



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 DON'T OTHERWISE GET THE OPPORTUNITY.

WHAT DRIVES *our* WORK



“As a first year instructor, Vida Verde has been nothing short of an amazing and awe-inspiring experience. I have the opportunity to guide and watch wide-eyed students experience a new world through exploration and curiosity! To be able to work with a group of students for just three days and build strong, solid relationships is a special kind of magic you will struggle finding anywhere else.”

—VAIOIA NAVARRO, 1ST YEAR INSTRUCTOR



“I was in awe of Vida Verde when I attended my first Celebration and Benefit Brunch a decade ago. Since then, I have been fortunate to build relationships with the staff, witness them in action with students, get my hands dirty on the farm, and introduce others to this community. This deeper connection has been rewarding and has compelled me to join Shawn, Laura, and the entire team in helping Vida Verde realize its full potential.”

—ANDREW SCHAPIRO, NEW BOARD MEMBER



“A Vida Verde teen summer program has been on my mind since my first few V.V. months... it just made sense! But I think the Summer Leadership Project (SLP) truly began in 2016 when I opened the office door at Lighthouse Community Charter School, and a student stopped in front of me... ‘El Camino?! It’s me, Fernando!’ I remembered two years before trying to lift him out of the Pacific Ocean waves as we were laughing too hard...he just about pulled me in too! Fernando gave me a hug and quickly questioned with a raised eyebrow, ‘So, how can we all go back? You got a V.V. summer camp or what?’ Right then Fernando gave me the confidence to make it happen. The SLP is the next level of Vida Verde that students have been asking for.”

—DEVIN PEYTON, HEAD OF SUMMER PROGRAM & 4TH YEAR INSTRUCTOR



“Environmental education is important to me because the needs of our planet demand the awareness and passion of our next generation. Vida Verde is personally important because they create a space for students to fall in love with nature and the adventure that is being alive. In doing so, they are changing the narrative of outdoor education, reminding us that every kid should have a part in healing, enjoying, and sustaining the natural world.”

—JUAN MIGUEL ARIAS, NEW BOARD MEMBER



In the words of our TEACHER PARTNERS

“This trip reveals the beauty of nature to our kids, pushes them to challenge themselves and step forward into situations they are unsure of, and helps them support and love each other. The trip is magical, not just because of the beauty we see, but because of the beautiful community we build together.”

—SAM PETTY
EAST OAKLAND PRIDE ELEMENTARY,

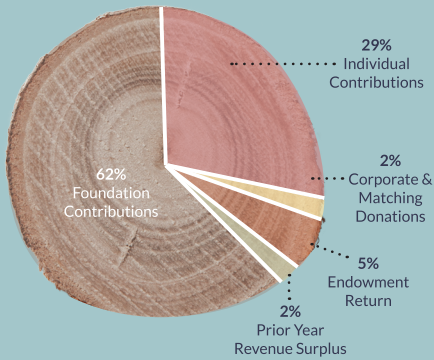
“I am totally amazed and impressed with this program. Leaders are so patient and kind with our students, and their ability to lead with such positivity impresses and inspires me. It’s amazing how the students learn and don’t even realize that it’s happening. I overheard a student in the tent respond to another about changing their negative attitude into a positive one. Another was carefully helping a bug out of the tent with the comment, ‘we have to be kind to all living things.’ They learned math through baking, science through goat milking, and so on, and they did it in a way that they will never forget.”

—MELISSA BROWN
BRENTWOOD ELEMENTARY

FINANCIAL *Position*

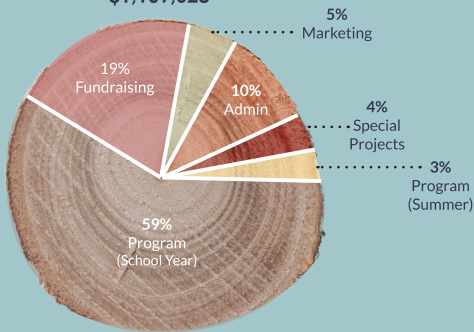
2018 OPERATING REVENUE

\$1,170,802



2018 OPERATING EXPENSES

\$1,109,628



Summer LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

After 17 years of focus on our school-year program, in July of 2018 Vida Verde ran its first ever Summer Leadership Program, a camp for high-school-aged participants from low-income Bay Area Schools.

Carlos, an alumnus of Vida Verde's School Year Program and Inaugural Summer Leadership Program, shared the following thoughts with the audience at Vida Verde's 2018 Benefit & Celebration Brunch:



CARLOS IN 5TH GRADE



CARLOS IN 10TH GRADE

“ I first came to Vida Verde when I was 10, and it really opened my eyes to the natural world since I was only accustomed to the city with lots of buildings with few trees. I remember being surprised by EVERYTHING. When I went on my 5th grade trip, I remember how I loved and admired the accepting and caring environment that was set up for the campers and teachers that went on that trip. I wanted to come back this summer now that I'm 16 because I wanted to experience that same type of environment again as an older kid with a better understanding of the world and people. I think about how many eyes have been opened because of Vida Verde—both of my sisters and some of my closest friends have experienced this immaculate program. My time at Vida Verde has showed me what my biggest assets are and how I can use them for the best future. ”

2018 IMPACT



87%

of teachers reported:

A *Marked Improvement* (highest possible rating) in students' *teamwork, self-confidence and personal responsibility.*

99%

of teachers reported:

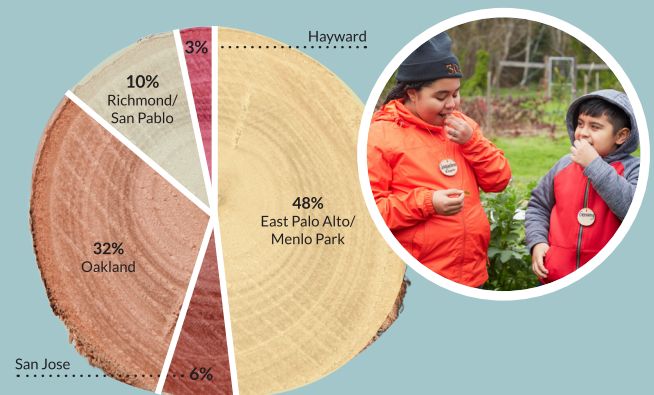
Effectiveness of Program Leaders as “excellent” (highest ranking possible)

90%

of teachers ranked:

Overall Benefit to Students as “excellent”

WHO WE *Served*



In 2018, Vida Verde served **781** students by providing our free programs to **31** classes from **17** underserved Bay Area schools.

99% are youth of color

Over 85% qualify for free/reduced-price lunch programs in their schools

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

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