

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.

2016
*annual
report*

**CELEBRATING
15 YEARS!**

HIGHLIGHTS *from* 2016

The Vida Verde team and community strength is at an all-time high level that gives me goosebumps. Together, we're making strides of a historical nature that I honestly never imagined were possible. Providing powerful transformational experiences for our future leaders is more important now than ever, and our amazing team is making it happen every single week!

—SHAWN SEARS, CO-FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Isabella sat on the corner of the hay bale farthest from the goat. She was nervous and stared as her classmates took turns milking the animal. When she alone had not come up to milk, Isabella's peers patiently reassured and encouraged her to say 'yes' to this fantastic new experience. When she found the confidence to milk the goat she rolled up her sleeves with a smile. We were all smiling back; it was a powerful moment.

—DEVIN PEYTON, INSTRUCTOR

This summer we hosted two amazing events at Hidden Creek. At our Summer Appreciation Party, our community dug in and got their hands dirty and we celebrated with food, wine, and music. In September, for the first time, we held our annual Nourishment Circle Appreciation Party here on our farm. It is an honor to share this land we love so much with our valued community of teachers, volunteers, and donors. We're grateful to call Hidden Creek Vida Verde's forever home and look forward to sharing it with more of you in the coming year.

—JODY PETERMAN, OFFICE & EVENTS MANAGER

LOOKING FORWARD *to* 2017

One of our key goals every week at Vida Verde is to nurture our students' care for and understanding of the environment. We work with visiting classroom teachers to gain a clearer perspective on the kind of environmental challenges that are most prevalent in the local/school communities that our students come to us from. In 2017, I am excited to continue cultivating a sense of environmental stewardship in the students that come to Vida Verde!!!

—JEFF BUTTERWORTH, HEAD OF PROGRAM

In the coming year we are committed to securing the final donations needed to complete our momentous campaign to build a permanent home for educational equity! I've learned a great deal and had a lot of fun throughout this project, and am grateful to have had the chance to work closely with many of our donors to help them deepen their relationship with Vida Verde and contribute to our long-term vision and success. And, I admit, I CAN'T WAIT to build the Education Barn!!

—LAURA SEARS, CO-FOUNDER & DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

As a teacher and board member, there is so much to look forward to this year! In the fall, I will bring a new group of 5th grade students to experience the magic of Vida Verde. I feel so lucky to witness the transformation that takes place in student hearts and minds when they discover how awesome nature is and how courageous they can be to 'Try New Things!' Because of Vida Verde's ever present 'Teamwork and Positivity,' I am always inspired to work with the other Board Members to do whatever it takes to ensure that Vida Verde will be serving students for many, many years to come.

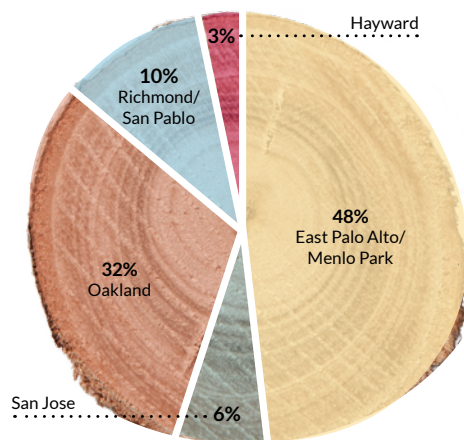
—LAURA KRETSCHMAR, BOARD MEMBER, VISITING TEACHER, AND CO-FOUNDER Lighthouse Community Charter School

WHO *we* SERVED

Going to Vida Verde has become a rite of passage for our kids. They all have siblings, cousins, and even aunties and uncles who have been here. Each group of kids comes away from this experience changed. They're more willing to try new things, more united as a class community, and more empowered to be good stewards of the environment.

—STEPH HARDINGER

4TH GRADE TEACHER, EAST PALO ALTO CHARTER SCHOOL



In 2016, Vida Verde served **767** 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.

the IMPACT we MADE

OUTCOMES FROM THE **LAST FIVE YEARS** ARE AS FOLLOWS:

96% 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.

90% of teachers reported:

A Marked Improvement in students' awareness of and interest in environmental issues.

87% of teachers reported:

A Marked Improvement in students' overall experiences when they return to school.

“This is my fifth year returning to Vida Verde and every trip I am still amazed by the excellence in quality of the program that is provided by the instructors and the organization. Science camp is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our students and I am so grateful that generous donations make it possible so our students don't miss out simply because they could not otherwise afford it. But this is not just science camp. Vida Verde is so much more and the lessons and community we build here is unforgettable.”

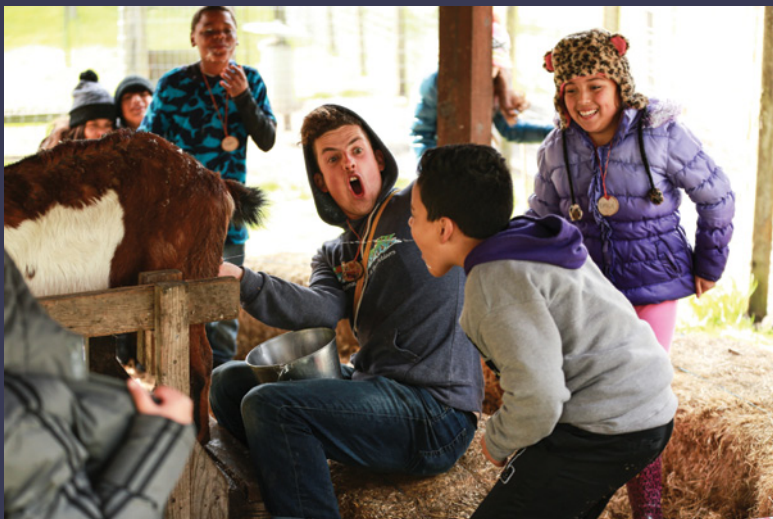
—ALLISON SMITH

5TH GRADE TEACHER, BRENTWOOD ACADEMY



A 4TH GRADER WHO CAME TO VIDA VERDE THIS PAST SPRING SHARED RIGHT AFTER HER TRIP:

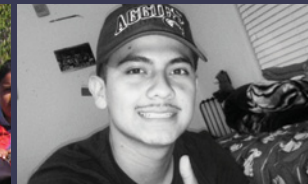
“I am different after this trip because I'm starting to be more healthy and I've gotten taller, stronger, and bigger. Even my big brother thought I was different and he's tall. It helped me to grow and to get better at things I wasn't good at. I was scared when I was going but once I got there I knew I was at home and it's amazing there because it changed me and I'm happy it did. One more positive thing I learned is that you can't get through things without teamwork. It is because with teamwork things can be done faster and better. Also, be nice to all living things. This was the best 3 days of my life. Thank you very much Vida Verde and the people who donated. I am Vida Verde.”



KEVIN BARRIOS LOPEZ CAME TO VIDA VERDE AS A 6TH GRADER 9 YEARS AGO, AND RETURNED IN 2016 AS A CHAPERONE. HE IS NOW 21 YEARS OLD.



KEVIN AT VV IN 2008



KEVIN IN COLLEGE, 2016

“On my trip to Vida Verde I was encouraged not to care for other's opinions and I worked to build my own courage. At times it's okay to make mistakes, even dumb ones, and that is the way one learns. During my trip, the instructors would tell us of so many clubs one could join and it was a way for me to step out of my comfort zone and participate in new things. I've learned that I should try new things throughout my whole life.”

I attend school at UC Davis and everyone in this town is friendly and outgoing. Most of the time when you lock eyes with others, they tend to smile or if someone falls off their bike or anything people are there to support that individual. This environment reminds me of my experiences at Vida Verde because I had my friends to support and encourage me. I think that making sure someone feels supported at a young age or is able to support someone else is key as one grows up.”

FINANCIAL POSITION & Supporters

2016 INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Associated Services
Atkinson Foundation
Bothin Foundation
California Coastal Commission Whale
Tail Grants Program
California Coastal
Conservancy
Charles B. Kuhn Memorial Fund
Cleaves and Mae Rhea
Foundation
Clif Bar Family Foundation
David and Lucile Packard
Foundation
Dean and Margaret Leshar
Foundation
Distaff Singers Ida Altenbach
Grants Program
Facebook Local
Community Fund
Fred Gellert Family Foundation
Gratitude Giving Circle
Hancock Family Fund
Silicon Valley Community
Foundation
Heritage Bank of Commerce
John and Kelly Hartman
Foundation
John and Marcia Goldman
Foundation
June and Julian Foss
Foundation
Kampe Foundation
Kimball Foundation
Koret Foundation
Los Altos Rotary Club
Louis L. Borick Foundation
Mary A. Crocker Trust
Michael Lee Foundation
Midland Cabinet Company
Moca Foundation
Morgan Family Foundation
Namaste Foundation
Organic Valley

Palo Alto Community Fund
Patagonia Palo Alto
Peery Foundation
Peninsula Open Space Trust
Pisces Foundation
Quest Foundation
Sand Hill Foundation
Satterberg Foundation
Save The Redwoods League
Saw Island Foundation
The Morrison and Foerster
Foundation
TomKat Charitable Trust
TOSA Foundation
West Star Foundation
Youth Access to Nature Fund
Youth Outside

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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)
Scott Beeman & Susanne Watkins
John Chalik & Susan Chamberlain
Sy Kaufman
Patrick & Helen Norton

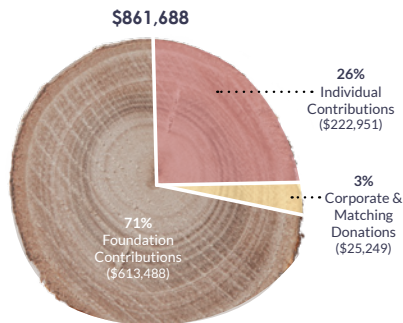
WALNUT LEVEL

(\$1,000+ for 3 or more years)
Anonymous (2)
Caroline Bauhaus
Anne Bezancon
Carolyn Blatman
Rob & Sue Boynton
Bill & Kimberly Brownell
Jon & Sarah Burroughs
Pamela Carter
Jenna Cushman
Kayla Cushman & Thomas Dickson
Jim & Sue Dickerson
Kate Ditzler & Stuart Gasner
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Scott Fortlage & Lydia Puhak
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Mary & Rick Gaston
Nancy Griffin
Elizabeth Grossman
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Heather Haggarty
Lorraine & Noble Hancock
Charlotte & John Henry
Susie Hwang & Matt Glickman
Ianthina & Joshua Hugg
Shannon Hunt-Scott
Jaime Huling & Darren Delaye
Fannie Kieschnick
Laura Kretschmar
Maggie Kritzer
Pattie Litton & Peter Ralston
Stacy Mason & Tod Cohen
Michael Matthews & Erica DeGarmo

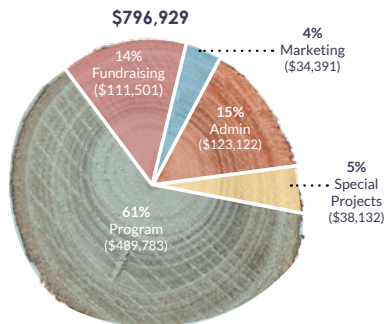
Julie & Will Parish
Michael & Gabrielle Rabinovitch
Amy Rao

Alice & Fraser McAlpine
David Messina & Jabeen Yusuf
Kate Monroe & Gabe Westheimer
Aditi & Deb Mukhopadhyay
Kathy Nyrop & Stephen Koch
Marcia & Bill Pade
Ellen Paisal
Alan & Catherine Palter
Brooke Pleasanton
Rachel Porzig & Ranka Milogjovich
Stephen Pratt
Jill & Ron Richards
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Eric & Katie Ryan
Souheil Saliba
Nancy Schaub
Brendan Scherer & Brendan Mouser
Peter Sharer & Kay O'Neill
Sandy Sherwin & Andy Kalt
Deborah Smith
Preston & Liz Smith
Harn Soper
Jennifer & Will Sousae
Thomas & Virginia Steuber
Donald & Linda Sue Strand
Joan Strand
Roland & Anngi Strick
Luke & Megan Terra
Jean Torcom
Rosie Torres
Dana Wentworth
Bart & Nancy Westcott
Judy Wilkinson

OPERATING REVENUE



OPERATING EXPENSES



In 2016, Vida Verde added \$64,759 to our Operating Cash Reserve

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