	0
	25	Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24) Complete Part X of Schedule D		24,023	25	27,563
	26	Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25		81,351	26	111,648
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here ☒ and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.					
	27	Unrestricted net assets		306,332	27	317,153
	28	Temporarily restricted net assets		209,961	28	257,324
	29	Permanently restricted net assets		12,500	29	12,500
	Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here ☐ and complete lines 30 through 34.					
	30	Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds			30	
	31	Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building or equipment fund			31	
	32	Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds			32	
	33	Total net assets or fund balances		528,793	33	586,977
	34	Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances		610,144	34	698,625

Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	1,146,509
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	1,088,325
3	Revenue less expenses Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	58,184
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	4	528,793
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	
6	Donated services and use of facilities	6	
7	Investment expenses	7	
8	Prior period adjustments	8	
9	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	9	
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	10	586,977

Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII

		Yes	No
1	Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990 ☐ Cash ☒ Accrual ☐ Other If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O		
2a	Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant? If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both ☐ Separate basis ☐ Consolidated basis ☐ Both consolidated and separate basis		No
2b	Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant? If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both ☐ Separate basis ☐ Consolidated basis ☐ Both consolidated and separate basis	Yes	
2c	If "Yes," to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant? If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O	Yes	
3a	As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?		No
3b	If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits		

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990 or 990EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Public Charity Status and Public Support

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.

▶ Information about Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No 1545-0047

2014

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization BENCHMARKS	Employer identification number 56-1136423
--	--

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 in lines 11a through 11d that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 11e, 11f, and 11g

a

☐

Type I. A supporting organization operated, supervised, or controlled by its supported organization(s), typically by giving the supported organization(s) the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the directors or trustees of the supporting organization **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and B.**

b

☐

Type II. A supporting organization supervised or controlled in connection with its supported organization(s), by having control or management of the supporting organization vested in the same persons that control or manage the supported organization(s) **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and C.**

c

☐

Type III functionally integrated. A supporting organization operated in connection with, and functionally integrated with, its supported organization(s) (see instructions) **You must complete Part IV, Sections A, D, and E.**

d

☐

Type III non-functionally integrated. A supporting organization operated in connection with its supported organization(s) that is not functionally integrated The organization generally must satisfy a distribution requirement and an attentiveness requirement (see instructions) **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and D, and Part V.**

e

☐

Check this box if the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, Type III functionally integrated, or Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organization

f

Enter the number of supported organizations _____

g

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 listed in your governing document?		(v) Amount of monetary support (see instructions)	(vi) Amount of other support (see instructions)
			Yes	No		
Total						

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990 or 990EZ.

Cat No 11285F

Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) 2014

Part II

Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support						
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2010	(b) 2011	(c) 2012	(d) 2013	(e) 2014	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	400,005	396,079	588,425	764,202	904,661	3,053,372
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						0
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						0
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3	400,005	396,079	588,425	764,202	904,661	3,053,372
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						1,006,434
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4						2,046,938

Section B. Total Support						
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2010	(b) 2011	(c) 2012	(d) 2013	(e) 2014	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4	400,005	396,079	588,425	764,202	904,661	3,053,372
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources	10,234	10,354	1,209	4,087	5,485	31,369
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						0
10 Other income Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI)	14,701	2,699	10,146	28,889	33,455	89,890
11 Total support Add lines 7 through 10						3,174,631
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc (see instructions)					12	888,478
13 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here						▶

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage		
14 Public support percentage for 2014 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	64 478 %
15 Public support percentage for 2013 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	66 374 %
16a 33 1/3% support test—2014. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization	▶	
b 33 1/3% support test—2013. If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization	▶	
17a 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2014. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization	▶	
b 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2013. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization	▶	
18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions	▶	

Part IIISupport Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)
(Complete only if you checked the box on line 9 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part II. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part II.)

Section A. Public Support						
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2010	(b) 2011	(c) 2012	(d) 2013	(e) 2014	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received (Do not include any "unusual grants.")						
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose						
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
6 Total. Add lines 1 through 5						
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of \$5,000 or 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year						
c Add lines 7a and 7b						
8 Public support (Subtract line 7c from line 6)						

Section B. Total Support						
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2010	(b) 2011	(c) 2012	(d) 2013	(e) 2014	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6						
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						
c Add lines 10a and 10b						
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
12 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.)						
13 Total support. (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.)						
14 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here ▶						

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage		
15 Public support percentage for 2014 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	15	
16 Public support percentage from 2013 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	16	

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage		
17 Investment income percentage for 2014 (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	17	
18 Investment income percentage from 2013 Schedule A, Part III, line 17	18	
19a 33 1/3% support tests—2014. If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶		
b 33 1/3% support tests—2013. If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3% and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶		
20 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions ▶		

Part IV Supporting Organizations

(Complete only if you checked a box on line 11 of Part I. If you checked 11a of Part I, complete Sections A and B. If you checked 11b of Part I, complete Sections A and C. If you checked 11c of Part I, complete Sections A, D, and E. If you checked 11d of Part I, complete Sections A and D, and complete Part V.)

Section A. All Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Are all of the organization's supported organizations listed by name in the organization's governing documents? If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organizations are designated. If designated by class or purpose, describe the designation. If historic and continuing relationship, explain.	1	
2 Did the organization have any supported organization that does not have an IRS determination of status under section 509(a)(1) or (2)? If "Yes," explain in Part VI how the organization determined that the supported organization was described in section 509(a)(1) or (2).	2	
3a Did the organization have a supported organization described in section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6)? If "Yes," answer (b) and (c) below.	3a	
b Did the organization confirm that each supported organization qualified under section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) and satisfied the public support tests under section 509(a)(2)? If "Yes," describe in Part VI when and how the organization made the determination.	3b	
c Did the organization ensure that all support to such organizations was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes? If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization put in place to ensure such use.	3c	
4a Was any supported organization not organized in the United States ("foreign supported organization")? If "Yes" and if you checked 11a or 11b in Part I, answer (b) and (c) below.	4a	
b Did the organization have ultimate control and discretion in deciding whether to make grants to the foreign supported organization? If "Yes," describe in Part VI how the organization had such control and discretion despite being controlled or supervised by or in connection with its supported organizations.	4b	
c Did the organization support any foreign supported organization that does not have an IRS determination under sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) or (2)? If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization used to ensure that all support to the foreign supported organization was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes.	4c	
5a Did the organization add, substitute, or remove any supported organizations during the tax year? If "Yes," answer (b) and (c) below (if applicable). Also, provide detail in Part VI, including (i) the names and EIN numbers of the supported organizations added, substituted, or removed, (ii) the reasons for each such action, (iii) the authority under the organization's organizing document authorizing such action, and (iv) how the action was accomplished (such as by amendment to the organizing document).	5a	
b Type I or Type II only. Was any added or substituted supported organization part of a class already designated in the organization's organizing document?	5b	
c Substitutions only. Was the substitution the result of an event beyond the organization's control?	5c	
6 Did the organization provide support (whether in the form of grants or the provision of services or facilities) to anyone other than (a) its supported organizations, (b) individuals that are part of the charitable class benefited by one or more of its supported organizations, or (c) other supporting organizations that also support or benefit one or more of the filing organization's supported organizations? If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI .	6	
7 Did the organization provide a grant, loan, compensation, or other similar payment to a substantial contributor (defined in IRC 4958(c)(3)(C)), a family member of a substantial contributor, or a 35-percent controlled entity with regard to a substantial contributor? If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990).	7	
8 Did the organization make a loan to a disqualified person (as defined in section 4958) not described in line 7? If "Yes," complete Part II of Schedule L (Form 990).	8	
9a Was the organization controlled directly or indirectly at any time during the tax year by one or more disqualified persons as defined in section 4946 (other than foundation managers and organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or (2))? If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI .	9a	
b Did one or more disqualified persons (as defined in line 9(a)) hold a controlling interest in any entity in which the supporting organization had an interest? If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI .	9b	
c Did a disqualified person (as defined in line 9(a)) have an ownership interest in, or derive any personal benefit from, assets in which the supporting organization also had an interest? If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI .	9c	
10a Was the organization subject to the excess business holdings rules of IRC 4943 because of IRC 4943(f) (regarding certain Type II supporting organizations, and all Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations)? If "Yes," answer b below.	10a	
b Did the organization have any excess business holdings in the tax year? (Use Schedule C, Form 4720, to determine whether the organization had excess business holdings).	10b	
11 Has the organization accepted a gift or contribution from any of the following persons?		
a A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (b) and (c) below, the governing body of a supported organization?	11a	
b A family member of a person described in (a) above?	11b	
c A 35% controlled entity of a person described in (a) or (b) above? If "Yes" to a, b, or c, provide detail in Part VI.	11c	

Part IV

Supporting Organizations (continued)

Section B. Type I Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Did the directors, trustees, or membership of one or more supported organizations have the power to regularly appoint or elect at least a majority of the organization's directors or trustees at all times during the tax year? If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organization(s) effectively operated, supervised, or controlled the organization's activities. If the organization had more than one supported organization, describe how the powers to appoint and/or remove directors or trustees were allocated among the supported organizations and what conditions or restrictions, if any, applied to such powers during the tax year.		
2 Did the organization operate for the benefit of any supported organization other than the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised, or controlled the supporting organization? If "Yes," explain in Part VI how providing such benefit carried out the purposes of the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised or controlled the supporting organization.		

Section C. Type II Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Were a majority of the organization's directors or trustees during the tax year also a majority of the directors or trustees of each of the organization's supported organization(s)? If "No," describe in Part VI how control or management of the supporting organization was vested in the same persons that controlled or managed the supported organization(s).		

Section D. All Type III Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Did the organization provide to each of its supported organizations, by the last day of the fifth month of the organization's tax year, (1) a written notice describing the type and amount of support provided during the prior tax year, (2) a copy of the Form 990 that was most recently filed as of the date of notification, and (3) copies of the organization's governing documents in effect on the date of notification, to the extent not previously provided?		
2 Were any of the organization's officers, directors, or trustees either (i) appointed or elected by the supported organization(s) or (ii) serving on the governing body of a supported organization? If "No," explain in Part VI how the organization maintained a close and continuous working relationship with the supported organization(s).		
3 By reason of the relationship described in (2), did the organization's supported organizations have a significant voice in the organization's investment policies and in directing the use of the organization's income or assets at all times during the tax year? If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role the organization's supported organizations played in this regard.		

Section E. Type III Functionally-Integrated Supporting Organizations

1 Check the box next to the method that the organization used to satisfy the Integral Part Test during the year (see instructions)			
a ☐ The organization satisfied the Activities Test. Complete line 2 below.			
b ☐ The organization is the parent of each of its supported organizations. Complete line 3 below.			
c ☐ The organization supported a governmental entity. Describe in Part VI how you supported a government entity (see instructions).			
2 <u>Activities Test</u> Answer (a) and (b) below.			
a Did substantially all of the organization's activities during the tax year directly further the exempt purposes of the supported organization(s) to which the organization was responsive? If "Yes," then in Part VI identify those supported organizations and explain how these activities directly furthered their exempt purposes, how the organization was responsive to those supported organizations, and how the organization determined that these activities constituted substantially all of its activities.			
b Did the activities described in (a) constitute activities that, but for the organization's involvement, one or more of the organization's supported organization(s) would have been engaged in? If "Yes," explain in Part VI the reasons for the organization's position that its supported organization(s) would have engaged in these activities but for the organization's involvement.			
3 <u>Parent of Supported Organizations</u> Answer (a) and (b) below.			
a Did the organization have the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the officers, directors, or trustees of each of the supported organizations? Provide details in Part VI.			
b Did the organization exercise a substantial degree of direction over the policies, programs and activities of each of its supported organizations? If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role played by the organization in this regard.			

Part V – Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations

1 ☐ Check here if the organization satisfied the Integral Part Test as a qualifying trust on Nov 20, 1970 **See instructions.** All other Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations must complete Sections A through E

Section A - Adjusted Net Income		(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1	Net short-term capital gain	1	
2	Recoveries of prior-year distributions	2	
3	Other gross income (see instructions)	3	
4	Add lines 1 through 3	4	
5	Depreciation and depletion	5	
6	Portion of operating expenses paid or incurred for production or collection of gross income or for management, conservation, or maintenance of property held for production of income (see instructions)	6	
7	Other expenses (see instructions)	7	
8	Adjusted Net Income (subtract lines 5, 6 and 7 from line 4)	8	

Section B - Minimum Asset Amount		(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1	Aggregate fair market value of all non-exempt-use assets (see instructions for short tax year or assets held for part of year)	1	
a	Average monthly value of securities	1a	
b	Average monthly cash balances	1b	
c	Fair market value of other non-exempt-use assets	1c	
d	Total (add lines 1a, 1b, and 1c)	1d	
e	Discount claimed for blockage or other factors (explain in detail in Part VI) _____		
2	Acquisition indebtedness applicable to non-exempt use assets	2	
3	Subtract line 2 from line 1d	3	
4	Cash deemed held for exempt use Enter 1-1/2% of line 3 (for greater amount, see instructions)	4	
5	Net value of non-exempt-use assets (subtract line 4 from line 3)	5	
6	Multiply line 5 by .035	6	
7	Recoveries of prior-year distributions	7	
8	Minimum Asset Amount (add line 7 to line 6)	8	

Section C - Distributable Amount			Current Year
1	Adjusted net income for prior year (from Section A, line 8, Column A)	1	
2	Enter 85% of line 1	2	
3	Minimum asset amount for prior year (from Section B, line 8, Column A)	3	
4	Enter greater of line 2 or line 3	4	
5	Income tax imposed in prior year	5	
6	Distributable Amount. Subtract line 5 from line 4, unless subject to emergency temporary reduction (see instructions)	6	
7	☐ Check here if the current year is the organization's first as a non-functionally-integrated Type III supporting organization (see instructions)		

Section D - Distributions	Current Year
1 Amounts paid to supported organizations to accomplish exempt purposes	
2 Amounts paid to perform activity that directly furthers exempt purposes of supported organizations, in excess of income from activity	
3 Administrative expenses paid to accomplish exempt purposes of supported organizations	
4 Amounts paid to acquire exempt-use assets	
5 Qualified set-aside amounts (prior IRS approval required)	
6 Other distributions (describe in Part VI) See instructions	
7 Total annual distributions. Add lines 1 through 6	
8 Distributions to attentive supported organizations to which the organization is responsive (provide details in Part VI) See instructions	
9 Distributable amount for 2014 from Section C, line 6	
10 Line 8 amount divided by Line 9 amount	

Section E - Distribution Allocations (see instructions)	(i) Excess Distributions	(ii) Underdistributions Pre-2014	(iii) Distributable Amount for 2014
1 Distributable amount for 2014 from Section C, line 6			
2 Underdistributions, if any, for years prior to 2014 (reasonable cause required--see instructions)			
3 Excess distributions carryover, if any, to 2014			
a From 2009.			
b From 2010.			
c From 2011.			
d From 2012.			
e From 2013.			
f Total of lines 3a through e			
g Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
h Applied to 2014 distributable amount			
i Carryover from 2009 not applied (see instructions)			
j Remainder Subtract lines 3g, 3h, and 3i from 3f			
4 Distributions for 2014 from Section D, line 7 \$			
a Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
b Applied to 2014 distributable amount			
c Remainder Subtract lines 4a and 4b from 4			
5 Remaining underdistributions for years prior to 2014, if any Subtract lines 3g and 4a from line 2 (if amount greater than zero, see instructions)			
6 Remaining underdistributions for 2014 Subtract lines 3h and 4b from line 1 (if amount greater than zero, see instructions)			
7 Excess distributions carryover to 2015. Add lines 3j and 4c			
8 Breakdown of line 7			
a From 2010.			
b From 2011.			
c From 2012.			
d From 2013.			
e From 2014.			

Part VI **Supplemental Information.** Provide the explanations required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b; Part III, line 12; Part IV, Section A, lines 1, 2, 3b, 3c, 4b, 4c, 5a, 6, 9a, 9b, 9c, 11a, 11b, and 11c; Part IV, Section B, lines 1 and 2; Part IV, Section C, line 1; Part IV, Section D, lines 2 and 3; Part IV, Section E, lines 1c, 2a, 2b, 3a and 3b; Part V, line 1; Part V, Section B, line 1e; Part V Section D, lines 5, 6, and 8; and Part V, Section E, lines 2, 5, and 6. Also complete this part for any additional information. (See instructions).

Facts And Circumstances Test

Return Reference

Explanation

SCHEDULE C
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Political Campaign and Lobbying Activities

For Organizations Exempt From Income Tax Under section 501(c) and section 527
▶ **Complete if the organization is described below. ▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.**
▶ **Information about Schedule C (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at**
www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No 1545-0047

2014

Open to Public Inspection

If the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, Line 3, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 46 (Political Campaign Activities), then

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations Complete Parts I-A and B Do not complete Part I-C
- Section 501(c) (other than section 501(c)(3)) organizations Complete Parts I-A and C below Do not complete Part I-B
- Section 527 organizations Complete Part I-A only

If the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, Line 4, or Form 990-EZ, Part VI, line 47 (Lobbying Activities), then

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)) Complete Part II-A Do not complete Part II-B
- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)) Complete Part II-B Do not complete Part II-A

If the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, Line 5 (Proxy Tax) (see separate instructions) or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 35c (Proxy Tax) (see separate instructions), then

- Section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) organizations Complete Part III

Name of the organization BENCHMARKS	Employer identification number 56-1136423
--	--

Part I-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c) or is a section 527 organization.

1	Provide a description of the organization's direct and indirect political campaign activities in Part IV	
2	Political expenditures	▶ \$
3	Volunteer hours	

Part I-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3).

1	Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by the organization under section 4955	▶ \$
2	Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by organization managers under section 4955	▶ \$
3	If the organization incurred a section 4955 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year?	☐ Yes ☐ No
4a	Was a correction made?	☐ Yes ☐ No
b	If "Yes," describe in Part IV	

Part I-C Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c), except section 501(c)(3).

1	Enter the amount directly expended by the filing organization for section 527 exempt function activities	▶ \$
2	Enter the amount of the filing organization's funds contributed to other organizations for section 527 exempt function activities	▶ \$
3	Total exempt function expenditures Add lines 1 and 2 Enter here and on Form 1120-POL, line 17b	▶ \$
4	Did the filing organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?	☐ Yes ☐ No
5	Enter the names, addresses and employer identification number (EIN) of all section 527 political organizations to which the filing organization made payments For each organization listed, enter the amount paid from the filing organization's funds Also enter the amount of political contributions received that were promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization, such as a separate segregated fund or a political action committee (PAC) If additional space is needed, provide information in Part IV	

(a) Name	(b) Address	(c) EIN	(d) Amount paid from filing organization's funds If none, enter -0-	(e) Amount of political contributions received and promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization If none, enter -0-

Part II-A

Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).

- A
- Check ☐ if the filing organization belongs to an affiliated group (and list in Part IV each affiliated group member's name, address, EIN, expenses, and share of excess lobbying expenditures)
- B
- Check ☐ if the filing organization checked box A and "limited control" provisions apply

Limits on Lobbying Expenditures (The term "expenditures" means amounts paid or incurred.)		(a) Filing organization's totals	(b) Affiliated group totals												
1a Total lobbying expenditures to influence public opinion (grass roots lobbying)															
b Total lobbying expenditures to influence a legislative body (direct lobbying)		45,480													
c Total lobbying expenditures (add lines 1a and 1b)		45,480													
d Other exempt purpose expenditures		1,042,845													
e Total exempt purpose expenditures (add lines 1c and 1d)		1,088,325													
f Lobbying nontaxable amount Enter the amount from the following table in both columns		183,833													
<table><tr><td>If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:</td><td>The lobbying nontaxable amount is:</td></tr><tr><td>Not over \$500,000</td><td>20% of the amount on line 1e</td></tr><tr><td>Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000</td><td>\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000</td></tr><tr><td>Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000</td><td>\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000</td></tr><tr><td>Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000</td><td>\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000</td></tr><tr><td>Over \$17,000,000</td><td>\$1,000,000</td></tr></table>		If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:	The lobbying nontaxable amount is:	Not over \$500,000	20% of the amount on line 1e	Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000	Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000	Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000	Over \$17,000,000	\$1,000,000		
If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:	The lobbying nontaxable amount is:														
Not over \$500,000	20% of the amount on line 1e														
Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000														
Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000														
Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000														
Over \$17,000,000	\$1,000,000														
g Grassroots nontaxable amount (enter 25% of line 1f)		45,958													
h Subtract line 1g from line 1a If zero or less, enter -0-															
i Subtract line 1f from line 1c If zero or less, enter -0-															
j If there is an amount other than zero on either line 1h or line 1i, did the organization file Form 4720 reporting section 4911 tax for this year?		☐ Yes ☐ No													

4-Year Averaging Period Under section 501(h)

(Some organizations that made a section 501(h) election do not have to complete all of the five columns below. See the separate instructions for lines 2a through 2f.)

Lobbying Expenditures During 4-Year Averaging Period					
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2011	(b) 2012	(c) 2013	(d) 2014	(e) Total
2a Lobbying nontaxable amount	118,243	148,004	158,647	183,833	608,727
b Lobbying ceiling amount (150% of line 2a, column(e))					913,091
c Total lobbying expenditures	58,466	49,287	64,807	45,480	218,040
d Grassroots nontaxable amount	29,561	37,001	39,662	45,958	152,182
e Grassroots ceiling amount (150% of line 2d, column (e))					228,273
f Grassroots lobbying expenditures					

Part II-B

Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and has NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).

For each "Yes" response to lines 1a through 1i below, provide in Part IV a detailed description of the lobbying activity.		(a)		(b)	
		Yes	No	Amount	
1	During the year, did the filing organization attempt to influence foreign, national, state or local legislation, including any attempt to influence public opinion on a legislative matter or referendum, through the use of				
a	Volunteers?				
b	Paid staff or management (include compensation in expenses reported on lines 1c through 1i)?				
c	Media advertisements?				
d	Mailings to members, legislators, or the public?				
e	Publications, or published or broadcast statements?				
f	Grants to other organizations for lobbying purposes?				
g	Direct contact with legislators, their staffs, government officials, or a legislative body?				
h	Rallies, demonstrations, seminars, conventions, speeches, lectures, or any similar means?				
i	Other activities?				
j	Total. Add lines 1c through 1i.				
2a	Did the activities in line 1 cause the organization to be not described in section 501(c)(3)?				
b	If "Yes," enter the amount of any tax incurred under section 4912.				
c	If "Yes," enter the amount of any tax incurred by organization managers under section 4912.				
d	If the filing organization incurred a section 4912 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year?				

Part III-A

Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6).

		Yes	No
1	Were substantially all (90% or more) dues received nondeductible by members?	1	
2	Did the organization make only in-house lobbying expenditures of \$2,000 or less?	2	
3	Did the organization agree to carry over lobbying and political expenditures from the prior year?	3	

Part III-B

Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6) and if either (a) BOTH Part III-A, lines 1 and 2, are answered "No" OR (b) Part III-A, line 3, is answered "Yes."

1	Dues, assessments and similar amounts from members.	1	
2	Section 162(e) nondeductible lobbying and political expenditures (do not include amounts of political expenses for which the section 527(f) tax was paid).		
a	Current year.	2a	
b	Carryover from last year.	2b	
c	Total.	2c	
3	Aggregate amount reported in section 6033(e)(1)(A) notices of nondeductible section 162(e) dues.	3	
4	If notices were sent and the amount on line 2c exceeds the amount on line 3, what portion of the excess does the organization agree to carryover to the reasonable estimate of nondeductible lobbying and political expenditure next year?	4	
5	Taxable amount of lobbying and political expenditures (see instructions).	5	

Part IV

Supplemental Information

Provide the descriptions required for Part I-A, line 1, Part I-B, line 4, Part I-C, line 5, Part II-A (affiliated group list), Part II-A, lines 1 and 2 (see instructions), and Part II-B, line 1. Also, complete this part for any additional information.

Return Reference	Explanation
PART II-A, LINE 1B	BENCHMARKS DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY ACTIVITY IN SUPPORT OF OR OPPOSITION OF CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE. HOWEVER, BENCHMARKS DOES ADVOCATE ON PUBLIC POLICY MATTERS THAT AFFECT CHILDREN'S, ADULTS', AND FAMILIES' WELL-BEING. BENCHMARKS' PRESIDENT/CEO, ITS PROGRAM & POLICY SPECIALIST/COO, AND ITS GOVERNMENT CONSULTANT ARE REGISTERED LOBBYISTS.

[illegible]

SCHEDULE D
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Financial Statements

► Complete if the organization answered "Yes," to Form 990,
Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b.
► Attach to Form 990.
Information about Schedule D (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No 1545-0047

2014

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
BENCHMARKS

Employer identification number

56-1136423

Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

	(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
1 Total number at end of year		
2 Aggregate value of contributions to (during year)		
3 Aggregate value of grants from (during year)		
4 Aggregate value at end of year		
5 Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control?		☐ Yes ☐ No
6 Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit?		☐ Yes ☐ No

Part II Conservation Easements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

1 Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply)
☐ Preservation of land for public use (e g , recreation or education) ☐ Preservation of an historically important land area
☐ Protection of natural habitat ☐ Preservation of a certified historic structure
☐ Preservation of open space

2 Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year

a Total number of conservation easements

b Total acreage restricted by conservation easements

c Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a)

d Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after 8/17/06, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register

	Held at the End of the Year
2a	
2b	
2c	
2d	

3 Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year ► _____

4 Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located ► _____

5 Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds? ☐ Yes ☐ No

6 Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ► _____

7 Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ► \$ _____

8 Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

9 In Part XIII, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

1a If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIII, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items

b If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items

(i) Revenue included in Form 990, Part VIII, line 1

► \$ _____

(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X

► \$ _____

2 If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under SFAS 116 (ASC 958) relating to these items

a Revenue included in Form 990, Part VIII, line 1

► \$ _____

b Assets included in Form 990, Part X

► \$ _____

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets *(continued)*

- 3 Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply)
- a ☐ Public exhibition

b ☐ Scholarly research

c ☐ Preservation for future generations

d ☐ Loan or exchange programs

e ☐ Other
- 4 Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII
- 5 During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

- 1a Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X?

☐ Yes ☐ No
- b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table
- c Beginning balance

d Additions during the year

e Distributions during the year

f Ending balance

	Amount
1c	
1d	
1e	
1f	
- 2a Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability?

☐ Yes ☐ No
- b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII Check here if the explanation has been provided in Part XIII

☐

Part V Endowment Funds. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

- | | (a)Current year | (b)Prior year | b (c)Two years back | (d)Three years back | (e)Four years back |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1a Beginning of year balance | 26,002 | 25,910 | 25,366 | 26,943 | 32,953 |
| b Contributions | | | | | |
| c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses | 102 | 92 | 1,066 | 1,196 | 3,990 |
| d Grants or scholarships | | | | | |
| e Other expenditures for facilities and programs | | | 522 | 2,773 | 10,000 |
| f Administrative expenses | | | | | |
| g End of year balance | 26,104 | 26,002 | 25,910 | 25,366 | 26,943 |
- 2 Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as
- a Board designated or quasi-endowment ▶ 52 110 %

b Permanent endowment ▶ 47 890 %

c Temporarily restricted endowment ▶ 0 %
- The percentages in lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%
- 3a Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by
- (i) unrelated organizations

(ii) related organizations

	Yes	No
3a(i)		No
3a(ii)		No
3b		
- b If "Yes" to 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R?
- 4 Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds

Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment. Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' to Form 990, Part IV, line 11a. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land				
b Buildings				
c Leasehold improvements				
d Equipment				
e Other				
Total. Add lines 1a through 1e (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c).) ▶				

Part XI Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' to Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements	1	1,148,539
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12	2e	2,030
a	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	2a	
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b	2,030
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c	
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	2d	
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	2,030
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3	1,146,509
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1	4c	
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a	
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	4b	
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	
5	Total revenue Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12)	5	1,146,509

Part XII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return. Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' to Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements	1	1,090,355
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25	2e	2,030
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a	
b	Prior year adjustments	2b	
c	Other losses	2c	
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	2d	
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	2,030
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3	1,088,325
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1 :	4c	
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a	
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	4b	
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	
5	Total expenses Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18)	5	1,088,325

Part XIII Supplemental Information

Provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9, Part III, lines 1a and 4, Part IV, lines 1b and 2b, Part V, line 4, Part X, line 2, Part XI, lines 2d and 4b, and Part XII, lines 2d and 4b. Also complete this part to provide any additional information.

Return Reference	Explanation
PART V, LINE 4	THE FUND WAS ESTABLISHED TO RECOGNIZE THE ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTIONS OF ROBERT A. MAYER TO THE BETTERMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES THROUGH TRAINING AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AND THEIR STAFF.
PART X, LINE 2	THE ASSOCIATION IS EXEMPT FROM FEDERAL AND STATE INCOME TAXES UNDER SECTION 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE AND APPLICABLE STATE STATUTES. ACCORDINGLY, NO INCOME TAXES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED IN THE ACCOMPANYING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS. MANAGEMENT DOES NOT BELIEVE ITS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS INCLUDE ANY UNCERTAIN TAX POSITIONS. TAX YEARS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2011 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014 REMAIN OPEN FOR EXAMINATION BY TAXING AUTHORITIES AS OF THE DATE OF THIS REPORT.

[illegible]

Schedule J
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Compensation Information

For certain Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees
▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 23.
▶ Attach to Form 990.
▶ Information about Schedule J (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No 1545-0047

2014

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
BENCHMARKS

Employer identification number
56-1136423

Part I	Questions Regarding Compensation		Yes	No
1a	Check the appropriate box(es) if the organization provided any of the following to or for a person listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a. Complete Part III to provide any relevant information regarding these items. ☐ First-class or charter travel ☐ Housing allowance or residence for personal use ☐ Travel for companions ☐ Payments for business use of personal residence ☐ Tax idemnification and gross-up payments ☐ Health or social club dues or initiation fees ☐ Discretionary spending account ☐ Personal services (e g , maid, chauffeur, chef)			
b	If any of the boxes in line 1a are checked, did the organization follow a written policy regarding payment or reimbursement or provision of all of the expenses described above? If "No," complete Part III to explain	1b		
2	Did the organization require substantiation prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses incurred by all directors, trustees, officers, including the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked in line 1a?	2		
3	Indicate which, if any, of the following the filing organization used to establish the compensation of the organization's CEO/Executive Director. Check all that apply. Do not check any boxes for methods used by a related organization to establish compensation of the CEO/Executive Director, but explain in Part III. ☐ Compensation committee ☐ Written employment contract ☐ Independent compensation consultant ☐ Compensation survey or study ☐ Form 990 of other organizations ☒ Approval by the board or compensation committee			
4	During the year, did any person listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a with respect to the filing organization or a related organization: a Receive a severance payment or change-of-control payment? b Participate in, or receive payment from, a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan? c Participate in, or receive payment from, an equity-based compensation arrangement? If "Yes" to any of lines 4a-c, list the persons and provide the applicable amounts for each item in Part III.	4a		
		4b		
		4c		
	Only 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations must complete lines 5-9.			
5	For persons listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the revenues of: a The organization? b Any related organization? If "Yes," to line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III.	5a		No
		5b		No
6	For persons listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the net earnings of: a The organization? b Any related organization? If "Yes," to line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III.	6a		No
		6b		No
7	For persons listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any non-fixed payments not described in lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III.	7		No
8	Were any amounts reported in Form 990, Part VII, paid or accrued pursuant to a contract that was subject to the initial contract exception described in Regulations section 53.4958-4(a)(3)? If "Yes," describe in Part III.	8		No
9	If "Yes" to line 8, did the organization also follow the rebuttable presumption procedure described in Regulations section 53.4958-6(c)?	9		

Part II Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees. Use duplicate copies if additional space is needed.

For each individual whose compensation must be reported in Schedule J, report compensation from the organization on row (i) and from related organizations, described in the instructions, on row (ii) Do not list any individuals that are not listed on Form 990, Part VII

Note. The sum of columns (B)(i)-(iii) for each listed individual must equal the total amount of Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, applicable column (D) and (E) amounts for that individual

(A) Name and Title		(B) Breakdown of W-2 and/or 1099-MISC compensation			(C) Retirement and other deferred compensation	(D) Nontaxable benefits	(E) Total of columns (B)(i)-(D)	(F) Compensation in column(B) reported as deferred in prior Form 990
		(i) Base compensation	(ii) Bonus & incentive compensation	(iii) Other reportable compensation				
1 KAREN MCLEOD, PRESIDENT/CEO	(i)	147,431				14,870	162,301	
	(ii)							

Part III Supplemental Information

Provide the information, explanation, or descriptions required for Part I, lines 1a, 1b, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7, and 8, and for Part II. Also complete this part for any additional information.

Return Reference	Explanation
SCHED J, PART I, LINE 3	THE COMPENSATION PROVIDED TO THE PRESIDENT/CEO OF BENCHMARKS IS DETERMINED SOLELY BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. ANNUALLY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CONDUCTS AN EVALUATION OF THE PRESIDENT/CEO, INCLUDING CONSULTATION OF COMPARABILTIY DATA, TO DETERMINE THE CEO'S COMPENSATION. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECORDS OF THEIR DECISIONS ARE MADE AND KEPT IN BENCHMARKS' PERSONNEL FILES.

SCHEDULE O

(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

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.

▶ Information about Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at
www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No 1545-0047

2014

Open to Public
Inspection

Name of the organization BENCHMARKS	Employer identification number 56-1136423
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Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART I, LINE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION MISSION (CONTINUED)	WELFARE, INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE -- SO THAT THESE CITIZENS CAN REALIZE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL, CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND LIVE LIVES OF HOPE AND HEALTH BENCHMARKS IS COMMITTED TO LEADERSHIP, QUALITY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY BENCHMARKS PROVIDES AN ARRAY OF EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION, AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO MEMBER AGENCIES ACROSS NORTH CAROLINA, AND WORKS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH STATE AND LOCAL HUMAN SERVICES NETWORKS TO ACHIEVE THE BEST OUTCOMES FOR THE STATE'S MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN, ADULTS, AND FAMILIES

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 11 - 990 REVIEW	THE FORM 990 IS REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD-DESIGNATED FINANCE COMMITTEE ALONG WITH BENCHMARKS' ANNUAL AUDIT THE FORM 990 AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS ARE PRESENTED TO THE FULL BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR FINAL APPROVAL PRIOR TO FILING

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 12C - CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	THE PRESIDENT/CEO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTINUALLY MONITORING FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE BENCHMARKS CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY. NOMINEES FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES VACANCIES ARE SCREENED TO DETERMINE IF ANY POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST EXISTS. UPON ELECTION AND ANNUALLY, TRUSTEES ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN AN AFFIRMATION ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY AND THAT THEIR APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IS NOT IN VIOLATION OF THIS POLICY. THE PRESIDENT/CEO, ALONG WITH THE COO, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL HIRING. ALL EMPLOYEES ARE REQUIRED TO READ AND AFFIRM THAT NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST EXISTS THROUGH THEIR EMPLOYMENT WITH BENCHMARKS.

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 15A - CEO'S COMPENSATION	THE COMPENSATION PROVIDED TO THE PRESIDENT/CEO OF BENCHMARKS IS DETERMINED SOLELY BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. ANNUALLY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CONDUCTS AN EVALUATION OF THE PRESIDENT/CEO, INCLUDING CONSULTATION OF COMPARABILITY DATA, TO DETERMINE THE CEO'S COMPENSATION. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECORDS OF THEIR DECISIONS ARE MADE AND KEPT IN BENCHMARKS' PERSONNEL FILES. FOR ALL OTHER BENCHMARKS EMPLOYEES, THE PRESIDENT/CEO, ALONG WITH THE COO, HAS FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR HIRING, SUPERVISION, EVALUATION AND DISCHARGE. EMPLOYEES

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION C, LINE 19-AVAILABILITY OF GOVERNING DOCUMENTS	THE ORGANIZATION MAKES ITS FORM 1023 AVAILABLE VIA ITS WEBSITE. THE 990 IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION VIA THE GUIDESTAR WEBSITE, OR BY SPECIFIC REQUEST. THE ORGANIZATION MAKES ITS GOVERNING DOCUMENTS, CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY, AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC VIA REQUEST APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART XII, LINE 2C - AUDIT OVERSIGHT	THE ASSOCIATION'S FINANCE COMMITTEE ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OVERSIGHT OF THE AUDIT AND SELECTION OF AN INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT THIS HAS NOT CHANGED FROM THE PRIOR YEAR

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990 PART IX LINE 11G	DESCRIPTION OTHER PROFESSIONAL FEES TOTAL FEES 59399

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990 PART IX LINE 11G	DESCRIPTION GRANT PROFESSIONAL FEES TOTAL FEES 202796