

ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS



**ANNUAL
REPORT**



2005-2006



Message from the Chair of the

It's Tuesday morning and fourth graders at the East Palo Alto Charter School (EPACS) are returning their natural science books, provided by the Bring Me a Book Foundation, to their in-class library. Students are reviewing what they learned from hands-on learning stations lead by the Environmental Volunteers a few days earlier. And shortly they will board busses provided by The Field Trip Foundation to see the elephant seals at Ano Nuevo.

Meanwhile, fifth grade students down the hall are recalling their experiences from Canoes In Soughs, a San Francisco bay canoe trip they took with Save the Bay. They are comparing what they learned during that trip to their tour of the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant. And all students are excited about lunch time today because they will eat a salad made of vegetables from their garden, which they planted with the help of the Collective Roots Garden Project.

All of these students are participating in Digging Deeper, our pilot program designed to coordinate environmental education resources so that underserved students will receive an in-depth and multifaceted natural science educational experience. The EV initiated this collaborative effort and works with the community-based organizations and public agencies referenced above to bring this program to students in grades 2-5 at EPACS.

The Environmental Volunteers established "collaboration" as a strategic goal so as to achieve greater educational depth while maximizing limited resources. In addition to Digging Deeper, the EV collaborates with the City of Palo Alto by staffing the Baylands Nature Interpretive Center and provides programs at that facility. The EV also recommends complementary programs offered by other environmental education organizations to teachers who participate in the EV Kids in Nature program.

Now in our 35th year, our vision at the EV is that all children will learn about and be inspired by the natural world so that they become responsible stewards of the Earth. Through our collaboration work, our community education outreach, and our own school service program, we strive to increase the breadth and depth of natural science knowledge for all children, bringing together as many resources as possible.

We hope this annual report will keep you informed about — and inspired by — our achievements this past year. We thank you for your interest and support of our work.

Joyce Friedrichs
Chair, Board of Trustees



This was a momentous year for the Environmental Volunteers and it is my pleasure to present you with this Annual Report. It was momentous for three reasons: one that represents our past, one that represents our present, and one that holds the promise of our future.

The EV just turned 35 and that causes us to reflect on our origins. I have had the opportunity to talk with several community members who recall the early days of the EV. There is even a friendly debate involving our beginnings. Was the EV really conceived around a kitchen table? Some say it was, while others maintain it was a more formal meeting. This much is certain: for those us who support this remarkable organization, this milestone year reminds us that the EV was founded to promote environmental stewardship, to teach natural science, and to protect the San Francisco Bay and the Palo Alto Baylands. Our 35th year is a connection to our past that inspires and informs the present.

Speaking of the present, there is a remarkable educational program unfolding. A few years ago we wondered, what would happen if we could link the various programs of the many wonderful peer organizations who work in our communities? Would students get a

better, richer, deeper experience? Well the answer, we discovered is, 'yes!' Low-income students are learning science, experiencing nature, committing themselves to becoming environmental stewards, their test scores are up, and their math, science, and language-arts skills are improving. You can read about the Digging Deeper program on page 4 of this report.

That brings us to the future. You probably know that we are renovating the historic boat-shaped building located in the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Park, on the edge of the Bay. This building will become our new home for decades to come. Our \$2 million capital campaign is anchored by a \$1 million grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. The project has begun. Architectural drawings have been rendered. The engineers are mapping, scoping, and planning. And soon we will return to where we began — not the kitchen table, but at the Bay. And as we have done for 35 years, we will inspire kids to touch, taste, and smell their way to environmental stewardship.

Allan Berkowitz
Executive Director

Thanks to our Volunteers

Thanks to the following volunteers who have dedicated their time and passion to the Environmental Volunteers in variety of ways throughout the year. You are the heart and soul of the E

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Environmental Volunteers Financial Assets: 2005-2006

Statement of Financial Position: June 30, 2006		Statement of Activities Year Ending June 30, 2006				
ASSETS						
Current Assets		Temporarily Permanently				
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted	Total	
Cash	\$45,686					
Investments:						
Operating Account	178,889					
Building Account	1,037,731					
Accounts receivable	10,415					
Pledges receivable	25,431					
Prepaid expenses	4,511					
Total Current Assets	1,302,663					
Investments - Endowment	216,857					
Pledges Receivable - Long Term	1,421,212					
Property and Equipment, Net	618,618					
Construction In Progress -						
Baylands EcoCenter	12,582					
Unemployment Reserve	7,507					
	\$1,561,439					
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS						
Current Liabilities:						
Accounts payable	\$13,794					
Accrued vacation	11,438					
Refundable advances	----					
Deferred Revenues	6,705					
Other accrued expenses	2,465					
Total Current Liabilities	\$34,402					
Net Assets:						
Unrestricted	230,832					
Temporarily restricted	1,079,348					
Permanently restricted	216,857					
Total Net Assets	\$1,527,037					
	\$1,561,439					
		Support and Revenues:				
		Grants and contributions	\$307,122	\$1,099,843	\$100	\$1,407,065
		Special events	82,122	-	-	82,122
		Dues	1,810	-	-	1,810
		School program service fees	39,565	-	-	39,565
		Training fees	8,056	-	-	8,056
		Investment Income	46,570	-	-	46,570
		Other income (loss)	7,511	-	-	7,511
		Net assets released from restricted funds	10,495	10,495	-	-
		Total Support and Revenue	603,251	989,348	100	1,592,699
		Expenses:				
		Education	339,612	-	-	339,612
		Supporting services:				
		Administration	74,487	-	-	74,487
		Development	115,738	-	-	115,738
		Total Expenses	529,837	-	-	529,837
		Change In Net Assets	73,414	989,348	100	1,062,862
		Net Assets -				
		Beginning of Year	157,418	90,000	216,757	464,175
		Net Assets - End of Year	\$230,832	\$1,079,348	\$216,857	\$1,527,037

Anatomy of An Amazing Program:

The Environmental Volunteers is currently engaged in a major pilot study that is showing remarkable success. We are pleased to highlight this program in our annual report as one example of the dynamic work we are accomplishing.

Program Overview:

The Board and Staff of the EV decided to pursue collaborations with peer organizations. Specifically we were interested in delivering better, deeper, and more coordinated science education to low-income schools. We reasoned that greater educational gain could be achieved if we could collaborate with other programs that teach environmental education. We created the Digging Deeper program as a 3-year pilot to test this assumption. The Digging Deeper Program fosters collaboration between 6 organizations by linking their respective existing programs in logical fashion so that each provides a foundation for, or reinforcement of, the other programs. The East Palo Alto Charter School (EPACS) is



the site where this program launched. Our goal was to provide a minimum of 40 hours annually of natural science education to every class at EPACS in 2nd-5th grades. In addition, we received a grant from The San Francisco Foundation to hire an independent evaluator to conduct a two-year study of this program. Using pre- and post- tests, focus group interviews with students and teachers, and tracking the school's 5th grade STAR science test scores, the evaluators will help us understand in what ways this approach is successful.

Digging Deeper Program Objectives

1. Coordinate resources to increase and enhance science education for low income children

By coordinating the natural science education programs of collaboration partners, we will enhance and augment science education for students, as well as provide science education resources otherwise unavailable to teachers and schools.

2. Educate for depth in natural science education

By linking existing programs in logical fashion so that each provides a foundation for, or reinforcement of, the other programs, we can achieve

greater educational depth with minimal additional educational resources.

3. An Innovative Model That Can Be Replicated We will develop a methodology for managing large-scale collaborations and then replicate that model

From Theory To Practice Our East Palo Alto Launch

In September 2004 we launched this pilot program at East Palo Alto Charter School (EPACS). For two years, six organizations collectively have offered a minimum of 40 hours of science education annually to each class in grades 2-5. Our East Palo Alto collaboration partners are:

Environmental Volunteers (EV)
Coordinates the collaboration and brings its Kids-In-Nature Classroom and Field Trip program to the students at EPACS.

Collective Roots Garden Project (CR)
Through an at-school organic garden, students learn the relationship between a healthy land and a healthy body. Students raise crops that are then served in the school cafeteria (extra produce is given to school families).

Bring Me A Book Foundation (BMABF)
Promotes family literacy and school readiness by providing a library for each 2nd -5th grade classroom filled with age appropriate, natural science-related books offering a literacy component to the program.

Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant (PARWQCP)
In support of their mission to protect San Francisco Bay, they conduct water-quality-related school outreach programs.

Save The Bay (STB)
They provide their Canoes in Sloughs program to EPACS fifth graders.

Field Trip Foundation (FTF)
They provide field trips and busses to Ano Nuevo for EPACS fourth graders to experience the annual elephant seal migration.

Service Matrix

At East Palo Alto Charter School, students receive the following programs. The service provider's initials are found following each entry (please refer to collaboration partners listed above for delineation of initials).

2nd Grade

- Bay Ecology: 2 in-class programs + fieldtrip (EV)
- Water Pollution Prevention Focus: 4 in-class presentations (PARWQCP)

Digging Deeper

- Organic Gardening: minimum 12 sessions (CR)
- Classroom Library: (BMABF)
- Teacher's Choice: additional field trip or in-class presentation

3rd Grade

- Marine Ecology: 2 in-class programs + fieldtrip (EV)
- Water Pollution Prevention Focus: 4 in-class presentations (PARWQCP)
- Organic Gardening: minimum 12 sessions (CR)
- Classroom Library: (BMABF)
- Teacher's Choice: additional field trip or in-class presentation

4th Grade

- Forest and Foothill Ecology: 2 in-class programs + fieldtrip (EV)
- Earthquake Geology: 1 in-class presentation + fieldtrip
- Water Pollution Prevention Focus: 4 in-class presentations (PARWQCP)
- Organic Gardening: minimum 12 sessions (CR)
- Classroom Library: (BMABF)
- Ano Nuevo: 1 in-class presentation + fieldtrip (FTF)
- Teacher's Choice: additional field trip or in-class presentation

5th Grade

- Water Science and Conservation: 2 in-class presentations (EV)
- Water Pollution Prevention Focus: 4 in-class presentations+ fieldtrip (PARWQCP)
- Organic Gardening: minimum 12 sessions (CR)
- Classroom Library: (BMABF)
- Canoes In Sloughs: in-class presentation and canoe trip (STB)
- Teacher's Choice: additional field trip or in-class presentation

Results: Does Collaboration Work?

With the support of a grant from the San Francisco Foundation, The EV contracted with an independent research and evaluation firm, LaFrance Associates, LLC to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the Digging Deeper program. The focus of the evaluation is to assess the degree to which program participation has contributed to science learning and learning-readiness among the participating students. Specifically, how has participation:

- Increased grade-specific scientific knowledge?
- Enhanced interest in, and enthusiasm for, scientific learning?
- Improved general learning skills?
- Increased the sense of environmental stewardship among older students?

The following is a synopsis of the first-year findings presented to us by LaFrance Associates:

Students in the Digging Deeper Program show a remarkable increase in their scientific knowledge and general learning skills. Every grade has

experienced a dramatic increase in the overall scores from the pre- to post-tests. Teachers note a significant increase in both scientific knowledge and general learning skills, and qualitative focus group data reveals that students are retaining information...

Students learn about environmental stewardship Students also have positive attitudes about environmental stewardship. Fourth and fifth-graders indicate that they understand how their actions affect the environment, and care about behaving in more environmentally responsible ways in the future. Focus group data reveal that all grades are aware of what types of behaviors are harmful to the environment.

Some highlights of the evaluation results include:

- Students take the same science test at the beginning and the end of the school year; within each grade the proportion of students scoring higher on the follow-up test ranges from 73% to 92%.
- Teachers from all grades report that, on average, scientific knowledge and general skills for each student have increased.
- A plurality of fourth- and fifth-graders chose "very true" for all four statements about their beliefs relating to environmental stewardship.
- A plurality of fourth- and fifth-graders chose "I know I will do this more often" for all four statements about their actions relating to



environmental stewardship.

A Special Thank You

The Environmental Volunteers would like to thank the following funders for their significant support of the Digging Deeper program. They fostered innovative program development and encouraged us to experiment with new program delivery models. The Laurel Foundation, The Frieda C. Fox Family Foundation, Environmental Solutions Forum, a project of the Center For Venture Philanthropy of the Peninsula Community Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation, Jan and Bob Fenwick.

Many Thanks to our Financial Supporters

The Environmental Volunteers gratefully acknowledges and sincerely thanks the following EV supporters for their generous contributions.

We have attempted to create an accurate listing of supporters. It is important to us that we correctly report and properly acknowledge your gifts to the EV. Should there be an error or omission, please bring it to our attention by contacting our development director at 650.961.0545.

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Investing in Stewardship

As an investor in the Environmental Volunteers, you share in our mission to promote understanding of, and responsibility for, the environment through hands-on science education. With your financial support, kids discover the joy of learning, the beauty of nature, and the important role they can play in being good environmental stewards.

Investment Opportunities:

Imagine how much more we could do with your help.

Ways your tax-deductible donation can impact our community

\$2,500

Will "Adopt a Class". Organized around 8 subjects, learning natural science the EV way is a special treat. A team of volunteer docents sets up learning stations in the classroom that are guaranteed to capture the imagination of every child. Teachers may apply for a follow up field trip to a local preserve where children will have a rich "in nature" experience. Your gift will provide classroom services to 25 teachers requesting scholarships.

\$1,000

Contributes to the recruitment and training of volunteer docents to deliver hands-on science experiences. With your investment, new docents receive vigorous classroom and field training. Because of the passion, dedication, and skills of our volunteers, students discover the joy of learning, the beauty of nature, and the important role they can play in being good environmental stewards. Recruiting and training volunteers is mission critical.

\$250

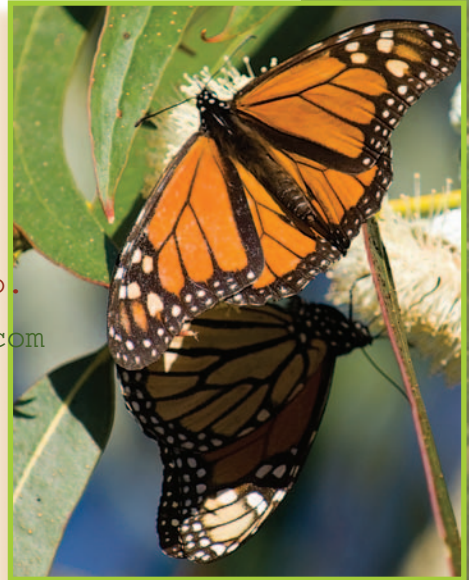
Provides a scholarship to S.N.A.K.E. Camp to a child whose family could not ordinarily afford camp. This science camp experience often provides kids with their first adventure to the beach and their first trip to the mountains.

\$100

Supplies 10 teachers with collateral "classroom-ready" natural science kits, hands-on instructional materials used to link instruction between the EV Docent-led classroom presentations and the follow up field trip. Your gift will help teachers become fluent in the wonders of natural science.

\$45

Each of our classroom presentations is dependent on creative, hands-on educational materials. With our 250 teaching kits, students can simulate an oil spill, explore the physics of bird flight, and we can even replicate an earthquake in the classroom to highlight safety precautions. Your support will provide for annual maintenance and repair, in addition to replacement of, consumable products.



FY 2005-2006 EV Statistics

Number of classroom services	345
Number of fieldtrips	129
Total number of school services (classroom plus field trips)	474
Number of students taught in EV classroom programs	590
Number of school children taught on EV field trips	2,816
Total number of children taught	10,428
Number of adult chaperones educated while on fieldtrips	473
Number of schools served	70
Number of teacher served	474
Scholarships to low-income classrooms	69
Number of new volunteers	20
Number of weekend baylands programs delivered	15
Number of S.N.A.K.E. summer campers	87
Number of EV staff	5 full-time, 2 part-time
Number of Volunteer hours donated by docents	6,849

Environmental Volunteers
3921 East Bayshore Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303-4303

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**The Environmental
Volunteers (EV)
is a 501 (c) (3) corporation
founded in 1972.**

Our Mission:

To promote understanding of,
and responsibility for,
the environment through
hands-on science education.

Our Vision:

That all children will learn
about and be inspired by the
natural world so that they become
responsible stewards of the Earth.

EV program areas include:

All About Birds
Baylands Ecology
Early California Indian Life:
An Environmental Focus
Earthquake Geology
& Preparedness
Foothills Ecology
Marine Ecology
Nature in Your Neighborhood
Water Science & Conservation

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and 193 Dedicated Volunteers!

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