



ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER 2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT

discoverELC.org





OUR STORY

"When we tug at a single thing in nature, we
find it attached to the rest of the world."

John Muir

- Imagine children who live within a mile of our lagoon who've never spent time in it because they don't have the means or opportunity to get there.
- Imagine opening up a child's eyes to a campus of natural beauty and engaging them through a naturalist with a passion to share their knowledge.
- Imagine creating a campus where the community is welcomed through innovative programs, events and everyday engagement with nature.
- Imagine a think-tank of environmental movement and exchange of ideas through workshops and lectures.

This is our work at the Environmental Learning Center

Our

CHAIRMAN AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

We hope you had an excellent year. The 2017 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017) filled our days with new and continued strategic initiatives to advance our recently updated mission: to educate, inspire, and empower humanity to live in harmony with nature. And it is the generosity of each of you – as donors, volunteers and community members – that enables our Environmental Learning Center (ELC) forward movement. Thank you for this. We are deeply grateful.

In many ways this past year, we have been as pioneers – building higher and higher upon past successes while also experimenting with new ways of doing business. We are in a constant search and strive to grow stronger in all manner of operations while extending our reach of service to our ever-changing community. We have made great strides, and we continue to move forward towards this goal, as we come closer to our 30th anniversary year.

We are proud to say we have grown our key partnerships deeper. We have also spent considerable time improving the guest experience for those visiting campus for enjoyment with family and friends. We have significantly increased visitor comfort and extensively modified offerings for casual visitors.

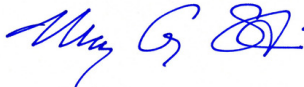
Monumentally, in Fiscal Year 2017, we also began planning ELC's long-term vision. In addition to implementing many recommendations given us by the American Alliance of Museums Museum Assessment Program in 2016, we embarked on developing a campus master plan that will serve as the basis for multiple planned phases of growth decades into ELC's future, meeting community needs, diversifying revenue streams, and maximizing use of our beautiful 64-acre island campus by a broader audience.

As always, we seek to ensure all who interact with ELC are positively affected by their interaction with nature and grow in knowledge of our area's rich and fragile environment, while also empowering them to help. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff, thank you for empowering us to do this work. And thank you for your continued, abundant generosity. We look forward to seeing you on campus in the year ahead.

With best wishes,



William B. Clemens, Jr.
Chairman of the Board



Molly Steinwald, M.S.
Executive Director



OUR ANNUAL ACOMPLISHMENTS

HIGHLIGHTING MANY OF THE WINS
IN OUR PURPOSE DRIVEN MISSION

Our mission is to educate, inspire and empower all people, including those with minimal access to nature, to be active stewards of the environment and their own well-being.



534

EcoAdventure programs to engage visitors in educational and outdoor activities on our 64-acre island campus and the Indian River Lagoon.

417

People at WinterGreen Night Lights, an evening event for the community to celebrate the holiday season in nature.

1,150

Student entries in our Making a Difference in My World school contest, creating artistic entries focused on the importance of nature and environmental stewardship.

2,500

Elementary school students in 1st, 3rd and 4th grades engaged and educated through immersion-based school field trip days.

22

Children received need-based scholarships to attend summer ecology camps through the Maggy Bowman Scholarship Fund.

ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS



335

Students ages 4-5 from 22 classes participating in the Young Explores program focused on five nature topics.

275

Families invited to Free family Fun Days at the ELC with HeadStart students ages 3-4 as a part of our Tiny Seedlings Program. Provided 45 nature enrichment boxes with hands-on activities to 15 IRC Headstart classes

228

Attended our first Half-Haunted Halloween event with costumes, games and nature crafts.

5

Students (3 college and 2 high school) received paid summer internships at the ELC to gain experience for future careers in environmental education, conservation research and stewardship.

101

Pontoon Boat Trips during our expansion of the Pontoon Boat EcoAdventure program. Guests are taken by Naturalist guides past Pelican Island National Refuge.

9

EcoTALKS - a new monthly speaker series with local experts on topics about the Indian River Lagoon. Expansion of ELC's Adventurers in Learning Lecture Series

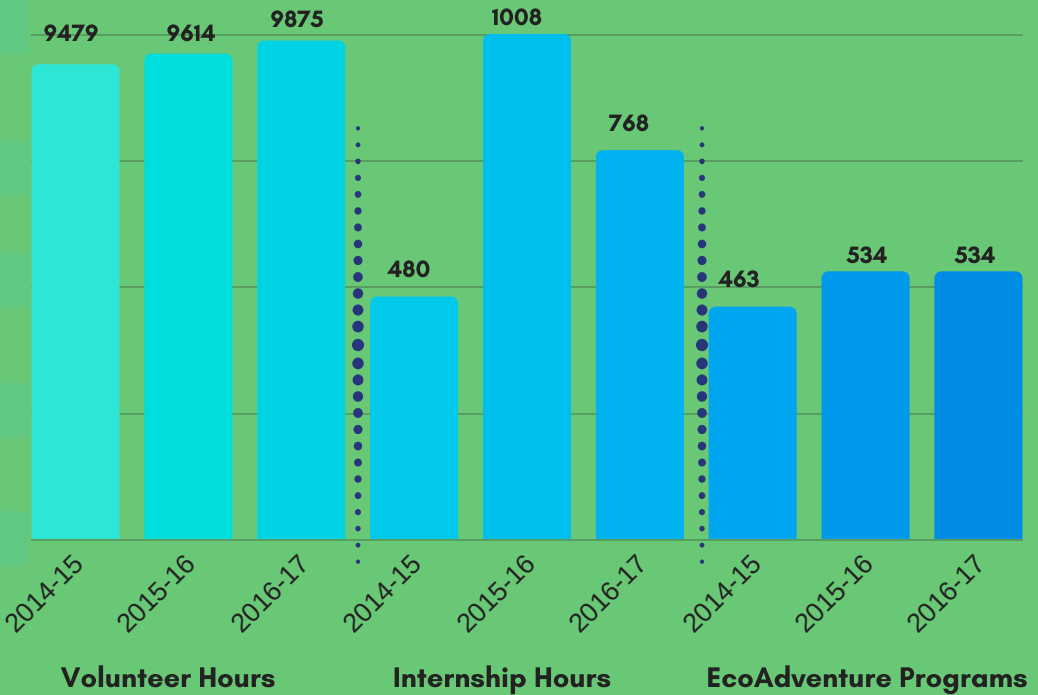
20

Girls mentored as a part of our new summer STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) to increase confidence, achievement and career interest.

8

Teens from the Boys to Men to Greatness Mentorship Program at Gifford Youth Achievement Center were engaged in outdoor and science skill building programs.

GROWTH OVER 3 YEARS



165

Children
attended our
summer day
camps with 13
day camp
programs.

30

Headstart 3 and 4
year old teachers
trained on how to
do nature play and
education through
the Tiny Seedlings
Program

10

Months of unique
programming provided
to the Senior Resource
Association's Adult day-
care centers in Vero
Beach and Sebastian,
Volunteers contributed
over 30 hours to provide
enriching, nature-based
programming to the
elderly.

ELC
2016-2017
HIGHLIGHTS

Our

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS



Being a part of our local and global community to connect people with nature is our mission and our commitment.

**American Association for University Women
Anglers for Conservation
Boys and Girls Clubs of Indian River County
Bridges Early Learning Center
Cross Over Mission
Education Foundation of Indian River County
Fairchild Botanical Garden
Florida Aquatic Preserves
Gifford Youth Achievement Center
Head Start - U.S. Department of Health
Healthy Families IRC
Hibiscus Children's Center
Homeless Children's Foundation
Homeless Family Center
Indian River Land Trust
John's Island Community Service League
The Learning Alliance
Laura Riding Jackson Foundation
Operation Hope of Fellsmere
Youth Guidance
Students in pre-Kindergarten - 8th grades in
The School District of Indian River County
Vero Beach Power Squadron**

OUR TEAM

OUR ELC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson

WILLIAM B. CLEMENS, JR.

Vice Chairperson

DON BARR

Secretary

JORGE FERNANDEZ

Treasurer

TIMOTHY R. BUHL

Members

TIMOTHY BUHL

JOHN DANIELS

WILLIAM FRIESELL

KEN LAPOINTE

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ROGER LYNCH

ALEX MACWILLIAM, IV

CINDY O'DARE

COLLEEN T. RYAN

WILLIAM STEWART, ESQ.

ROB TENCH

CHIP WATSON

MOLLY STEINWALD

(Executive Director, non-voting)

OUR ELC FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson

TODD FENNELL

Secretary

CHUCK POLLARD

Members

TIMOTHY R. BUHL

WILLIAM B. CLEMENS, JR.

ALICE COLE

Members (continued)

WILLIAM H. FRIESELL

JOHN D. LOWENBERG, SR.

ROBERT MCCABE

THOMAS SPACKMAN, M.D.

MOLLY STEINWALD

(Executive Director, non-voting)

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson

JOHN D. LOWENBERG, SR.

Members

ALICE COLE

HADYN COLE

TODD FENNELL

ROBERT PRINDIVILLE

OUR STAFF

Molly Steinwald, Executive Director

Maryam Ghadari, Education Director

Camille Yates, Development Director

Nancy Puglio, Volunteer Coordinator

Sarah Christopherson, Naturalist

Sarah Rhodes-Ondi, Naturalist

Sara Piotter, Naturalist

Scott Corey, Boat Captain

Margaret Kearney, Guest Services Director

Nance Hatch, Marketing Comm. Director

Brendan Wilson, Finance & Admin. Manager

Aaron Nester, Facilities Manager

Linda Weisner, Administrative Assistant

Wendy O'Neil, Executive Assistant

Mark Butterworth, Boat Captain

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Approximately 265 dedicated volunteers donate their time and talents to ELC throughout the year to make all our programs and offerings possible. Volunteers assist ELC in nearly all aspects of operations, from programs, to admissions and giftshop sales, to landscape and building maintenance, to fundraising events, to administrative support. We are deeply indebted to them.

FINANCIAL REPORT

ENVIRONMENTAL
LEARNING CENTER
2016-17

ELC INC. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

JULY 1, 2016- JULY 30, 2017

Support and Revenue

Contributions	\$734,952
Program Revenue	122,781
Special Event Revenue (net of costs)	157,230
Gift Shops Sales (net of costs)	1,158
Other	12,817
<u>Investment (Loss)</u>	<u>113,941</u>
Total Support and Revenue	\$1,142,879

Expense

Program Services	\$910,721
Management & General Support	107,601
<u>Benefit & Fundraising Costs</u>	<u>220,148</u>
Total Expense	\$1,238,470

Addbacks

Depreciation	\$151,153
<u>Investment Loss</u>	<u>(113,941)</u>
	\$37,212

Operating Income (loss)	(58,379)
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ELC Foundation

The Environmental Learning Center (ELC) Foundation, Inc. is a separate not-for-profit corporation that serves as a sole support organization to the Environmental Learning Center, Inc. and manages both funds designated by the board for long-term investment and funds permanently restricted by donors for investment in perpetuity.

The ELC Foundation utilizes an internal committee of financial stewards who manage the Foundation's assets. Through prudent oversight, this Investment Committee has ensured rates of return that have performed solidly over a ten year period.

Board of Directors

Chairman
TODD FENNELL

Secretary
CHUCK POLLARD

Members
TIMOTHY R. BUHL
WILLIAM B. CLEMENS, JR.
ALICE COLE
WILLIAM H. FRIESELL
JOHN D. LOWENBERG, SR.
ROBERT MCCABE
THOMAS SPACKMAN, M.D.

Investment Committee

Chairperson
JOHN D. LOWENBERG, SR.

Members
ALICE COLE
HADYN COLE
TODD FENNELL
ROBERT PRINDIVILLE

ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER FOUNDATION RATE OF RETURN

Rate of return as of June, 30, 2017

All Data are Annualized	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	7 yr	10 yr
ELC Foundation Assets	14.75%	6.36%	11.29%	10.34%	6.70%
Benchmark 65/35 Mix*	12.50%	4.39%	8.01%	8.46%	4.33%

*65% All Country World Index MXWD, 35% Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index AGG



REASONS TO DONATE NOW

Your charitable contributions support nature-based programs, events and interactive exhibits that positively impact thousands of children and adults each year. It is your generous donations and memberships that enable us to maintain and expand our many offerings and services for the community, helping make the world a better place.

Please give today at www.discoverelc.org/giving, call 772-589-5050 or mail your donation to 255 Live Oak Dr., Vero Beach, FL 32963. Thank you.

Our mission is to educate, inspire
and empower all people,
including those with minimal
access to nature, to be active
stewards of the environment and
their own well-being.



255 Live Oak Drive
Vero Beach, FL 32963
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[#discoverELC](https://twitter.com/discoverELC)

