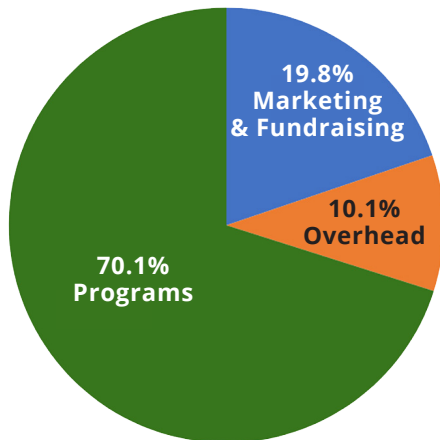


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2018 FINANCIALS



EXPENSES

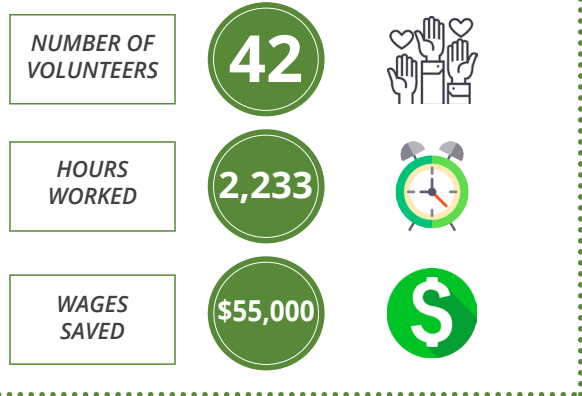
Our Board of Directors covers all overhead and fundraising costs. 100% of donations go directly toward programs.



15TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

The celebration en Blanc Gala was held on Saturday, September 22, 2018 with 200 guests in attendance. The event raised a record \$289,810.00. Thank you to our generous sponsors and all who attended and supported us at this fantastic event.

2018 VOLUNTEER IMPACT



ON THE HORIZON IN 2019

- Opening of our first public partnership Aquaponics system at the Bayside Community Center with support from SDG&E.
- ECOLIFE Conservation Annual Gala September 7, 2019



ANNUAL REPORT 2018





Bill Toone

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ECOLIFE

Since 2003, ECOLIFE has been protecting people and our resources. This annual report reflects our optimism as we highlight our accomplishments in 2018, our 15th year!

We are grateful that you join us in our commitment to conserve natural resources by redefining the way people grow, access, and cook food. With your help, we continue to spread awareness and increase our impact through our local and international programs.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, I would like to thank you – our volunteers, donors, and friends. Because of you, we will continue to help save the forests, conserve water, and address human health crises.

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- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
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STOVES: CHANGING LIVES EVERY DAY!

Traditionally, in the Purépecha culture, the women of the household do all the cooking. But Ignacio's wife Consuelo is nearly blind and has a hard time moving around, so he cooks for her. He's gotten pretty good at it. Maria Consuelo and Ignacio have spent their lives together in a modest home in a small village near Zitácuaro, Mexico. Both are in their 80s with declining health, yet it's evident from the way they are always holding hands and smiling, their hearts are full of love. "We are very happy." ~ Consuelo

Ignacio and Consuelo lived most of their 80 years in discomfort and danger from the smoke and flames of an open cooking fire inside their home. The couple recently benefited from the installation of a Patsari stove from ECOLIFE. It provides them with a much cleaner and safer environment. Ignacio prepares delicious, wholesome meals, usually corn masa, rice, beans, and sometimes chicken, pork, or fish. Breakfast will be simple: coffee or hot chocolate and corn muffins. "We use it every day, even for a small meal. Thank you! We are grateful." ~ Ignacio

Now they can finally enjoy more comfort and security in their old age. Their grandchildren, growing up right next door, will never have to know the chronic illnesses that Ignacio and Consuelo lived with for so long. It is for their grandchildren's generation that Ignacio and Consuelo ask that we continue to do what we do.

1,911 STOVES BUILT IN 2018

That's more stoves than we've built during the entire existence of the program. Reducing fuelwood consumption protects the monarch overwintering site in Mexico. We plan to build 27,000 stoves by 2022 so every family living around the UNESCO Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve burns less fuelwood and breathes clean air.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Our Aquaponics Innovation Center (AIC) opened doors in October as an inviting educational facility to provide workforce training and demonstrate a sustainable alternative to food production. The 900 sq ft research facility is capable of growing 333 lbs of tilapia, 1,600 heads of greens, or a combination of fruiting plants and herbs in a recirculating system. With the help of technical internships and supportive volunteers, we donated 883 lbs of produce in a four month period to local organizations who provide food for people in need.



EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM) Education Program uses aquaponics as a versatile learning tool to foster experiential learning around our food system and environment. The ECO-Cycle Aquaponics Kit and curricula is our building block for classrooms to grow their own food, reaching 6,241 students in 2018. Our larger greenhouse system at Helix High School served as a platform for students to test the feasibility of growing native plants in aquaponics—leading to a successful restoration of 107 plants into Shepherd Canyon. Additional workshops were held for 2,400 local students relating to climate science, water conservation, human impact, food systems, and aquaponics.



My students are learning about the watershed in San Diego and the importance of not littering. I think having the ECO-Cycle in my classroom shows them the value of keeping waterways clean. We are comparing and contrasting plants growing in the canyon near the local polluted water source and the plants in our classroom. ~ Monique Oswald from Golden Hill K-8