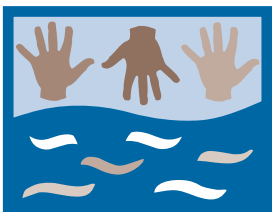


Celebrating our 30 Year Anniversary!



**KIDS for
the BAY**

Celebrating 30 Years!

**2021-2022 School Year
ANNUAL REPORT**

Everyone Is an Environmentalist!

A Message from Mandi Billinge

Executive Director and Founder of KIDS for the BAY



I founded KIDS for the BAY 30 years ago because I wanted to provide opportunities for students in under-resourced schools to connect with nature, explore the world around them, learn hands-on science, and become inspired environmentalists. Since 1992, 100,590 students have graduated from

KIDS for the BAY programs, and 4,039 partner teachers have received curricula, resources, support and training. More than 12,000 parents and caregivers have volunteered as field trip chaperones and environmental stewards to support their childrens' learning.



Current and past KftB staff at a picnic in Tilden Park, Summer 2022

KIDS for the BAY is unique in many ways. Our programs combine **place-based learning** in our partner school classrooms, and outside in the school campus environment, with **walking field trips to local park and creek habitats**. We also provide special bus field trips to **bay shorelines and ocean beaches**. We encourage our students to **connect with nature** in small-sized urban green spaces, as well as in wide open natural spaces. We combine watershed-wide environmental awareness with local, **student-led Environmental Action Projects** that empower our young environmentalists, reduce pollution in school neighborhoods and help protect the entire watershed.

In student-led school wide assemblies, buddy-class presentations and family information events, KIDS for the BAY students teach others how to prevent pollution and practice the Five Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot and Refuse) to protect and steward local watersheds. Our young leaders



Continued on page 3

30 Years of Environmental Education

Inspired Environmentalists

100,590
school students



4,039
partner teachers



12,000
engaged parents

Environmental Impact

36,520
gallons of trash
cleaned up



20,081
native plants planted



35,166
invasive plants removed



KIDS for the BAY has had a **30-year commitment to the values of diversity, equity and inclusion**. We are also a women-founded and led organization, started at a time when there were very few women Executive Directors in the environmental field. **The majority of our current and past staff includes women and people of color**, and many have **become leaders and change agents** in the field of environmental education.

KIDS for the BAY Staff

Mandi Billinge
Executive Director/Founder
Mikayla Martin
Communications/Office Manager
Shay Hart
Education Manager
Corey Chan
Program Coordinator/Environmental Educator
Yvette Diaz Samayoa
Program Coordinator/Environmental Educator
Alix Martin
Program Coordinator/Environmental Educator

KIDS for the BAY Advisory Board Members

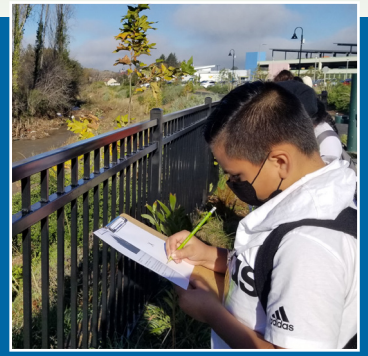
Leilani Alo, Advisory Board President
Kimberly Aguilar
Kate Gallagher
Tiffany Grandstaff
Shefali Shah
Sheela Shankar
Clifford Thompson D.Ed.



KftB staff training at Sausal Creek

also teach others how to safely prepare and cook bay-delta fish to reduce the intake of toxins. They make and distribute green pesticides to use at home and in school gardens to reduce the harmful impacts of toxic pesticides. Our student stewards also help to restore local urban creeks and bay shorelines by planting trees and wildflowers, and by removing invasive plants, trash and waste from watershed habitats. These activities increase ownership of these special places. In our programs, **KIDS for the BAY students become leaders and environmentalists in their schools and families.**

Thanks to our partners and supporters, and thanks to our creativity and adaptability, **KIDS for the BAY has continued to thrive through two world recessions and a global pandemic!** We are extremely thankful to all of our staff, past and present, to our wonderful Advisory Board Members, to our funders and donors, and of course to our students, teachers and families who partner with us. **With your support, we are looking forward to empowering 100,000 more environmentalists in the next thirty years!** We will



also continue our commitment to keep diversity, equity and inclusion at the core of the guiding principles of our work, and to provide environmental education for under-resourced school communities that wouldn't otherwise have these opportunities.

Thank you for your support!

Mandi J. Billinge

Clean California Grant Awarded to the City of Richmond and Local Partners Including KIDS for the BAY!

KIDS for the BAY is a key community partner in an exciting grant-funded project that will enhance local parks and green spaces in the City of Richmond. A big thank you to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), for providing the grant, to the City of Richmond staff, and all the community partners who worked hard to make this amazing opportunity possible!



"KIDS for the BAY is very excited to partner with the City of Richmond and three local elementary schools, Peres, Lincoln and Coronado, in the Clean California Project," said Mandi Billinge, Executive Director and Founder of KIDS for the BAY. **"We look forward to engaging our partner teachers, school students and families in meaningful environmental education experiences, and to working together to keep City neighborhoods, parks and green spaces clean and healthy for everyone to enjoy."**

Donor Spotlight: Alison and Virgil Rhodius

We are so thankful to long-time EverGreen Monthly Donors Alison and Virgil Rhodius! Alison and Virgil have been major donors to KIDS for the BAY for more than 20 years and they were some of our very first monthly donors. We are so thankful for your steadfast support, which is crucial in helping KIDS for the BAY provide equitable access to nature and hands-on environmental science education to students who wouldn't otherwise have these opportunities. Thank you, Alison and Virgil!

"Helping an organization that focuses on environmental issues is very important to us. In this era of climate change, we feel strongly about educating the next generation to help change the issues which impact our environment and climate. Instilling scientific and evidence-based principles in young people is fundamental to both of us, since Virgil is a scientist in bioinformatics and Alison is a professor in applied sport and performance psychology. We have known Mandi for many years and have seen how her continued hard work is impacting the education of under-resourced

communities in the Bay Area. We wholeheartedly support Mandi and KIDS for the BAY!"

**— Alison and
Virgil Rhodius**



IN THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR, KIDS FOR THE BAY PARTNERED WITH 122 TEACHERS AND 3,419 STUDENTS!

Turning Students onto Science

Hands-on Investigations of Bay Animal Adaptations

“An adaptation is like a special skill that helps an organism survive in its habitat,” Aria explained.

Young scientists at Michelle Obama Elementary School in Richmond and Fairmont Elementary School in El Cerrito had the opportunity to closely investigate seaweed, striped bass fish, and Dungeness crabs during their KIDS for the BAY (KftB) watershed lessons, and learn all about bay organism adaptations. KftB Educator Alix Martin came to each class with a very special set of teaching supplies and our young scientists had the opportunity to closely study bay organisms using their senses, ask and answer questions, and record their observations. “The seaweed has thin layers!” exclaimed Adrian studying dried red algae (nori) and rehydrated bull kelp. “When you dry the seaweed, it becomes tougher and harder to rip!” shared Amir. Ms. Alix was excited to talk with students about how fish gills work, what the crab claws might be used for, and the different adaptations each organism had. She was thrilled to see the young scientists figure out many organism adaptations on their own through their investigations.

Students were also eager to talk about food webs and food chains, using examples from our California coastal waters. Third grade student Alexis explained, “Sea otters are important because if they don’t eat sea urchins, the urchins will eat all the kelp.” Ms. Alix shared a chart that illustrated how this imbalance in the food chain would affect the entire kelp forest ecosystem. Everyone agreed that it is so important to protect all bay-ocean species and reduce pollution to protect their unique ecosystems.



“A crab probably uses its pincers as an adaptation to protect itself!”

**— Emmanuel
Third Grade Student,
Michelle Obama Elementary
School, Richmond**

Connecting Students with Nature

In the 2021 - 2022 school year, KIDS for the BAY students went on creek, San Francisco Bay and ocean habitat field trips to:

- Barbara and Jay Vincent Park, Richmond
- Berkeley Marina
- Big Break, Oakley
- Crab Cove, Alameda
- Keller Beach, Richmond
- Martinez Marina
- Muir Beach, Marin County
- Sausal Creek, Oakland
- Strawberry Creek, Berkeley

- Sunol Regional Wilderness
- Walnut Creek Civic Park
- Wildcat Creek, Richmond

Exploring Crab Cove

Do you know what's hiding beneath the rocks, burrowing in the sand and mud, or swimming in the water at Crab Cove in Alameda? Students from Cleveland and New Highland elementary schools in Oakland were so excited to join their KIDS for the BAY Educator, Yvette Diaz Samayoa, for a fun-filled educational field trip experience at this special bay habitat, and discover the answers to these questions.

The field trip began with plankton identification activities. At the brackish water pond, Ms. Yvette demonstrated how to collect samples using a plankton net and vial. Our young scientists then rushed over to the table stations with microscopes, pipettes, and slides, eager to observe the tiny organisms. They were thrilled to discover dinoflagellates and copepods. Studying identification cards, they learned how some plankton photosynthesize, while others are parasitic. Copepods are very important to the ecosystem and a major food source for whales, seabirds, and crustaceans.

The students were very excited to use binoculars and search for birds along the shoreline. They spotted a wide variety of birds, including a marbled godwit, curlews and sandpipers. In their rocky shore investigation, students enjoyed finding crabs of all shapes



and sizes. Megan shared how she enjoyed finding marine pill bugs. Some of our environmentalists even found a beached bat ray.

At the Crab Cove Visitor Center students were excited to learn more about the species they identified and discovered in their natural habitats. They were fascinated by the interactive exhibits and aquariums.



The shark display where they were able to touch shark jaws and skin was especially interesting. They observed an eel, a leopard shark, and hermit crabs up close.

Now our young environmental leaders can return to Crab Cove with their friends and families and share their new knowledge to continue inspiring environmental education and action!

Inspiring Environmental Action

In the 2021 - 2022 school year, KIDS for the BAY environmentalists accomplished the following projects:

- **3,419 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. Our students also made and distributed green pesticides, and led safe bay-delta fish cooking presentations to teach their families how to reduce intake of toxins and protect their health.
- KftB student rangers **cleaned up 3,498 gallons of trash** from their local watershed environments, including school campuses, local parks, creek, bay and ocean habitats.
- KftB student environmentalists **completed 7,036.5 environmental stewardship hours**, cleaning up and protecting the environment we all share, and educating others about protecting the environment.

Student Leaders Teach About Safe Delta Fish Consumption

“Did you know that Mercury, PCB’s and other toxic chemicals can be found in our watershed and can make their way onto our plates and into our bodies?” asked Zachary, a fifth grade student from John Muir Elementary School in Antioch. Zachary was educating his classmates on the risks of consuming toxins when eating delta fish.

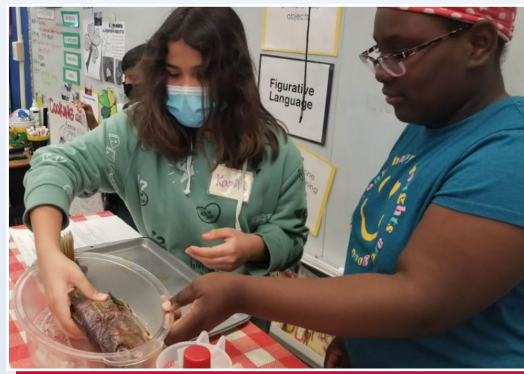
Many of the fourth and fifth grade students in Mrs. Moylan’s and Mrs. Allen’s classes at John Muir Elementary either eat, or know someone who eats, fish from the San Francisco Bay-Delta. After participating in the Watershed Action Program this school year with KIDS for the BAY Educator Corey Chan, students wanted to learn more about the fish in the delta and how to prepare and cook fish to remove as many toxins as possible.

Ms. Corey demonstrated this, with the help of student volunteers. The audience watched and eagerly took notes to prepare for the presentations they would provide for younger classes at their school. Spreading awareness to friends and family about how to safely prepare and cook delta fish to reduce intake of toxins can help reduce environmental health risks. “Which fish are safe to eat depends on the location caught in the bay and the type and size of the fish,” Gio informed his classmates.

Our environmental leaders were excited to help with each step in the demonstration for their own student-led presentations. The first group began by sharing a “toxic sites” map of our watershed. The next group addressed chemicals like Mercury and PCBs that travel up the bay and delta food chain. Emily noted, “Since we are part of the food chain, pollution in our bodies can end up making us sick. People and other top predators get the most pollution through biomagnification since we are at the top of many food chains.”

The classroom became a fish-cooking kitchen when eager students began prepping the ginger sesame soy sauce, steaming the fish and tortillas, and sprinkling seasoning. It was filled with smells of ginger, green onions, lemon, and lime. Lela proudly displayed the rock fish and began explaining how to prepare it to remove as many of the toxins as possible. “Since the organs have been removed, I will now cut holes on each side of the fish which allows the juices containing more toxins in the fat to drain out. After it is cooked we will remove the skin and dark meat to remove more toxins.” Lela seasoned the fish inside and out with salt and garlic powder, and the whole group helped to stuff lemon slices inside. Placing the fish into the steamer, Kamila added, “The steam will cook the fish and the juices and toxins will collect in the bottom.”

After lining up to get their tasty fish tacos, students returned to their desks and could finally satisfy their stomachs. Ariana called out, “My grandma has some competition. This fish is delicious!”



KIDS for the BAY Guardian Award 2022

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.

Debbie Cruger-Hansen and Diane Hoy, Fourth Grade Teachers

KIDS for the BAY is excited to present the 2022 Guardian Award to fourth grade teaching team Debbie Cruger-Hansen and Diane Hoy from Mira Vista School, Richmond. This dynamic duo has been dedicated to teaching KftB programs for over a decade! Every year they work together to ensure that every fourth grade student receives a meaningful experience in environmental education. They have participated in multiple KftB programs throughout their tenure, and have incorporated components from each program into their own curriculum. Whether developing lessons about “Ester the Estuary” or conducting trash cleanup projects with their KftB cleanup kits, they have constantly thought of ways to connect the important environmental concepts learned in the programs to their teaching.



“We love KIDS for the BAY! Incorporating these programs each year has made us better people. It has made us care more about the world and the impact we have on our students. They see us care, and in turn it makes them care. It is really beautiful to watch! Some of our favorite experiences have been with the trash cleanups and the ocean beach field trips. Anytime you can take kids somewhere they’ve never been before and give them a positive educational experience is a win!”

— Debbie Cruger-Hansen and Diane Hoy
Mira Vista School, Richmond

After over 20 years of teaching together, Debbie and Diane recently announced their retirement. Even though they will be gone from Mira Vista, their legacy will carry on through the teachers and students who continue their work.

“It is bittersweet to say we are completing our teaching careers, but we are so thankful that we have been able to do what we love for this long. We are looking forward to seeing new partnerships develop between KftB and Mira Vista with the new teachers that will be coming on board. KftB is amazing and we want everyone to know about it!”

— Debbie Cruger-Hansen and Diane Hoy, Mira Vista Elementary School, Richmond

KIDS for the BAY Past Staff Highlights

Bhavana Mody

During the course of my career, I have had the good fortune to be a teacher in a variety of settings, including environmental education, classroom teaching and mindfulness-based movement! I currently work as a program manager and coach with the Niroga Institute. Our focus at Niroga is mindful movement and self-care with the hope that these practices will serve as beneficial tools for school students and staff in elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the Bay Area and beyond. I love sharing these tools with everyone who’s interested and it’s an honor to be part of the Niroga team informing school wellness and social emotional learning initiatives.

I felt the same pride when I worked at KIDS for the BAY! I loved teaching the most engaging and fun science lessons and bringing awareness to local environmental issues. The three years

I was at KftB were very impactful for me as an educator and as a human on this planet. Alongside the students, I learned about San Francisco Bay flora and fauna, about the bay ecosystem, and the important resource that it is. What I also appreciated about teaching with KftB is that I felt more inclined to practice what I teach! After teaching students about air pollution or the impacts of plastic waste, I found myself considering my environmental footprint more in my everyday life – at the grocery store, in what kind of transportation I used, etc.

While at KftB, I also gained non-profit organizational skills including teacher outreach, writing reports and conducting evaluations. These skills have helped me in my current role at the Niroga Institute. I gained so many professional skills at KftB, but what I absolutely cherished from my time there was having repeated

opportunities to be fully present with kids as we made discoveries in the field and in the classroom together. The contagious joy during these moments was very therapeutic and inspiring for me, and always reminded me to let go of

“what’s next” and focus more on the present. I have so many wonderful memories teaching with KftB but I especially loved it when we carefully peeked under rocks in the creeks and along the bay shoreline and discovered the creatures up close that hid beneath them!



I am thankful and happy that KftB continues to offer such powerful experiences for students in the Bay Area, because now more than ever, kids need this sense of empowerment and inspiration to advocate for themselves, their communities, their flora and fauna and their futures. **Thank you KIDS for the BAY, and keep up the amazing work!**

Summer Camp 2022 Highlights



"This has been our kids' favorite camp! They loved being outside and going to different sites. We really appreciated the environmentalism, and both of my kids loved running around and getting dirty. The ecology theme was awesome and the kids came home with new knowledge."

— Jordan Thompson
Camp Parent



"I LOVED seeing the sea squirts during belly biology!"

— Maddie, Camper



KIDS for the BAY campers, staff and youth leaders had a wonderful summer enjoying the outdoors! We explored beautiful creek, pond, forest, meadow, bay and ocean habitats together, and learned about the special ecosystems of each of our unique locations! Our favorite moments included:

- Discovering green shore crabs hiding under the rocks at low tide
- Meeting reptile friends including a gopher snake and chahoua gecko in a visit with 'Things That Creep'
- Hiking, bird-watching, animal tracking, identifying local species and figuring out their adaptations
- Learning how everything is interconnected in bay and ocean food chains
- Finding tiny bones inside owl pellets and fitting them together into possible prey skeletons
- Making seed balls full of native wildflower seeds to plant and grow at home
- Feeding friendly farm animals including geese, goats and cows at the Little Farm in Tilden Regional Park
- Helping to restore Strawberry Creek on UC Berkeley campus and removing invasive ivy
- Building intricate forts and magical fairy houses in redwood forest groves
- Learning about plant anatomy, eating delicious plant part tacos and investigating carnivorous plants
- Exploring Rodeo Beach and its unique ocean ecosystem on the California coast
- Cleaning up trash and reducing plastic pollution by practicing the Five Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot and Refuse).



"You can really feel the thoughtfulness the Counselors and Leaders in Training had for the kids. Everything and everyone went above and beyond our expectations."

— Dev Heyrana
Camp Parent

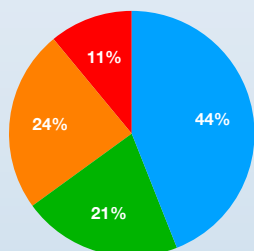


"Since there is so little freshwater for people to drink, we have to make sure to do everything we can to protect what's left!"

— Anna, Camper

Statement of Financials

July 2021 – June 2022



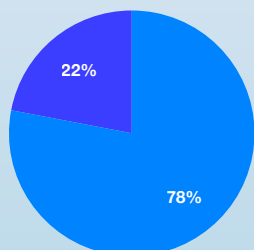
SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Total Support and Revenue **\$436,017**

Government Contracts	\$190,000 (44%)
Foundation and Corporate Grants ...	\$91,500 (21%)
Service Revenue	\$108,384 (24%)
Donations	\$46,133 (11%)

Financial Position as of June, 2022

Assets	\$667,687
Liabilities	\$67,976
Net Assets	\$599,711



EXPENSES

Total Expenses: **\$433,740**

Program	\$338,317 (78%)
Administration, Development and Fundraising	\$95,423 (22%)

Thank you to our generous funders and donors for the 2021-2022 School Year!

Foundations, Corporations, Public Agencies, and Other Funders

Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program
Alameda County Fish and Game Commission
Altamont Education Advisory Board
Angora Ridge Foundation
Avila and Associates Consulting Engineers, Inc.
Berkeley Garden Club Conservation Committee
Cheese Board Pizza Collective
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City of Antioch
City of El Cerrito
City of Hercules
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WATERSHED ACTIVISTS (\$5,000+)

Ricardo Torres & Nat Damon
Zac and Amy Weinberg
(Angora Ridge Foundation)

ESTUARY GUARDIANS (\$2,500)

Gail, Charles and Nate Entrekin
Kuppe and Shaku Shankar

HABITAT PROTECTORS (\$1,000+)

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BAY SPONSORS (\$500+)

Dilip and Purnima Shah
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CREEK STEWARDS (\$250+)

Alison and Virgil Rhodius
Berkeley Garden Club Conservation Committee
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