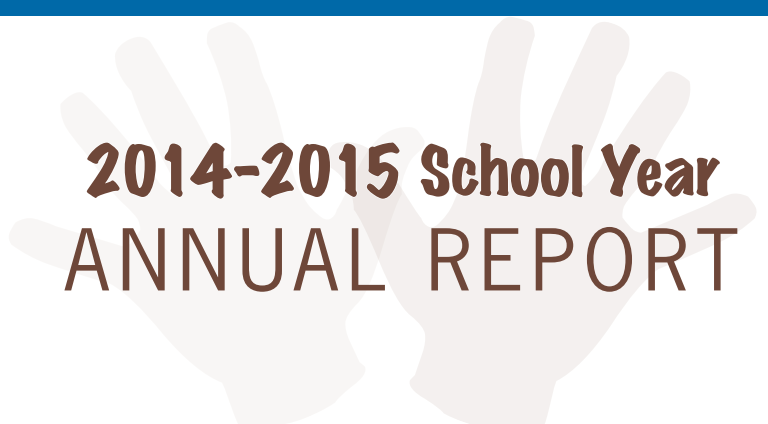


**KIDS for
the BAY**

Environmental education through action

2014-2015 School Year
ANNUAL REPORT



Message from Mandi Billinge

Executive Director and Founder of KIDS for the BAY

Last school year our KIDS for the BAY students cleaned up a **grand total of 46,671 pieces of trash** from their school neighborhoods, local creeks and bay habitats. That is a lot less garbage flowing to our San Francisco Bay watershed thanks to the efforts of these inspiring young people who care so much about our environment!

The impact of our students' efforts was magnified because every student who picked up many pieces of trash themselves also made a pledge with their family members to help reduce storm drain pollution by not littering and by picking up trash in their neighborhood. In addition, many classes of students joined together to deliver an Environmental Action Project, which educated their school communities about reducing trash.

Our third graders from Fairmont Elementary School in El Cerrito set up Educational Stations and taught their kindergarten buddy class all about the local watershed, the storm drain system and the harmful impacts of marine debris. Then the eager kindergarteners joined their third grade buddies for a School Campus Clean-Up Event! Educational videos,

puppet shows and School Wide Assemblies led by KIDS for the BAY students also helped to spread the word about the importance of keeping our environment clean and free of garbage.

Why is this message to clean up trash and prevent litter so important? Did you know that a huge concentration of trash, known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, estimated to be about the size of the State of Texas, floats in the Pacific Ocean? Most of the debris in this patch is small particles of plastic – plastic soup. This "soup" originated from larger pieces of plastic that were broken down by photodegradation, leaking toxic chemicals into the ocean in

the process. Eighty percent of the larger pieces of plastic originated from urban areas where people dropped plastic litter that washed into storm drains, creeks and bays and made its way to the ocean.

The Garbage Patch is growing at an alarming rate and is a huge feeding ground for many marine animals, routinely mistaking



Above: from www.neuroresearchproject.com/2013/02/21/death-by-plastic
Left: from www.dailytwocents.com/animal-abuse-video-exposes-marine-debris

"I know one person who stopped littering because of the Storm Drain Rangers program. That person is me!"

— Maria, Fifth Grade Student, Hirsch Elementary School, Fremont

"I have always been an Environmentalist, but this [KIDS for the BAY] program has changed the way I look at trash. I used to pick up only the large pieces; now I notice all the tiny pieces too and realize how important it is to pick them up as well."

— Rhonda Spencer, Fourth Grade Teacher, McKinley Elementary School, San Leandro

"My Dad watched the Assembly and learned about zero-waste lunches. He now packs me lunch in reusable containers instead of plastic bags."

— Fourth Grade Student, Tom Kitayama Elementary School, Union City

plastics for food. More than a million seabirds, whales, seals and turtles, and countless fish are killed by plastic marine debris each year. These deaths occur through entanglement, suffocation and starvation by ingestion.

KIDS for the BAY students care about their local environment and cleaning up the trash in their school neighborhoods, and they care about the animals that

can potentially be harmed by this trash many miles away in the Pacific Ocean. Our partner teachers also care deeply about the environment and they are the key to

continuing the education of many more generations of school students who will become Inspired Environmentalists.

KIDS for the BAY is calling for everyone in our community to join us in the battle against trash and ensure a cleaner environment for all. Thank you to our school students, our Summer Camp children, our partner teachers and our funders and donors for your support in reducing trash and preventing marine debris!

Mandi J. Billinge

KIDS for the BAY Staff 2014-2015 School Year

Mandi Billinge, Executive Director/Founder
Daniela Jaramillo, Development and Communications Manager
Kimberly Aguilar, Program Manager
Alicia Thompson, Program Coordinator
Aislinn Sterling, Program Coordinator
John Greiling, Program Coordinator

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Mary Pueringer
Sumana Rao
Annika Rudback
Shefali Shah
Sheela Shankar



IN THE 2014 – 2015 SCHOOL YEAR, KIDS for the BAY:

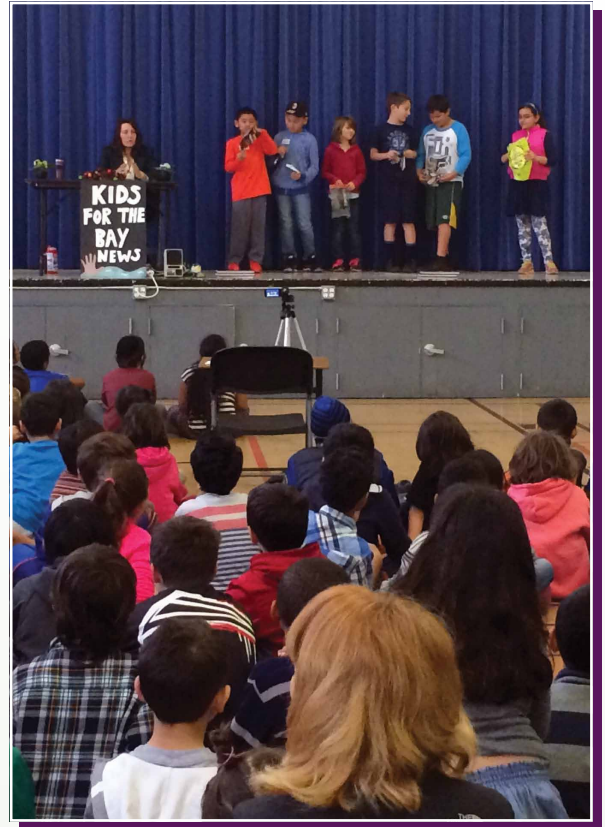
Expanded Our Storm Drain Rangers Program To Include Entire School Communities!

For many years our Storm Drain Rangers Program has engaged teachers, students and their families in learning about their local watershed, how it is connected to the larger San Francisco Bay watershed and how they can take personal action to reduce urban runoff pollution. In the 2014-2015 school year, we added a school-wide component to the program, which enabled KIDS for the

BAY to reach many more Inspired Environmentalists! Participating Storm Drain Rangers students became environmental leaders in their communities. They helped lead School-Wide Assemblies to teach their entire school communities how to prevent trash from getting into the storm drain system by packing no-waste lunches and by participating in School Wide Campus Clean-Up Projects.

“I was so pleased to see the Assembly and watch how involved the audience was. Students care about animals and now have a way to help them by reducing litter.”

— Jaguanana Lathan, Principal,
Anna Yates Elementary
School, Emeryville



Focused on Reducing Marine Debris

KIDS for the BAY students love to take action for their watershed! We are proud to report that **our students cleaned up 46,671 pieces of trash in the 2014-**

2015 school year! Our environmental education programs include easy solutions to effectively reduce trash in school communities. Packing a no-waste lunch and participating in clean-ups in the school neighborhood and on creek, bay and ocean Field Trips are some of the ways in which our Inspired Environmentalists make a difference. They are motivated by the knowledge of how trash harms animals and degrades the health of urban and natural environments. We are excited to continue this important work to reach the next generation of Inspired Environmentalists and protect our local environment.

Created a New Partnership with the Environment, Health and Safety Department at the University of California, Berkeley

KIDS for the BAY and the Environment, Health and Safety Department at the University of California at Berkeley (UC Berkeley) have created an exciting new partnership to deliver our Watershed Action Program to elementary schools in the City of Berkeley. The new program, partly funded by the UC Berkeley Chancellor’s Community Partnership Fund, will engage UC Berkeley students as KIDS for the BAY Interns who will have the opportunity to learn environmental education teaching techniques. Three Interns will help to deliver the Watershed Action Program focusing on Strawberry Creek. The program will partner with Berkeley Elementary Schools and will include Strawberry Creek restoration projects and hands-on science focusing on the ecology of the creek and environmental issues affecting the local watershed.

IN THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR, KIDS FOR THE BAY DELIVERED PROGRAMS TO 4,758 SCHOOL STUDENTS AND 147 TEACHERS

Turning School Students on to Science



Investigating Plankton at Crab Cove

KIDS for the BAY (KftB) Inspired Environmentalists love using scientific equipment in the field! Students from Franklin Elementary School in Oakland were thrilled to arrive at Crab Cove for their Field Trip. They were excited to see microscopes and learn that they would be using them to observe plankton. KftB Instructor Alicia Thompson showed students how to collect live plankton from the on-site lagoon and put droplets of plankton-filled water on microscope slides. "There are things moving in here!" Brian exclaimed when he looked into the microscope for the first time. "Wow! I never thought I would be able to see this!" Students identified the plankton in their microscopes using a KftB field guide. "I think we have a copepod!" said Michael. Just like real scientists, our Inspired Environmentalists drew and labeled amazing pictures of their plankton in their Field Trip Journals.



Inspiring Environmental Action

Educational Stations Event

Fairmont Elementary School students from El Cerrito were eager to spread their knowledge to the rest of the school for their Action Project. Mrs. Umoru's third grade class held a special event; her students broke into small groups and led educational lessons for a kindergarten buddy class. The third grade students created five stations, each focusing on a different environmental topic. Topics included the watershed, estuary studies, marine debris, food chains, and a campus clean-up. The kindergarten class was broken into similarly small groups that rotated through the environmental stations. Mrs. Umoru's students taught all of the lessons themselves and created the scripts and visual aids. The event was a

"This was a fantastic event. The students designed it all themselves and came up with their own ideas for the stations. I was only planning on four topics, but they insisted that we have five and cover more material. It has been a wonderful experience seeing how much they have learned from the Watershed Action Program, and how eager they are to teach others the information."

— Karley Umoru, Third Grade Teacher, Fairmont Elementary School, El Cerrito

huge success, and all classes learned a lot from the experience.

KIDS for the BAY Instructor Alicia Thompson enjoyed watching our Watershed Action Program students teach other children about the importance of a healthy environment. She attended the event, observed all of the stations and helped with questions. At the marine debris station she watched the third graders teach about storm drains, and how they can become trash highways leading to the ocean and its inhabitants. One kindergartener named Aiden asked one of the third graders, "How do

storm drains kill animals?" A third grader named Dakarey quickly answered him, "They don't; the trash kills the animals. The storm drain just leads the trash there." "Yes, the animal thinks that it is eating food, but it is actually eating trash that came from the storm drains," Sequoia helped explain. Moments like this occurred throughout the day, and both Mrs. Umoru and



Ms. Thompson were extremely proud of the WAP students for retaining so much information during their lessons, and for becoming such passionate environmental stewards.

"I enjoyed teaching the younger kids during our Action Project. But my favorite part was watching you [KftB Instructor Alicia Thompson] teach. This was what gave us the confidence and knowledge to be able to share the lessons with others."

— Jordon, Third Grade Student, Fairmont Elementary School, El Cerrito

In the 2014-2015 school year, KIDS for the BAY students took action to:

- Plant creek-side native plants
- Create and display educational posters about environmental problems
- Set up educational stations to teach younger students about environmental issues
- Make environmentally friendly pesticides with natural ingredients
- Present puppet shows about the dangers of marine debris
- Lead Safe Bay Food Consumption Workshops
- Complete school, neighborhood and watershed habitat clean-ups
- Lead School-Wide Assemblies about reducing trash and storm drain pollution

Connecting Students with Nature

Kimball Elementary Students to Brannan Island

Fourth graders from Kimball Elementary School in Antioch had a wonderful time during their Field Trip to Brannan Island State Recreation Area. Most students had never been to Brannan Island before, even though it is so close to their school, and the Watershed Action Program offered them a unique opportunity to visit this special place.

KIDS for the BAY Instructor John Greiling led students on a wilderness hiking adventure through the grasslands in search of signs of wildlife. Birds soared overhead and students enjoyed identifying them. They were also very excited to catch glimpses of wild jack rabbits. During their hike, the class stumbled upon a variety of animal droppings, and made hypotheses about which animals may have left them. "This one is big! Maybe this is from a bobcat or a mountain lion!" one student exclaimed. When the hike was over and all the students were eating lunch, one student told another, "I saw a jack rabbit with tall ears, an American Crow, a Red-Winged Blackbird, a Turkey Vulture, and a Red-Tailed Hawk!" "Wow, I hope I get to see all that cool stuff too!" the other student responded.

KftB Instructor Alicia Thompson led students in a water investigation activity. She began by wading through the river with a large plankton net, capturing the tiny organisms

"The students have a much better understanding of the water system around us and the impact of pollution on it. The Watershed Action Program really connected to our curriculum and also helped the students understand the concepts."

— Denise Lambert, Fourth Grade Teacher, Kimball Elementary School, Antioch



in a bottle. Students used microscopes to investigate the plankton. "Wow, I can see all sorts of things moving in here!" exclaimed Ivory. "I never knew one droplet of water could have so much stuff in it!" Students used plankton guides to identify phytoplankton and zooplankton.

Students used hydrometers to measure the difference in salinity between fresh water, delta water, and bay water. This went hand-in-hand with Classroom Lessons on bay-estuary water science, and it was a wonderful opportunity for students to experiment with the various water types.

In the 2014-2015 school year, KIDS for the BAY students went on Field Trips to local creek, San Francisco Bay/Delta and ocean habitats including:

- Berkeley Marina
- Brannan Island, Antioch
- Crab Cove, Alameda
- Martinez Shoreline
- Muir Beach, Marin County
- Sausal Creek, Oakland
- Strawberry Creek, Berkeley
- Wildcat Creek, Richmond



Above: from www.city-data.com

Creating a Lasting Impact

KIDS for the BAY Program Manager Kimberly Aguilar Becomes a Classroom Teacher in Oakland Unified School District!



Kimberly Aguilar brought her passion for the environment, scientific knowledge, cultural literacy, and inspiring teaching skills to her work at KIDS for the BAY for three great years! She now moves on to her new adventure as a classroom teacher in a bilingual third grade classroom at New Highland Elementary School in the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD).

Kim is excited to join the ranks of one of the most diverse school districts in the nation. OUSD has a Latino student population of 39.3% and a Latino teacher population of only 13.3%. 30.6% of students are English Language Learners. Kim has learned from her experience at KftB how important it is for students to have a role model with whom they can identify and a teacher who can communicate effectively with them and inspire a love of learning through engaging, hands on activities. We are happy for Kim to move on to this new opportunity and we wish her all the best!

"In many ways KIDS for the BAY (KftB) has helped prepare me for my new position as a classroom teacher. In my time with KftB, I taught our programs in over fifty classrooms. Observing other classroom teachers has been an invaluable opportunity to help me reflect on my own teaching and grow from what I learned. I learned how to adapt my lessons so that I can reach children of all learning styles. I also learned how to create engaging curricula that includes modeling for students and hands-on activities. Thank you KIDS for the BAY for giving me the opportunity to grow as a teacher and share my passion with the community."

— Kimberly Aguilar, Program Manager, KIDS for the BAY, 2012 - 2015

KIDS for the BAY Guardian Awards

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.

Ms. Jenna Krier and Mrs. Susie Krier John Green Elementary School, Dublin

Jenna Krier, a fourth grade teacher at John Green Elementary School in Dublin, was attracted to KIDS for the BAY's Watershed Action Program (WAP) the first time she heard about it. Three years later, she still loves the program and has now brought it to hundreds of students in Dublin.

During her third year teaching the WAP, Ms. Krier inquired about any new KftB programs that she could introduce to her school, and we offered her our School Wide Storm Rangers Program (SDR). Ms. Jenna Krier was thrilled to learn about the new program and recruited her cousin and fellow fourth grade teacher at John Green, Mrs. Susie Krier, to partner with KftB as well.

The two teachers were a powerful fourth grade duo at John Green School. They each observed the SDR lessons taught to their classes by KftB Instructor Alicia Thompson and then led the lessons twice a week to other fourth grade classes. Due to the teachers' amazing efforts, four additional fourth grade classes at John Green Elementary were able to participate in the SDR program.

Mrs. and Ms. Krier selected six students from every fourth grade class to participate in the School-Wide Assembly. Parents

and friends joined over 700 students for the assembly! Both Ms. and Mrs. Krier played key roles, portraying a sea turtle or a whale harmed by marine debris. Students of all ages loved seeing their teachers on stage, connecting with them in their quest for a better environment.



Throughout their participation in KIDS for the BAY programs, Jenna and Susie Krier were exceptional teachers and environmental stewards. They have been gifted a Follow-Up Program Kit, providing them with all of the equipment they need to teach the Storm Drain Rangers and Watershed Action Programs for years to come. We thank them for their support and continued dedication to environmental education!



Summer Camp

Hands-on science and nature exploration

A new adventure awaited KIDS for the BAY campers each morning this summer. Every day of camp was filled with hands-on science learning and exploration. Some special experiences included:

- Creating nature art at Rodeo Beach
- Helping to restore Strawberry Creek
- Kayaking on the bay
- Discovering crabs, limpets and barnacles along the bay's rocky shore
- Participating in environmental clean-up activities
- Visiting the Aquarium of the Bay
- Identifying aquatic invertebrates in pond and creek habitats
- Playing in the water at Lake Anza
- Camping at Samuel P. Taylor State Park

"By far, the best camp of the summer for both our boys! Great experiences, great camp leaders, lots of learning — just awesome all the way around! We were amazed at how much the kids learned and experienced every single day!"

— Lesly Elle Brandt,
Camp Mom, 2015

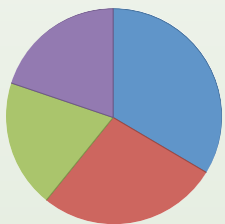
"Cleaning up Strawberry Creek helps every living thing. Helping the animals helps us too. The animals are important for us, and we need to thank them."

— Gio, Camper, 2015



Statement of Financials 2014

January 2014 – December 2014



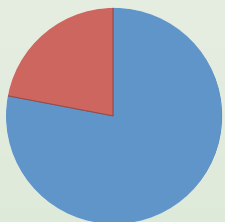
SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Total Support and Revenue..... \$502,344

- Foundation and Corporate Grants ... \$168,213 (33%)
- Government Contracts \$137,281 (27.5%)
- Donations \$97,372 (19.5%)
- Service Revenue..... \$99,478 (20%)

Financial Position as of December 2014

Assets \$590,860
Liabilities \$7,545
Net Assets \$583,315



EXPENSES

Total Expenses: \$471,737

- Program \$367,955 (78%)
- Administration, Development and Fundraising \$103,782 (22%)

Thank you to our generous funders and donors in 2014!

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Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program
Anonymous Donor – San Francisco Bay Area
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