

**KIDS for
the BAY**

Environmental education through action

**2017-2018 School Year
ANNUAL REPORT**

A Message from Mandi Billinge

Executive Director and Founder of KIDS for the BAY



Thank you to everyone in the KIDS for the BAY community for a wonderful 25 Year Anniversary Celebration, culminating in our Open House Event! In October 2017, we kicked off our celebration year with the launch of our Stories of Impact Videos. These inspiring videos feature past and current

KIDS for the BAY staff, students, campers, teacher partners and school principals. Each person shares their unique perspective on how KIDS for the BAY has impacted their work, their educational experience, their life and their connection with the environment. Please visit our website to enjoy these videos!



At our **25 Year Anniversary Open House Event in June**, long-time supporters and new friends shared the common values that bring the KIDS for the BAY family together: the

need for a healthy environment, hands-on environmental education, and opportunities for all children to enjoy nature. It was so special to see past staff members returning to celebrate with us and even bringing their own children to visit! Summer Camp families enjoyed meeting one another, engaging in bay science activities and getting creative in our photo booth. Our very first partner teacher, Jane Barrett, honored us with a visit, and we recognized dedicated fourth grade teachers Sarah Horwitz and Hanna Sufrin with our **KIDS for the BAY Guardian Award 2018!** The energy and motivation to support our important

mission as we move forward into the next 25 years of our work was clear.

During the next few years KIDS for the BAY will **develop our new Blue Watershed Classrooms** initiative, which will help to make our in-depth programs even more sustainable. We will develop our partnerships with Alameda Unified School District and Berkeley Unified School District **to deliver district-wide programs**. We will continue to develop our deep, **schoolwide impact and grade-level team programs** with our **many school partners throughout the East Bay** and to add new school partners. In our Summer Camp we will offer even more choices of exciting weeks of nature exploration and



Zac and Owen Weinberg enjoying "face painting" at our Open House Event.



Kathy Azada, Mandi Billinge and Leilani Alo connecting at our Open House Event.

environmental stewardship for our campers to enjoy.

We are so thankful for our school partners, our Summer Camp families, our staff, our Advisory Board Members and our funders and donors. With supporters like you, KIDS for the BAY will continue to deliver engaging

environmental education programs to 80,000 new school students and 3,000 new teacher partners, and **work towards a healthier San Francisco Bay watershed for all communities**, during the next 25 years!

Mandi J. Billinge

KIDS for the BAY Staff

Mandi Billinge, *Executive Director/Founder*
Gaby Antonova, *Development and Communications Manager*
Marianne Keith, *Program Staff Lead/Program Manager*
Valerie Lowe, *Program Manager*
Cynthia DeLeon, *Program Manager*
Haley Thiltgen, *Environmental Educator*

KIDS for the BAY Advisory Board Members

Leilani Alo, *Advisory Board President*
Kimberly Aguilar
Elaine Miyamori
Jessica Nusbaum
Shefali Shah
Sheela Shankar
Jonathan Sorof



We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Advisory Board Member, **JONATHAN SOROF!** Jonathan is a physician and Senior Vice President of Blood Therapeutics, with a passion for the outdoors, children's health and education, and environmental advocacy. Please visit our website to learn more about Jonathan's work.



From left to right: Haley Thiltgen, Marianne Keith, Mandi Billinge, Gaby Antonova, Cynthia DeLeon, Valerie Lowe

IN THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR:

KIDS for the BAY Summer Camp Voted BEST of the BAY!



A heartfelt thank you to all of our dedicated supporters for voting KIDS for the BAY Best of the Bay with Parents' Press! We are proud and honored to have received this award from YOU, our caring community! The last 18 years of Summer Camp have been an adventure full of exciting, hands-on science, nature connection and learning to care for our environment with our inspiring Campers. We truly appreciate this acknowledgement for everything that we have accomplished together!

ChangeScale Event Panel

KIDS for the BAY's Executive Director Mandi Billinge was honored to be invited to speak on a panel about **Cultural Relevance in Environmental Education**, facilitated by ChangeScale at their recent convening in the East Bay. ChangeScale supports environmental education organizations in the San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay areas, providing professional development, integrating research into practice and building community. In her panel presentation, Mandi shared that diversity, equity and inclusion are key values that guide our work at KIDS for the BAY, including our mission and our programs. She also shared KIDS for the BAY's important Diversity Policy, a key focus for our work, which can be found on our website. Our guiding principal, that everyone has the right to live in a clean and healthy environment, which inspires our students' Environmental Action Projects, was also highlighted.

This event was a great opportunity to learn more about cultural relevance from other professionals in the field of environmental education, and KIDS for the BAY



is now using a new tool, that we learned about at the event from the Lawrence Hall of Science, to continue to develop the cultural relevance of our work. It was wonderful to see past KIDS for the BAY staff attending the ChangeScale event, and very special to connect with two past KIDS for the BAY staff members who are now part of the leadership of ChangeScale! **Please see Page Six for more details.**

Donor Spotlight: Daphne and Stuart Wells



We would like to sincerely thank Daphne and Stuart Wells, two major donors and friends of KIDS for the BAY, for their support and for coming out to visit our students during an exciting Field Trip to the Berkeley Marina this past spring! It was a wonderful opportunity to connect and share our mutual love for the outdoors. Daphne and Stuart's support and the support of all our donors is crucial in helping KIDS for the BAY provide equitable access to nature and environmental programs to students who would not otherwise have this opportunity. Thank you!

"No toy and no electronic device will ever bring as much joy to a child's life as the nature experience given by KIDS for the BAY. That experience is enlivened and enriched by a uniformly dedicated, enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff. We know from our personal experiences and long careers as teachers that this is the joy of being in the beauty of nature, of learning something significant, and realizing a connection to a much larger world."

—Daphne and Stuart Wells

IN THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR, KIDS FOR THE BAY DELIVERED PROGRAMS TO 4,853 STUDENTS AND 170 TEACHERS

Turning Students onto Science

Investigating Ocean Acidification

"This means that animal's shells are dissolving!" exclaimed a third grade student named Angelo after learning about the effects of carbon dioxide and fossil fuels on the pH of water and shelled organisms. In an eye-opening experiment, student scientists from Lincoln Elementary School in Richmond used water, bromothymol blue, lemon juice and pH strips to observe ocean acidification in action. Students then realized that crab, shrimp, turtles, coral and even zooplankton have protective shells made of calcium carbonate that are weakened if the pH of the ocean environment changes. Using four different liquids with different pH levels, students observed the effects of pH on chalk used to represent calcium carbonate



shells. "The chalk is bubbling and dissolving in the Sprite. The same would happen to animals' shells!" observed Brandon. Joshua added, "**Animals can lose their shells that protect them and they won't be healthy or safe. They may die.**" Marco thought about larger environmental effects of ocean acidification and concluded, "The other animals in the food chain won't have enough to eat, like whales, sharks and humans."

To take action and reduce damage due to ocean acidification, students decided to work in teams to monitor energy use at school, including lights, heating, air conditioning, transportation and electronics, once they realized that all of these activities generate carbon dioxide. Students recorded their data for one week and reported their findings in a letter to their principal and school. "I am excited to keep doing this activity because it is going to help ocean animals!" exclaimed Joshua.

Connecting Students with Nature

In the 2017-18 school year, KIDS for the BAY students went on local creek, San Francisco Bay and ocean habitat Field Trips to:

- Keller Beach, Richmond
- Muir Beach, Marin County
- Rodeo Beach, Sausalito
- Berkeley Marina
- Martinez Marina
- Brannan Island, Antioch
- Crab Cove, Alameda
- Sunol Regional Wilderness
- Sausal Creek, Oakland
- Strawberry Creek, Berkeley
- Wildcat Creek, Richmond
- Civic Park, Walnut Creek

Listening to the Ocean at Muir Beach

Students walked over a long footbridge, passing a marsh and Redwood Creek, as they approached their special Field Trip location. They had no idea their adventure in nature would start at a creek so close to the ocean, reminding them of the connection between all bodies of water within the watershed. Once the students arrived at the beach, they could see where the creek flowed out directly to the ocean. "It is so cool to see the water flowing over the beach like that," exclaimed Anthony.

The fourth grade students from Greenleaf Elementary School in Oakland were excited to explore Muir Beach and were inspired to learn about the environmental achievements of John Muir, the beach's namesake. They began the day by "meeting the beach" and experiencing the natural environment of the Pacific Ocean

**"The anemone is so sticky!
It grabbed onto my finger!"**

*—Justice, Fourth Grader,
Greenleaf Elementary School,
Oakland*

with all their senses. "I smell something salty and fishy," observed Angela. Jazmin shared, "**I feel really calm sitting here and listening to the water.**" The students continued to cultivate



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this nature connection and called on their inner artist to create beach nature artwork with three items: something that belonged on the beach, something that did not belong, and something that evoked a memory. Using seaweed, driftwood, sand, shells and other items, students created works of art including a sand mermaid and a driftwood fort.

The students were also very excited to explore the beach tide pools,



which was a new experience for almost every student! Students were intrigued by the sea anemones and Justice observed, "The anemone is so sticky! It grabbed onto my finger!"

Students were amazed to experience the beach and the sand and many shared that they had never touched sand with their bare toes. "This is the softest sand I've ever felt," shared Aaliyah. Fourth grade teacher, Noah Mendel, shared, **"My students have never been to a place like this before. This is a brand new experience. Sand is the most exciting thing they've ever seen, right now! They're just mesmerized by the ocean. It's like they've never seen this world before."**

Inspiring Environmental Action

In the 2017-18 school year, KIDS for the BAY students:

- Cleaned up 91,565 pieces (2,230 gallons) of trash from their school neighborhoods and local watershed environments.
- Planted 131 native plants to help restore local creek and pond habitats.
- Pledged to reduce their water usage and help relieve California's drought.
- Led Schoolwide Assemblies educating 3,000 additional students about storm drain pollution, marine debris, and the Five Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot and Refuse).
- Educated their friends and families on how to safely consume bay fish to reduce intake of toxins.

A Recipe for Healthier Gardens and Happier Gardeners

Students at Turner Elementary School in Antioch and Wagner Ranch Elementary School in Orinda were shocked to discover how pesticide chemicals leach into our soil! During a hands-on experiment with KIDS for the BAY, students built miniature farm experiments in clear containers and used gravel to represent the land adjacent to a creek. They used food color in the gravel to represent pesticides and simulated rain by pouring water over the gravel. After observing the food color leaching into the creek a student named Kara concluded, "The pesticides spread in the ground and into the water. In real life this would be bad for the watershed and every living thing in it!"

Realizing how toxic pesticides can be, students were excited to take action and address this issue first-hand. They blended ingredients they already had at home, like garlic and jalapeno, into a biodegradable mixture that could eliminate garden pests and help the environment



by replacing harmful chemicals.

Next, the classes set out to work in their school garden. Students transplanted fava beans to a new bed with fresh soil, where they could use their biodegradable pesticides. Henry shared, "The pesticides will keep away animals that would normally eat the plants. Because it's natural, it won't hurt us or the food chain!"

Back in the classroom, the students worked with their teachers to create recipe cards and letters to take home. They were excited to share their product and their knowledge with their families and community. "I am going to share this information with everyone now! **People need to know that pesticides are harmful and that they can**

easily make natural pesticides at home!" exclaimed Caleb.



KIDS for the BAY Guardian Awards 2018

KIDS for the BAY's Guardian Awards are bestowed on teachers and principals who show their commitment to one or more of our programs and continue to teach our programs year after year as part of their science curriculum.

Sarah Horwitz and Hanna Sufrin

Sarah Horwitz and Hanna Sufrin, two dedicated fourth grade teachers from Acorn Woodland Elementary School in Oakland, were honored for their commitment to environmental science education and for teaching the Watershed Action Program (WAP) for six years!

Together, they have taught more than 300 of their students to care for their local watershed environment by organizing two trash clean-up projects with their classes every spring: one in their school neighborhood and the second at Lake Merritt in Oakland. "Cleaning up the litter around the storm drains in our school neighborhood and removing trash from Lake Merritt would not hold so much meaning for students if they did not first do so much great learning through the Watershed Action Program," shared Hanna. "Our students truly become environmental activists by the end of this program. They understand the impact of their actions on the environment, from even just one small piece of litter."



"The WAP is an integral part of our environmental expeditionary learning program. It is fantastic hands on learning about our local area and its problems and needs, and we are grateful that it is geared so well to students' access levels."

—Hanna Sufrin



Sarah demonstrating how to use a net to clean up trash from Lake Merritt.

KIDS for the BAY Past Staff Highlights New Leadership at ChangeScale



Leslie Parra

Leslie was a Program Coordinator at KIDS for the BAY in 2003 – 2004. This was her "first real job" in environmental education! Leslie recently accepted the position of Executive Director of ChangeScale,

where she is leading efforts to support environmental education organizations in building their capacity.

"Teaching for KIDS for the BAY generated my aspiration to seek and provide Environmental Education learning opportunities for our Bay Area youth as my personal mission."

—Leslie Parra



Francis Mendoza

Francis was a Program Coordinator at KIDS for the BAY from 2004 – 2007. He is now a Naturalist with the East Bay Regional Park District, specializing in working with youth and families from underserved communities, implementing environmental justice programs, and collaborating with local California Indigenous Peoples. Francis recently accepted the

position of Steering Committee Chairperson for ChangeScale.

"I joined KIDS for the BAY (KftB) with the goal of gaining valuable experience in the world of environmental education, especially in under-resourced, under-served communities and I fondly remember teaching school children from diverse ethnicities, who spoke many different languages in KftB programs. The KftB mission of providing environmental education to all children really resonated with me and I am continuing this work."

—Francis Mendoza

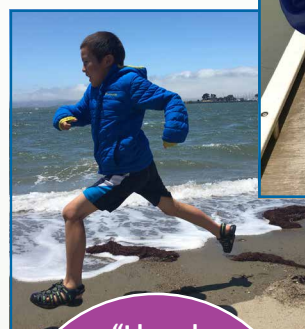
Summer Camp 2018

Hands-on science and nature exploration



KIDS for the BAY Campers had a blast exploring creek, bay, lake and ocean habitats and diving into new experiences all around the San Francisco Bay Area! Our favorite moments included:

- Taking the ferry to Angel Island, and **spotting a porpoise and seal** on the way.
- Exploring tide pools at Muir Beach and meeting green sea anemones for the first time!
- **Dissecting a squid** and using the parts to go catch-and-release crab fishing!
- Studying the fascinating lives of bees with Bee Scientist, Emily Kearney.
- **Observing blue mussels, sea squirts and acorn barnacles** during Belly Biology on the docks.
- Meeting a grey fox, Great Horned Owl, opossum and Red-tailed Hawk during a visit from Wild Minds!
- Hiking around Angel Island and seeing two harbor seals swimming in the water.
- Embracing new challenges while **kayaking on the bay!**
- Cooking s'mores over the campfire with old and new friends.

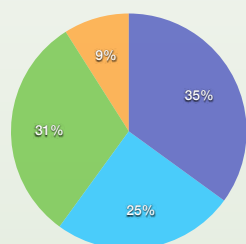


"I liked
dissecting squid
like a real scientist!"
—Kiyomi, age 5,
Camper

"I loved
the solo
hike and getting
the chance to hear
nature."
—Abhaya, age 7
Camper

Statement of Financials

July 2017 – June 2018



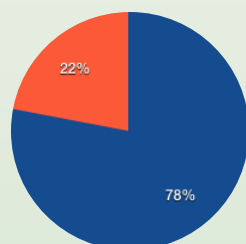
SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Total Support and Revenue..... **\$468,784**

■ Government Contracts	\$168,000 (35%)
■ Foundation and Corporate Grants ...	\$116,000 (25%)
■ Service Revenue	\$143,500 (31%)
■ Donations	\$41,284 (9%)

Financial Position as of June 2018

Assets	\$529,052
Liabilities	\$89,111
Net Assets	\$439,941



EXPENSES

Total Expenses: **\$463,039**

■ Program	\$361,170 (78%)
■ Administration, Development and Fundraising	\$101,869 (22%)

Thank you to our generous funders and donors in the 2017–18 School Year!

Foundations, Corporations, Public Agencies, and Other Funders

AECOM
Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program
Alameda County Fish and
Game Commission
Avila and Associates
Barrios Trust
Berkeley Rotary Club
Berkeley Garden Club
Conservation Committee
California Coastal Conservancy
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East Bay Community Foundation:
– Jeannette and Mildred Meyers Fund
– Kevin Collins Fund for Children

San Francisco Foundation:
– Youth Access to Nature
Silicon Valley Community Foundation:
– Daphne and Stuart Wells Fund
– Tundra Glacier Fund
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Individual Donors

WATERSHED ACTIVIST (\$5,000+)

Zac and Amy Weinberg,
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HABITAT PROTECTORS (\$1,000+)

Daphne & Stuart Wells
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Leilani Alo *
Lynn Landor

BAY SPONSORS (\$500+)

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Andy Kivel

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SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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Martins
Kristiana Tom
Lauren Westreich
Maia Bazjanac
Rebecca Meyer
Sandra Tsui
Silvia Yee
Winnie Tan

UP TO \$50

Janet & Alan Gervolstad
Shelley Horwitz

MATCHING DONATIONS

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Two Sigma Investments
United Way of the Bay
Area

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Fieldwork Brewing
Company
Gavin Hettick
Tanya Valova and
Thomas True
Trader Joe's

* Advisory Board Member