

**KIDS for  
the BAY**

**2019-2020 School Year  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**Everyone Is an Environmentalist!**



# A Message from Mandi Billinge

## Executive Director and Founder of KIDS for the BAY



**The 2019 – 2020 school year at KIDS for the BAY started out like any other school year.** We began with our fall staff training workshops, including a fun staff outing to one of our special ocean field trip sites at Muir Beach. We worked on updating our curricula, completed our outreach and filled all our programs with

dedicated partner teachers and excited classes of students! We began our hands-on watershed science classroom lessons and completed many Environmental Action Projects with our young Environmentalists. We launched our new **Blue Watershed Classrooms** program and provided resources for teachers and students to turn their classrooms into sustainable, watershed-friendly, Zero-Waste environments.

Last school year, KIDS for the BAY (KftB) **delivered environmental education programs to 130 teachers and 3,231 students** who accomplished the following projects:

- KftB student rangers **cleaned up 82,779 pieces of trash**, totaling 1,656 gallons of trash, from their local watershed environments
- **734 KftB student leaders presented Schoolwide Assemblies educating 5,872 additional students** about the importance of reducing waste, trash and marine debris and using the Five Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot and Refuse)
- KftB Environmentalists **completed 3,452 stewardship hours**, cleaning up and protecting the environment we all share, and educating others about environmental protection.

In addition, our young Environmentalists learned how to **make natural pesticides** for their school and home gardens, taught their families and peer students how to **safely prepare and cook bay fish** to reduce intake of toxins, studied the impacts of ocean acidification on shelled organisms and worked to **reduce their carbon footprints** at school and at home.

**Then, in March 2020, just as we were preparing to begin our creek, bay and ocean Field Trips, school buildings closed** and everyone sheltered in place to try to prevent the spread of Covid-19. This was a very challenging time for our partner teachers and students, as everyone pivoted to provide distance learning instead of in-person programs. It was

especially difficult for many families without internet access or computers, as well as many other challenges faced with staying at home. As a working mom with three children, I know how much resourcefulness it takes to manage your work and support your family through these challenging times.

KIDS for the BAY demonstrated resilience and adaptability by quickly providing free, accessible, **At-Home Activities** for our students, teachers and families on our website, including easy-to-follow activity guides, video demonstrations and Environmentalist story books in English and Spanish. We also continued working with our partner teachers and students to provide our programs via **distance learning**, with Zoom video class instruction and interactive activities, including Environmental Action Projects and virtual Field Trips.

Unfortunately we were not able to provide our Summer Camp in 2020, which was to be the **20 Year Anniversary of our Summer Camp**. We did provide refunds and camp credit options to all our families and ***we are truly grateful to all the families who provided donations to help sustain our work.***

**In this new school year**, we are further developing our online programs to continue to provide accessible, engaging environmental education for our students, and professional development, support and training for our partner teachers. Our new online programs include many real-life, hands-on, off-screen components, and use a variety of interactive technology platforms. KIDS for the BAY will continue to reach many teacher partners and students throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond, as we develop more capacity for delivering engaging, online programs. At the same time, we eagerly look forward to being back in person with our teachers and students in the classroom and in nature as soon as possible!

***Thank you for your resilience and for your continued support for our work through these challenging times.***

*Mandi J. Billinge*



### KIDS for the BAY Staff

Mandi Billinge, *Executive Director/Founder*  
Asha Bucklin, *Communications Manager*  
Laurel Sebastian, *Lead Program Manager*  
Sienna Kuykendall, *Program Manager*  
Jim Cartan, *Program Manager*  
Jamie Ball, *Program Coordinator*

### KIDS for the BAY Advisory Board Members

Leilani Alo, *Advisory Board President*  
Kimberly Aguilar  
Tiffany Grandstaff  
Kate Gallagher  
Shefali Shah  
Sheela Shankar

A Project of



From left to right: Sienna Kuykendall, Asha Bucklin, Laurel Sebastian, Mandi Billinge

# Everyone Is an Environmentalist!

**What does it mean to be an Environmentalist?** If you ask any KIDS for the BAY student, they will tell you that there are many different ways to be an Environmentalist. You can go outside and connect with nature in your local watershed and on special field trips to creek, bay and ocean habitats. Environmentalists are also scientists who make observations, ask questions, set up experiments, collect and analyze data, identify problems and find solutions. Environmentalists take action to help the environment. They are also leaders and change-makers, who teach others and share important information. To be an Environmentalist means to make everyday behavior changes to help protect the Earth. **All KIDS for the BAY students become Environmentalists in all these different ways. What will you do today to be an Environmentalist?**



## Ready for Distance Learning

Schools in our area are continuing with Distance Learning this fall and KIDS for the BAY continues to support teachers and students, especially in under-resourced schools, by delivering our programs online. Our distance learning programs use Zoom video lessons and Google Classroom and include:

- Activities that get students outside in their local watershed environment
- Hands-on science experiments and investigations with materials easily found at home
- Environmental Action Projects at home and in the local neighborhood
- Virtual field trips to creek, bay and ocean habitats.

Whenever it becomes possible, we will be ready to deliver our programs in person again to our students and teachers. Our online programs will continue to provide our teachers with professional development and support as they deliver KftB programs themselves to future classes of students with the resources we provide. We will continue to increase the impact of our work and reach more teachers throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.

## Donor Spotlight: Shefali and Saleem

We would like to sincerely thank Shefali Shah and her husband, Saleem Shakeer-Gilmore, for their generous donations to KIDS for the BAY as EverGreen Monthly donors for many years. Shefali is also a past staff member and a current Advisory Board Member. She leads very valuable staff training workshops for KIDS for the BAY every year, focusing on Diversity, Equity



and Inclusion, Culturally Responsive Classroom Management and Teaching Environmental Justice. Shefali has also encouraged additional family members to become donors. Thank you, Shefali and Saleem!

**"We are grateful and honored for our connection with KIDS for the BAY for the past 20 years. KIDS for the BAY's sincere dedication to providing access for underrepresented communities to high level environmental science education, coupled with a commitment to environmental justice and action, drive our family to contribute year after year. KIDS for the BAY's pedagogy and curricular delivery act on the urgency of environmental change by inspiring long-lasting emotional connections between young people and their local environment. The organization's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion reflects its values and teaching strategies in the field. Thank you KIDS for the BAY for your amazing and critical work!"**

*—Shefali Shah and Saleem Shakir Gilmore*

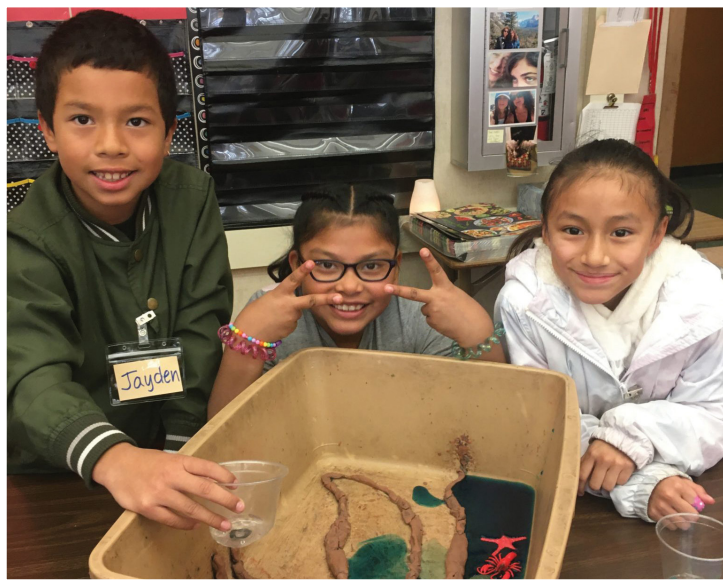


# IN THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR, KIDS FOR THE BAY DELIVERED PROGRAMS TO 3,231 STUDENTS AND 130 TEACHERS

## What is a Watershed?

Every KIDS for the BAY Environmentalist learns how to enjoy, explore, study and protect their local watershed, but what is a watershed? “Is there really a shed in your backyard that’s full of water?” KIDS for the BAY Instructor Sienna Kuykendall asked third grade students at Manzanita Community School. The young Environmentalists were learning about the San Francisco Bay watershed, the complex environment that they live in, but most had never heard the word ‘watershed’ before this lesson. Students eagerly studied a watershed poster and searched a satellite map of the San Francisco Bay for the various features of a watershed. They quickly discovered how everything is connected, including the mountains, creeks, rivers, cities, the bay and the ocean.

When Ms. Sienna explained that Manzanita Elementary School is in the Sausal Creek watershed, many hands shot up to share that they had visited this nearby creek at Dimond Park with their families. Student Yasmin shared, “I didn’t know that Sausal Creek went to the bay and then the ocean!” Ms. Sienna encouraged the students to think about their discoveries with the map to revisit the compound word, “watershed,” which includes helpful clues about what a watershed really is. “I think it’s how water flows and is connected,” explained Yasmin. “It rains and rain goes into the creeks and the bay. This is part of the water cycle and the watershed!” Chloe added. Students were amazed to see how big the San Francisco Bay watershed is and they had so much fun figuring out their own place in this special watershed environment!



## Student Ambassadors Lead the Way

The next generation of Environmentalists is truly a privilege to teach! KIDS for the BAY Student Ambassadors are selected as special environmental leaders within their classes because of their extra dedication to helping the environment. Lorin Eden Elementary School students Luzmaria, Armando, Braulio and Simranjit are four Student Ambassadors in Hayward who have shown true dedication to watershed health after participating in our Watershed Action Program (WAP). When asked which part of the program was their favorite, all four students agreed that the investigation of the Dungeness crab and striped bass fish was the most memorable. Simranjit shared, “It was great to look at the animals up close, and I learned which adaptations help them survive in the bay.”



Student Ambassadors, left to right: Armando, Braulio, Luzmaria, Simranjit

When KIDS for the BAY Instructor Laurel Sebastian asked the Ambassadors, “What was the most interesting fact or idea you learned in our Classroom Lessons?” Armando shared, “I learned that plants near creeks are part of a healthy watershed, but they’re also a solution to a dirty watershed because they clean air and water like sponges. Now I know more about all the animals that live in bay and ocean habitats too.”

What would these inspiring Ambassadors tell someone to convince them to take care of their environment? “People should care about the environment, so they don’t get sick from dirty air or water,” said Luzmaria. Braulio shared, “Even if a

person only litters one piece a day, that’s a lot of trash over their whole life! We can’t leave that much pollution in the environment.” Simranjit concluded, “Our environment is everything. Our air, water and land. Of course people should take care of it!”

## Virtual Ocean Field Trip

Even though KIDS for the BAY was not able to take students in person to the ocean last spring, we still created engaging virtual beach days for our young environmentalists! Students at Manzanita Community School in Oakland were ecstatic to discover that their field trip to Muir Beach was still happening online. How do you experience a place without being there in person? KIDS for the BAY Instructor Sienna Kuykendall did a wonderful job of encouraging students to use their senses and imaginations to discover and experience the wonders of our California coastline!

As students listened to sounds of the ocean, watched videos of the rocky shore, and learned about unique tide pool organisms, they remembered their classroom lessons and what it was like to investigate fish and crab, or to taste test seaweed! Virtual bird watching was a BIG hit. Ms. Sienna showed students bird identification guides and used brown pelicans, western sandpipers, herring gulls, and double crested cormorants as examples of species found at Muir Beach. During the bird call identification game, Camilla exclaimed, “That’s the cormorant because it sounds like a toad! We learned that it dives to catch its food!”

At the end of the field trip, several students shared appreciations: “I’m grateful for all the crabs, big and small, all sizes, shapes and colors!” said Angelo. “I’m grateful for the fish that we can eat!” added William. “I’m grateful for the sound of the waves and the water,” shared third grade teacher Ms. Barnes. We are all very grateful for the chance to visit ocean beaches and cannot wait until we can go again in person!



### Investigating the Rocky Shore!



# KIDS for the BAY Guardian Award 2020

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.

## Pleasant Hill Teacher Team

KIDS for the BAY is excited to present the Guardian Award 2020 to the fourth grade team at Sequoia Elementary School in Pleasant Hill! Every year STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) Lab Coordinator Margot Lipkin and fourth grade teachers Laura Clack, Lisa Kehr and Heidi Silva work together to ensure that every fourth grade student receives a



"Students are always excited for their KIDS for the BAY lessons! We are honored to be chosen for the Guardian Award."

—Margot Lipkin, STEAM Lab Coordinator, Sequoia Elementary School, Pleasant Hill



meaningful experience in environmental education. This

team of teachers began working with KIDS for the BAY in the Watershed Action Program (WAP) in 2017. Ever since this experience, they have done an amazing job of integrating the WAP into their curriculum. Each year, teachers introduce the benefits of the WAP to their students and parents. Each class completes the four Classroom Lessons and the outdoor Field Trips, and presents the Schoolwide Assembly to their schoolmates.



"The KIDS for the BAY program has become a vital part of the Sequoia Elementary fourth grade curriculum for the past three years. With the support of our Principal Trish Kawahara and fellow teachers, we have also introduced first through third grade students at Sequoia to the KIDS for the BAY program via schoolwide Assemblies. It is part of our mission to encourage students to become global citizens and stewards of our environment, oceans and more locally, the San Francisco Bay watershed."

—Margot Lipkin, STEAM Lab Coordinator, Sequoia Elementary School, Pleasant Hill

## KIDS for the BAY Past Staff Highlights

### Kristina Cervantes Yoshida, Ph.D.

"I worked at KIDS for the BAY (KftB) from 2003-2008, where I helped develop curricula and taught classroom lessons and nature-based field trips. Working at KftB really helped me grow professionally, and gave me the opportunity to engage with students of color in local schools that mirrored my own childhood growing up in Richmond. It was particularly meaningful for me to be able to make environmental change through student-led Environmental Action Projects and education in my own community.

"These experiences at KftB eventually led me to pursue a doctorate in environmental science at University of California, Berkeley. My research was focused on how land use and drought influence stream fish communities. I now work as an Environmental Scientist at the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, a regulatory agency under the California Environmental Protection Agency that protects the surface and groundwater of the San Francisco Bay Area. In this role I develop sediment and water quality monitoring programs to inform water policy

and regulation. One component of my job is to monitor aquatic macroinvertebrates as stream water quality indicators. I am constantly reminded of my years at KftB, working with kids to study these small critters, and instilling a love for science and nature.



"One thing that I've learned throughout my career is that in order to protect our environment we need to approach this in multiple ways, including research, regulation, restoration, and education. Although I am now in the regulatory field, I feel hopeful knowing that KftB is still out there, educating and inspiring future generations to make positive environmental change!"

***Thank you Kristina, for the outstanding work you did at KIDS for the BAY for five years, for the inspirational work you are currently doing in environmental science, and for continuing to support our work by providing training and professional development for our KftB staff!***



# Summer Camp

**Hands-on science & nature exploration**

In May 2020, we were so sad to announce that we could not run our KIDS for the BAY Summer Camp due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We were really hoping to continue to provide a safe learning space for our young Environmentalists to enjoy and explore in nature, as we do every summer. However, since the physical and emotional safety of our campers is always our top priority, this was not possible last summer.

We are now looking forward to celebrating our **20 Year Summer Camp Anniversary** in summer 2021, with the best camp ever!

We all felt the loss of our fun, educational and inspiring camp. To help support our



campers, we shared special videos of some of the story books that we read to them every summer. Our amazing staff, past staff and our board members created story book readings on our KIDS for the BAY YouTube channel, to share a few of our favorite books from the summer, both in English and in Spanish.



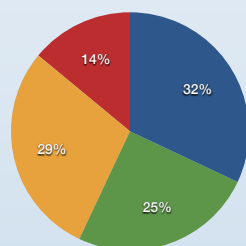
Thank you so much for supporting our decision to keep our community safe, for your understanding and for your generous donations to support the continuation of our Summer Camp.

***We look forward to seeing you all again in summer 2021!***



## Statement of Financials

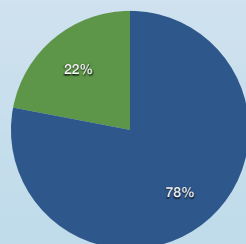
July 2019 – June 2020



### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

**Total Support and Revenue..... \$434,152**

■ Government Contracts .....	\$137,000 (32%)
■ Foundation and Corporate Grants ...	\$111,000 (25%)
■ Service Revenue .....	\$124,487 (29%)
■ Donations .....	\$61,665 (14%)



### EXPENSES

**Total Expenses: .....\$413,734**

■ Program .....	\$322,713 (78%)
■ Administration, Development and Fundraising .....	\$91,021 (22%)

### Financial Position as of June 2020

<b>Assets .....</b>	<b>\$574,525</b>
<b>Liabilities .....</b>	<b>\$26,439</b>
<b>Net Assets .....</b>	<b>\$548,086</b>



# Thank you to our generous funders and donors in the 2019-2020 School Year!

## Foundations, Corporations, Public Agencies, and Other Funders

Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program  
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