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### (ED Report, cont.)

frequently assessing student progress; 4) using each moment of instruction purposefully; and 5) constantly reflecting on their practice, adjusting strategies and long terms plans to ensure the goal is reached.

There may be no magic bullet when it comes to education reform in the Bay Area, but we are fortunate to be a region in which many organizations are working together on the problem. Teach For America is proud to contribute at least three things to this effort: an outstanding corps of dedicated young people, a program built on continuously improving and reinforcing our effective practices, and the singular belief that success is only a starting point.

Best regards,



R. Hunter Pierson III, Executive Director  
Teach For America - Bay Area

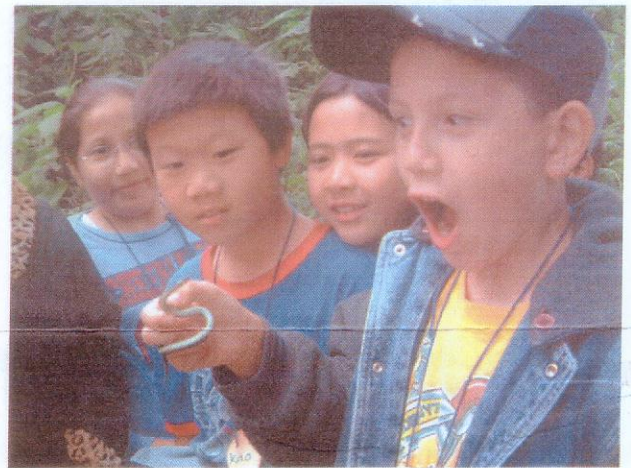
### (Vida Verde, cont.)

*How have your experiences as TFA corps members prepared you for this work?*

Our experience in Teach For America is absolutely what made this non-profit possible. When we finished our two years in the Mississippi Delta, we both had a renewed confidence that we could make happen whatever we wanted. With that confidence, and the huge amount of skills we learned as teachers, we were able to create Vida Verde in the few months of the summer after we left the Delta. Vida Verde has ultimately been successful because we've been able to take what we learned in the classroom and with TFA and apply it to this business. From figuring out how to convince principals to let students come here, to raising the money to fund the programs, to making the experience fun, safe, and structured for the kids, to reaching out to community members for help...we wouldn't be able to do most of it if it weren't for those two years in the Delta.

*What inspires you to continue working toward education reform in the community?*

The kids inspire us every time they are here. They're so full of excitement and so ready to absorb the new experiences and knowledge we offer them. It's amazing to see them outside their everyday environments of Oakland and East Palo Alto, and instead walking in the creek with their shoes off and hunting for newts and banana slugs! We also continue to be inspired by the teachers that do the extra work to give their students new experiences. I think we'll forever be in awe of teachers, especially in resource-poor areas.



## SUMMER SEARCH

Interview with Katherine Kennedy ('93)

*What is the Summer Search program?*

Summer Search is a local and national nonprofit that nurtures leadership in low income high school students by providing scholarships to summer experiential education programs and ongoing mentoring and support throughout high school, college and beyond. Ninety-five percent of students go on to college and over 80% graduate. The long-term goal of Summer Search is to invest in youth who will give back, and 60% are choosing careers that involve service to others. What started out as a modest program with 14 students in 1990 now serves over 600 in five locations across the country!