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
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.

- EcoAdventure programs to engage visitors in educational and outdoor activities on our 64-acre island campus and the Indian River Lagoon. 534
- People at WinterGreen Night Lights, an evening event for the community to celebrate the holiday season in nature. 462
- Student entries in our Making a Difference in My World school contest, creating artistic entries focused on the importance of nature and environmental stewardship. 1,300
- Elementary school students in 1st, 3rd and 4th grades engaged and educated through immersion-based school field trip days. 2,500
- Children received need-based scholarships to attend summer ecology camps through the Maggy Bowman Scholarship Fund. 21
ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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

Teens from the Boys to Men to Greatness Mentorship Program at Gifford Youth Achievement Center were engaged in outdoor and science skill building programs.
New homeowners association participants learned about FL Friendly landscaping practices.

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.

Hours of volunteering by our 4th and 5th grade Environmental Ambassadors.

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 ELCELC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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TIMOTHY R. BUHL

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(Executive Director, non-voting)

OUR ELC FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Secretary
CHUCK POLLARD
Members
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ALICE COLE

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THOMAS SPACKMAN, M.D.

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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.
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
Investment (Loss) (53,014)
Total Support and Revenue $857,778

Expense
Program Services $776,542
Management & General Support 108,108
Benefit & Fundraising Costs 175,378
Total Expense $1,060,028

Addbacks
Depreciation $154,726
Investment Loss 53,014
$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**

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TODD FENNELL

Secretary
CHUCK POLLARD

**Members**

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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, 2016

<table>
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<th>All Data are Annualized</th>
<th>1 yr</th>
<th>3 yr</th>
<th>5 yr</th>
<th>7 yr</th>
<th>10 yr</th>
<th>12 yr</th>
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<tr>
<td>ELC Foundation Assets</td>
<td>-7.07%</td>
<td>9.25%</td>
<td>8.56%</td>
<td>10.59%</td>
<td>6.69%</td>
<td>5.83%</td>
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<td>Benchmark 65/35 Mix*</td>
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<td>5.10%</td>
<td>8.10%</td>
<td>4.96%</td>
<td>5.91%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*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
772-589-5050
discoverELC.org
#discoverELC