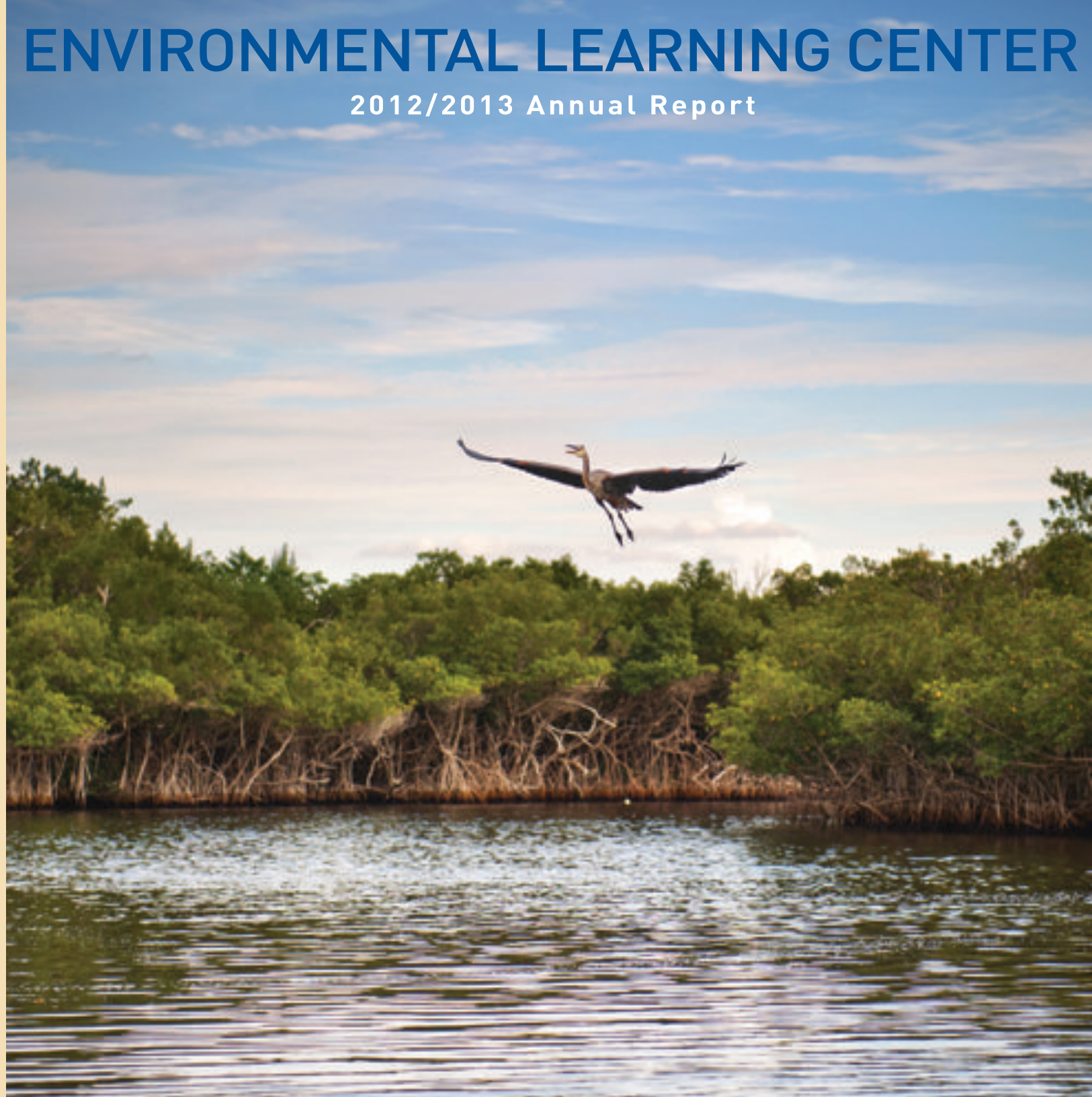
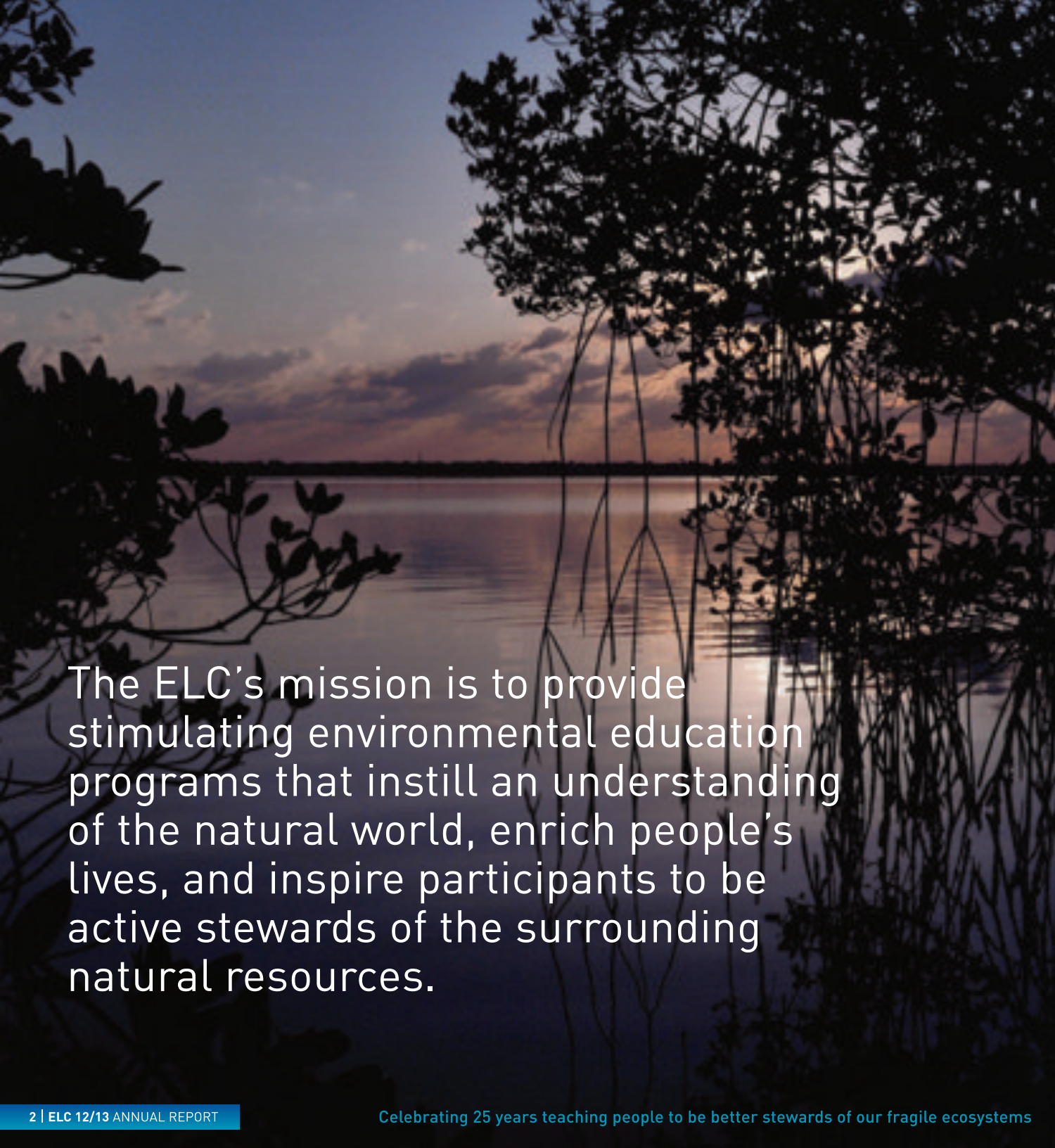


ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

2012/2013 Annual Report





The ELC's mission is to provide stimulating environmental education programs that instill an understanding of the natural world, enrich people's lives, and inspire participants to be active stewards of the surrounding natural resources.

The Environmental Learning Center is governed by an experienced volunteer Board of Trustees 2012/2013

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Chairman's Letter



Greetings to all friends and supporters of the Environmental Learning Center (ELC)! Thank you for helping us celebrate a momentous year. Founded in 1988 by a group of environmentally conscious pioneers in the community, the ELC celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2013. In recognition of this milestone, the community was bustling from points north and south with 15 lagoon-themed events from January through April.

More than 5,500 people of all ages participated in a wide range of activities to uncover the many wonders of the Indian River Lagoon. They also discovered how the ELC has served the community through interactive educational experiences for the past two-and-a-half decades. Many of the events were free of charge, thanks to sponsors and supporters who underwrote some of the costs or hosted events up and down the waterway.

We believe that when admiration and respect for nature is established early, the next generation will grow up to be ecologically conscientious adults – prepared to make positive choices regarding the natural systems that sustain us all. Since inception, we have taught close to 400,000 people how to be better stewards of the Lagoon and surrounding environments and have indirectly impacted 1,000,000 people.

The ELC is for people of all ages, who recognize that the Indian River Lagoon and our surrounding environments are fundamentally important to the Treasure Coast quality of life. We are THE environmental

education organization dedicated to increasing awareness of both the value and vulnerability of our fragile Lagoon environment by changing behaviors and inspiring better stewardship through education. Our combination of proven educational skills, superb environmental knowledge, and one-of-a-kind campus on the Lagoon makes the ELC uniquely qualified to provide hands-on learning experiences that truly make a difference in people's behavior. Our educators are superb at translating and interpreting the science to make it easily understandable for all segments of the community.

With the current crisis conditions in the Lagoon, our work has never been more important. Recently, 47,000 acres of seagrass habitat has died in the Lagoon adversely affecting fish, dolphins, manatees and birds. Therefore, your support of the ELC has never been more important.

With your participation in and support of the ELC, you can feel confident in your environmental stewardship and know that you are helping to protect and enhance the things you hold dear for future generations.

On behalf of the ELC Board of Trustees, I thank you for your support. Together, each of us can make a difference to maintain the quality of life along the Treasure Coast.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill".

Bill Friesell
Board of Trustees Chair, 2012 - 2013



Annual Accomplishments

- Collaborated with 36 organizations to celebrate the ELC's 25th anniversary
- Engaged 5,500 people to participate in 11 different Indian River Lagoon related events between January and May for ELC 25th anniversary activities
- 25 "friends of ELC" hosted 13 parties between February and April to raise money for environmental programs that teach people how to help sustain the Indian River Lagoon
- Received more than 1,900 entries from elementary school children in the Making a Difference in MY World Contest with projects focusing on the Lagoon
- Provided 3,320 Indian River County elementary school students in 1st, 3rd and 4th grades with SPLASH 1, SPLASH 3 and Lagoon Days classes
- 34 young students served as Lagoon Summer Ecology Adventure counselors donating 933 hours
- Naturalist Rosemary Badger taught 540 students ages 4 and 5 to become Young Nature Explorers



- Education Director Heather Stapleton coordinated more than 450 educational programs and EcoVentures including guided boat trips, canoeing, hiking, kayaking, geocaching, beachcombing and pond exploration sessions
- Attracted 664 people to the ELC's self-guided audio tour with 13 different stops on the ELC's 64-acre Lagoon preserve
- Provided hands-on learning to 434 children in Lagoon Summer Ecology Adventure and Eco-Immersion series
- Hosted 500 people at the first WinterGreen Nightlights including guided canoe trips through Lagoon mangrove forests lit up with sparkling holiday lights
- Planned to host up to 60 elected and appointed officials through hands-on learning workshops called UpClose and Ecological to encourage policies and decisions that preserve the Lagoon
- Naturalist Sarah Rhodes-Ondi mentored 27 Junior Interpreters and Environmental Ambassadors who volunteered 628 hours to participate in stewardship activities such as growing plants to be used for shoreline restoration and cleaning up Lagoon islands

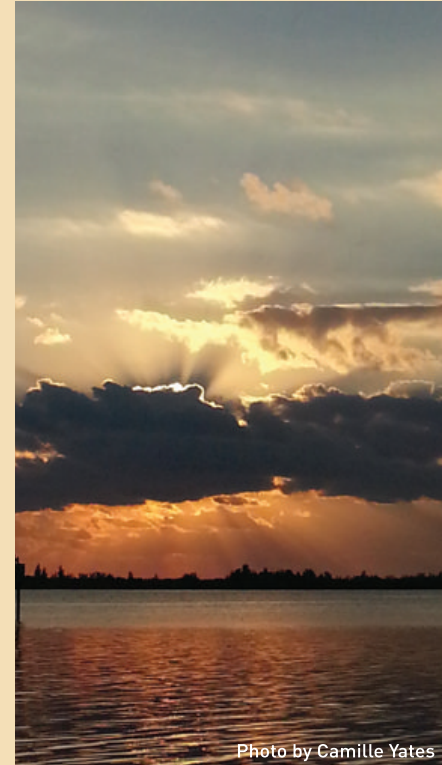




Photo by Doug Graybill



Photo by Doug Graybill



Photo by Heather Askew

Two-and-a-Half Decades of Service to the Community!

For the last 25 years, the ELC has been empowering people to be better stewards of the Indian River Lagoon and the surrounding ecosystems. In honor of our 25th anniversary, we held numerous events to teach more people than ever about the Lagoon. From beach clean-ups to book readings, to photo contests,

to EcoQuizzes broadcast over the radio, we actively engaged more than 27,000 people broadening their environmental knowledge. Thank you to the many partners who collaborated with us to make our 25th anniversary a resounding success!

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Vero Marine Center
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Photo by Heather Askew

25th Anniversary Committee (L – R) – Pat Casselberry, Doug Graybill, Mary Arden, Bill Friesell and Carl Miller

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The Environmental Learning Center extends its most heart-felt gratitude to the many donors who provided the essential support for our work to create better stewards of our fragile ecosystems.

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This list includes donations received during FY 13 from July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013. We have made every effort to ensure that the cumulative giving amounts from our donors are accurate (excludes funds spent on programs or making a purchase). If your name was inadvertently left off the list, we apologize! Please call 772-589-5050, ext. 103 to let us know.



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Photo by Heather Stapleton



Photo by Sarah Rhodes-Ondi

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ELC Thanks our Valuable Volunteers and Supporters

From ELC volunteer Ginger Heller – excerpts from a note that she wrote to our three naturalists. Used with her permission.

“I have spent these days since that last Lagoon Day Monday reflecting on the many environmental lessons and human lessons every volunteer, every child, every teacher, and every chaperone took home with them at the end of this ELC event extraordinaire.



Photo by Rosemary Badger

As a team you provided the quintessential outdoor learning experience in one magical day for each school. There were times I could not believe my eyes... I know in my heart that these Lagoon Days experiences for these fourth graders will return ten-fold in residents of Indian River County who will honor and care for the Lagoon a little more thoughtfully and tenderly. You three Naturalists - environmental educators – pay it forward through every child you touch. I look forward to working with you again and with the other wonderful volunteers next year.”

Ginger has volunteered since Lagoon Days at the ELC's EcoImmersion classes for disadvantaged youth along with many other ELC educational programs and events.

Photo by Heather Stapleton

ELC, Inc. Financial Summary

July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

From Audited Financial Statements*

Support and Revenue

Contributions	\$ 317,932
Program Revenue	\$ 153,754
Special Event Revenue (net of costs)	\$ 136,042
Gift Shop Sales (net of costs)	\$ 16,315
Investment Income	\$ 334,667
Other	\$ 4,327
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 963,037

Expense

Program Services	\$ 629,734
Support Services:	
Management & General Support	\$ 101,834
Benefit & Fundraising Costs	\$ 230,150
Total Expense	\$ 961,718

*Summarized from the audited June 30, 2013 financial statements. A copy of the audited financial statements is available by written request to the Environmental Learning Center.



ELC Foundation

The Environmental Learning Center Foundation, Inc. is a separate not-for-profit corporation which manages 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, the investment committee has ensured rates of return that have performed solidly over a ten-year period.

Board of Directors

<i>Chairperson</i> - Todd Fennell	William Friesell
<i>Vice Chairperson</i> - (Vacant)	Andrew Hartline
<i>Secretary</i> - Chuck Pollard	John D. Lowenberg, Sr.
<i>Treasurer</i> - Robert McCabe	James S. Mulholland, III
Alice Cole	Thomas Spackman, M.D.

Investment Committee

<i>Chairperson</i> - John D. Lowenberg, Sr.
Alice Cole
Todd Fennell
Robert Prindiville
Robert Puff

ELC Foundation Investment Returns Summary

June 30, 2013

All Data are Annualized

	1 yr	3yr	5yr	7yr	10yr
ELC Foundation Assets	13.22%	9.69%	3.72%	5.88%	5.46%
Benchmark 65/35 Mixed*	10.31%	9.62%	3.91%	4.60%	6.90%

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



Photo by Carl Miller



Environmental Learning Center

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