

**KIDS for
the BAY**

Environmental education through action

**2018-2019 School Year
ANNUAL REPORT**

A Message from Mandi Billinge

Executive Director and Founder of KIDS for the BAY



KIDS for the BAY is thrilled to launch our Blue Watershed Classrooms Program

in the current 2019 – 2020 school year! This new teacher follow-up program will inspire and support our partner teachers in developing watershed-friendly, Zero-Waste classroom communities, and engaging their school students and

families in working together to help the environment. Blue Watershed Classrooms will be offered to teachers who have previously participated in our programs. KIDS for the BAY will develop a growing network of Blue Watershed Classroom communities throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

The Blue Watershed Classroom Program includes:

- Engaging Classroom Lessons focusing on our unique San Francisco Bay watershed and how we are all connected to this special environment
- School campus and neighborhood trash clean-up projects
- Important, everyday classroom changes to reduce trash and waste
- Five Rs projects (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot and Refuse)
- Nature-based Field Trips with trash clean-up projects
- Schoolwide outreach projects to engage entire school communities.

Trash and waste, especially plastic trash and waste, is a growing pollution problem in our urban creek waterways, in the San Francisco Bay and in the Pacific Ocean. Macro and micro plastics seriously impact the health of all organisms and contribute to the deaths of aquatic life in our watersheds. Plastic pollution accumulates on beaches and in the open water and kills animals by ingestion, entanglement and suffocation. Plastic leaches



harmful chemicals into ground water, breaks down into microscopic particles and infiltrates food chains. One example of the harmful impacts of plastic pollution is Bisphenol A (BPA), a toxic bi-product of the break down of plastic. BPA is present in many hard plastics that we use every day. It also leaches into food and water supplies and humans and other organisms are widely exposed to it.

Exposure to BPA is linked to reproductive disorders, heart disease and cancer.

Plastic is cheap, durable and over-used, but there are alternatives to this highly toxic, polluting product. Teachers and students in Blue Watershed Classrooms (BWC) will learn how we are all connected with the watershed we live and go to school in and how we can reduce pollution to this watershed, especially by reducing plastic trash and waste. BWC students will educate their families, buddy classes and even their entire school communities about reducing plastic trash and waste. BWC partner teachers will engage students and families in their efforts to strive for Zero-Waste in all aspects of classroom and family life. A new generation of environmentally conscious citizens and consumers will put pressure on industry to find new and creative ways to address the problems of plastic pollution.

We have already received many applications to our new BWC program! Thank you so much to our wonderful partner teachers who care so much about environmental education, about protecting our environment and about developing a new generation of environmentalists!

Mandi J. Billinge

“Humans can be a part of a healthy watershed too, especially if we're working together to keep it clean!”

—Nick, Fourth Grade Student, Ohlone Elementary School, Hercules



KIDS for the BAY Staff

Mandi Billinge, *Executive Director/Founder*
Asha Bucklin, *Communications Manager*
Marianne Keith, *Lead Program Manager*

Valerie Lowe, *Program Manager*
Cynthia Deleon, *Program Manager*
Amina Khribeche, *Environmental Educator*

KIDS for the BAY Advisory Board Members

Leilani Alo, *Advisory Board President*
Kimberly Aguilar
Tiffany Grandstaff
Elaine Miyamori
Shetalj Shah
Sheela Shankar

Welcome to our new Advisory Board Member,
TIFFANY GRANDSTAFF!

Tiffany is the Director of Communications for the UC Berkeley Library. She leads a team of designers, writers and editors who unearth interesting and untold stories and dream up fun and creative ways to share the Library's mission with the world. Tiffany is a nature-lover and parent and she is excited to help lead KIDS for the BAY in developing a new Strategic Communications Plan.

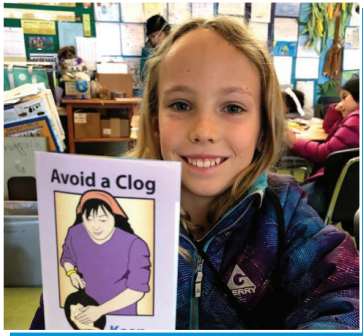


A Project of



IN THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR:

Stege Sanitary District - KIDS for the BAY Ten-Year Partnership and the California Special Services Districts AWARD!



KIDS for the BAY and Stege Sanitary District, located in El Cerrito, celebrated Ten Years of Partnership in summer 2019. Through this partnership, KftB has shared the important message that, "A healthy sanitary sewer system helps our creeks and our bay," with more than 600 local students. Students have learned that "FOGS" or Fats, Oils, and Greases are dangerous in the sanitary sewer system because they can harden and cause polluted water to back up into our neighborhood creeks, storm drains and the bay. Every year, our young environmentalists are excited to spread this message and take action for a healthy sanitary sewer system to protect our local watershed!

"The Stege Sanitary District is a proud supporter of KIDS for the BAY and our decade-long partnership was recently honored with the 2019 EXCEPTIONAL PUBLIC OUTREACH & ADVOCACY AWARD BY THE CALIFORNIA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (CSDA). The District plans to continue this successful partnership for at least another ten years!"

—Rex Delizio, P.E., District Manager/Engineer, Stege Sanitary District, El Cerrito

"I told my grandma about FOGs and now she uses the scraper whenever she cooks. She lets the oil harden before scraping it off and putting it in the trash."

—Adalee, Fourth Grade Student, Madera Elementary School, El Cerrito

We are thrilled for Stege Sanitary District to receive this important award in recognition of their work in the community in partnership with KIDS for the BAY!

New Five-Year Contract with Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program

Over the next five years 2,400 KIDS for the BAY students throughout Alameda County will present more than 80 Schoolwide Assembles to teach more than 15,000 of their peer students how to prevent storm water pollution, thanks to our new five-year contract with the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program (ACCWP). This contract will continue to support our Schoolwide Storm Drain Rangers Program. In this engaging environmental science education program, students learn how their neighborhoods are connected to their local creeks and the San Francisco Bay via the storm drain system and take action to reduce storm water pollution, and protect their local watershed. The ACCWP promotes storm water education throughout Alameda County and KIDS for the BAY is very thankful for their support of our work.

Donor Spotlight: Leilani Alo

We would like to sincerely thank Leilani Alo for her support for KIDS for the BAY as a major donor for over 20 years and as an EverGreen Monthly Donor for more than five years! In addition to generously donating herself, Lani encourages her friends and family members to also make donations and she has inspired some key major donors who also support our work. Thank you so much, Lani, for helping KIDS for the BAY bring environmental education programs to all children!



Leilani Alo (right) and her partner Kathy Azada, who is also a donor to KIDS for the BAY!

"I support KIDS for the BAY because I believe strongly in the mission — to inspire environmental consciousness in children and cultivate a love of learning. I continue to be inspired by the leadership and effectiveness of the organization. With a modest budget, the team achieves great things, reaching thousands of students every year with environmental science education. On a personal note, I believe that in nature, kids get to be their true selves — having fun, exploring and learning. Those experiences and that learning lasts a lifetime and every child should have this opportunity, no matter what school they go to or where they live. I am and will continue to be a proud and grateful supporter of KIDS for the BAY."

—Leilani Alo

IN THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR, KIDS FOR THE BAY DELIVERED PROGRAMS TO 4,589 STUDENTS AND 161 TEACHERS

Turning Students onto Science

Discovering Nature in our Urban Wilderness

There are many hidden pockets of nature in our local urban areas! Discovering nature in these special places provides the opportunity for exciting hands-on science learning. Fourth grade scientists from Washington Elementary School were very excited to walk from their school campus to meet KIDS for the BAY Instructor Cynthia De Leon at a beautiful hidden section of Strawberry Creek. The students loved learning about this special creek that starts its journey in the Berkeley hills, flows through the UC Berkeley Campus and close to their school neighborhood, before entering the San Francisco Bay near Sea Breeze Café.

Students and parent chaperones alike were thrilled to discover mayfly nymphs, gill snails, stone fly nymphs and midge fly larvae living in the creek. "I never knew this creek had so much life in



it!" exclaimed Cadir, a fourth grade student. The young scientists studied the organisms in two-way microscopes and drew and labeled them in scientific drawings. They learned which species are indicators of polluted or cleaner creek habitats. Students also observed adult mayflies flying around the creek and one even landed on a lucky student named Carmen! With the help of the students, Ms. Cynthia carefully returned all the organisms back to their creek habitat and made sure that all rocks were left back in place, to leave no trace after the aquatic invertebrate study was completed.

Fourth grade teacher Oscar Zarate shared that he and his students really enjoyed the Creek Field Trip and learned a lot of science! "Cynthia did a great job of leading instruction with visuals, songs, identification sheets, hands-on activities and interesting information," he said. "This Field Trip really engaged all of my students' different learning styles. It was also very meaningful for them to clean up trash and help the creek environment."

Connecting Students with Nature

In the 2018-19 school year, KIDS for the BAY students went on creek, San Francisco Bay and ocean habitat Field Trips to:

- Berkeley Marina
- Brannan Island, Antioch
- Crab Cove, Alameda
- Keller Beach, Richmond
- Martinez Marina
- Muir Beach, Marin County
- Rodeo Beach, Sausalito
- Sausal Creek, Oakland
- Strawberry Creek, Berkeley
- Sunol Regional Wilderness
- Walnut Creek Civic Park
- Wildcat Creek, Richmond

Exploring Sunol Regional Wilderness

In order to love and respect nature, students must have the opportunity to directly experience nature, and to feel that they are connected to and are an important part of nature. Unfortunately, even here in the beautiful San Francisco Bay Area, many students and families, especially in low-income areas, don't have easy access to nature. KIDS for the BAY helps to ensure access and connection to nature for all.

On a sunny spring day in May, fifth grade students from Eldridge Elementary School in Hayward were thrilled to go on a creek Field Trip to Sunol Regional Wilderness! Student scientists met Alameda Creek by sitting quietly along the beautiful riverside, observing their surroundings and listening, smelling and touching. One student named Juan Carlos



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described, "It smells like fresh leaves." Another student named Sebastian added, "The water is so cold and clear."

"Today, we are going to become science explorers," exclaimed Ms. Marianne! "To begin, we are going to take a hike in this new land and see how many birds and plants we can find along the way."



Student scientists used binoculars and field guides as tools. They were very excited to exercise their recently acquired bird identification skills! Standing on the bridge crossing Alameda Creek,

students spotted many bird species including black phoebes, violet-green swallows and mallard ducks.

As they hiked, students also identified many native plants including California buckeyes, valley oaks, and coastal live oak trees. During their Environmental Action Project at Sheep Camp Creek, Eldridge Elementary students had already planted live oak acorns and buckeye seeds to help restore the creek in the Sunol area that their drinking water travels through on its way to their faucets! They were excited to see the same types of trees, fully grown in this part of their watershed. After the hike, one student named Alejandro shared, "I learned how different leaves can be. There are so many types and shapes!"

Students ended their hiking adventure under the shade of some large live oak trees, where they reflected on their nature experiences through art. The young artists used oil pastels to draw their favorite memory or discovery. One student named Carlos drew the hermit thrush bird he spotted beside the creek, while his mom, a parent chaperone, drew the California blackberries they identified on the hike.

Bringing students and families to nature and giving them the opportunity to explore their surroundings and connect with nature creates a long lasting bond. The stronger the bond the more willing students are to protect the environment we all share.

Inspiring Environmental Action

In the 2018-19 school year, KIDS for the BAY students:

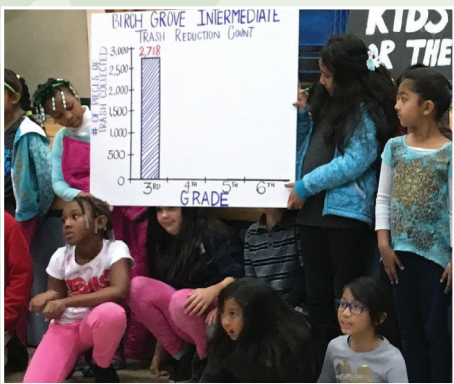
- Cleaned up 96,665 pieces of trash (1,703 gallons) from their local watershed environment
- Pledged to reduce their water usage to conserve vital water resources
- Planted 133 native plants to help restore local creek habitats
- Led Schoolwide Assemblies educating 3,200 additional peer students about the importance of reducing trash, waste and plastic pollution and using the Five Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot and Refuse)
- Made natural pesticides for their school and home gardens
- Taught their families and peer students how to 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 their schools.

Student-Led Assemblies Inspire Their Peers

If it can be done, it can be done better with friends! That's why KIDS for the BAY empowers whole classes of students to work together to take direct environmental action and gives them the tools to reach out to their communities. One crucial way we do this is by helping students to perform Schoolwide Assemblies. This past school year, 450 KIDS for the BAY students made the decision to become activists and environmental campaigners by spreading the knowledge that a little marine plastic pollution can cause a whole lot of

harm, through powerful, student-led Assemblies. **Twenty-two Assemblies successfully reached entire school communities and educated 3,200 additional peer students!**

Student Assembly leaders shared that birds, fish, turtles, dolphins, sharks and even whales can be seriously harmed by plastic waste. More than 1,200 species of marine animals are impacted by plastic, through ingestion or entanglement each year, both of



which can injure and even kill them. Third grade students at James Madison Elementary School in San Leandro found that sharing powerful images of injured animals illustrated the direct impact that littering

and creating plastic waste has on the environment. **"I care about cleaning up pollution because there are animals that think the trash is food! They can die from eating it!"** shared Delver.

"The thing to remember about the problem of marine plastic pollution is this: We can fix it! We can prevent it! The Five Rs are an important way to reduce, reuse, recycle, rot, and refuse trash," shared the Madison Elementary School students. The audience was left with a feeling of hope and motivation to take care of their watershed and environment. As the third graders were packing up their props, a fifth grade student named Lucy exclaimed, **"Great job! We have to make less trash!"** Students teaching students is a powerful demonstration of the ripple affect that one group of young activists can have throughout their school community."

KIDS for the BAY Guardian Award 2019

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.

Paden Elementary School, Alameda

KIDS for the BAY was thrilled to present Padén Elementary School in Alameda with our 2019 Guardian Award, honoring the school's three years of dedication to our Schoolwide Science and Environmental Action Program (SW) and their commitment to environmental education through action.

Padén Elementary School, whose official slogan is "Learn and Play by the Bay", began the SW Program during the 2016/17 school year. Each year, the students learn about a new habitat in the San Francisco Bay Watershed. After three years of participation, every student has now studied creek, bay, and ocean ecosystems. Padén Elementary School Principal Drew Sarratore shared, "The Schoolwide program has given our kids an actual connection to the bay. They see it every day at recess, but this program really connects them with it."

Student scientists at Padén Elementary investigated how creek, bay and ocean ecosystems are affected by types of pollution produced by humans. Padén's young environmentalists were then inspired to take action

"I love science and I love KIDS for the BAY!"

—Amy, Kindergarten Student

to help their watershed. For the past three years, the school has organized Schoolwide Trash Free Tuesday (TFT) events, in which students and staff brought Zero or Reduced Waste Lunches to school.

At one of this year's TFT events, students counted 679 reusable items or pieces of trash that they

prevented from entering the landfill! Principal Sarratore shared that he has noticed a change in the student's outlooks and behaviors after completing the KIDS for the BAY program. "Students check in with each other to encourage more recycling and composting. I have also noticed fewer plastic bags in students' lunches and less trash in the school yard."

Thank you, Padén Elementary School, for your dedication to providing your students with hands-on science education and inspiring environmental action!

"The students already have the bay in their backyard that serves as our outdoor science lab. These lessons have tied it all together for them. Now they know what actually lives out there."

—Ms. Hodgkinson,
First Grade Teacher



KIDS for the BAY Past Staff Highlights

Jocelyn Pierre-Antoine

Jocelyn was one of our first Program Managers at KIDS for the BAY from 1998 – 2000. Building on her experience as a former partner classroom teacher in our Watershed Action Program, Jocelyn helped to develop KIDS for the BAY programs to provide the best possible support for our partner teachers. She went on to continue her teaching career as a third grade teacher at Saint Edward School in Newark, then as the School Principal at Saint Bede School in Hayward. Jocelyn is now one of the Associate Superintendents for the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Oakland. She focuses on leadership for mission and professional learning and she is thrilled to support school principals, teachers and school communities in this work. We are so proud of Jocelyn's outstanding work in education and her connection to KIDS for the BAY!

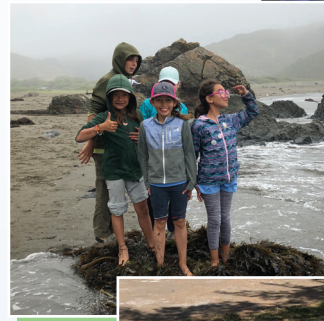
"I am grateful for my time working at KIDS for the BAY. Mandi's vision to provide hands-on environmental science lessons, for students to be fully engaged in taking care of their local community and empowered to be agents of change, is truly inspiring. I enjoyed collaborating with so many dedicated teachers and loved the opportunity to work closely with students who care so deeply for our environment. The lessons I learned through my experiences at KIDS for the BAY have influenced my work as an educator for almost 20 years."

—Jocelyn Pierre-Antoine



KIDS for the BAY Campers spent the summer exploring and learning in creek, bay and ocean habitats and playing with friends in nature! Our favorite moments included:

- Visiting the ocean shoreline and finding crabs hiding in the sand
- Discovering turtles, dragonflies and damselflies in lake and creek habitats
- Collecting and studying plankton in field microscopes at Crab Cove
- Hiking on beautiful trails, meeting California quail and hearing the calls of coyotes
- Preparing seed balls full of beautiful native flowers to plant and grow at home
- Enjoying team work with friends while kayaking on the bay at Berkeley Marina
- Making fish prints with striped bass and learning about fish adaptations
- Becoming nature artists at Rodeo Beach in the Marin Headlands
- Cleaning up trash and plastic pollution all around the San Francisco Bay Area.



"My son absolutely loved it. He said it was the best camp he's ever done!"
—Summer Camp Parent

"I don't want this day to be over — I want 20 more hours of camp!"
—Eli, age 8, Camper

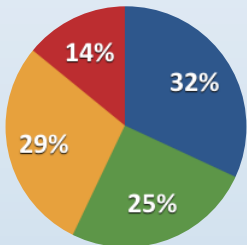


"Kaeli's counsellor was excellent! When I picked her up each day I heard about all the fun things she did!"
—Sharline, Summer Camp Parent



Statement of Financials

July 2018 – June 2019

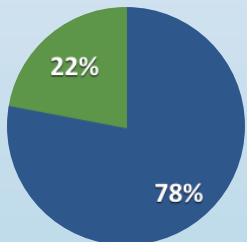


SUPPORT AND REVENUE

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Total Support and Revenue | \$501,917 |
| ■ Government Contracts | \$159,844 (32%) |
| ■ Foundation and Corporate Grants ... | \$127,190 (25%) |
| ■ Service Revenue | \$144,040 (29%) |
| ■ Donations | \$70,843 (14%) |

Financial Position as of June 2019

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Assets | \$574,574 |
| Liabilities | \$95,569 |
| Net Assets | \$479,005 |



EXPENSES

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Total Expenses: | \$462,827 |
| ■ Program | \$361,005 (78%) |
| ■ Administration, Development and Fundraising | \$101,822 (22%) |

Thank you to our generous funders and donors in the 2018-2019 School Year!

Foundations, Corporations, Public Agencies, and Other Funders

Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program
Alameda County Fish and Game
Commission
Avila and Associates Consulting Engineers,
Inc
Barrios Trust
Berkeley Rotary Club
Berkeley Garden Club Conservation
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Individual Donors

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Ricardo Torres and Nat Damon

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The Angora Ridge Foundation

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Elizabeth Beeby
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