



ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

discoverELC.org





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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 are delighted to share that our 2016 Fiscal Year filled our lives and community with both new strategic initiatives and the continuation of many of the traditional programs that we are known and valued for at the heart of our mission. All the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) accomplished this past year in connecting people with nature and fostering environmental stewardship was made possible through the generosity of many donors, volunteers, and community members. We are deeply grateful to you all.

It is only with your tireless support and dedication that we are able to share here the highlights of many of this year's accomplishments. We hope you will be proud and inspired by the good work we could only do by doing it together.

This year marked several major milestones for ELC, including updating our mission statement, undergoing our first ever, competitive, national level external review through the American Alliance of Museums' Museum Assessment Program, and participating in Indian River County's Community Health Needs Assessment to more deeply understand and be part of the solution to improving our community's current human and environmental health challenges in a way only ELC can. We are excited to now be in the beginning stages of building several new partnerships as a result, and to making a number of changes in our operations as we come one year closer to celebrating our 30th anniversary.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and all our staff, we thank you for your continued and abundant generosity, in the many and varied forms of support it is given. We look forward to seeing you on campus soon and deeply appreciate your devotion to our mission and our community.

With gratitude and hope for the future,



Chairman of the Board



Executive Director



[Click for ELC video](#)

OUR ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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.

462

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

1,300

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.

21

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

ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS



869

Students ages 4-5 from 17 schools participated in the Young Explores program focused on five nature topics.

3

Challenges designed for our 1st year of the Fairchild Challenge, a multidisciplinary outreach program for school students in conjunction with the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

8

Students helped by naturalists to enter the IRC Science Fair and won \$204,000 in college scholarships.

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.

150

People came to National Estuaries Day during an often slow time of year, celebrating the Indian River Lagoon with live music, nature crafts and learning activities.

603

Volunteer hours given by the 15 Junior Interpreter and 18 Environmental Ambassador middle school youth mentored by naturalists throughout the year.

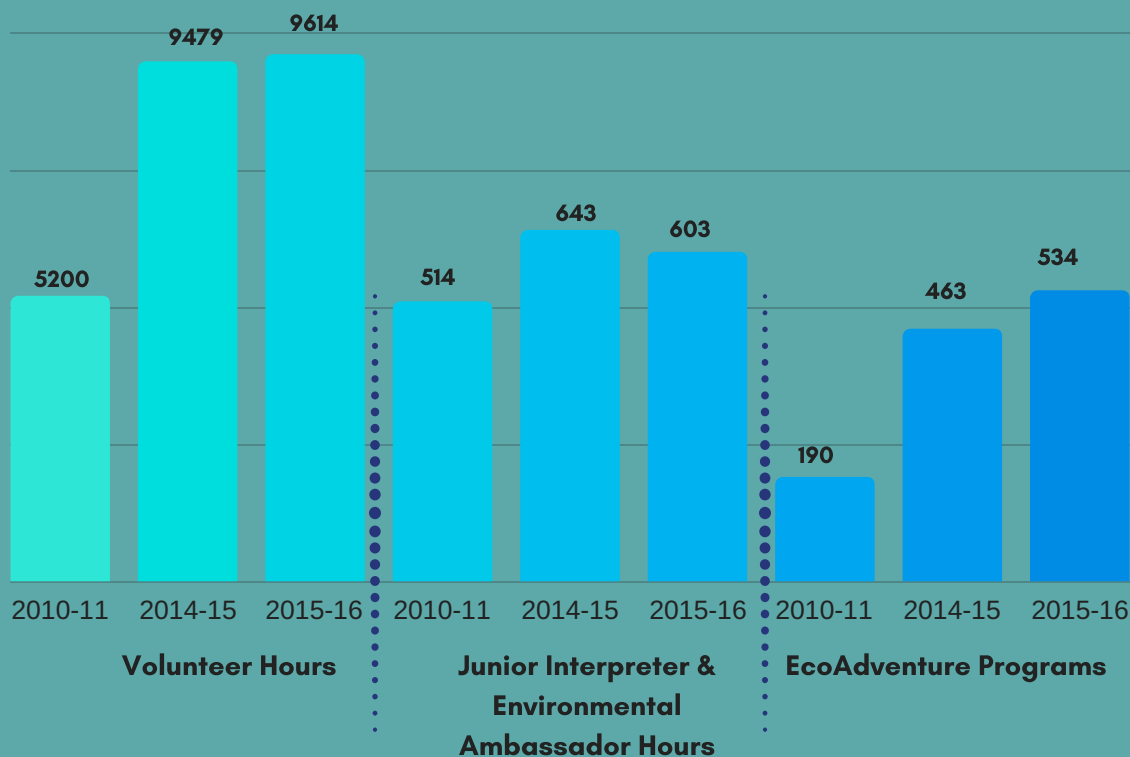
20

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

11

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 6 YEARS



361

New homeowners association participants learned about FL Friendly landscaping practices

83

Hours of volunteering by our 4th and 5th grade Environmental Embassadors

78%

Knowledge increase of the 42 elementary school students who participated in our Literacy on the Lagoon program in collaboration with the Learning Alliance and IRC School District

ELC
2015-2016
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 Family Center

Indian River Land Trust

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

TIMOTHY R. BUHL

Secretary

JORGE FERNANDEZ

Treasurer

TIMOTHY R. BUHL

Members

DON BARR

WILLIAM FRIESELL

JANET LEGER

ROGER LYNCH

ALEX MACWILLIAM, IV

DAVID MORGAN

CINDY O'DARE

JIM SOURBEER

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.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson

JOHN D. LOWENBERG, SR.

Members

ALICE COLE

HADYN COLE

TODD FENNELL

ROBERT PRINDIVILLE

OUR STAFF

Molly Steinwald, Executive Director
Heather Stapleton, Education 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 Nestor, Facilities Manager
Linda Weisner, Administrative Assistant
Wendy O'Neil, Executive Assistant
Mark Butterworth, Boat Captain

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Approximately 260 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
2015-16

ELC INC. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

JULY 1, 2015 - JULY 30, 2016

Support and Revenue

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Contributions | \$617,557 |
| Program Revenue | 124,365 |
| Special Event Revenue (net of costs) | 154,915 |
| Gift Shops Sales (net of costs) | 13,955 |
| Other | 5,896 |
| <u>Investment (Loss)</u> | <u>(53,014)</u> |
| Total Support and Revenue | \$857,778 |

Expense

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Program Services | \$776,542 |
| Management & General Support | 108,108 |
| <u>Benefit & Fundraising Costs</u> | <u>175,378</u> |
| Total Expense | \$1,060,028 |

Addbacks

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Depreciation | \$154,726 |
| <u>Investment Loss</u> | <u>53,014</u> |
| | \$207,740 |

Operating Income **\$5,490**

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 | Members |
| TODD FENNELL | TIMOTHY R. BUHL |
| Secretary | WILLIAM B. CLEMENS, JR. |
| CHUCK POLLARD | ALICE COLE |
| | WILLIAM H. FRISELL |
| | 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, 2016

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| All Data are Annualized | 1 yr | 3 yr | 5 yr | 7 yr | 10 yr | 12 yr |
| ELC Foundation Assets | -7.07% | 9.25% | 8.56% | 10.59% | 6.69% | 5.83% |
| Benchmark 65/35 Mix* | -0.13% | 5.49% | 5.10% | 8.10% | 4.96% | 5.91% |

*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 by clicking the "Yes I'll donate" button above or mailing 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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