

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.

WHY ARE YOU *a part of* VIDA VERDE?



“Vida Verde is such a magical experience for my students. From the moment they arrive, the magic begins. From crossing the wishing bridge, to the family dinners, a walk in a forest of giants, and touching the largest ocean in the world for the first time, the Vida Verde experience gifts my students memories of a lifetime that truly reshapes their ideas of the world. This is why I decided to deepen my commitment to this amazing organization by joining the Board this year.”

—NELLY ALCANTAR, NEW BOARD MEMBER

“Vida Verde has enabled me to facilitate close connections and community with youth of color within the Bay Area, California through the pathway of nature and experiential education. Through working with these amazing youth (though I cannot even call it “work” because it doesn’t feel like it) I am privileged to support transformative experiences, both small and large every single day. Vida Verde has cultivated an energy that builds connectivity and meets individuals where they are.”

—MELISSA FOWLKS, SLP CO-DIRECTOR



“Vida Verde is an amazing and beautiful place. The experience was over the top! I would go back because I would love to be a leader to the youth.”

—5TH GRADE VIDA VERDE PARTICIPANT
FROM OAKLAND



“Vida Verde’s magic is encapsulated in the people who make it what it is--from the 11-year-old humans who we get to learn from and take adventure trips with each week, to the dozens of adult humans who have worked here over the past 19 years, as well as each individual donor and volunteer. Vida Verde is special and unique because of all the ways these humans regularly challenge us to grow and to reflect, to be unwavering in our mission, and to change when we need to. This organization and community, which is increasingly permanent, and preparing down the road to move ‘beyond the founders,’ is ever-changing, inspiring and engaging for both of us!”

—SHAWN AND LAURA SEARS, CO-FOUNDERS



WHAT IS VIDA VERDE?



CORE SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAM:

- **4th-6th graders** come to Vida Verde **as a class** for **3 days, 2 nights**.
- Students' days are filled with engaging, challenging and exciting activities at our 100-acre site and farm, the coast, and a redwood forest.
- Overarching Goal: to positively and powerfully impact our students' **academic performance, social and emotional learning, and connection to the outdoors.**

SUMMER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (SLP):

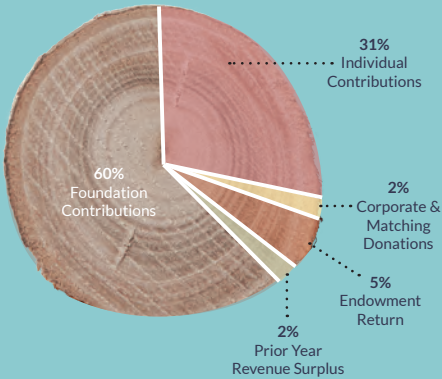
- **New** second Vida Verde Program.
- **High-school-aged alumni** of our core program participate in a **6-day, 5-night** leadership program.
- Overarching Goal: to help teen participants grow into **strong, informed, and confident leaders in their communities.**



FINANCIAL *Position*

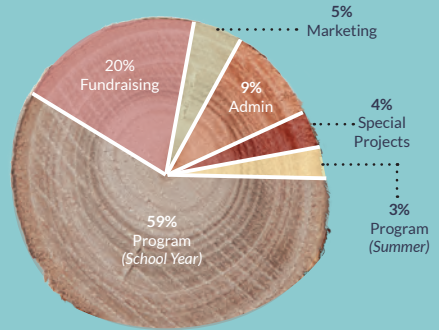
OPERATING REVENUE

\$1,148,268

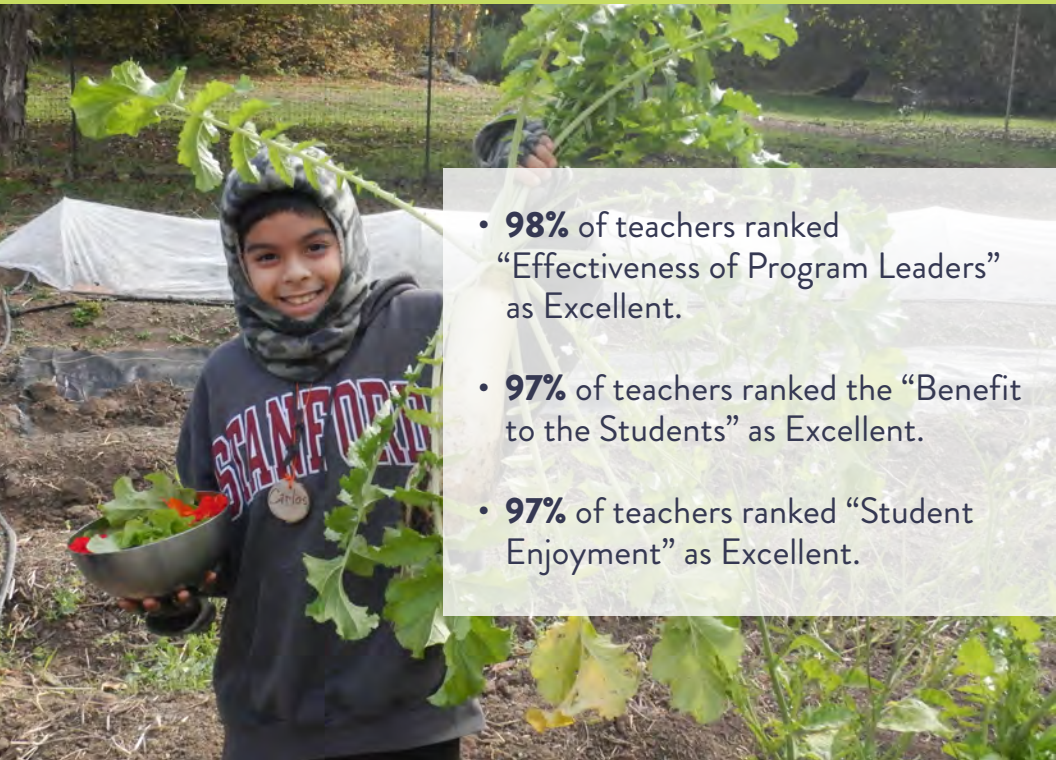


OPERATING EXPENSES

\$1,136,790



CORE PROGRAM IMPACT



- **98%** of teachers ranked “Effectiveness of Program Leaders” as Excellent.
- **97%** of teachers ranked the “Benefit to the Students” as Excellent.
- **97%** of teachers ranked “Student Enjoyment” as Excellent.

in the words of a TEACHER-PARTNER

“ I've been a public school teacher in Oakland since January of '88. I've seen everything, taught every type of student, and been everywhere. This was the best field trip ever! The staff are well trained in positive reinforcement skills. They bring energy, enthusiasm and fearlessness to the activities. The students are learning, exploring, cooperating, and maturing from the moment they get off the bus until it is time to go home. Challenges are faced, prideful growth and life-long memories are attained. Community living and learning and problem solving at its best. ”

—ANTHONY TRUJILLO,
FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY IN OAKLAND



JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION (JEDI)

In 2018-2109, we worked as a staff and Board with an outside consultant (*the Avarna Group*) to develop and begin implementing a practical and holistic Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Statement and Organizational Plan. This process was deeply enhanced by a foundation-funded trip to Montgomery, Alabama in October to experience the [Legacy Museum](#) and [Lynching Memorial](#).



We are committed to the work ahead, and hope you will check out our new [JEDI statement](#) on our website, and that you'll ask us the hard questions.

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