

**KIDS for
the BAY**

**2020-2021 School Year
ANNUAL REPORT**

Everyone Is an Environmentalist!

A Message from Mandi Billinge

Executive Director and Founder of KIDS for the BAY



KIDS for the BAY has shown a great **deal of resilience** in coming through the pandemic with flexibility and creativity. We successfully adapted to distance learning for our school-based programs in the 2020-2021 school year, and delivered our 20 Year Anniversary Summer Camp session in 2021 in person!

To continue to bring engaging hands-on learning to students in under-resourced partner schools, KIDS for the BAY (KftB) delivered our programs online during the Covid-19 pandemic. Many private schools and higher-income schools were able to go back to in-person learning, but our under-resourced partner schools could only provide distance learning for most of the school year. In partnership with classroom teachers, KftB delivered Zoom lessons with experiments and investigations that could easily be done at home. We also encouraged outdoor activities to help students connect with nature in their local watershed and take much-needed screen time breaks. Many students did not have access to basic educational supplies, so we distributed supplies to students with the help of our teachers. **By effectively partnering with our teachers and families we significantly increased our students' access to equitable, engaging learning opportunities throughout the pandemic.**

Online tools including breakout rooms, Jamboard and Flipgrid helped to make KftB Zoom lessons more interactive. Parents joined lessons and supported their children's learning at home. Teachers sincerely appreciated the programs and support provided. **KftB lessons were still a highlight of our students' school experience, even during distance learning.**

"My students were so excited every time KftB Educator Ms. Jamie visited our Zoom classroom! As soon as I announced that Ms. Jamie was here, all my students suddenly started sitting up and turning their video cameras on, excited to participate!"

— Dr. Clifford Thompson, Fifth Grade Teacher,
King Elementary School, Richmond

In the past school year, KIDS for the BAY partnered with **93 teachers and 2,385 students** in distance learning environmental education programs.

Our young Environmentalists accomplished the following projects and more:

- KftB student leaders created and shared informational posters, videos and environmental pledges at special presentation events to teach their families and school communities about the importance of protecting the local watershed and the San Francisco Bay, to keep these environments clean and healthy.
- KftB student rangers cleaned up **613 gallons of trash from their local neighborhood watershed environments, working together in family 'quaranteams' led by KftB students.**
- KftB student environmentalists **completed 4,163 environmental stewardship hours**, cleaning up and protecting the environment we all share, and educating others about protecting the environment.

The inspiring accomplishments of our young environmentalists were made possible by the committed support of our funders, donors, partner teachers, families, and of course our wonderful students! KftB staff showed amazing flexibility and creativity throughout our distance learning program experiences! The success and positive impact of these programs exceeded all our hopes and expectations, and we are so grateful to our community for helping us to continue our important work in environmental education through action!

Our partner schools are now back in person this fall and KIDS for the BAY is thrilled to be back in classrooms and in outdoor spaces, delivering programs in person! We will continue to adapt as needed to deliver **engaging and equitable environmental education throughout these changing times!**

Mandi J. Billinge

KIDS for the BAY Staff

Mandi Billinge
Executive Director/Founder
Laurel Sebastian
Education Manager
Sienna Kuykendall
Program Manager
Jamie Ball
Program Manager

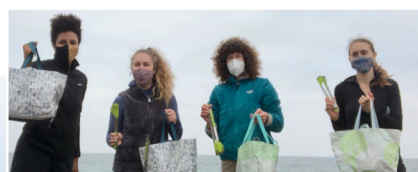
KIDS for the BAY Advisory Board Members

Leilani Alo, Advisory Board President
Kimberly Aguilar
Kate Gallagher
Tiffany Grandstaff
Shefali Shah
Sheela Shankar
Clifford Thompson D.Ed.



Welcome to our new Advisory Board Member - Clifford Thompson D.Ed.

Dr. Thompson has worked in the field of education for 41 years, as a classroom teacher and as an administrator. He currently works as an educational consultant and fifth grade teacher in the West Contra Costa Unified School District, and serves on the board of Oakland Unified School District. He has been a partner teacher with KIDS for the BAY for the past three years.



From left to right:
Sienna Kuykendall,
Jamie Ball,
Mandi Billinge,
Laurel Sebastian

KIDS for the BAY's Virtual Watershed

When it became impossible to take classes of students outside to explore their local watershed in person, KIDS for the BAY **created an interactive virtual watershed**, and brought it to our students in their homes during Zoom lessons. Investigating this colorful, engaging and educational online tool was a favorite activity for all our young watershed scientists during distance learning. We are now incorporating this effective teaching tool into our in-person programs this school year, as a program preparation activity led by our partner teachers.



Programs for Richmond Schools

In the 2021 - 2022 school year, KIDS for the BAY is partnering with 18 classes in nine Richmond schools in West Contra Costa Unified School District to deliver engaging environmental education programs. Following our mission, we are especially targeting under-resourced schools in low income communities that are disproportionately impacted by pollution. The people of Richmond live near five major oil refineries, three chemical companies, eight Superfund sites, and dozens of other toxic waste sites. Despite its proximity to San Francisco and Silicon Valley's wealth,



Richmond's median household income is below the California state average, and more than 15% of residents are living in poverty. More than 80% of residents are people of color, and Richmond children have roughly twice the rate of asthma as their neighbours countywide. KIDS for the BAY programs in Richmond schools increase access to hands-on watershed science education, and experiences in nature for Richmond children. Programs also empower school students with the knowledge and tools to develop environmental stewardship and leadership, and provide professional development, support and resources for our Richmond partner teachers.

"My students and I love participating in KIDS for the BAY programs, and the students are so excited every time I announce that their KftB Educator will be visiting our class! They have learned so much about our local environment, the watershed, the bay estuary and how everything is interconnected. They have demonstrated a holistic understanding of being an environmentalist, how that affects their lives and our earth, and how important it is to keep the local watershed clean for the animals and people that live in and around it. I am excited to be part of the KIDS for the BAY Advisory Board, and to help bring these empowering environmental science learning opportunities to many more students!"

— Dr. Clifford Thompson,
Fifth Grade Teacher,
King Elementary School, Richmond

Donor Spotlight: John and Jacqui

We are very thankful to our longtime supporters and donors, John and Jacqui Billinge. Does that last name sound familiar? These are our ED and Founder, Mandi's parents! John was a classroom teacher and school principal for more than 30 years in an inner-city secondary school in North East England. His dedication to developing a student-centered classroom, and his positive, enthusiastic approach to teaching his students every day, inspired Mandi to follow in his footsteps to work in education. Jacqui has always been an 'environmentalist', long before this was a well-known term. She inspired Mandi to connect with nature, love biology and ecology and take action to help protect and care for the environment.

"We happily donate each year to KIDS for the BAY because it offers young people the opportunity to explore the great outdoors and alerts them to the importance of protecting the environment. They are the future and their experience and knowledge gained with KIDS for the BAY will empower them to make our planet a better and safer place. Also, our daughter Mandi is the founder. :)"

— Jacqui & John Billinge

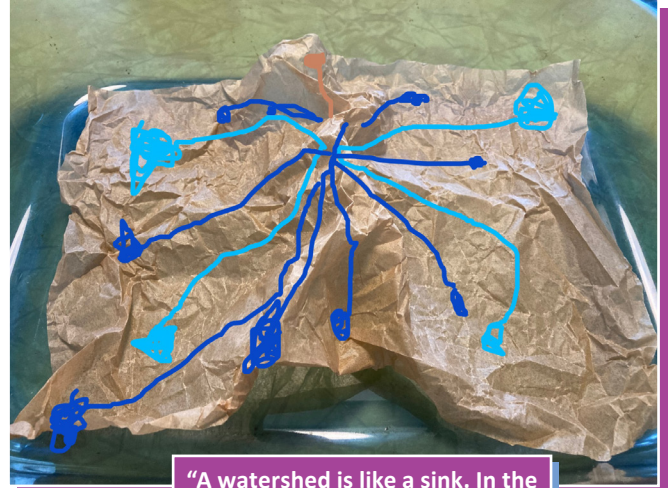


IN THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR, KIDS FOR THE BAY DELIVERED PROGRAMS TO 2,385 STUDENTS AND 93 TEACHERS

Turning Students on to Science

Experimenting with Mini Watersheds

Students at Edison Elementary School in Alameda helped KIDS for the BAY Educator Laurel Sebastian define a watershed. They were eager to share their mini-watershed model experiment observations and to be spotlighted on Zoom. At home, they created their own mini watersheds with crumpled paper, markers to outline 'mountain ridges' and 'waterways' and spray bottles to create rain! Student scientists used their imaginations to predict where the water would flow in their models and how many mini watersheds would be created. This experiment helped develop students' scientific process skills of observing, predicting and testing. Third grade student Soraya showed the class her clear ridges dividing different watersheds and shared, "Water on this side of my mountain flowed down to this pond. This ridge almost separates these areas, but it's not long enough, so the two rivers came together into one watershed."



"A watershed is like a sink. In the sink, the water from the edges all flows down to the drain."

— Roscoe, Third Grade Student,
Edison Elementary School,
Alameda

Connecting Students with Nature

Nature Art

During distance learning it was more important than ever to encourage children to get outside and connect with nature. All KIDS for the BAY online programs included homework assignments, designed to be completed in between Zoom lessons, that inspired students to get outside, connect with nature and explore their local watershed. Students created nature art out of materials that they found outside, including fallen leaves and flower petals, sticks, twigs and grasses. Check out this beautiful art collage created with our student's works of nature art!



Virtual Delta Spring Field Trips

What is your favorite memory of being at a bay or delta beach? Fourth/fifth grade students at Marsh Elementary School in Antioch happily shared their experiences exploring special beaches with their friends and family. De'Vonte said, "I remember going to the beach and I got pinched by a crab!" Ryden added, "I caught a big fish in the delta once!" Yolanda shared, "I remember going to the delta and seeing lots of different birds and animals!" Teacher Roxane Johnigan shared, "It may be hard to believe, but when I was in university I lived by a beach and I used to go surfing!"

In this unusual pandemic year, KIDS for the BAY brought delta field trips to the distance learning classroom environment. Marsh Elementary students explored the delta near Antioch and went on an exciting virtual exploration of Brannan Island with their



KIDS for the BAY Educator Jamie Ball! Using Google Earth to navigate the virtual landscape, many explorers began to recognize the area.

Zooming into delta water, the young environmentalists explored some mesmerizing photographs of plankton under the microscope, and made scientific observations. Ryleigh observed, "That one looks like a crab claw!" William shared, "That one looks like a spider!" Ms. Jamie also showed students a video about why plankton are so important for supporting marine environments and explained that plankton provide us with approximately half the oxygen we breathe! Oscar exclaimed, "I didn't realize how much of our oxygen comes from these tiny creatures!" This was definitely a 'WOW' moment for many students!

Inspiring Environmental Action

KIDS for the BAY Student Leaders

Students at multiple KIDS for the BAY partner schools developed their leadership skills by creating our first ever virtual assemblies. When classroom activities transitioned to online learning, KftB students, families, and teachers found creative ways to continue environmental education. Students enjoyed collaborating in Zoom breakout rooms and sharing their new knowledge of watershed stewardship by developing posters and videos together that provided examples of pollution in our watersheds, explained the consequences of littering, shared how local storm drains connect with creeks and the San Francisco Bay and reminded everyone how important it is to practice the Five Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot and Refuse).

Each class of students invited their families, other classes, teachers and school principals to join their special online video and 'poster gallery' virtual assembly events, which were attended by more than 100 participants for every event! Students increased their knowledge and understanding of watershed environmental stewardship, and took the initiative to become leaders and teach others.

"Our virtual event was AWESOME! We had so much fun creating the skits, making posters, designing student T-shirts and doing digital art projects. Our KftB Educator, Ms. Sienna, combined all of these pieces into a fantastic video. We had a virtual assembly event, and we had over 150 attendees!"

— Tracy Dordell, Third Grade Teacher,
New Highland Academy, Oakland

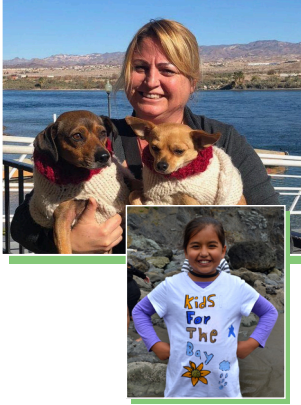


"The Action Project allowed my students to use their voices and artistic skills to share their learning with the world. It was exciting to see their videos and hear them talk about their posters. I think they got a great sense of pride from it as well."

— Carrie Anderson, Third Grade Teacher, Manzanita
Community School, Oakland

KIDS for the BAY Guardian Award 2021

KIDS for the BAY 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.



Tracy Dordell, Third Grade Teacher

KIDS for the BAY (KftB) is excited to present the Guardian Award 2021 to third grade teacher Tracy Dordell at New Highland Academy in Oakland! We are so glad to honor Ms Dordell's deep commitment to engaging her students in hand-on, project-based, environmental service learning and leadership. Tracy has collaborated with KftB for six years and has participated in programs from in-person to distance learning. Each year Tracy goes above and beyond to make meaningful connections with the KftB program for her students with writing assignments, art projects, and school garden experiences.

"I get excited when I find these amazing connections! I really want more people to have the opportunity to participate in KIDS for the BAY programs because of all the curriculum connections with hands-on learning!"

— Tracy Dordell,
Third Grade Teacher,
New Highland Academy, Oakland

"I deeply appreciate how KftB values equity in environmental education. The lessons sequentially build on and scaffold students' prior knowledge for deep learning. Even my students learning English are able to make great connections! Before our KftB programs, many of my students had never heard of things like the Five Rs, and had never seen the ocean. I remember our KftB field trip to Muir Beach a few years back and seeing my students put their feet in the ocean for the first time...it was amazing! This year the program adapted to distance learning really well and didn't lose the powerful, hands-on components. Students had materials at home for the experiments and those experiences were accessible to all my students. That's huge! And the KftB program supported so many different styles of learning and gave kids an opportunity to shine. My students have now incorporated environmental action as a part of their daily lives!"

— Tracy Dordell, Third Grade Teacher, New Highland Academy, Oakland

KIDS for the BAY Past Staff Highlights

Deborah Zierten

"When people ask me what is the best part of my job, I immediately reply, 'Seeing students have fun and learn in nature.' That is the primary goal of the education program at Save the Redwoods League and this is also at the core of the KIDS for the BAY (KftB) experience; giving students opportunities to be scientists, explore and have fun in nature.

"During my six years working at KftB I learned what it truly means to be an excellent environmental educator. These skills have proved invaluable in my current work. At KftB I developed curricula and a school-wide watershed program, and taught many students from diverse backgrounds. That experience was essential as I developed my own redwood education programs in my current job. KftB also taught me how important field trips are to learning and that connecting with



nature can have a profound impact on students' experiences. Consequently, I have emphasized field trips as a key component of all of our environmental education work at Save the Redwoods League.

"Working with our students at KftB opened my eyes to different learning styles, and how to be inclusive and equitable in how I approach teaching with all students. Because of this, all of Save the Redwoods League's programs are free, we have bilingual resources and we incorporate culturally relevant material into our curriculum.

"One of the best memories I have of KftB is taking students on field trips to the ocean. I loved seeing their excitement as they explored the tidepools and discovered sea stars, sea anemones and crabs, and their pure joy at seeing the ocean waves, for the first time for many students. I know first hand that a single field trip in nature can be an experience children keep with them for the rest of their lives!"

As the Education and Interpretation Manager at Save the Redwoods League, Deborah runs the redwood education programs which serve students from grades K-12, coordinates the Redwood Connect Grants program which supports outside redwood experiences for youth, and works with various parks, non-profit organizations, schools and environmental education providers to lead hikes, give presentations, provide curriculum support and trainings.

Summer Camp 2021

Hands-on science & nature exploration



Now CELEBRATING 20 YEARS of Summer Camp!

"This camp is a great way for kids to develop an identity as an environmentalist, and know they have agency in making changes to help our environment. Just all around a fantastic learning experience and the kids had FUN!"

— Parent of Maya & Eva
Drinkwater Levy



"I am beyond grateful to have found KIDS for the BAY Camp. Your staff is superb; warm, responsive, and skilled in working with kids. The activities are fun, exploratory, and experiential. I feel so safe leaving my kiddo with you each day, knowing she will come home tired and happy."

— Emmeline Tsui,
Camp Parent

KIDS for the BAY was thrilled to have Summer Camp back in person this year for the **20 Year Anniversary of our Summer Camp!** Our Campers had a blast exploring creek, lake and bay habitats and diving into nature adventures in our beautiful new location in Tilden Park. Some of our favorite moments included:

- Investigating creek invertebrates and bay shoreline animals
- Building forts and fairy houses in redwood forest groves
- Practicing science observation skills for bird-watching and identification
- Creating and decorating kites and flying them in the sunny skies of Cesar Chavez Park by the bay
- Water play-fights on a super hot day at Lake Anza
- Studying ancient dinosaur adaptations and 'hatching' craft reptile eggs
- Learning about plant anatomy and eating yummy plant part tacos
- Creating nature boats and floating them down Wildcat Creek
- Tasting seaweed and learning how everything is interconnected in bay and ocean food chains
- Making seed balls full of beautiful native flowers to plant and grow at home
- Cleaning up trash and plastic pollution and practicing the Five Rs.



"Catching (and releasing) a baby frog was the highlight of this week, and the whole year!"

— Max, Camper, age 8

"KIDS for the BAY is an amazing treasure of a camp experience! Our kids have grown friendships, explored nature, challenged themselves, learned a lot and had tons of fun! We'll continue coming every summer we can!"

— Stella,
Camp Parent

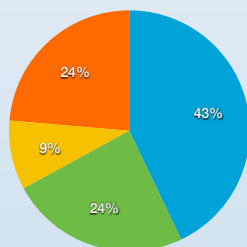


"I learned that it is really important to respect the Earth."

— Ian, Camper, age 5

Statement of Financials

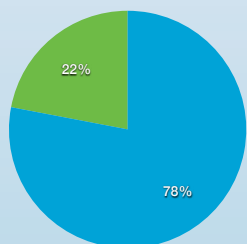
July 2020 – June 2021



SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Total Support and Revenue..... \$345,718

Government Contracts	\$148,318 (43%)
Foundation and Corporate Grants ...	\$83,500 (24%)
Service Revenue	\$32,173 (9%)
Donations	\$81,727 (24%)



EXPENSES

Total Expenses:\$267,914

Program	\$208,973 (78%)
Administration, Development and Fundraising	\$58,941 (22%)

Financial Position as of June 2021

Assets	\$673,587
Liabilities	\$71,466
Net Assets	\$602,121

Thank you to our generous funders and donors in the 2020-2021 School Year!

Foundations, Corporations, Public Agencies, and Other Funders

Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program
Alameda County Fish and Game Commission
Angora Ridge Foundation
Avila and Associates Consulting Engineers, Inc.
Berkeley Garden Club Conservation Committee
Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation
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Individual Donors

WATERSHED ACTIVISTS (\$5,000+)

Ricardo Torres & Nat Damon
Zac and Amy Weinberg
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ESTUARY GUARDIANS (\$2,500)

Kuppe & Shaku Shankar
Leilani Alo*

HABITAT PROTECTORS (\$1,000+)

Daphne & Stuart Wells
Gail, Charles & Nate Entrekin
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Sandra Tsui
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CREEK STEWARDS (\$250+)

Alison & Virgil Rhodius
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Berkeley Garden Club Conservation Committee
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Dennis & Jen Harrison
Jessica Nusbaum & Chris Jannusch
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