

**KIDS for
the BAY**

Environmental education through action

**2015-2016 School Year
ANNUAL REPORT**

Message from Mandi Billinge

Executive Director and Founder of KIDS for the BAY

KIDS for the BAY is preparing to celebrate an important milestone! In October 2017, we will celebrate our 25 Year Anniversary! Now in our 24th year of operation, it is exciting to reflect on how far we have come in our work and the significant impact we have made, as well as to look ahead to exciting new developments!

Since 1992, KIDS for the BAY has:

- Engaged **77,178 students** and more than **10,000 parents** in environmental education programs; and
- Provided curricula, resources, and training to **3,220 teachers**.

Since 1992,
**KIDS for the BAY student, teacher,
and family participants have:**



Cleaned up 26,620 gallons of trash from school neighborhoods and local creek and bay habitats,

Planted 18,953 native plants in creek and bay habitats, and



Removed 31,528 invasive plants from creek and bay habitats.

Yet we are always looking ahead to the greater impact we can deliver and for new and innovative ways to meet our four key goals:

- 1 connect school students with nature,
- 2 turn students on to hands-on science learning,
- 3 empower students to take environmental action, and
- 4 create a lasting impact.

In the 2016 – 2017 school year, we will roll out two new Programs for Schools. Our Community Building Fall Field Trips will provide the opportunity for classes of students and their teachers to begin the new school year by developing team spirit and learning to care for one another and the environment. No need for an expensive residential program—classes can meet the KIDS for the BAY Instructor at a local park of their choice for the day!

Our new Schoolwide Science and Environmental Action Program will engage entire school communities in learning about the unique San Francisco Bay estuary watershed and the creek, bay, and ocean habitats connected with it. Schools will take action to reduce plastic marine debris, practice the Five Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot, and Refuse), engage in Zero-Waste Lunch efforts, and conserve precious water resources!

In 2016, KIDS for the BAY was thrilled to be voted “BEST of the Bay 2016” by the Parents Press community for our exciting and engaging Summer Camp. Last summer, our campers enjoyed exploring creek, bay, and ocean habitats, swimming in lakes, studying ponds, hiking, kayaking, science experiments, overnight camping adventures, and more! Our new Leaders-in-Training program was a huge hit, with many creative 11 – 14 year olds joining our camp as mentors and playmates for our younger campers.

Be sure to check out our new website, which has a beautiful new design and easy online registration for partner teachers, Summer Camp families, and of course our wonderful donors and supporters. We hope you will find the new site to be clear and easy to navigate.

Thank you to our partners, funders, and donors for all your support for our work for the past 24 years. We look forward to celebrating our 25 Year Anniversary with you next year!

Mandi J. Billinge

KIDS for the BAY Staff

Mandi Billinge, *Executive Director/Founder*
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Joanna Hoffman, *Program Manager*
Aislinn Sterling, *Program Manager*
Andrew Patel, *Program Coordinator*
Cayla Naranjo, *Program Coordinator*

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Jessica Nusbaum
Annika Rudback
Shefali Shah
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A Project of



IN THE 2015 – 2016 SCHOOL YEAR:

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



Thank you to all of our wonderful supporters who voted us "BEST of the BAY 2016" with Parents Press! We are honored to be chosen for this award by our community. We have had so much fun engaging children in hands-on science, exploring in nature, and taking care of the environment for the past 16 years of our Summer Camp. We really appreciate this recognition and support for our work!

"Alison was SO excited to meet other campers who were interested in science. The camp staff were fabulous. You could tell they were excited and committed to teaching science!"
— Cindy, Camper Parent, 2016

KftB Students Cleaned Up 1,358 Gallons of Trash!

Inspired by the knowledge that trash travels to the ocean and harms animals, our students took action to clean up their neighborhoods and local watershed habitats. Armed with reusable trash and recycling bags, tongs for picking up trash, and clipboards and worksheets to record what they found, students worked hard to clean up 74,758 pieces of trash (1,358 gallons) from school campuses and creek, bay, and ocean habitats. Students also learned about ways to reduce trash in their personal lives, including packing Zero-Waste Lunches in reusable containers, refusing straws at restaurants, and using cloth bags for grocery shopping.



"I'm proud of my class, because we helped save animals' lives. We saved them by cleaning up 1,433 pieces of trash!"
— Zolly, Third Grade Student, Berkeley Arts Magnet School, Berkeley



Donor Spotlight: Zac, Amy, and Owen Weinberg



We would like to thank Zac, Amy, and Owen Weinberg of The Angora Ridge Foundation for their support over the past three years and for their pledge to make an increased, personally significant donation every year for the next three years! Their support is so important in helping KIDS for the BAY bring environmental programs to students who would not otherwise have this opportunity.

"Throughout our relationship with KIDS for the BAY, we have been impressed with their ability to bring thoughtful and engaging environmental education into the classroom and provide kids the opportunity to get outside and explore their natural surroundings. Their programs empower our youth to care for their surrounding environment and share their newly gained knowledge with friends and family. KIDS for the BAY is truly making an impact in our community!"
— Zac, Amy, and Owen Weinberg, The Angora Ridge Foundation

IN THE 2015 – 2016 SCHOOL YEAR, KIDS FOR THE BAY DELIVERED PROGRAMS TO 4,081 SCHOOL STUDENTS AND 143 TEACHERS

Turning Students onto Science

How Do Pesticides Impact Our Environment?

Did you know that Americans use 2.2 billion pounds of pesticides each year? Third graders from Strandwood Elementary School in Pleasant Hill built watershed models to find out where these pesticides, used on our farms and gardens, go! Jacob predicted that the pesticides would stay on the crops and gravel, while another student, Kai, argued that

“Through biomagnification, the pesticides eventually end up in us – and that’s pretty scary!”

— *Jacob, Third Grade Student, Strandwood Elementary School, Pleasant Hill*

the water would wash the pesticides through the gravel and that they would end up in the creek. As the students poured water over their models, they discovered

that when it rains, the chemicals seep into the groundwater and then flow to creeks, the bay, and the ocean. Daniel said, “It was so helpful to actually see how rain washes the pesticides away and then how they end up in our creeks.” Lucas added, “Pesticides hurt bay fish, seaweed, and crabs like the ones we investigated last week!” To reduce pesticide use, students were excited to come up with ideas such as making non-toxic pesticide sprays and buying organic food!



Inspiring Environmental Action

In the 2015 – 2016 school year, KIDS for the BAY students:

- Cleaned up 74,758 pieces of trash (1,358 gallons) from schools, creek, bay, and ocean habitats;
- Led Schoolwide Assemblies educating 3,000 additional students about the importance of reducing waste, trash, and marine debris and about using the Five Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot, and Refuse);
- Made and distributed green pesticides;
- Planted native plants and removed invasive plants to help restore Strawberry Creek in Berkeley and Wildcat Creek in Richmond; and
- Educated their families about health precautions to use when fishing and consuming fish from the San Francisco Bay/Delta.

Safe Delta Fish Cooking Demonstration

Many families at Belshaw Elementary School fish in the delta, so third grade students participating in our Watershed Action Program decided that it would be important to teach their families about how to safely eat delta fish! When asked why there are more toxins in a rockfish than in plankton, Aaleyah explained, “The little fish eat the plankton and the toxins, and then the bigger fish eat the little fish. That’s how toxins build up as you go higher up the food chain.” Kathy added, “By the time humans eat the fish, it may be full of toxins.” Natalie shared, “By doing this demonstration for our friends and family, we are

keeping them healthy. If they know which fish have more toxins, maybe they will make different choices.” Gael agreed, “We now know that pesticides, mercury, and PCBs are stored in the fat, skin, and organs of fish. If we share that information with others, they will know to cut these parts off – we can show them how!”

Twenty-two family members attended the student-led presentation. Olivia’s mother shared, “She has been practicing day and night! She loves this program and keeps sharing the information with us.” The students educated their families about the dangers of mercury, PCBs, and pesticides, all of which are found in delta fish. They also shared where these toxins are stored in the fish, and how to remove those parts of the fish to reduce exposure. Cyrus explained to the audience, “We are not telling you these things to scare



you. I fish in the delta with my family, and I just want to keep them safe and healthy.” Once the fish was cooked, Gael, Thomas, and Koni pulled the cooked, white fillet off the bones and mixed it with sauce, which Aaleyah promised the parents would be, “the best sauce they will ever try!” The students excitedly passed out samples to the parents, and the room was filled with “yums!” as everyone enjoyed a tasty and healthy fish snack.

“I overheard many parents saying that they didn’t know any of this information before, and they were so impressed that their kids could share it and really understand the content.”

— *Terri Carson, Grandmother Chaperone, Belshaw Elementary School, Antioch*

Connecting Students with Nature

In the 2015 – 2016 school year, KIDS for the BAY students went on Field Trips to local creek, San Francisco Bay/Delta, and ocean habitats:

- Berkeley Marina
- Cerrito Creek, El Cerrito
- Martinez Marina
- Muir Beach, Marin County
- Richmond Shoreline
- Sausal Creek, Oakland
- Slide Ranch, Marin County
- Strawberry Creek, Berkeley
- Wildcat Creek, Richmond

Exploring Cerrito Creek

The section of Cerrito Creek near Harding Elementary School in El Cerrito is hidden behind a shopping center and flows through a parking lot! Students were initially a little skeptical about going on a Field Trip there, but they soon discovered beautiful plants and fascinating animals that make this creek their home!

KIDS for the BAY Instructor Cayla Naranjo announced, “Today we are going to investigate the creek for animals called invertebrates. But what’s an invertebrate?” Keon raised his hand and shared, “It’s an animal that has no backbone. We are not invertebrates; we are vertebrates

because we have backbones.” Students studied identification guides of invertebrates that they might find in the water, including mayfly nymphs, stonefly nymphs, water striders, and gilled snails. They discussed the special characteristics and adaptations of these animals and then learned how to carefully collect and study them.

Using dip nets and field microscopes, the students discovered a variety of aquatic invertebrates! Roberto lifted a rock and found a giant night crawler. Mateo was delighted to show the class a baby crayfish that was on one of his rocks. Students also went on a plant scavenger hunt along the creek, where they found California bay laurel, California buckeye, and yarrow. Marta said, “If there are many different kinds of plants, then many different kinds of animals can live here too.” Vanessa added, “And different animals can camouflage to look like different plants!”



“I feel like I am learning so much from this trip! This is great that our children have this opportunity to explore their neighborhood.”

— Victoria, Parent Chaperone, Harding Elementary School, El Cerrito

“I can’t wait to bring my little brother here. It’s so cool! And it’s basically our backyard!”

— Roberto, Third Grade Student, Harding Elementary School, El Cerrito

Tidepool Adventures at Slide Ranch

“This is the most beautiful place ever!” exclaimed Emily, as she and her classmates climbed off the yellow school bus at Slide Ranch in Marin County. Their destination was an exciting KIDS for the BAY Field Trip – tide pooling at the Pacific Ocean! For Emily and her classmates, third graders from Community United Elementary School in Oakland, this was a first time ever experience for many students to meet the ocean, discover bright green sea anemones, gently touch blue mussels, and connect with nature in a truly unique environment.

As the students walked down the cliff to the rocky ocean shore, Rodolfo shared, “I really want to see a sea star.” Aniah added, “I hope we see crabs like the ones we saw in class!” Students quickly discovered limpets, barnacles, purple ochre sea stars, and shoreline crabs. Jennali found



“I just want to come back! I want to see this place again, it’s amazing!”

— Erika, Third Grade Student, Community United Elementary School, Oakland

a green sea anemone, “Oh wow, it’s amazing! It feels squishy and it’s blending into the rock,” she observed. Yahya was excited that he found a crab: “Look how fast it moves! What a cool animal!” Kei’Mora shared, “I never knew so many animals lived here! I will always remember them.”

An important focus of KIDS for the BAY is reducing plastic marine debris. Students were excited to clean up trash on the beach to help protect the animals they had just been studying. Emily explained, “We have to pick up the little pieces too, because animals eat trash without knowing that it’s trash! We can’t throw trash on the ground ever, because we know that the trash will end up in the ocean!” At the end of their Field Trip, the

students were sad to leave Slide Ranch. Third grade teacher Ms. Anh Nguyen Delos Reyes shared, “This was a really special trip for all of us!”

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.



Mira Vista School teachers and principal accept their Guardian Award from Executive Director Mandi Billinge.

Mira Vista School, Richmond

KIDS for the BAY presented the entire Mira Vista elementary school community with the 2016 KIDS for the BAY Guardian Award, honoring their dedication to protecting and restoring the San Francisco Bay watershed. Twenty teachers and 480 students from Mira Vista School participated for three years in the School Wide Watershed Action Program with KIDS for the BAY!

"Science is often the lost subject in elementary schools. It is very valuable to have KIDS for the BAY come in and help us not only teach science but take it to another level by giving students meaningful hands-on experiences with their local environment and ensuring that they become part of preservation efforts."

*— Gabriel Chilcott, Principal,
Mira Vista School, Richmond*

Marcia Gill and Serena Kielty, Paden Elementary School, Alameda

KIDS for the BAY honored these two teachers for their commitment to delivering the Watershed Action Program to over 300 students for the past seven years! "The Watershed Action Program **IS** our science curriculum!" shared Ms. Gill. "The program encourages a lot of discussion and hands-on activity. It starts with empowering the students to identify themselves as scientists. Their curiosities are stoked because they have real things to investigate right in front of them." Ms. Kielty added, "So many critical thinking questions naturally arise. Students find evidence in a hands-on way to explain their arguments about adaptations, pollution, and more. This is so aligned with Common Core reasoning."

"The KIDS for the BAY curriculum fits perfectly with how we are growing as a school, and we will continue to use this program!"

*— Marcia Gill, Third Grade Teacher,
Paden Elementary School, Alameda*



Marcia Gill (left) and Serena Kielty (right) accept their Guardian Awards.



Annika Rudback (left) accepts her Guardian Award from Executive Director Mandi Billinge.

Annika Rudback, Greenleaf Elementary School, Oakland

Annika Rudback has been teaching the Watershed Action Program to her students for the past four years! She has also recruited teachers in her grade-level team to join her in teaching the program. Ms. Rudback shared, "I have seen firsthand the impact of the Watershed Action Program. From the highly engaging Classroom Lessons that allow students to investigate and understand our watershed, to the Action Project that helps them become advocates for the environment, KIDS for the BAY is always one of my students' favorite parts of the school year. As a teacher, I love the program because it is an invaluable curricula resource that targets grade-level standards for science and social studies.

But most importantly, I've seen my students share what they have learned with our school community and their families with genuine enthusiasm and knowledge." Thank you Ms. Rudback for your dedication to providing your students with hands-on science and environmental action opportunities through the Watershed Action Program!

"I had the great luck to have KIDS for the BAY in my classroom my first year teaching, where I was provided with modules for teaching the lessons and had the chance to watch the implementation firsthand in my classroom and in the field. Every year since then, I have taught the Watershed Action Program to my students with the ongoing support of the KIDS for the BAY program staff and the resources they provide."

*— Annika Rudback, Fourth Grade Teacher,
Greenleaf Elementary School, Oakland*



Summer Camp

Hands-on science and nature exploration

KIDS for the BAY campers had so much fun this summer exploring the bay and learning about the different habitats that make the Bay Area special! Some of their favorite experiences included:

- Cooking s'mores over a campfire at Samuel P. Taylor Park;
- Dipping their toes in the water at Muir Beach;
- Observing mussels and sea sponges during Belly Biology;
- Meeting hawks, snakes, and owls at The Lindsey Wildlife Experience;
- Hiking around Lake Anza; and
- Removing invasive ivy to help restore Strawberry Creek.

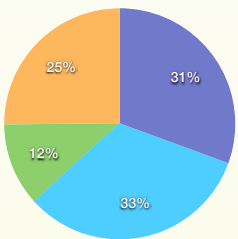
"I never noticed that all of this wildlife lives in the bay before. It's so amazing!"
— Nunzio, Camper, 2016

"I will never forget making new friends while kayaking!"
— Indy, Camper, 2016



Statement of Financials

July 2015 – June 2016



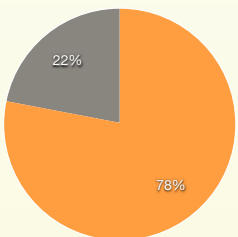
SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Total Support and Revenue..... \$427,440

- Foundation and Corporate Grants ... \$130,820 (30%)
- Government Contracts \$139,308 (33%)
- Donations \$49,646 (12%)
- Service Revenue..... \$107,666 (25%)

Financial Position as of June 2016

Assets \$499,246
Liabilities \$45,915
Net Assets \$455,830



EXPENSES

Total Expenses: \$476,092

- Program \$371,352 (78%)
- Administration, Development and Fundraising \$104,740 (22%)

Thank you to our generous funders and donors in the 2015 – 2016 School Year!

Foundations, Corporations, Public Agencies, and Other Funders

Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program
Alameda County Fish and Game
California Coastal Commission –
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