

# ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS



**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



**2004-2005**



## Message from the Chair of the Board

As we complete our 33rd year, the Environmental Volunteers (EV) continues to provide a unique and incredibly valuable service to children. Thinking back to 1982, the year I joined the EV, there have been many changes, yet some things remain the same. At that time we had only the Bay and the Forest and Foothill programs. We were in the process of developing the "Urban" program, which we now refer to as "Nature in Your Neighborhood." Look how far we have come since then! We now teach eight different programs and we have been able to significantly expand our reach in the community.

What has not changed in 33 years? A deep commitment to excellence continues to pervade the EV culture. We also maintain our reputation for providing top notch science education delivered by dedicated, knowledgeable volunteers. And we have reached so many more children with our programs. Since 1972 we have served over 300,000 Bay Area children! In the 2004-2005 school year alone, the EV educated more than 9,000 K-8th grade children at over 90 different elementary and middle schools in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.

While our commitment to teach children about natural science and to love and respect our environment contin-

ues, we are finding new ways to enrich our program offerings. On pages 4 and 5 of this report, I am pleased to share with you some of our exciting new activities. These projects keep the EV fresh and up-to-date. They also allow us to extend our reach to many children who have not been exposed to environmental education.

We are excited to embrace these expanded opportunities to educate both youth and adults about the natural world, and we are pleased by their synergy with our current programs. We also value the increased opportunity to recruit new volunteers whose interests and/or schedules align with these new programs.

One thread runs through all of our accomplishments. It is the extraordinary people who make all of what we do for children and for the environment possible. The individuals who are connected to the EV—the volunteers, donors, staff, teachers, students, administrators, and parents—enable us to make this unique organization successful. The support you provide is an invaluable asset and we thank you for being our partners in educating current and future stewards of the environment.

Joyce Friedrichs  
Chair, Board of Trustees



## Message from the Executive Director

The Environmental Volunteers remains one of the most respected environmental education organizations in the Bay Area. Our programs and educational materials are constantly in demand. There are many factors which account for this. Without the support of our wonderful donors, we simply could not afford to deliver the 579 school services we provided to the community last year. Without solid educational programs, developed and refined over three decades, we would not have the passionate interest from the teachers we serve in two counties. And certainly without our dedicated staff, who toil in far too limited space with far too few resources, our programs, donors, teachers, students, and volunteers would not be nurtured in the now-famous "EV way."

But there is one additional asset which is the key to our success. The heart and soul of our organization always has been, and continues to be, our volunteers. Currently 169 volunteer docents inspire not only thousands of children annually, but they inspire all of us who know what they do and how they do it. They spend not a few hours in training classes ("Thank you for letting me be a kid again. This was the most fun I've had in years"). They tote sometimes very heavy learning stations to schools ("That shake table may weigh a ton but it is so cool to simulate an earthquake in the middle of the classroom"). They endure hot sun and cold winds on the trail ("But how else can my students see a golden eagle in flight?"). They clean up spilled bay mud

("A small price to pay for students to learn about the bay food chain"). And they love every minute of it.

Our approach to natural science education centers around small group, hands-on learning. We believe that children learn best when they can touch and explore, ask questions, and be engaged by the group leader. To achieve this requires a student to docent ratio of 8:1 (on field trips we generally limit ourselves to 6:1). But do the math: 579 school services. 8 students per docent group. This means our wonderful volunteers filled almost 1800 volunteer slots in direct support of our educational services!

It all adds up to this: it is because of the dedication of our volunteers – our 30-year veterans, our brand new trainees, and everyone in between – that we successfully completed our 33rd year of service. And as I write these words, it has already started over again. As sure as the sun rises each morning, the Environmental Volunteers are back in classrooms digging their hands into mud, studying the physics of earthquakes, and dressing up in full-scale condor costumes. They are out on the trail showing students the golden eagle above, handing out samples of super-salty pickleweed to eat, and eyeing octopi in a tidepool. And...they are loving every minute of it!

Allan Berkowitz  
Executive Director



# Investing in our Community's Children

As an investor in the Environmental Volunteers, you partner with us in fostering students' interest in science. Join us in our commitment to educating about the environment well into the future so that coming generations can experience and develop a personal connection with nature. The study of natural science disciplines the minds of students, preparing them to understand the world in which they live and seek ways to protect and enhance the quality of the environment. Research shows that schools that have adopted a nature-based curriculum have higher test scores, fewer discipline problems, and a more engaged and enthusiastic student population. (Foundation for Global Community, Research Summary: Benefits of Nature)

## Investment Opportunities

### \$2,500

**Will Adopt a School.** Up to 250 students will actively be engaged in classroom instruction in one of eight investigative topics concerning local ecology. Teachers may apply for a follow up field trip to a local preserve where children will have a rich "in nature" experience.

### \$1,000

Contributes to the recruitment and training of volunteer docents to deliver hands-on science experiences to 400 classrooms. With your investment, the docents receive vigorous classroom and in-the-field training. Topics include multi-subject local ecology, inquiry-based teaching and child development.

### \$100

Underwrites one small animal teaching kit — such as a fox squirrel, a brush rabbit, or a western bluebird — so children can see the animals up close and touch their fur or feathers during the classrooms presentations. Kids learn best when they see, touch and manipulate instructional materials.

### \$500

**Gives two elementary age children scholarships to S.N.A.K.E. Camp.** This fun filled week-long summer science camp integrates social studies, reading, writing, math, art, cooking and music into each natural science topic. This science camp experience provides many of these kids with their first adventure to the beach and their first trip to the mountains.

### \$250

Supplies 25 teachers with collateral classroom-ready natural science kits, hands-on instructional materials used to link instruction between the docent-led classroom presentations and the follow up field trips.





# Many Thanks to our Financial Supporters

The Environmental Volunteers gratefully acknowledges and sincerely thanks the following EV supporters for their generous contributions. Your support makes it possible for The EV to teach children and adults about the wonders of the natural world.

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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.

# Thanks to our Volunteers... Our Most Cherished Assets!

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 EV!

Maria Amundson	Mary Chessman	Jinny Fruin	Frosty Krieger	Nancy Neff	Victoria Smith
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## Environmental Volunteers Financial Assets: 2004-2005

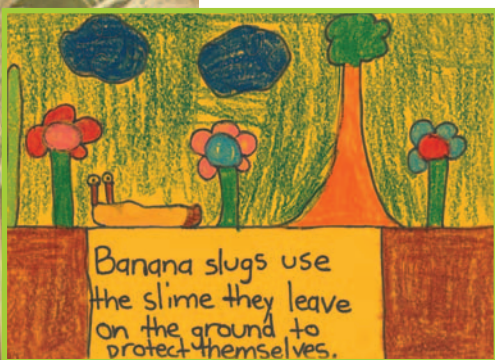
Statement of Financial Position: June 2005		Statement of Activities—Year Ending June 30, 2005				
ASSETS		Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	
<b>Current Assets</b>						
Cash	\$22,260	\$182,764	\$112,500	\$700	\$295,964	Grants and contributions
Investments	174,256					Special events, net of expenses of \$18,198 in 2005 and \$5,300 in 2004
Accounts receivable	270	2,795	-	-	2,795	Dues
Pledges receivable	55,792	2,205	-	-	2,205	School program service fees
Prepaid expenses	3,917	46,195	-	-	46,195	Training fees
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>256,495</b>	14,134	-	-	14,134	Interest and dividends
<b>Investments – Endowment</b>	<b>216,757</b>	8,045	-	-	8,045	Net gain on investments
<b>Property and Equipment, Net</b>	<b>4,695</b>	12,410	-	-	12,410	Other income (loss)
<b>Unemployment Reserve</b>	<b>7,507</b>	(124)	-	-	(124)	Net assets released from restrictions
	<b>\$485,454</b>	149,120	(149,120)	-	-	<b>Total Support and Revenues</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		<b>417,544</b>	<b>(36,620)</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>381,624</b>	<b>Expenses:</b>
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>						Education
Accounts payable	\$5,484	381,293	-	-	381,293	Supporting services
Accrued vacation	10,770	-	-	-	-	Administration
Refundable advances	2,500	82,552	-	-	82,552	Development
Other accrued expenses	2,525	82,210	-	-	82,210	<b>Total Expenses</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>21,279</b>	<b>546,055</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>546,055</b>	<b>Change In Net Assets</b>
<b>Net Assets:</b>		(128,511)	(36,620)	700	(164,431)	<b>Net Assets –</b>
Unrestricted	157,418					<b>Beginning of Year</b>
Temporarily restricted	90,000	285,929	126,620	216,057	628,606	<b>Net Assets – End of Year</b>
Permanently restricted	216,757	\$157,418	\$90,000	\$216,757	\$464,175	
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$485,454</b>					



# Environmental Volunteers . . .

## Kids-in-Nature Classroom and Field Trip Program

Since 1972, the EV has brought hands-on learning materials into classrooms and shared with children the wonders of nature in the field. Through learning adventures focused on the following eight subject areas, students begin the journey towards becoming good stewards of the environment.



- Baylands Ecology
- Foothill Ecology
- Marine Ecology
- Earthquake Geology
- Early California Indian Uses of the Environment
- Water Science and Conservation
- All About Birds
- Nature in Your Neighborhood

This program is wildly popular with teachers as proven by the fact that we filled up over 400 school service slots in 72 hours!

## Volunteer Docent Training Classes

We like to describe our work as, "teaching children of all ages to love nature and learning!" In our docent-training classes, adults have as much fun learning as do the students they will eventually teach. Our docent-training classes are California State University-accredited and serve not only our own volunteers, but park rangers, docents from other organizations, and school-based volunteers. Let's face it: it's hard to resist plunging into a bucket of bay mud no matter how old you are!

## S.N.A.K.E. Camp

Through Science and Nature Adventures for Kid Explorers (S.N.A.K.E.), the EV offers engaging summer camp experiences with hands-on natural science activities and field trips. Each one-week session has a different nature theme, enabling students to enjoy weeks of learning and fun. Because of our commitment to provide hands-on natural science education to as many youth as possible, we provide full camp scholarships to low-income youth. This past summer 30% of campers received scholarships.

## Environmental Education Teacher Certificate Program

The EV offers teachers training in the highest quality and most engaging environmental education techniques to take into their classrooms. This series of UC-accredited classes, leading to a professional certificate in environmental education, enables the EV to multiply our impact by "educating the educators."

. . . discover -



explore

# Programs and Accomplishments



## Palo Alto Baylands Interpretive Center Staffing

At the request of the City of Palo Alto, EV docents staff the Lucy Evans Interpretive Center at the Palo Alto Baylands several days each week of the year. This service ensures that the Interpretive Center's displays and microscopic wet lab, as well as our docents' knowledge, are available to the general public visiting the Baylands Nature Preserve.

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## Palo Alto Baylands Weekend Educational Program— New since 2004

We are pleased to now offer our educational experiences to non-school-based groups at the Palo Alto Baylands on weekends. Since the inception of this program in 2004, we have served Scout groups, homeless shelter families, faith-based groups, a center for traumatized children, and other groups that broaden the scope of our client base. This program is particularly promising in its ability to reach audiences with special needs and allows us to make use of volunteers who are only available on weekends.

## Digging Deeper Collaborative Program – New since 2004

The EV is leading a collaboration of six environmental education organizations that have agreed to link their programs cohesively

so they reinforce each other's work, providing a thorough school-wide learning experience for students at the East Palo Alto Charter School. We will replicate this exciting collaborative program with other organizations at other low-income schools in the coming years.

## Mapping Collaboration Program

Through the exceptional support of the Environmental Solutions Forum, we are establishing collaborations with other environmental education organizations. By collecting and analyzing school service data from multiple organizations, we can identify schools that two or more organizations already serve. Then we logically schedule our respective programs so that each one either reinforces or builds upon the work of the other organizations.

### FY 2004-2005 EV Statistics

Number of classroom services	392
Number of fieldtrips	187
Total number of school services (classroom plus field trips)	579
Number of students taught in EV classroom programs	9,116
Number of school children taught on EV field trip programs	4,187
Total number of children taught	13,303
Number of adult chaperones educated while on fieldtrips	697
Number of schools served	93
Number of teachers served	392
Number of low-income classrooms receiving a scholarship	69
Number of new volunteers trained for our new weekend baylands program:	20
Number of groups reached through new weekend baylands program	15
Number of S.N.A.K.E. summer campers	78
Number of EV staff	5 full-time, 2 part-time
Number of returning docents on 9/1/04	134
Number of new docents trained during 04-05	35
Number of volunteer hours donated	7,420



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founded in 1972.**

**Our Mission:**

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

**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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<sup>\*</sup> EV Docent

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and 169 Dedicated Volunteers!

**For more information  
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voice: 650-961-0545  
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