



2017
*annual
report*

VIDA VERDE

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY IN THE OUTDOORS

VIDA VERDE IS A NONPROFIT THAT PROMOTES EDUCATIONAL EQUITY BY PROVIDING FREE, OVERNIGHT ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR STUDENTS WHO WOULDN'T OTHERWISE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY

HIGHLIGHTS *from* 2017



“ It was time for the night hike, and I was shadowing program as a new staff member. In the pitch black we struggled to climb a trail as steep as it was slick. A student beside me, Ryllan, expressed concern that he might not make it; the slope was too slippery and the night too dark. Yet as the doubt in his voice rose, another voice came from behind. His classmate, Roni, nonetheless challenged by the task at hand, called out ‘I’ve got your back’ and offering a literal hand of support, adding ‘We’ve got this.’ Emboldened, Ryllan dug his toes into the slope and pushed on, and when he slipped Roni was there with those words, ‘I’ve got your back, we’ve got this.’ ”

—KYLE NEWMAN FARM & FACILITIES MANAGER

“ In 2017, Sammy the goat gave birth to Brinca, a spunky little kid with a couple of fur balls dangling from her neck just like her mother. While I fed her brother, Brinca would leap onto my back and stomp around like nobody’s business. A year later, she continues to amaze students at the farm by jumping onto anyone who will crouch down and join the ‘Goat Massage Club.’ ”

—MAX COHEN INSTRUCTOR

LOOKING FORWARD *to* 2018

“ After five years at Vida Verde, I’m still excited by all of the ‘firsts’ I get to experience! I’m looking forward to finding new areas for myself and the organization to improve, grow and thrive. I love when I see our staff trying new lessons and activities, or learning new skills. This year, I am stoked to continue celebrating the magical kid moments: their first time touching the ocean, milking a goat, or walking solo in the redwoods with bare feet and mud on their face. ”

—SIERRA PREDOVICH PROGRAM COORDINATOR & INSTRUCTOR

“ As a board member, I’m thrilled that we’ll deepen our organizational capacity in 2018. The completion of our capital campaign, the planning for the new barn, the strengthening of our staff’s leadership and management skills — all of this will strengthen our ability to deliver on our critical mission. ”

—ERIC RYAN BOARD CHAIR

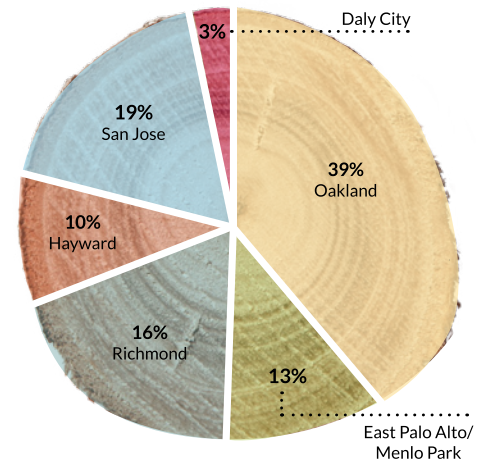
WHO *we* SERVED

In 2017, Vida Verde served **700** students by providing our free programs to **31** classes from **17** underserved Bay Area schools

92% of the students served are eligible for free and reduced-price meals in their schools.

99% of the students are ethnic minorities.

Due to cost, **NONE** would have otherwise had the chance to participate in a similar program.



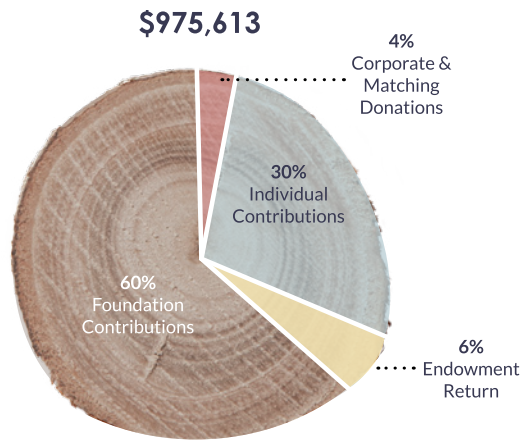
“ Vida Verde is often many students’ first exposure to nature, and learning about it in this way sparks so much in their brains. Students who traditionally feel less successful in class thrive at Vida Verde. Students who thrive in class learn more about themselves and become more well-rounded. And, just when you think Vida Verde has nothing left to offer, they teach kids to be good people, excited to contribute to society in a positive way. ”

—MIKO JONES TEACHER, ERES ACADEMY

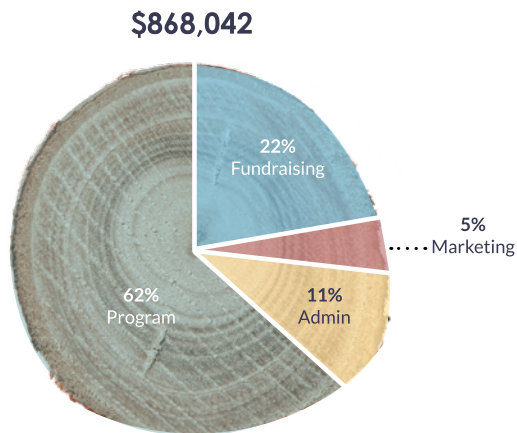


FINANCIAL *position*

OPERATING REVENUE



OPERATING EXPENSES



In 2017, Vida Verde added \$107,571 to our Operating Cash Reserve



SUPPORTERS

2017 INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Associated Services	Gliffy Charitable Fund	New Leaf Community Market	Foundation
California Coastal Commission: Whale Tail Grants Program	John and Kelly Hartman Foundation	Organic Valley PaperSeed Foundation	The Morrison Foerster Foundation
California Coastal Conservancy	John and Marcia Goldman Foundation	Patagonia Palo Alto Peery Foundation	TomKat Ranch Charitable Foundation
Charisma Fund	Kampe Foundation	Peninsula Open Space Trust	West Star Foundation
Clif Bar Family Foundation	Kimball Foundation	Quest Foundation	Western Digital
David and Lucile Packard Foundation	Los Altos Rotary Club	Sand Hill Foundation	Westly Foundation
Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation	Louis L. Borick Foundation	Satterberg Foundation	Woodside Atherton Garden Club
Distaff Singers	Michael Lee Environmental Foundation	Saw Island Foundation	Youth Access to Nature - San Francisco Foundation
Element Real Estate	Midland Cabinet Company	Sing for America	Youth Outside
Fred Gellert Family Foundation	Moca Foundation	Strong Foundation for Environmental Values	
	Morgan Family Foundation	Ten Strands	
	New Belgium Brewing Co.	The Cleaves and Mae Rhea	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Shawn Sears
 Harn Soper
 Kia Sullivan

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 Karen Harwell
 Emma Ludwick

Jerry Moison
 Paul Pfluke & Steph Jennings
 Laura Sears
 Preston Smith

Andrew Usher
 Bob Merritt,
in loving memory

NOURISHMENT CIRCLE

ANCIENT OAK FOREST LEVEL

(\$25,000+ for 3 or more years)
 Bob & Meryl Selig

BAY LAUREL GROVE LEVEL

(\$5,000+ for 3 or more years)

Anonymous (2)
 Scott Beeman & Susanne Watkins
 Rob & Sue Boyntin
 Sy Kaufman & Kerstin Edgerton

Julie & Will Parish
 Issie & Rhoda Rabinovitch
 Michael & Gabrielle Rabinovitch
 Amy Rao
 Jennifer & Will Sousae

Dana Wentworth & Rob Schroeder

WALNUT LEVEL

(\$1,000+ for 3 or more years)

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 Chris & Kate Rea

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 Souheil & Regina Saliba
 Brendan Scherer & Jason Mousel
 Sandy Sherwin & Andy Kalt
 Deb Smith
 Preston & Liz Smith
 Harn Soper
 Thomas & Virginia Steuber
 Roland & Anngj Strick
 Luke & Megan Terra
 Victoria & Robert Tomkinson
 Jean Torcom
 Bart & Nancy Westcott
 Judy Wilkinson

HONORARY NOURISHMENT CIRCLE

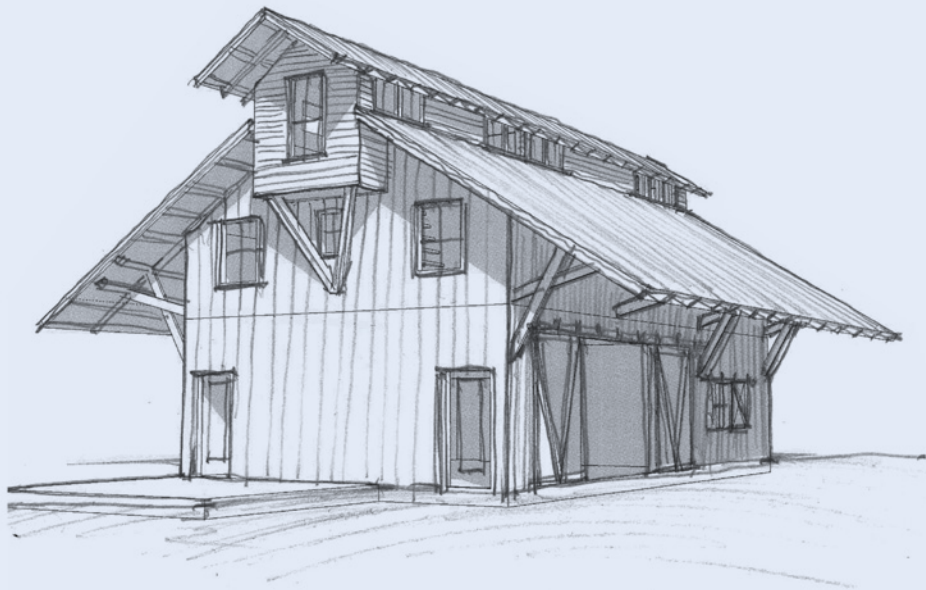
John Chalik & Susan Chamberlain
 Kayla Cushner & Thomas Dickson
 Seth & Sarah James
 Ludwick Family Foundation
 David Messina & Jabeen Yusuf
 Patrick & Cathy Norton

Marcia & Bill Pade
 Stephen Pratt
 Nancy Schaub
 Donald & Linda Sue Strand
 Joan Strand

FOR A LIST OF OUR ADDITIONAL SUPPORTERS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.VVEDUCATION.ORG

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Building a Home for Educational Equity in the Outdoors



INCREDIBLE SUPPORT

As of April, 2018, over 100 supporters have pledged and given mightily a total of **\$6.3 million dollars** along with an additional **\$1.3 million** of in-kind services raised!!

SPECIAL PIECE OF LAND

The incredible **23-acre Hidden Creek land** along the San Gregorio creek is now owned by Vida Verde!

THE STEWARDSHIP FUND

\$1.5 million dollars have been invested in an endowment so that we can always steward the land responsibly.

THE EDUCATION BARN

The new "living building" centerpiece of the property and program will enable us to host at least **30 classes and trips** every school year, along with summer programs (groundbreaking summer 2019).

THE PEOPLE & STAFF HOUSING

In 2018 we will purchase nearby creekside land with a **3-bedroom home**, accessory dwelling unit and outbuildings, providing critically needed affordable housing for up to **5 staff members**.

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT J. SCHROEDER PHOTOGRAPHY



TIDEPOOL, BEACH &
MARSH EXPLORATION



PLAYING "SNAKE BITE" ON THE WAY
FROM THE TEEPEES TO DINNER



COOKING AND
CLEANING AS A CLASS

IMPACT

OUTCOMES FROM 2017 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

94% of teachers reported a *Marked Improvement* (highest possible rating) in students' *teamwork, self-confidence and personal responsibility.*

89% of teachers reported a *Marked Improvement* in students' *classroom learning and science test scores.*

85% of teachers reported a *Marked Improvement* in students' *awareness of and interest in environmental issues.*

90% of teachers reported a *Marked Improvement* in students' *overall experiences when they return to school.*

“Vida Verde has changed the climate at our school. It helps our students get to know each other better, work through conflicts in a positive way, and help each other. You can truly feel the difference from before Vida Verde and after. Students come back as kinder people. Additionally, students gain the courage to try new things and they learn resilience. These qualities give them the skills for success in high school, college and beyond.”

—BIANCA SONNENBERG TEACHER, COLISEUM COLLEGE PREP ACADEMY

REFLECTION *from a* VIDA VERDE ALUMNA



“I came to Vida Verde eight years ago when I was in 5th grade. Something in my current life that always reminds me of my trip to Vida Verde is hearing a Brett Dennon song called, 'If I were an ET.' We sang that song in the vans on the way to the coast. Every once and awhile I hear that song on Spotify. The line 'We all share the Earth, We're all intertwined,' is important because we learned about how all of the animals on the earth share space and resources. And, this reminds me of how humans can be so destructive without realizing what we are doing to the environment. After my Vida Verde trip, I changed in a lot of ways. I became more open-minded and conscious of other people. Another way I changed was being more aware of my eating habits. I used to eat a lot of chips and junk food, and then I started to read the labels and notice where my food comes from. I even discovered kale, one of my favorite leafy vegetables! Vida Verde also influenced my interest in the sciences. I enjoy biology the most and will possibly pursue a minor in that.”

—AURORA MACHA VIDA VERDE ALUMNA AND SAN FRANCISCO STATE STUDENT



Swimming in the
creek with Flipper



Dear Vida Verde Supporters:

Thank You for helping us get to Vida Verde! My favorite part was when i actually swam in a creek. I loved Singing in the Campfires and make smores. I learned how to stay positive, show teamwork, and respect living things. I cant believe i milked a goat and hiked by myself. I joined a lot of clubs and eat delicious food. I saw Lots of New Animals like Hermit Crabs, Owls, Skipping Spiders, and a squirrel. It was the best field trip in the world. I really loved hiking and looking at banana slugs and discovering different kinds of fungus. Night hiking in the dark was scary but it was really cool and i loved listening to stories. I learned how to take risk everywhere. This is why i appreciate you.

Yours Truly

LoveLynne / TCF Record