



Grassroots Fundraising

Grassroots fundraising means an organization uses a wide variety of strategies to invite as many people as possible to give donations of widely varying amounts. It also means a lot of people are involved in raising the money needed. The Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation depends on you, our generous supporters, to fund our scholarships and grants. You buy cards, send contributions and support our fundraisers. This year, 375 different families raised \$90,961.00. That is the definition of grassroots fundraising!

In 2017, we held three fundraisers: our Magical Night Event, Sip and Shop at Evelyn & Arthur and Shop For a Cause at Scarlet Begonias.

A Magical Night

On June 3, 2017, the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation celebrated its 15th Anniversary at the Blue Stone Country Club in Blue Bell, PA. It was a magical evening for the 110 guests at the anniversary event. Below is a short summary to fill you in on the bewitching evening.

During the cocktail hour, Marc DeSouza, a phenomenal entertainer, circulated the room and dazzled guests with his tricks and sleight of hand feats. Our friend, Ricky Cutler, from Family Jewels, displayed 10 jewelry ensembles that were raffled off after dinner and raised \$1,100 for the Foundation.

Before and during the scrumptious dinner, the DJ managed to play only songs that included the word “magic” in the title.

After dinner, the group was entertained by Marc’s feats of



(Continued on page 2)



Shop For A Cause

Between Thursday night October 5th and Saturday, October 7th, 90 shoppers stopped in Scarlet Begonias in Flourtown, PA to shop and support the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation. The store is a woman’s boutique that sells clothing, jewelry and great gift items.

Karen Phelps, store owner, donated back 10% of the sales or \$1900 to the Foundation. Ricky Cutler of Family Jewels held a trunk show while we were there and donated a percentage of her proceeds as well. Scoogis Restaurant also participated during

(Continued on page 2)



Sip and Shop

Evelyn and Arthur, an upscale ladies boutique in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida held a Sip and Shop event on January 26, 2017. Over 90 women participated and raised \$6,586 for the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation scholarship fund. We are thrilled with the results and are planning Sip and Shop #2 on January 29, 2018. Hope to see you there!!



This February it will be sixteen years since Kate died while snowboarding in Bend, OR. I know I mention every year how much this Foundation means to me, Frank, Michael and my dad, Bob Clair. Helping so many students experience the great outdoors in Kate's memory gives us great comfort.

Message

On the cover, I talk about grassroots fundraising and I feel the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation exemplifies the term. We have no corporate sponsors and no major benefactors; just many amazing, wonderful, generous friends who help us raise money one dollar at a time.

This year we had three exciting fundraisers. Our Magical Night Gala and Ad Book raised over \$60,000 and our two shopping events raised \$9,300. Supporters who buy cards and make contributions totalled \$23,388 and our Amazon Smile participants added \$381. We are very grateful for everyone's support.

We awarded \$104,505 in grants to 23 different programs this year. There were six additions including Grassy Waters Conservancy (West Palm Beach, FL), Los Angeles Water Keeper (Los Angeles, CA), First Waves (Johnstown, PA), Bucks County Audubon Society (New Hope, PA), Chipping Hill Micro Farm (Blue Bell, PA) and Upper Dublin Nursery School (Ambler, PA).

I hope I can continue to count on you, our Grassroots supporters to help us keep Kate's legacy alive.



Ellen for Frank, Michael and Bob Clair (Kate's Pop-pop)

A Magical Night *(Continued from page 1)*

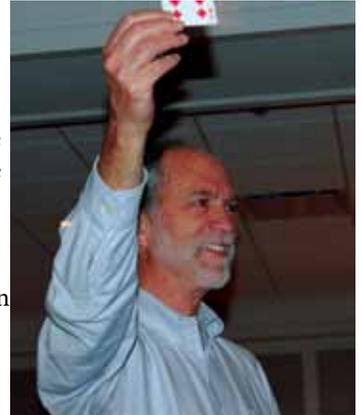
magic and illusion. We are all still scratching our heads as to how the \$10 bill belonging to Michael Fishbein ended up in the center of a lime—yes, a fresh lime—and inside a sealed bag! Plus, how did randomly picked playing cards end up matching... *exactly*... the numbers on a lottery ticket that was in a sealed envelope? We were captivated and astounded all during the show.

Also following the show, the DJ spun music for dancing while everyone enjoyed an assortment of delicious desserts.

The dinner, donations, ad book and raffles raised more than \$60,000 for the Foundation.

Frank, Michael and I have often observed how magical the fundraising events can be. We know that our dear Kate has a hand in the enchantment, but we also realize that it is you, our exceptionally generous friends and family, who are part of the mystique.

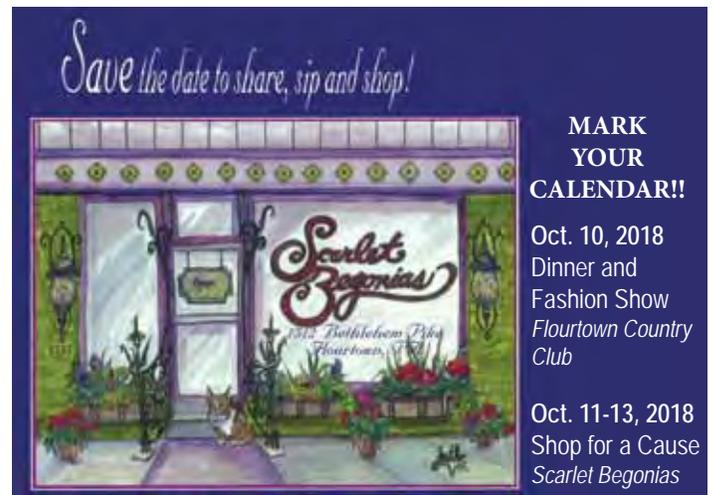
As you read the newsletter, we hope that you will take to heart the words of the youngsters who are so tenderly grateful for the outdoor experiences the KSMF is able to provide. The young adults, educators, leaders and counselors know that these experiences were deeply cherished and strongly purported by Kate. Through your kindness, the magic of learning miraculously appears in countless areas where it had not been visible before.



Shop For A Cause *(Continued from page 1)*

the 3 days and donated 10% back on meals served if diners mentioned the Foundation. Many wonderful supporters who couldn't shop also sent checks for a grand total of \$2800 raised for the Foundation's grant program.

Mark your calendars because Scarlet Begonias and the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation are teaming up once again to put on a Dinner and Fashion Show Wednesday, October 10th at Flourtown Country Club followed by a second annual Shop for a Cause Thursday-Saturday October 11-13th.



Save the date to share, sip and shop!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

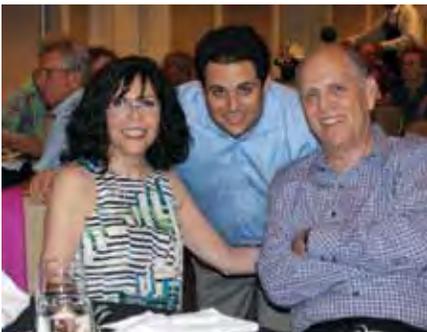
Oct. 10, 2018
Dinner and Fashion Show
Flourtown Country Club

Oct. 11-13, 2018
Shop for a Cause
Scarlet Begonias

Hope you all can join us!!!!



A Magical Night
for
The Kate Svitek
Memorial Foundation!





Grateful CAP Students Write About Their Outward Bound Experiences

...I don't know if you remember but we have met before. I cannot begin to explain how grateful I am for this experience you have provided for me. I have learned amazing skills like tying knots and rock climbing. I have met amazing people to go along with those amazing skills. I have learned to take better care of myself, independently.

Even though I got hurt in the field, it did not stop me. I was more determined than ever to continue on this journey. It was honestly a learning experience for me. I learned I could push myself beyond limits and be just fine. Like hiking 7 miles uphill and still making camp early.
—Ciani

...I went canoeing for the first time which was incredible. I also went rock climbing. Although it was really scary to be so high up, it was fun and worth it. I did cry because I was so scared but it turned out to be fun. This program introduced me to new and hard things. To know that I completed 22 days of course makes me feel proud of myself.
—Nayeli

...I want to start off by saying you are amazing and thoughtful people. Not only for giving me an opportunity to help me find myself but for also helping teens like myself become apart of an awesome experience. My heart became full of joy when I climbed up that mountain because to me, it was not just a climb, it was an act of strength and motivation that I never knew I had in me.
—Cindy



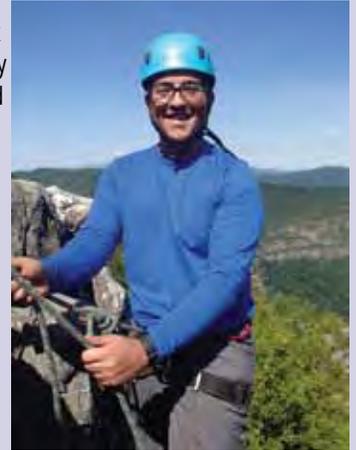
...The highlight of my trip was making it to the top of Table Rock mountain and enjoying the view. I am proud of how far I pushed myself. I am also proud of how much I have grown physically and mentally in two weeks. Outward Bound is an experience that I will never forget. Thank you again for supporting Outward Bound scholarships and giving me a once in a lifetime experience.
—Alexia

...I'll never be able to forget the strangers I met that turned into family by the end of the course. Through this journey of discovery with this family, all of this trust and the love built the highest of high moments, the lowest of low points we've made it through. People will often neglect nature or the support of others but I've learned to love and cherish all of it.
—Dewayne

...The past 22 days have been an amazing experience for me. I've learned to appreciate many things, not only at home but also in this earthy. It has been an eye opener for me to take more care of this beautiful planet.
—Janelis

...I was pushed to my limits both physically and mentally. Backpacking was a challenge for me because growing up in Philadelphia, I was so used to riding in vehicles rather than walking everywhere. I was able to exceed that limit when I hiked up to the apex of Mt. Mitchell which is approximately 6,600 feet above ground. Who would have thought that I would be able to climb Table Rock, which is 3,600 feet. What I am trying to say is that I am extremely grateful that I was given this scholarship. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to experience these life changing events.

—Marc



...My life has gotten unclear in the past few months due to tragedy, struggles and personal problems but thanks to you and Outward Bound, I know exactly what road I want to take, how to take it and why. This made me physically and mentally stronger. Thank you so much for helping me find clarity in my life and also for this amazing opportunity.

—Nathan

...I came to Outward Bound because both my sisters did it and I feel like Outward Bound is a passage way to adulthood. The highlight of my course was making it to the top of Table Rock Mountain and making new friends with people I never thought I'd be friends with. I'm proud of stepping out of my comfort zone and opening up to new opportunities like Outward Bound. I learned how to be a leader and how to rock climb which was really awesome. I just want to say thank you for supporting Outward Bound scholars.

—Alyza





In May 2017, The Kate Svitek Memorial Trust awarded the Central PA Conservancy a grant in the amount of \$4,000 for the 2017 Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute (GLLI), held from July 10-15, 2017. This grant support was critical to the implementation of our weeklong conservation leadership overnight camp for middle school and high school youth, held at the Ironmaster's Mansion/Pine Grove Furnace State Park near Carlisle, PA. The goal of this program is to engage youth ages 13-15 in practical learning about the natural, scenic, historic, agricultural and recreational resources of Pennsylvania's South Mountain Landscape and in key lessons in leadership and citizenship from area teachers, practitioners, and community leaders.

This year, there were 16 exceptional student participants and 6 staff members. During the program, students saw how human impacts on South Mountain streams, tributaries, and the Susquehanna River contribute to the health of the Chesapeake Bay. After spending the first three days exploring the South Mountain, students spent the final three days of the program at the Chesapeake Bay where they participated in the celebration of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's 50th year anniversary.

This experience allowed students to gain knowledge about how to solve programs locally as well as the importance of building partnerships to make difference. Students built skills through field-based learning (e.g., creeks and critters/water connections, forestry, agriculture, land-use planning) including setting crab traps and baiting them with Atlantic menhaden on the Chesapeake Bay. Also, students participated in a team project that helped them foster an understanding of local conservation issues as well as develop teamwork and communication skills with 4 other student groups that met in Chesapeake Bay. Students were empowered through conservation-based volunteer service projects and other forms of community action including a service project where they planted native black chokeberry along Mountain Creek within Pine Grove Furnace State Park.

GLLI 2017 participants Karley Thomas and Logan Staub shared these words about their GLLI experiences:

From Karley:

My name is Karley Thomas and I attended the Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute in July 2017. At this camp, not only did I learn about many different ways to help save the Bay, but I also learned traits such as leadership, integrity, and the ability to sometimes steer away and do things that may not be in my comfort zone.

From Logan:

On July 10-15, I attended the Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute and received a half scholarship to participate. While I was there, I learned about the many factors that Pennsylvanians play on the health of the bay as well as how to become a better leader. The six-day Institute allowed me to see what actions I can take to positively affect the bay.

I had a great time on this trip and learned so much. Thank

you for allowing me to experience this life-changing trip. It allowed me to see what I can do to change the bay and allowed me to extend my knowledge to friends and family about what they can do to change the life of the bay.



Ladies of Florida...

Hope to see you at
the 2nd Annual Sip and Shop

at

Evelyn and Arthur's
Palm Beach Gardens store

EVELYN & ARTHUR
HAVE YOU HAD A GOOD LOOK LATELY?

January 29, 2018
5:30 - 7:30 P.m.



to design a bikeable sculpture ridden in the Kinetic Sculpture Derby. In 2013, James began earning money at NBW by building bikes in our Winter Bike Build class.

Then in 2014, he took his mechanics up a level and dove deep with the Leadership and Advanced Mechanics Course. The course set him up for a summer apprenticeship in our former North Philly retail shop, a full-service shop where James began to practice both sales and service (mechanics). Also in 2014, James and three other NBW grads traveled to New York City for the National Youth Bike Summit. It was here that the youth learned about Youth Councils and set their sights on creating an NBW Youth Council. James served as a founding member of the Youth Council and has helped steward the Council as it has given valuable input on staff hiring, NBW's 2015 relocation, and presented at several national conferences. Since 2014, James has worked at numerous NBW outreach events and collected a paycheck as a Youth Assistant Instructor. Just this month, we hired James as a true co-worker – the Project Manager for NBW's Mobile Bike Pop-Up Shop. James will be able to serve as Project Manager as he finishes his high school career this year.

NBW's Youth Bike Education and Empowerment Program (YBEEP) is a cohesive series of bicycling, bike repair, and youth leadership programs for youth ages eight to 18. YBEEP provides 10 course offerings, from entry-level Earn-A-Bike or Ride Club classes to our Youth Leadership Council. YBEEP programs build hands-on bike mechanical and safe riding skills, life skills, healthy habits, and support youth in developing into socially and environmentally aware adults.

The 2016-2017 program year was Neighborhood Bike Works' 20th year of engaging Philadelphia youth through bicycling, bike repair, leadership, and career-building programs. During the year NBW engaged a total of 548 youth through all programs, outreach, and employment events. We served 266 young people through our core on-site programs, from entry-level bicycle mechanics and urban riding skills to advanced mechanics and leadership training. Forty six percent of participants were engaged in more than one program during the year, 4,200 miles were ridden, and 105 bikes were distributed. The pinnacle of our youth programming is in our youth leadership council, on which 11 youth served, and in youth employment opportunities we provide here at NBW and at partner sites, in which 33 young people participated.

Of all youth participants in our YBEEP programs during the year, 53% were eligible to receive free or reduced lunch at school. 67 percent of NBW's youth participants identified as Black/ African American, 16 percent as Caucasian, 12 percent as multi-racial, 2 percent as Hispanic, and 1 percent as Asian.

James is a youth who has been deeply engaged in NBW programs over the last five years. James' involvement with NBW shows how youth can chart meaningful, multi-year journeys with NBW. James completed an Earn-A-Bike class in 2012. After Earn-A-Bike, he returned to NBW regularly to work on his bike and hone his mechanic skills at Drop In. James frequently joined NBW Monthly Group Rides and has participated in the annual Kinetic Sculpture Class, in which youth use bike parts and frames





A new activity, sun prints, kicked off the first nature activity of the summer. Campers gathered items from both nature and around camp and created scenes on the special sun sensitive paper. With a sense of awe, the campers then watched the paper transform before their eyes as the sun's power imprinted their designs on the paper forever. The sun print activity was paired with the annual Attaway seed planting. Both of these activities allowed campers to gain a better understanding of how all living things on Earth are connected through their reliance on the sun. By caring for their plants each day, campers not only took on the responsibility of caring for something outside of themselves but also felt the satisfaction of successfully helping the plants grow and thrive.

During the first week of camp, Reptile Man returned with a menagerie of reptiles for the campers to learn about.

The focus during the second week of camp was teamwork. The Predator – Prey game has become an annual nature favorite. Through this game, campers learned about the relationships between herbivores, omnivores and carnivores. A second teamwork activity was added this summer and truly required the campers to work together. Campers made bird seed cookies which provided food for the local bird populations around camp. There was a recipe to follow and the campers had to work on following directions, dividing up tasks and taking turns. As a large group, a discussion was had about why bird feeders are important and what campers can do to support native wildlife. Once the bird seed cookies were chilled, they were hung in the trees of the Attaway Café so campers could make observations throughout the rest of camp.



The culminating nature activity of the summer built on last year's successful trip to Patapsco Valley State Park. Campers and staff had the opportunity to enjoy nature while eating lunch in one of the park's pavilions. After lunch, the entire camp hiked about ¼ mile to the site of our stream study. While hiking, campers made observations of the natural world around them. They made observations of the tree roots and soil that had been unearthed when the tree itself fell over. They saw signs of animal life in the form of both skat and tracks. On this hike, campers practiced leave – no – trace hiking techniques and were careful to stay on the trail as they hiked. Upon our arrival at the stream, campers quickly got to work on the macroinvertebrate study. It was the first time that many campers had to opportunity to

use dip nets and the excitement that arose every time someone caught something new was a wonderful sight to see. One camper shared that she had never done a stream study before and that she loved catching crayfish. Our oldest campers with the help of our counselor in training (CIT) and CIT counselor were able to venture farther upstream than previously planned showing that their comfort level and interest in nature had grown from last year. With the information they gathered, campers learned about the health of the stream. A pop up thunderstorm moved in just as we got back to the bus which provided the opportunity for the campers to learn about hiking safety when certain weather events occur.



This summer Attaway's Go Green Initiative built on what was started last year. Our Counselor in Training (CIT) focused on reducing waste behind the scenes at camp. Emphasis this year was placed on recycling items that came out of the camp office as well as the recyclable waste from the staff room.

Having watched the nature program grow from the beginning, it is exciting to see what it has become today. One camper told me this summer that "the nature program is great. We get to do a lot of cool stuff and we get to go outside." The financial support provided by the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation has truly allowed this program to flourish and the campers are reaping the benefits. By showing campers how to feel comfortable in nature and by nurturing their curiosity in it, we are helping them become stewards of the Earth.





Supporting the Everglades in West Palm Beach



With support from the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation, Grassy Waters Conservancy was able to develop and implement a very successful summer program for children of West Palm Beach, Florida. The program ran for two months and provided 60 children from inner city summer camps an unforgettable outdoor experience.

Rachel Martinez, a junior at University of Florida, majoring in Environmental Science, was a summer intern who worked closely with these students. She became certified in Project Wild and Aquatic Wild and led a Swamp Tromp activity as part of her field trip experience.

Below are comments from some of the students: Quinton... "I learned about how the water is rain fed and how it becomes our drinking water."

Janie... "I was really interested to see what Florida used to look like before we came and built houses."

Sanae... "Grassy Waters is a cool and fun place. You can go canoeing and dip netting. While you go canoeing you can explore and see the world's biggest grasshopper, alligators and apple snails."

Asija... "I went to Grassy Waters Preserve with my group and we went canoeing first. When we were canoeing I saw pretty water lilies. We went dip netting and my group found shrimp, apple snails, a whirligig beetle and a grass hopper. I learned that if apple snails are in the water, that the water is clean."



Los Angeles Waterkeeper (LAW) thanks the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation for its generous support of our Marine Protected Areas Watch (MPA Watch) Boat-Based Survey Program in 2017. Our boat-based program is the first-of-its-kind in California, developed to help safeguard the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Los Angeles County and offer unique experiential learning opportunities for youth to explore these 'underwater parks' firsthand.

The Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation's grant contribution helped our team conduct 32 on-the-water survey trips to the Pt. Vicente/Abalone Cove (near Palos Verdes), Pt. Dume (near Malibu),



and Catalina Island MPAs. The vast majority of crew members who joined our trips during this grant term were students from high schools in historically underserved communities including Latino, Native American and previously incarcerated and at risk youth. Other notable participants of our program this grant term include students from UCLA, UC Irvine, and Occidental College.

Each survey trip offered youth a hands-on experience to learn survey protocol as they collected written, photo, and GPS documentation of all boating and fishing activity in and around the restricted coastal waters of our regional MPAs. As a new element of our program, this year students were also able to conduct phytoplankton pulls and water samplings while onboard, further helping our team understand the health of our local coastal waters. Even beyond its educational purpose, LAW uploaded all data students collected in the field to the statewide MPA Watch Data Bank database to support the management and enforcement of these areas, which all too often fall victim to illegal fishing and pollution.

Thank You! Thank You!

Once again this year the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation received a check in the amount of \$5000, from the Faulkner Family Foundation, a fund of the Pennsylvania Automotive Association Foundation. The mission of the PAAF is to support the charitable activities and good works of Pennsylvania's new car and truck dealers.

We have also received a grant from the Joseph Alexander Foundation in the amount of \$2500. Mr. Alexander's niece, Randi Windheim serves on the board of the Joseph Alexander Foundation and knew Kate when she was growing up.

UVM Interns Share Their Experiences

(excerpts from thank you letters)

This summer I participated in one of the most fun and influential experiences of my life. I held an internship with Swan Valley Connections (SVC) in North Western Montana, where I was the Resident Education Assistant for their summer field program. Wildlife in the West is a 6-week long program that focuses on the issues between endangered wildlife species and our interactions with them as humans. As the Resident Education Assistant I lived with the students on an old Western homestead and helped with their work in and out of the field. As a previous student of an SVC field program. This internship gave me the chance to explore the field of environmental education and strengthen my skills as an educator. I learned so much about what methods work best for me to connect with students, how to translate new information to them, and how to best keep so many moving parts in order.



I would not have been able to participate in this internship without your generous gift. Thank you for allowing me to have such an influential experience during my college career.

Thank you,
Emily Bogan

Thank you so much for your support and financial assistance with my internship during the summer.

Over the summer, I lived and worked in Israel. I was a participant on Onward Israel. Through the program, I found an internship with a start-up company that produces desalination modules. This internship gave me insight on the journey of a start-up company and alternative solutions to water scarcity. During the summer, I conducted research for the company on contaminated wells in California and the contaminants the desalination technology can remove from waste water.

I also lived with 7 participants from the program in Tel Aviv, Israel. Living in Tel Aviv allowed me to explore the political and social issues in the area. It also gave me the opportunity to live independently for the summer. I also had the privilege of traveling around the country. I visited Haifa, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem. Traveling the country helped me further my education on the issues that Israelis face every day and different perspectives of these issues.

Your generous gift allowed me to support myself while abroad. Thank you so much for the opportunity of a lifetime.

Bayla Fisher

I would like to extend my gratitude for helping to give me the opportunity to be an intern at the Green Mountain Club (GMC) this past summer. Over the course of my two-and-a-half-month internship, I interacted with thousands of guests who visited the Mount Mansfield summit. These interactions

ranged from asking hikers to please avoid stepping on the grass to teaching children about the various birds flying around the summit.

Throughout this summer I spent three weeks training at the GMC headquarters in Waterbury Center, which included tool safety and ergonomics training, wildlife first aid and CPR certification, leave-no-trace training, and an introduction to backcountry sanitation (privy maintenance). I also spent two weeks working on the Long Trail Patrol (LTP), manually installing new rock features, such as steps and water drainages, and wood steps. LTP generally does not stay near existing campsites, but rather stakes tents off trail and out of view. These sites are within walking distance, but not necessarily in close proximity to, a water source.

Four weeks were spent on Mount Mansfield as a caretaker. Unlike LTP, which changes locations weekly, caretakers are on a site for the entire summer and stay in GMC shelters. I spent most of my nights in Taft lodge, one of the larger shelters that GMC cares for, which holds up to 24 people. Because of the size of Taft, it is popular for large summer camp groups. Many of the nights that I was at Taft, there were at least 10 people there, usually many kids with several counselors.

This gave us a golden opportunity to teach not just the kids, but counselors, about leave-no-trace and socialize with guests on a much smaller scale than when I saw people throughout the day.

I took a great deal away from this summer. For one, I surprised myself with my abilities. The heavy hikes up to the shelters for the week and early morning hikes in the rain helped me grow mentally. Working 40-hour weeks, rain or shine, on the windswept summit of Mansfield and muddy hiking trails was something I never through I'd do. At the end of every week when I had a chance to unwind, I felt lots of pride in myself that I was able to complete my tasks.

Additionally, the opportunity to talk to people about ecology, leave-no-trace, and the environment helped me gain confidence in discussing what I've been taught at school and throughout life.

This internship also helped prepare me for my future endeavors. Through talking to hundreds of hikers a day of various experience levels I am much more comfortable approaching strangers to engage them in conversation. Living out of a backpack and in primitive conditions for days at a time also helped me get accustomed to what doing field research may be like. I honed my bird and tree identification skills throughout the day, as well as learning a lot about identifying and the ecology of the rare alpine-specific plants that I saw daily.

Once again, thank you so much for helping to give me a summer experience that I'll never forget.

Kevin Tolan



As the semester is drawing to an end I have been reflecting deeply on my experiences during my final semester at UVM. Among the many opportunities I have been fortunate to participate in over the past couple of months, my internship with Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront certainly stands out as the most life changing. When I was first offered the position, I was ecstatic, as it was a position I had been eyeing for over a year. Thanks to your generosity, I was able to personally experience that freedom and for that I am truly grateful.

Throughout my time in my role at BPRW, I was able to play an integral role in the development of a GIS (geographic information system) Action Plan for the Department, advance my GIS skills through daily projects, gain experience working at a municipal level, and build a multitude of



professional connections throughout the City of Burlington. In addition to all the tangible skills I developed through this role, I also believe that this position couldn't have come at a better time in my life. As a second semester senior I, like many others, are in a place where we must determine "what's next?" During my time at BPRW I applied to a few graduate schools for Urban and Regional Planning, a path I was interested in, but still unsure of even during the application process. As I experienced the different roles throughout the Parks Planning Division, spoke with my new mentors, and participated in new and innovative projects it became increasingly clear that grad school was the right decision. I now plan to attend the University of Colorado Denver in the Fall of 2017 and hope to continue pursuing my interests in the realm of park planning.

Without the generosity of your family, I would never have been able to have this amazing experience or the opportunity to meet some of my most influential mentors. I admire the support you offer to the Rubenstein community and hope that you understand how great an impact your family has had on my life, as I'm sure you have on others' as well! Thank you again for supporting my ambitions and giving me the ability to spend my last semester pursuing a field I am truly passionate about.

Sarah Shaffer



Camp Thunderbird

Camp Thunderbird's vision is to empower Native American youth of South Dakota through outdoor and educational experiences that emphasize leadership, teamwork, and goal setting skills, and to provide a nurturing space for campers to gain self confidence, make new friends, and explore the natural world.

This summer, we served 5 elementary age and 7 middle-school age campers from the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations. Initially, 20 campers were registered, but half dropped out at the last minute due to family deaths and emergencies. This is an unfortunate reality of the daily lives of many of our campers. While the number of campers was fewer than usual, it allowed for a more engaging and meaningful camp experience for both youth and counselors.

For the first time this year, we offered a distinct, thematic middle school camp that emphasized outdoor education and science. This camp was created as a response to the specific interests of our middle school campers, and offered a small-group setting and higher camper-to-adult ratio that better supported learning and relationship-building. Campers in all sessions enjoyed activities such as hiking, boating, outdoor games, visiting the local art museum, exploring sacred Lakota sites, and



participating in science experiments. This was our fourth year offering camps to both elementary and middle-school children. Thanks to donors like the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation, Camp Thunderbird has become a reliable and consistent part of the lives of many of our youth. This has been evidenced by the many returning campers, and campers who have gone on to become junior counselors (we had our first one this year!).

"Camp Thunderbird is such an incredible opportunity for Rosebud and Pine Ridge youth. The camp allows students to challenge themselves physically and mentally in a safe and secure environment, such as when campers climb Black Elk Peak in the Black Hills. Campers have the opportunity to study and experience science and the arts while building relationships with each other. Counselors encourage campers to set daily achievable goals and campers learn to discuss successes and areas of growth. In addition to camp being a meaningful experience for campers, junior counselors get to strengthen their leadership skills of initiative and communication. By the end of the session, camp becomes a family, and I feel humbled to have been part of it."



It is a key to our mission to ensure that all children have access to quality outdoor education, so we are pleased to continue serving students from high poverty (Title 1) schools through our scholarship program with your support. This year, 50% of our field trips went to students who participated through a scholarship. In 2017, we served 2,080 students through field trips alone. When summer camps, including two scholarship weeks, Family Farm days, and parents, teachers, and other guests are added to our numbers, we served approximately 2,900 individuals on site in 2017.

This year we engaged dozens of volunteers in leading field trips on the farm. These volunteers range from master gardeners and retired teachers to college students. They bring a richness of experience that we are lucky to have. In 2017, volunteers worked nearly 1,800 hours to support our education programs.



Our organization continues to grow and thrive, and we are very appreciative of the support we've received from you and others that has allowed that growth. With your help, and the help of many others in our community, 2017 has been a great year for the Sauvie Island Center and for the children we've hosted out on the farm.

Eighty-two children attended our five weeks of Farm Camp. They participated in five days of fun, learning and eating on the farm. They learned about plant parts by walking through the farm, and finding and tasting examples of each part. They learned about wildlife and the food web by exploring a forested area of the park. Our camps also include activities in the Grow Lunch Garden, where children plant, tend, harvest and eat fresh vegetables from their own field. Each day of camp involved harvesting vegetables from the Grow Lunch Garden to supplement their own lunches, and making fun snacks like smoothies, popsicles, and salsa with



ingredients from the Grow Lunch Garden.

Wednesdays included a special treat, as we were joined by chefs from Providence Health Systems, who cooked with the kids. The Farm to Table cooking projects varied from pizzas to pasta salads filled with vegetables to tacos with vegetable fillings. Each meal included a salad with lettuce, fennel, grated beets and topped with edible flower petals. We also pick a lot of blackberries during the summer and this year kids whipped cream by hand one day, which is a great way to work out some energy.

Throughout the week of Sauvie Island Center farm camp, kids kept a daily journal of reflections, observations, memories, anticipations and inspirations recorded during their 30-minute "sit-spot" or "special spot" time.

Once again, each child kept a Veggie Passport in the front of their journals, to keep track of the vegetables they tasted during the week. These were some of the crops tasted during the week: Beets, kale, onion, peach, celery, tomato, broccoli, cilantro, blackberry, fennel, mint, spinach, lettuce, nasturtiums, calendula, lemon cucumber.

"I liked cooking new foods and knowing what I was eating. I liked learning about the farm and all the plants on it." –Lucy West, camper

"I never knew I loved salad so much before!" –D.D., camper.

"I learned that I like red and orange peppers." –Chritobal, student, Lent School

"Over half of my students have never been to Sauvie Island or a working farm before today. Without the generous grant it would not be possible for our kids to have this wonderful educational opportunity. Thank you!" –Holly Henning, teacher, Lent School

"This was amazing! My students were so excited, and I witnessed parts of their personalities and intellectual curiosities that I haven't yet seen." –Ron Morgan, teacher





The Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation's grant of \$4,000 was used to cover the costs of 11 campers at Camp Rainbow for one week each. The expenses included recreational activities and equipment, pool maintenance, counselor salaries, food, and supplies for art.



Our new year began on January 1. Beginning in March, Camp Rainbow sent out and delivered nearly 3,000 camp applications in English, Spanish, and Mandarin to school guidance counselors, social workers, and police officials in Montgomery County. In May, the board began preparing the camp for its summer visitors and the executive director began hiring counselors. Counselor training took place the third full week of June. Campers ages 13-14 arrived for the first week of camp on Sunday, July 1. The 11-12-year-olds came to their first days of Camp Rainbow on Sunday, July 8 and Sunday, July 15. The 7-8-year-olds arrived on Sunday, July 15 and campers ages 15 and 16 started camp on Sunday, July 29. Two groups of

9-10-year-olds arrived on Sunday, August 5, and August 12. After August 18, the camp clean-up began and the camp was closed for the season by the end of the month.

We included a new activity in our program this year: climbing a rock wall. This is an activity that we paid for in part from your funding. We approached this activity in an unstructured manner with kids using their native abilities to participate. We learned that in the future it would be beneficial to make the experience structured with climbing instruction. Additionally, the Camp has decided to provide more staff training in environmental studies to which the campers are very receptive.

Your grant funds allow kids who otherwise could not afford to go to summer camp and enjoy nature, recreation, and life skills development the opportunity to do so. At camp young people learn to resist peer pressure with regards to drug and alcohol use, increase self-awareness of life goals to reduce incidences of teen pregnancy, seek alternative solutions to violence, and appreciate the value of education, promoting life-long learning and setting personal goals.



Chipping Hill Micro Farm and Upper Dublin Christian Nursery School

The children enjoyed planting the garden. First they planted the vegetable seeds. They liked getting their hands in the soil and watering the seeds. They learned about the different kinds of vegetable names, colors and scents. They especially liked tasting the fruits of their labor. Mr. Howard would have a lesson inside making all kinds of salads for the kids to try.

The students especially liked picking the vegetables! Their faces would light up every time they saw a red tomato or a green cucumber hanging from the vines. UDCNS hosted a harvesting evening over the summer. The kids loved pulling the carrots from the ground and finding out what was on the other end of the sprout! Each family took home carrots and tomatoes.

This gave our families a chance to see our garden. This experience created a sense of community in our school. The parents and kids appreciated learning about healthy eating and seeing how it all works first hand. This was an amazing opportunity for our school!



CAP Pizza Party

Every year Ellen and Frank Svitek are invited to a pizza party at Community Academy of Phila (CAP) to meet the 9 or 10 students who have been selected to receive the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation Scholarship to attend North Carolina Outward Bound School. This year on May 10, 2017 at the annual pizza party, the recipients shared their excitement, apprehension and aspirations with Ellen and Frank. They ask questions about Kate and why the Foundation was started. Often, they are joined by past year's recipients who share stories of their awesome adventures.



Thanks to support from the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation, the First Waves Johnstown Project provided 14 youth facing adversity with access to mentorship, education, and outdoor experiences. Through a series of innovative workshops, youth participants learned to standup paddleboard, surf standing waves, participate in a waterway stewardship event and chronicle the experience through the art of documentary filmmaking.

The group of teens first learned to paddle and safely enjoy waterway recreation at Greenhouse Whitewater Park under the guidance of expert instructors and volunteers from local paddling clubs. After practicing in calm pools, they were taught to surf river waves that can be ridden in a similar way as ocean swells. "It was really scary at first but it's actually fun," said one First Waves student.

The paddleboarding experiences also provided an outlet and mentorship for youth facing difficult situations in their lives. One student described, "I love to know that I can go paddleboarding without having to worry about all of the bad things. Honestly, when I'm paddleboarding I feel like I'm in my own world - my own universe. It's calming because you're in the middle of the lake or the river and it's just you and the board. It's an amazing feeling to know that you're surrounded by nature."

Later, the group used these skills to conduct a stewardship event on the Ohio River in downtown Pittsburgh. By using paddleboards for the cleanup, they accessed difficult-to-reach portions of the river where there were significant buildups of litter and debris. One student described, "We are cleaning the river and having a bit of fun with it. One challenge is learning something new that you never did before and coming out on the water and balancing on the boards."

At the event, the group witnessed first-hand why pollution and plastic use is such a concern. In total, they removed around 300-pounds of litter from the Ohio River watershed. At the end of the river cleanup, one student explained, "Some kids litter and don't understand why it's wrong, and then there are some kids that want to change it. I want to be a kid who wants to change it."

The First Waves staff also educated the group on daily practices that promote clean water, such as avoiding single-use plastics and the impacts of recycling.

In addition to learning about paddling and watershed conservation, the teens received an education in documentary filmmaking from the Pittsburgh Filmmakers/Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. They were tasked with documenting each phase of the project using high-definition video equipment. The students stepped out of their comfort zones to perform interviews with their peers and work together as a team to complete a high-definition film about their experience.

Concluding the First Waves project, the students participated in an editing workshop at the Bottleworks Ethnic Arts Center. With further instruction from Pittsburgh Filmmakers, they learned to use Adobe Premiere, a professional video editing software. "Filmmaking could be useful because you never know when you're going to need these skills, like at school or for work," said one student. The completed film will premiere at the Stonycreek Rendezvous festival in May of 2018. These workshops and experiences would not be possible without the support of the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation.





The College Settlement of Philadelphia

600 WITMER ROAD - HOESHAM, PENNSYLVANIA 19044

En prepare young people towards a positive independent world.

Thanks to a \$5,000 grant from the Kate Svitek Foundation, College Settlement's Day Camp has a new ropes course!

All through the summer, when the Day Camp is hopping with campers (many of them first time campers!) ages 8-12,



children and counselors take advantage of the lovely environment of the Camp through structured activities that include swimming, biking, and learning about animals and nature. The philosophy of our programming is to instill respect for self, for others, and for the natural world. We do this by helping each child to find their own abilities, with trained and certified instructors, while working with a team of their peers. This year, we were finally able to build a new

building (the first one in 50 years) on the Day Camp side. But we still needed more team challenge equipment on the Day Camp side. Thankfully, the Foundation was able to provide for this need. With help from the Svitek Foundation, and the donation of telephone poles by Carr & Duff, College Settlement contracted with the Adventure Network to create two new ropes courses.

The course was finished in the Fall, and is now being used in College Settlement's Outdoor School Program to teach students and teachers teamwork, physical and emotional learning skills, and resilience.



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Thank you for your continued support!



Riverbend Environmental Education Center Internship Program

Thanks to the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation, the Riverbend Summer Internship Program went from strength to strength this year.

We were able to provide internships to four college students, all studying in the environmental field and seeking to further their experience.

Each person brought so much to Riverbend that made a difference to our work this summer. It was wonderful to see like-minded young people come together as a team and grow to feel a part of our mission to teach environmental principles to children and provide access to nature. We hope that they will carry the spirit of Riverbend and everything they learned back to their schools and into their future careers.

Every year at Riverbend we work to restore more and more healthy woodland habitat through the removal of invasive vines and the planting of trees. With the dedicated and passionate labor of our summer interns we are able to continue caring for our woodland habitat during a period when we are without groups of corporate or school volunteers, protecting the investment we have made in the preserve. While we benefited enormously from their hard work throughout the summer, we also trust that the interns were able to apply what they learn at school to real life nature conservation issues and gain valuable hands-on experience.

In addition to habitat restoration work, each intern spent one afternoon a week working with our summer camp children, connecting with them and helping them discover nature for themselves, as well as working with and mentoring a regular group of teen volunteers, rounding out the true Riverbend experience!

All of us at Riverbend would like to express our sincere appreciation for the support of the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation. Without your generosity, we would not be able to

make these internships available which are of such value to us and to the students who take part in the program.

“Interning at Riverbend was absolutely the highlight of my summer. Being able to work out in the field and see the progress we made throughout the summer was so fulfilling. I learned more working at Riverbend than I have in any class I’ve ever taken—not just learning to identify native/invasive plants and how to maintain and conserve a healthy environment (to name a few), but also learning about different professions and future jobs in this field. This internship was absolutely invaluable to me. Thank you to the Kate Svitek Foundation for giving me this opportunity and for encouraging people to share Kate’s passion for the environment.”

– Melissa Murdock, West Chester University studying B.S. in Geoscience

“When I started applying to internships for this summer, it was important to me that I found one that would be mostly outside and completing hands-on, fulfilling tasks. Most of the ones I found were placed in an office setting or focused on social media; the opposite of my interests. When I found Riverbend’s internship ad, I was immediately hooked because environmental education is important to me. I think that one of the many ways we can help our evolving environmental and social world is by educating our youth and adults on what is going on and how we can change it. I knew that working in a team at Riverbend to help maintain the trails and get involved in the various other camp activities would further my knowledge on environmental education.

– Jenni Lapham, Temple University majoring in Environmental Studies



KSMF Supports Wissahickon Charter School Awbury Campus 5th Graders and Fernhill Campus 8th Graders

Thank you for providing our students with this possibly once in a lifetime opportunity on the Kate Svitek Memorial Expedition. I feel so lucky to have experienced the expedition, but more so to have witnessed the positive impact that the trip had on the students. The teenagers that started this expedition left with a greater sense of maturity, responsibility and empathy for one another.

I've worked for Wissahickon Charter School for about a month and a half and only on meeting with our crew for the first time did I realize the students in our crew did not interact with each other often during school. After a few stumbles and some tears I started to see a great deal of growth and cohesion within the group. By the end, students who had rarely talked to each other or even disliked each other were supporting and encouraging each other. Students who put little effort into class showed incredible work ethic and strong leadership during the Kate Svitek Memorial Expedition. It was pretty incredible getting to see a glimpse of the caring and creative leaders these students will become.

Since returning to school I've noticed a change in some of the students who went on the Kate Svitek Memorial Expedition. Students who would usually float through class are now participating, volunteering to lead portions of class and help out around the classroom. Although most of them have gravitated back to their previous friend groups, students who usually wouldn't talk to each other, joke over new inside jokes about the trip. Although when I ask them about the trip many of them give me short, vague answers, the lasting impact is very visible. Thank you again for providing such an incredible experience for our students that I'm sure they'll remember and think back to for years.

Sincerely,

Alexander Boss

Discovery Teacher Wissahickon Charter School



My favorite part of the Kate Svitek Memorial Expedition was every time we hiked up to the top of a mountain, there would just be a lovely view at the top. We always fueled to keep going and I tried my hardest. So your support really was appreciated.

- Saulih

My favorite part of the Kate Svitek Memorial Expedition was when we got to go rock climbing because we all got to do something we never thought we could do. I pushed myself out of my comfort zone and went higher than I ever thought I would have went. Thank you so much for this opportunity.

- Laila

One thing I learned on the Kate Svitek Memorial Expedition is that I can persevere through the hard times and make it the best it could be. Also, it has taught me that I don't need civilization to strive in my life. My favorite part of the Expedition is when we were done with hiking and we got to the top of the mountain and stared at the view for 15 minutes. That is why I love your foundation and hope you continue to do what you are doing.

- Sean

My favorite part of the Kate Svitek Memorial Expedition was the hiking. The hiking was hard but it was fun. I'm glad that I got to go on the Kate Svitek Memorial Expedition because it changed me. Thank you for supporting my school.

- Jelani

I personally thank you for giving me this opportunity to go on this wonderful trip. This trip was so wonderful to me for many reasons. One reason is because it made me appreciate everything I have at home. Another reason is the view. The view is amazing. The view is something that I won't forget. Thank you for being a friend to my school.

- Jayvon

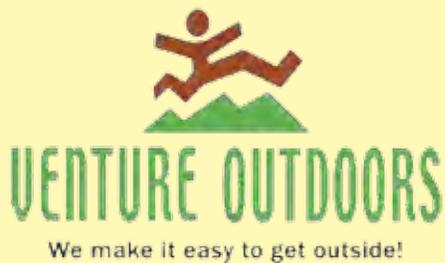
My favorite part on the trip is when we were telling jokes during the trip. When we were about to hike a lot of miles, someone would say, "This is going to be a breeze!" I just want to say thank you for paying for our trip so we can have fun.

- Hadif

I am so glad I got to go on the Kate Svitek Memorial Expedition because I got to grow and spend time with friends and understand them more. Another reason I was glad to go was because I got to test myself with a challenge I wouldn't regularly do and I thank you so much. Thank you for what you have done for my school.

- Mikel





Venture Outdoors hosted its first American Canoe Association (ACA) Level 1 & 2 Instructor Certification Workshop (ICW) in August 2017 to enhance the effectiveness of its paddling program. Annually, the organization hosts 230 custom and public kayak paddles reaching 1,600 participants and sees over 50,000 rental customers through three Kayak Pittsburgh concessions. With such a strong presence in the Pittsburgh paddling community, Venture Outdoors recognizes its responsibility to be a leader in promoting safe boating practices. Through focused attention on developing the individual skills of primary paddle leaders, Venture Outdoors now has 10 additional staff and volunteer Trip Leaders who have completed the ACA Level 1 & 2 instructor certification course which will increase the overall quality and inclusiveness of the organization's paddling programs.



On Sunday evening June 25th, sixteen quiet, unsure teenagers timidly walked into the lodge at Lacawac. On Friday, June 30th, sixteen excited friends enthusiastically shared their life changing experiences during their week at Conservation Leadership Academy (CLA) with their families during the closing program. The time in between those few days was packed full of new experiences for each camper. One camper concluded, “My week at camp was a lot of fun and I made some precious memories. I did birding, forestry, kayaking, canoeing, microscopic mitigation, campfire, agriculture and a lot of other things. This was the longest I’ve ever stayed away from home and it was some of the 5 best days of my life.”

A few program highlights included water quality monitoring on Lake Lacawac and Lake Wallenpaupack, Bird Banding, Forestry and timbering practices; including measuring, felling, and putting a tree through a saw mill. (Camper quote: “Cutting down trees is more dangerous than I thought.”) Our Agriculture day included visiting a sustainable vegetable farm and a dairy farm, and a local shop that sells value added products where they learned how to make herbal soap and salves. (Camper quote: “Farming isn’t as easy as it seems.”) We spent an entire day kayaking the upper Delaware River and learned about its aquatic resources. In between all the activities of this busy schedule they also participated in leadership activities including high and low ropes courses. (Camper quote: “I loved my week at camp, from making soap to rafting down the Delaware (River), it was an amazing experience. It was awesome.”)

Through the generous support of the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation and many local agencies and businesses Wayne and Pike County students are able to attend CLA at a significantly discounted rate. One student wrote: “Thank you so much to the Kate Svitek Foundation for this awesome opportunity to explore nature.”

Conservation Leadership Academy can be summed up in the words of one participant: “This week was a great experience. I loved the variety of topics we covered and the amount of places we went. I became friends with many people, including some that I usually wouldn’t have pictured myself talking to ...I liked living together which created bonds that not many people have. It was a really fun time.”



This year, Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation's contribution of \$5,000 has improved the lives of young adults impacted by cancer by helping First Descents provide more outdoor adventure programs.

One of the primary goals of First Descents is to improve long-term survival of young adults affected by cancer, empowering them to cope with their illness and its subsequent psychological effects.

Each year over 70,000 adolescents and young adults (AYAs) are diagnosed with cancer in the United States. Furthermore, 5-year survival rates for AYAs have not improved since the early 1970s. Caught at a pivotal time in their lives – finishing college, building a career, starting a family, working to establish financial independence – these individuals are more likely to be diagnosed with late-stage cancers and are often under-insured or uninsured. As a result, young adults make up the most underserved and isolated cancer demographic that exists.

In addition to the complexities of clinical treatment, the prospect of long-term cancer survivorship includes physical side effects, social stigma, and medical bills for years beyond treatment. These and other complications create barriers to effectively moving forward with life after cancer. This is where First Descents helps. FD provides a safe, supportive environment that encourages young adult survivors to discover their strength and become part of a lasting community. Based on recent estimates, there are hundreds of thousands of AYAs living with cancer who can benefit from FD's programs and culture.



2017 Founder's Meeting at Wissahickon Charter School

On Wednesday, October 4th seven of our Founders and a guest met at Wissahickon Charter School, Awbury Campus on Washington Lane in Philadelphia. Our first stop was outside to see the students at recess playing in their natural playground.

We then sat on picnic tables and listened to 4 fifth grade students tell us about their Svitek Foundation sponsored camping trip to College Settlement Camp in Horsham. An enthusiastic Q and A followed their presentation. The group then went inside for a guided tour of the facility. We were impressed with the classrooms, library and cafeteria (where all food is prepared in house and served on real dishes). Likewise we were impressed with the students, teachers, the environmental focus and the emphasis on building community, learning to listen and work through conflict.

The Founders then had our regular board meeting in the school's board room. We loved the venue and are anxious to see firsthand some of the other schools and programs we support.

The cover of the 2010 Expedition featured Wissahickon Charter School and told how they were originally connected to the Foundation. I encourage you to go to our website www.katesvitekmemorial.org and reread the cover of the 2010 Expedition to learn more.





On behalf of Green Valleys Watershed Association and the children who took part in our 2017 Summer Nature Day Camps, we wish to thank you again for your gift of \$1,400, which offset the costs of 7 of our 8 guest programs this summer.

The following naturalists, animal experts, and entertainers reached the 250 preschool and elementary-aged campers with their knowledge, enthusiasm and experience.

- Bill Wood, Storyteller, from West Grove, used his wit and creativity, and the campers' imaginations to tell stories about spiders, caterpillars and stink bugs.
- Educators from Elmwood Park Zoo, Norristown, visited twice, sharing native and exotic animals that taught campers about endangered species, camouflage, mimicry, and behaviors for survival in the wild.
- Educators from Lenape Lifeways, Allentown, enlightened campers on the ways of life of the Lenape people as they lived over 500 years ago, and compared today's lifestyles. Campers had



the chance to examine over 50 items such as animal pelts, dolls, photos, and replica tools.

- Lynn from Safari Parties, in Ardmore, brought 15 exotic and native animals to share, discussing the habitats and adaptations of each, and how the children can help in the preservation of local wildlife.
- A naturalist from Indian Run Environmental Education Center, Glenmoore, got the campers up-close and personal with a red-tailed hawk, screech owl, kestrel (falcon) and a barred owl as they learned about the amazing features of these predatory birds. While also learning that these birds are non-releasable due to injuries sustained in the wild, campers shared their ideas on how humans can help preserve wildlife and their habitats.
- Isaac and Corinne from Bee Positive, Phoenixville, shared samples of equipment, live bees, and visuals to teach the children about the importance of bees, and the science of beekeeping.
- Phil Witman, of Cold Blooded Ideas, in Narvon, demonstrated features and feats of his variety of aquatic reptiles and amphibians to teach campers about how water quality affects the survival of these animals.



Report on Head Start Science Enrichment Grant

We are so excited to report that we were able to use the funding provided by the foundation as a match for a grant with the PA Department of Environmental Protection. With these two grants, we are serving ten classrooms, about 200 preschool aged children, at the Lower Southampton Early Learning Center. We have also been able to connect with more parents through a presentation with the

parent group, and the development of learning ideas sent home with the children. Thank you so much for supporting this great program!





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