



expEDITION

Winter, 2017

“Marc”ing our 15th Anniversary!

2017 marks the 15th anniversary of the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation. Our supporters have enjoyed tribute bands at Here to Stay Farm, bowled at North Bowl, toured the Stoozeum and supported Non Event barbecues, clambakes and Thanksgiving dinners.

This year we have a special treat for our supporters. A Magical Night at the brand new Meadowlands Country Club on June 3, 2017... Dinner, Dancing and a Magician.

One of our Foundation friends, Marc DeSouza will perform for us. Marc is a Philadelphia native with an International reputation in the magic community. As a performer, inventor, author, lecturer and motivational speaker, his talents have been displayed throughout Europe, Asia, Australia and North America. Marc

... has won over 50 regional, national and international awards

... has written several books and instructional videos for Magicians

... has served as consultant for Off Broadway and National Theater Groups

... has delivered a 4 1/2 hour online lecture to an international audience for Penguin Magic.

Marc's talents have been in demand throughout the Mid-Atlantic area for performances at private parties, corporate events and gala affairs. He specializes in creating moments of impossibility right in front of your eyes...sometimes, right in your own hands. Philadelphia Magazine named Marc DeSouza the Best of Philly Magician in 1990, and has not so honored another since then. In February, 2001, Marc was one of twenty magicians chosen nationwide to perform as part of the Presidential Inaugural activities. Most recently, Marc appeared as a featured artist with the Philadelphia Orchestra at The Kimmel Center. He helped to create the program and designed the magic to accompany the selections. You too will be entranced by this unique performer who blends humor, skill and mystery to create real MAGIC!



“Marc” Your Calendars!

Invitations to follow!

Hope you will join us!

from Ellen and Frank

Dear Friends

Fifteen years ago we would have thought it would take magic to help us organize and sustain a Foundation in memory of our beloved Kate. We realize now it takes hard work and lots of love and support from the community.

This past year, no one waved their **magic wand** to raise \$59,000 from the Non Event Thanksgiving in July Event and Ad Book. It was you, our amazing supporters who bought ads and turkey dinners in honor of Kate.

No **magical potion** was sipped by the Faulkner Family Foundation or the Joseph Alexander Foundation before they awarded us generous grants to use for our scholarship fund. It was just generous friends of the Foundation who believe in our mission.

It's no **illusion** that many of you who registered with Amazon Smiles helped us raise funds by shopping on Amazon. If you haven't registered yet and would like to support us effortlessly, just follow the directions in the ad that appears later in this issue.

It was no **slight of hand** when four new organizations read about us on line and decided to apply for grant money. It was a hard working grant committee who chose to award first time grants to Camp Rainbow in Montgomery County, PA, Lacawac Sanctuary in the Pocono Mountains of PA, Monarch Academy in

MD and Localogy in Taos, NM.

It's not because of the **supernatural** that donations in honor and in memory of wonderful people and contributions in support of our good work that we were able to raise \$20,235. It's because of our generous supporters like you.

It's not a **trick** that this year we awarded 21 grants totalling \$101,337. It's because of our out of this world supporters like you!!!

Let the magic continue on June 3, 2017 at Meadowlands Country Club. Hope you all will be there to help us recognize our 15th Anniversary.

Ellen Frank Michael Bob

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



Central PA Conservancy's July 2016 Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute (GLLI) was a great success this year. Students were

given a range of prospectives and experiences through leadership training and team-building, volunteer service projects and hands-on learning about the environment and the region's role in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Some of the highlights of this action-filled week included a trip to the Diakon Wilderness Center for high and low ropes courses, the Letort Spring Run invasive species removal and native planting, a kayak tour of Laurel Lake, a tour of the Garman dairy farm, and, for the first time ever, a trip to the Phillip Merrill Environmental Center on the Chesapeake Bay in Annapolis, MD.

Olivia Termini, a student at Dickenson College who worked with the program as a counselor and serves as CPC's intern through the school year, comments, "the most valuable part of my participation was to see the kids' realization that what they were doing upstream on the Letort headwaters could affect the Bay downstream.

This is a very important concept to understand so early in their lives and will help them become lifelong stewards of the environment.

Students not only learn about the environment, but learn the value and importance of building friendships between students from different schools and backgrounds and giving back to their community. Michael Brant, a sophomore from Carlisle Christian Academy says, "I would highly recommend this camp to teenagers who want to learn about the environment; it gives you a picture of how drastically our actions can harm our ecosystem.





Grateful CAP Students Write About Their Outward Bound Experiences

Thank you so much for allowing me to live this amazing experience. From the beginning, I knew how special being close to nature and being away from home was going to be. Although it was hard to get used to at first, after week two, I felt like I belonged out there with my wonderful crew. Outward Bound didn't just show me how to survive in case of any emergency, but most importantly, it taught me life-long skills that I will forever remember. Twenty-three days in where I learned to step off my comfort zone and push my limits.

Sincerely,
Yamelin Jaquez

I have really grown mentally on this trip because now I appreciate every little thing I have and I appreciate every person in my life. This trip really changed my outlook on everything. I wouldn't change a thing about my experience. I see why your daughter enjoyed this so much and I hope you continue to give other people this chance to go through this unforgettable experience. I can't thank you enough.

Sincerely,
Tileyna Zamorano-Gonzalez

On my course I had the opportunity to experience many new things. Growing up in Philadelphia, I never had the chance to do things such as canoeing or actual rock climbing. I am so happy to experience such things. I would have never had the money to afford for such a thing myself so I am so grateful that your foundation allowed me to do so. On my course I learned a lot of new things and made many new friends. My course was very difficult, but it gave me the chance to push myself farther than I ever imagined I could. I always knew I was a strong person and I had a feeling I would be okay being away from home and taking on challenging obstacles, but actually going out on course was so much more challenging than I ever expected. I am very glad that I was able to do it.

Sincerely,
Christopher Dunbar

Some low lights were hiking up a hill and catching up with my team because it was extremely hard to breathe, but I kept pushing myself and I never gave up. Some highlights would be when I rocked climbed even when I was terrified. I was so nervous but the view from the climb slowly took my fear away. The biggest learning experience I took away from Outward Bound was that in life things will be very difficult, but if you keep pushing yourself you will get through it. I appreciate the opportunity to come to Outward Bound because I got to learn a lot about myself and was able to expand my comfort zone. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity and letting me have this life changing experience.

With much love and gratitude,
Lina Jaquez

Meeting new people is not easy for me, but Outward Bound gave me experiences where I started to get out of my comfort zone. I am grateful for receiving the scholarship because Outward Bound is a life changing experience for me. I learned something new everyday.

Amy Nguyen

First, I would like to say thank you for the greatest experience of my life. I would have never thought a 16 year old kid from the city of Philadelphia would be able to achieve so many goals in 22 days. Also, the memories I made on my long journey will never be forgotten. I cherished every moment I had while on course with my new friends.

Sincerely,
Carlos Martinez

Outward Bound has made me such a better person. It has showed me to always be positive, work harder than what I am willing to, determination and to never give up. Thank you so much again for this great opportunity enjoyed every minute of it.

Sincerely,
Alexandra Ramirez

Through this letter, I would love to express my gratitude towards your foundation for permitting me to live this amazing experience. Not many inner city kids get the opportunity to have an experience like the one this scholarship provides. This course showed me that there is more to this world. It also gave me the chance to step out of my comfort zone. I have to be honest say that this was the hardest thing that I have ever done but I am glad that I did it. I feel so accomplished and confident in my newfound abilities. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Kayla Colon

I want to thank you for the opportunity of allowing me to come on this Outward Bound trip. It has been amazing; I learned so many new things. I learned how to rock climb and canoe in rivers. Rock climbing was much more of a challenge for me it was difficult but I didn't give up and finished it. Once I was on top of that mountain it was all worth it, the different views I got for those three days were beautiful. Canoeing was a little easier but was also a challenge. Learning how to steer and avoid hitting rocks was the hard part. I fell off the canoe a couple times but by the third day I was a professional. Just kidding but, much better than the first day. This trip has taught me self-reliance and that I am stronger than what I actually thought I was. These couple weeks have been so hard but, I wouldn't change anything about it. I made twelve amazing friends including the instructors. The company was amazing and there was always so much laughter and compassion between us all. The only thing that I can honestly say I disliked was not showering everyday and the million of mosquito bites I got. Right at this moment I'm on my solo and starting the third week of this great adventure and five days from finishing. It's bittersweet because I'm going to miss all these amazing people and the everyday challenges. Really appreciate this trip and thank you a thousand times for giving me this scholarship to a once in a lifetime experience. I hope that everyone else that you guys helped come on this trip enjoyed it as much as I did or even more.

Sincerely,
Angie Hernandez



Camp Attaway

Over the past several summers, the nature program has become an integral part of the Camp Attaway experience for campers. As the program has grown and changed, the continued support provided by the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation has allowed us to try out some new activities and explore different parts of the community around camp.

This year our annual seed planting activity was accompanied by two new nature activities. Campers made pinecone birdfeeders that were then hung in the trees around the Attaway Café where lunch is eaten every day. During the first nature activity, campers also learned about camouflage and some other survival techniques of insects. As always, campers had the opportunity to germinate seeds and were given the responsibility of caring for the seedlings throughout camp. Each day the campers watered the plants and as camp went on were able to watch as small vegetable and flower plants grew. This activity allowed the campers to not only care for something outside of themselves but also feel 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. Due to positive camper feedback from the past several summers, we played the game, Predator – Prey. Campers learned about the relationships between herbivores, omnivores and carnivores. They also learned that all animals need food and water and that sometimes animals will work together to survive.



The culminating nature activity of the summer was our biggest nature event to date. Campers spent a significant part of the day at 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 on the hike, campers participated in a scavenger hunt which allowed them to make observations of the forest habitat. On the scavenger hunt, campers practiced leave – no trace hiking techniques and there was much shouting and excitement every time someone spotted the next blue blaze along the trail. Upon our arrival at the stream, campers worked together to complete several water quality tests including pH and Dissolved Oxygen. They took temperature of the water in a few different locations. The campers searched for macroinvertebrates. Along with the results of the water quality tests and the discovery of macroinvertebrates, campers learned about the health of the stream.



This summer Attaway’s Go Green Initiative took a slightly new turn with our Counselors in Training (CITs) focusing on reducing waste during lunch time. CITs researched composting and recycling methods which they shared with the rest of camp. 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 “every day is better because of nature.” 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.



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 had 38 elementary age and 27 middle-school age campers from the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations, who identify as Oglala and Sicangu Lakota.

During the two weeks of camp, funds from the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation were used to help pay for physical and outdoor activities, as well as lodging at Black Hills State University for our middle-school campers. These activities helped develop the camper’s teamwork skills, build their own leadership abilities, and push them to take risks and reach goals. Our activities strived to instill a love of the natural world in our campers, while also providing them a safe, structured, and fun environment to explore.

For the first time this year, middle school campers read the traditional Lakota legend of the creation of Devils Tower, and then hiked around the site in the afternoon. It was a popular activity for campers, which tied together their cultural heritage,

physical activity, and an appreciation for the natural world.

Svitek funds were also used to help support the overnight stay at Black Hills State University. While there, campers got to tour the campus and interact with current Lakota students. During the camping portion of the summer session, youth got to experience outdoor activities in Custer State Park. Campers learned to fish, went swimming in the lakes, and kayaked.

To further illustrate the impact camp and your funding had on our youth, we have included some testimonials from campers:

- Camp was the first time I camped outside, the first time I held a fishing pole, and the first time I’d ever been through a maze or swam in a lake. I used to be scared of trying new things, but now I want to go home and teach all my friends everything I learned at camp.” -Memphis, 4th grader
- That maze, man, it was hard. We spent over 2 hours in it, working together to try to get out. We finally did, but we really challenged ourselves. Our counselors told us to set goals, and we didn’t want to give up on our goals” -Cerrai, 7th grader
- Hiking Devils Tower was incredible. We read the Lakota legend before we left, and I’d heard about that sacred site, but learning about what that place meant that then getting to hike it with these people I felt really close to at the end of camp is a memory I’ll never forget. They encouraged me to make it all the way around, but they also made sure I didn’t forget to make it mean something to who I am as a Native person here.” -Catalina, 8th grader

National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS)

Because of a gift from the KSMF to the NOLS annual fund, Castilleja Kuzis and Jim Mixon were able to participate on a NOLS course.

Castilleja (Cassie) Kuzis is a 20-year-old student from Gig Harbor, WA who was an expedition member on a Semester in the Southwest course this year. She attends Evergreen State University where she has been working with a special project to collect, study and illustrate mosses and lichens. She also serves as a lab aide for the physics department. She's spent a significant amount of time behind a microscope, but it's in the field where she really feels alive.

Jim Mixon is a 19-year-old student from Rock Hill, SC who was an expedition member on a Spring Semester in Patagonia this year. The son of missionary parents in Nairobi Kenya, Jim grew up without deep financial pockets and receiving a NOLS scholarship made a huge difference for him. At Belmont University in TN, Jim is pursuing a career in adventure filmmaking while working as an outdoor recreation student coordinator.

Dear NOLS donors,

I'm writing to thank you for the amazing opportunity I had thanks to your donations. I spent the past three months backpacking, canoeing and rock climbing across the American South West. I challenged myself and was rewarded with remarkable experiences in wild places that few will be lucky enough to visit. I wanted to let you know it has had a profound impact on my life.



I decided to pursue a NOLS semester when I became overwhelmed by my rigorous science courses that kept me inside doing lab work. I love science but my place was outdoors, not in inside in front of a microscope. I wanted a deeper understanding of the ecology of the wilderness. I made detailed observations and really experienced being in the ecological zones we passed through, from the bare desert with saguaros cacti to the Canadian zone at the top of the sky islands in Arizona with towering ponderosas. I gained a totally new understanding of the complexities of wilderness and its preservation. I believe none of this would be possible without the immersive experience of a NOLS course.

I went into the course expecting only a physical challenge and educational opportunity, but it was so much more. My semester was one of the most influential times of my life and allowed for immense personal growth. I learnt and practiced communication, conflict resolution and leadership skills. There was also ample time for reflection, which allowed me to think about myself. I expected leaving the South West only with fond memories, but it actually had a lasting impact on me as a person and has allowed me new opportunities.

Without your donation none of this would've been possible. I cannot thank you enough for this opportunity. The NOLS course has changed my life, helped me get valuable college credit, expand my

scientific perspective, and lead my to a new job. I plan to continue my conservation biology studies and use my education to help defend the wilderness and educate others on the ecology and restorative powers of the amazing wild places in our world. I want to help the world as much as this program has helped me. Thank you so much for your donation.

Sincerely,
Castilleja Kuzis

Dear NOLS Donor,

My name is James Mixon, and I was a member of the NOLS Patagonia Spring Semester. Because of your support, I was able to join a remarkable team of 17 students on an epic adventure deep into the wet, cold wilderness of the Magallanes region of Chile. I

chose to pursue a course in Patagonia because I had heard its reputation as one of the most remote and most difficult locations that NOLS operates; it did not disappoint.

We experienced Patagonia in full regalia: 30 knot winds forcing us to retreat into primeval forests, massive ocean swells, perpetual precipitation (that delightful mix of hail, snow, rain, and sleet that we dubbed "Patacipation"). I was regularly wearing six layers on my upper body and wishing I had six for the rest. I was trapped in my tent for up to 48 hours at a time. I was eating cold lentils and dried tomatoes on a disturbingly regular basis. And I absolutely loved it all.

NOLS Patagonia attracts a certain type of person, the unusually driven, the unassumingly tough as nails, the vaguely masochistic, perhaps. Everyone knew what they were getting into. We had none of the outlets or rewards of the modern "adventure" culture. We couldn't post our exploits to Instagram or coif our hair just so (two months of dirt will do that for you, I learned). I was challenged and stripped raw on a daily basis. I was confronted with my selfishness and my fears and anger as I lived with and tried to support my teammates. I pushed my limits of personal comfort to the breaking point, to where I held my head and wept but then picked myself up and put those wet boots on again. I had to live with constant uncertainty, with no guarantees of success, at the total whim of Pachamama and her fiendish winds. My expedition had to turn around and backtrack nearly 100 miles of coastline during our kayaking section because we got bombarded by bad weather couldn't make our intended passage.

So when I say I loved it all, I don't mean that I sanguinely sat through maelstroms and frolicked in arcadian pastures with the guanacos. I mean I felt (sometimes literally) the growing pains that make us better people. It was painful, but it was absolutely worth it. Thank you for helping me put myself in a place that I couldn't hide from, or lock away, or turn off. Thank you for letting me confront myself, uninhibited. Thank you for your contribution to NOLS.

And yes, I would recommend a visit to Patagonia. But go to the Argentinian side. I heard it's much drier.

James Mixon

Kate Svitek also did the NOLS Patagonia in her Spring semester and described it just like James!



Neighborhood Bike Works

In 2016, Neighborhood Bike Works (NBW) is celebrating 20 years of educating and empowering Philadelphia youth through bicycling. During the 2015-2016 program year, NBW served 529 youth through a series of engaging out-of-school time activities focused on bicycle riding, repair, leadership development, and job readiness. In the past year, NBW also realized a long-term vision by relocating to a single, flexible location: a bike education hub and community bike shop located on the 3900 block of Lancaster Avenue in the West Philadelphia Promise Zone.

In our 2015-2016 youth program-year, NBW's Youth Bike Education & Empowerment Program (YBEEP) served 529 youth. Of those 529 youth, 196 youth participated in NBW classes and on-site programs, 114 youth participated in community outreach events (Safety Checks, Safety Rodeos, workshops, and rides in the community), 159 youth were engaged at community tabling events, and 60 youth participated in our off-site Freedom to Ride program.

To fulfill our program goal of providing job readiness training for older youth, in winter of 2016 we served 13 youth (ages 14-18) through an intensive job skills and leadership-training course. Throughout the year, NBW provided 18 older youth with real-world, paid employment opportunities. Finally, in spring of 2016, seven youth were able to attend, and even

present, at the National Youth Bike Summit conference in Minnesota.

Our youth self-identified as 63% African American, 19% Caucasian, 11% bi/multi-racial, 5% Asian, and 3% Hispanic. Of our youth participants, 21% were in elementary school, 42% in middle school, and 38% in high school. Fifty-five percent of families identified themselves as low-income.

Stories like Adiva's show our impact on the youth we serve. Everyone knows when Adiva enters NBW. When she arrives, she greets fellow youth, bike shop patrons, and office staff. She comes in with a smile and shares all the things happening in her life: the good, the fun, and the difficult. Adiva is unable to contain her excitement, and all of us at NBW find her enthusiasm to be contagious.

When Adiva walks into NBW, she does not just enter an after school program -- she enters her second home. Adiva initially came to NBW as a participant in our summer camp, and she's been a staple at NBW for the past year. Last January she stopped in to work on her bike during Saturday Drop-In hours.

It was then that our Youth Coordinator, Taylor, introduced herself to Adiva. At the end of that drop-in session, Taylor met Adiva's father, who shared that Adiva was simply inseparable from her bike.

When Taylor shared with Adiva's mother her reflections on Adiva's wonderful personality and presence, her mother laughed and thanked Taylor. She shared with us that Adiva is her youngest child. With her other children, she said she saw incremental growth. But with Adiva it happened practically overnight, in correlation with Adiva getting involved at NBW as a youth leader. Adiva "bloomed into a flower overnight," she said.



roots & wings

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Dear Kate Svitek Foundation,

I am writing to thank you so incredibly much for your generous donation to our outdoor program at Roots & Wings Community School, outside Taos, NM. Your gift, given through our local non-profit Localogy, funded a powerful wilderness trip for third through seventh graders to backpack and play in the Great Sand Dunes National Park in southern Colorado. If you are unfamiliar with this beautiful place, it has majestic mountains as well as the tallest sand dunes in North America, and a seasonal river that runs through the dunes. Besides the challenge of backpacking and learning how to cook and organize a trip away from most modern technology, students also experienced sand sledding, playing in the river, experiencing the incredible night skies and a six-hour solo in nature. The students talked continuously about the fun they had on this trip long after it ended.

I wanted to quote some of their comments here so you could have a sense of how they felt about the trip:

“The Sand Dunes trip was hard and it was fun. I liked playing in the water of the creek that was at the base of the dunes. There were HUGE mountains of sand that were hard to climb because it was hard to get a good grip. I hope we go back sometime.” Kirsten

“I liked playing in the endless sand and hanging out with my friends. After the trip we went to Hooper Pool, which is a hot springs fed pool. It felt great to jump in the warm pool and get cleaned up after our backpacking trip.” Breanna

“The Sand Dunes trip was great and I had lots of fun because we were sliding down the sand. I like the river because we were making sand castles close to the water. Hiking up the sand was fun because your feet would sink in the sand; it was like quicksand. I loved it.” Jesse

Thank you again for your generous donation. The gift you gave will last a lifetime for these students. I hope we remain partners in outdoor education for years to come!

Sincerely,

Nancy Gonzales, Director



Thank You Notes from Boys' Latin Charter School of Phila.

I would like to start off by saying thank you. These past 22 days have been a great opportunity full of new things and new beginnings. You gave me a great chance to find the real me. All my life I've been trying to grow up fast but here I was able to live in the moment and actually be myself. I really enjoyed canoeing because it was different and fun. I appreciated being able to simply have fun! I've learned that I am more capable than what I can imagine.

Thank you again,
Elijah

Thank you for offering me this course because it opened me up and showed me experiences I probably never would've experienced rock climbing or canoeing which were very new to me and a little scary.

Jordan

I decided to come to Outward bound because I wanted to try something different. I wanted to step out of my comfort zone. It was something different; it was more about working with others rather than surviving on your own. A highlight of my trip was rock climbing and meeting people from different places and teaching them about Philly lifestyle. A lowlight of my trip was working with people that were hard to work with. The biggest learning I can take away from this is how to work well with others and learning that some people live like this everyday of their lives. I appreciate this experience because I got a chance to leave my comfort zone. I would like to thank you for this opportunity and hope that you take this letter to heart.

Saquan

I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to experience Outward Bound this summer. It was sensational. I met great people with awesome personalities. I climbed a mountain, which was pretty scary but the views were worth it. I also was able to love and learn how to let go. I met the most amazing girl named Clairissa. This helped me a lot because I fully understand how to say goodbye to the ones you love dearly. Life is a temporary variable and anything can happen.

Zyon

UVM Interns Share Their Experiences

(excerpts from thank you letters)

Dear Svitek Family,

This past summer I was given the opportunity to travel to South Africa to teach environmental education to children. I came across this opportunity earlier last year but was unable to accept it right away because I did not have the money to do so. That is, until I heard about the memorial award that was set up in honor of your daughter Kate. It's because of you and this award that I was able to have the experience of a lifetime and help others become aware of the issues we face in our environment.



I wanted to give a huge thank you to you and let you know that I am forever grateful for your family. It has been a dream of mine to travel to that part of the world for quite sometime now and I'm not sure that I would've ever made it there on my own.

While there I was able to work at one of the Universities, which has its own nature reserve and environmental education program. I worked with a group of like-minded individuals who shared my interest in environmental education. Through them I was set up to work with other environmental education programs across the country. I was able to teach the kids about the dangers of global warming, the importance of different plants around us, and how to appreciate nature.

Hopefully I will be able to go back one day but until then I will hold dear the memories that I made this past summer. Once again, thank you to your whole family and I hope that I would've made Kate proud.

Best regards,
Erin McGuiggan

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Svitek,

As I lay back in my bed at the UVM dorms, it is hard to imagine how I might express the depth of my gratitude for the past summer and all those who made it possible. I returned from Kyrgyzstan with many important questions to consider and a deeper understanding of my cultural background. Working with Kyrgyz students was both a challenge and a great joy, for I learned much and made friends. Though all the students spoke English, I did study Kyrgyz this summer and managed to pick up enough to get around the city and buy things at the bazaar.

The program Nathan (the graduate student I was working with) created was twelve days in length. We spent the first night in University dorms, but the rest of the program took place in the Ala Archa National Park. It is a strikingly beautiful landscape, but watching the students form a community and a team, challenge themselves and grow was the most beautiful part of the trip. We were lucky to have only a couple miserable and cold, rainy nights - enough remind us of nature's power and bring us together, but not so much as to be overly draining or dangerous. We went rock climbing, hiked up to the glacier Aik Cai, and climbed Uchitel, a 4,200 meter nontechnical peak. With only seven students (nearly half dropped shortly before the program started), we had a close knit team and were able to work closely with each individual.

With deepest gratitude,
Sonya

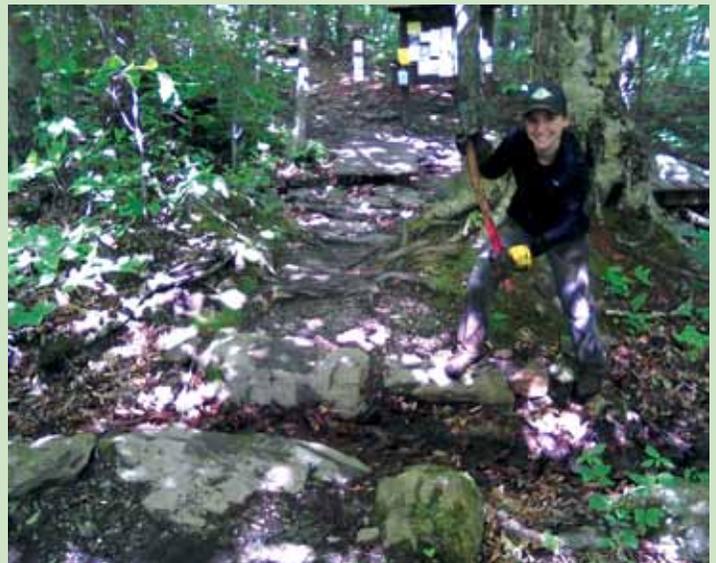
Dear Svitek Family,

I wish to express my gratitude for your generous contribution and support towards my summer internship. Thanks to your support I was able to intern with Vermont's own Green Mountain Club this summer. As you may know, the Green Mountain Club plays a strong part in impacting the landscape and community of Vermont. It is part of their mission to make the Long Trail play a role in the lives of Vermonters, and the GMC is a conservation organization that works to protect and maintain over 500 miles of the Long Trail and other trails in Vermont. As a field intern I trained in both their historical Caretaker program and their Long Trail Patrol program and spent three months in the woods and mountains of Vermont.

While at the GMC I worked 40 hours a week from pre-season all the way through to the end of the summer field season (June-August). For the Caretaker Program I learned about the process of backcountry composting and how to properly care for Long Trail shelters. After a hands on week of training, I learned and employed leave no trace ethics and backcountry stewardship to maintain fragile alpine zones while on the slopes of Mount Mansfield. As part of our training we received a guided Alpine Plant walk from state Botanist Bob Hop. I learned about many alpine plants like Mountain Sandwort, Burberry, and the rare and endangered *Dyapensia*. Also as part of the program I was able to learn and train in SOLO Wilderness first aid and CPR to be able to better assist hikers. Every day was a new and exciting experience, and every day I was able to experience a special place out on the Long Trail in diverse environments, from Lowland forests to alpine zones.

This was also a time for me to not only learn valuable outdoor leadership and education skills, but to network with the GMC and some other significant organizations like the Parks Service and the Forest Service. No matter what I plan to do these are skills that I believe will be very useful for my career. Every day was an adventure, and I cannot thank you enough for giving me the opportunity to have this experience.

Thank you again and best wishes,
Sarah Drew



Sarah Drew uses a Hazel Hoe to clear water bars on the Burrows Trail, Camels Hump, as part of Long Trail Patrol maintenance for the Green Mountain Club.

Dear Svitek Family,

Due to your generosity I was able to accept an unpaid internship with the Green Mountain Audubon Center over this past summer of 2016. The financial assistance your family has provided me allowed me to learn and grow as a teacher while instructing groups of pre-school through middle school aged students in topics such as wildlife tracking, invertebrates, wetlands/watersheds, conservation and outdoor education.

Audubon is a nonprofit environmental organization with a mission to “protect birds, wildlife and their habitat through engaging people of all ages in education, conservation, stewardship and action”. There are Audubon centers located throughout the country and my internship was located in central Vermont at the Green Mountain Audubon center. Here, I was the summer nature education intern where I assisted with day group programs, ecology camp and pre-school camps – all of which included diverse groups of students with varying experience in environmental topics.

Audubon focuses on experiential learning techniques. Although we had lesson plans for the day, the primary goal was to get kids outside and exploring the world around them. Days were spent hiking around the beautiful trails of the Green Mountain center, playing in the Huntington River, catching small wildlife at a pond, playing games in a large open field and even weekly nature yoga.

My summer working with Audubon was an incredible learning experience for myself and an opportunity that I cannot thank you enough for. It has helped me explore my interests within the environmental field and act as an ambassador for the future generation of environmentalists.

With Gratitude,
Sophie Bokelman



It is a key to our mission to ensure that all children have access to quality outdoor education, so we are pleased to have been able to increase the number of children served through our scholarship program with your support. This fall 70% of our field trips are going to students who participate through a scholarship trip to the Sauvie Island Center and over the course of the year we have served about 1,300 students from high-poverty schools.

In addition to hosting more students, we engaged dozens of volunteers in leading field trips on the farm. These volunteers range from master gardeners, retired teachers to college students. They bring a richness of experience that we are lucky to have. In 2016, volunteers worked nearly 1,000 hours to support our education programs.



The curriculum in the fall had these hands-on activities:

- Plant Parts Investigation - Students explore the farm while searching for and tasting food that represents each of the six plant parts: roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits and seeds.
- Soil Investigation - Students explore the large compost piles on the farm, finding decomposers, learning what makes up healthy soil and the role it plays on an organic farm.
- Seed to Harvest - Students plant, tend and harvest vegetables from their own field, the Grow Lunch Garden while learning about annual cycles on a farm.

In the spring, children planted the Grow Lunch Garden. This

year the weather had been so warm that the pollinators could be found all around in the orchard, in the native plant hedgerow and on the farm

- Pollination Station - Students look for pollinators at work in the native hedgerow, in the orchard and on the farm while learning about the critical role that pollinators play in our food system
- Wildlife and the Food Web - To learn about the food web, students search the forest for signs of wildlife and make a food web with their group.

As in past years, 108 children participated in farm camp where they learned about plant parts, wildlife and pollination. They have a grow Lunch Garden where they plant, tend, harvest and eat fresh vegetables. They learned to cook these vegetables. Their favorite time of the day is going to their “Special spot” and journalizing about their day. Once again, they kept a veggie passport to keep track of the vegetables they tasted during the week.

“It’s like a rainbow in your mouth” –Ayalet, camper





Camp Rainbow is seen as a lot of things to a lot of different people. The counselors, donors, board members, parents, and the campers all have unique perspectives that shape our program. Despite this, what happens at camp remains the same. We provide a week-long overnight experience centered around the core values of camp; a genuine summer camp experience for deserving youth based on the tenets of respect, responsibility, and relationships.



Respect refers to the way in which we treat ourselves and others mentally and physically. Being responsible includes understanding and accepting the consequences whether they are positive or negative. Finally, relationships refers to our ability to create and maintain healthy relationships of all types. We integrate these tenets in every aspect of camp. Camper's days are filled with field games, team building exercises, swimming, boating, creek study, archery, hiking, basketball, and water games to name a few. These activities serve as a vehicle for the campers to bond with each other and the staff at Camp Rainbow.

That's a brief summary of what happens at camp, but what about those we serve? The campers at Camp Rainbow are ages 7-16 and are residents of Montgomery County that want to come to camp, plain and simple. The difference is that we make it possible for families who can't afford summer camps to tell their children that they get to pack their sleeping bag and go to camp for a week like their friends. A significant portion of our camper population is designated as being below the poverty line and many have emotional or social problems at home or in school. Through fundraising, grants, and private donations, we are able to take care of children with little to no cost to their families. It is an amazing opportunity. A lot of children receive their first swimming, boating, and campfire experiences with us. Even more are excited to have

their own bed, shower time, and steady meal times for a week.

So that's who we are, what we do, and who we do it for. Does it make a difference? No one knows that better than the campers. Historically, campers who start with us at a young age will spend anywhere from three to nine summers at camp. They tear up on the last day of camp. Our staff has had such an impact on these children that families invite them over for dinner in the off-season because their children miss them. They come back when they are old enough and volunteer their time to help give other kids the same quality experience that they had. What starts as a vacation for kids turns into a long-standing family where children can be themselves and get to know others in the same way that they learn about themselves. It turns into community service, college, and employment. Camp Rainbow helps children to develop life-long skills that they may not have learned otherwise.

At the end of each week, the campers write a memo to themselves to be read in the new year. These letters contain camper's thoughts and feelings about camp, are reminders of their goals, all the fun and activities they had at camp, and frequently list their counselors, and friends by name. Below are a few excerpts from these letters containing insights into the camper perspective.

"My goal is for you to find someone you trust. I found a couple at camp. They made me laugh, cry and feel angry, but in the end I felt safe around them. Also, try to have the most memorable time, its not going to last forever."

"You have done some incredible things like creek swimming, making new friends, being away from family, seeing old friends, swimming, running, playing, meeting new counselors, looking at a baby snapping turtle, catching tadpoles, going to a big party on Thursday night with music and a singing contest. I will miss this camp and I will never forget this camp."

"I learned a lot of things like "let it go, put up not putdowns" and to treat others the way you would like to be treated."





Riverbend Environmental Education Center Internship Program

With support from the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation, we were able to hire two wonderful summer habitat management interns, Shannon and Matt, and offer these interns a rewarding and enriching experience.

Shannon was a sophomore Environmental Science major at the University of Pittsburgh and came to intern at Riverbend to gain experience in reforestation and habitat management. Shannon's goal is to pursue a career in an ecological field, either in research or ecological management and restoration. She had a wonderfully positive attitude, and was hardworking and smart. She enjoyed her experience at Riverbend.

Matt had just graduated from Harriton High School and been accepted at the University of Richmond to play lacrosse. He applied for an internship at Riverbend having loved coming here to attend summer camps since the age of six, and being a volunteer here through his teen years. He had a great relationship with the Riverbend staff and was really good with the children at camp, helping with games and making them laugh.

The interns helped our interim Habitat Coordinator and teen volunteers to care for the habitat at Riverbend over the summer. They tended our young trees in woodland restoration areas, clearing invasive vines, pruning, and watering during a time of drought.

Shannon and Matt both worked well with our teen volunteers to carry out habitat projects and also helped out with summer camp activities, field trips, and our Summer Solstice celebration.

For the Summer Camp children, Shannon and Matt offered an option of field games every Wednesday for two one hour sessions. They came up with their own field games and used their enthusiasm to get the kids excited to play. They managed hurt feelings when one team lost and the other won, and kept the focus on being active and having fun.



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CENTER for AQUATIC SCIENCES

With funding from the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation and other supporters, the Center for Aquatic Sciences was able to send twenty three youth in the Community and Urban Science Enrichment (CAUSE) Program on an exploration of Maine. CAUSE strives to provide a nurturing environment for youth, with character education, life skills training, mentoring, and a strong aquatic science education. This annual excursion helps prepare the students for the world that awaits them beyond Camden City. For most of the teens in the program, the excursion is their first experience being away from home for a week. The youth in grades 9-12, left Camden on an early June morning and by evening were attending a field ecology program at the Ecology School in Saco, Maine. Over the next several days students explored the coastal watershed, salt marshes and forests of the area. They did water testing in the different areas, did a night-time hike through the woods, and explored tide pools finding crabs, moon snails and other animals. During an appreciation circle, the youth were able to share their feelings about the CAUSE Staff

and their impact on the youth. Several of the students shared that this was very meaningful to them and they enjoyed being able to share with others. All of these experiences would come together in July and August as the youth used their own curriculum to run a five-week summer camp for children in two Camden elementary schools.

After spending several days at the Ecology School, the youth then spent a day whitewater rafting. As many of the students do not know how to swim, and have never had a similar experience, this was an opportunity for them to overcome their fears and prove to themselves that they can do anything. As one CAUSE youth commented, “I felt free. Everyone was very friendly. The white water rafting helped me conquer my fears. I was worried about the water – I don’t swim- and all the rapids, but the people were really nice and helped me do it. I made it through a level 4!” Another youth commented about the idea that the trip allowed them to have a “new experience; something I had never done before.” The excursion ended, as it does each year with a visit to a local college or university. This year the youth toured the University of New England. With the CAUSE program boasting a 100% high school graduation rate and 98% of the students continuing on to college, this is the perfect way to end the week and encourage the youth to think about their future.



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

In 2008, the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation and Wissahickon Charter School connected at Greenfest Philly. Wissahickon Charter is a K-8 school in Philadelphia with curricular and cultural emphases on the environment, service learning, peace, conflict resolution and community building. The Fernhill Campus (Germantown) opened in 2002 and the Awbury Campus (East Mount Airy) in 2014.

This past year, the KSMF provided a grant for the fifth graders at Awbury to attend a three day trip to the Horsham Outdoor School. Ellen and Frank Svitek met with the fifth graders the day after they returned and got to hear first hand how much the students enjoyed their time outdoors and how much they learned. The trip started with a series of team building games and activities such as group wall climbing, balance beam and team rope swing. After a delicious lunch, they gathered together to try and solve a mystery. Day 2 the students went on 4 different nature lessons where they were engaged, asked questions and got first hand experiences that would have been impossible to recreate in a classroom. They learned how forests grow and change, where fruits come from, invasive river species and care and feeding of farm animals and reptiles. After dinner there was a campfire with songs, stories and skits. Day 3's highlight was a tree planting ceremony to commemorate the visit.

The 8th graders attended the Kate Svitek Memorial Expedition organized by Outward Bound. This year the trip was October 24-28 and the students hiked a portion of the Appalachian Trail in Michaux State Forest near Carlisle, PA. The trip is designed in conjunction with Outward Bound to provide the students with the opportunity to grow as leaders, build their confidence, develop interpersonal skills and conflict resolution skills while having a fun yet challenging experience in nature.

- Here are some excerpts from the 8th grade thank yous:
- Thank you for providing us with this amazing experience. This expedition has shaped me physically and mentally by making me stronger and making me believe that I can do what I put my mind to.
Joseph
 - I feel like I can do anything cause I did the expedition.
Ty'ril
 - I never thought I could walk 5 miles with a heavy pack on.
Jahmir
 - Thank you for letting me go on this expedition. It means a lot to have this opportunity. I learned to believe in myself. I also want to say sorry for your loss and you guys doing this is a blessing.
Laniyah





Once again the KSMF funded guest programs for 5 out of 8 weeks of camp. The guest naturalists, outdoor educators, and entertainers reached over 200 children. Sun Bear Apiary brought samples of equipment and live bees to teach the children the science of beekeeping and bees. Lenape Lifeways used humor and artifacts to teach the children about native American Life. Safari Parties and Peaceable kingdom brought exotic animals for the kids to see, learn about and pet. A naturalist and local teacher took the kids on a nature walk to teach them how to use their senses, observe wildlife and stay safe outdoors.



Last year Venture Outdoors co-hosted the Adaptive Paddling Workshop. This year with a grant from the KSMF, efforts were made to increase participation of people with disabilities in their kayaking activities and to make paddling more accessible for everyone at Kayak Pittsburgh locations.

With news spreading that Venture Outdoors can accommodate both individuals and groups with disabilities, two groups serving blind youth booked customized outings.

With news spreading that Venture Outdoors can accommodate both individuals and groups with disabilities, two groups serving blind youth booked customized outings.



Non-Event Event is a Financial Success

The third Non-Event Event, Thanksgiving in July and Ad Book raised \$59,000. Thanks to all of our amazing supporters for helping us raise the money we use to fund our grant program. Kate loved Thanksgiving and we are grateful to all of you who participated in her honor.



Thank You! 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.



The Conservation Leadership Academy, hosted by Lacawac Sanctuary, was held on June 26 to July 1. Sixteen campers from Wayne, Pike and surrounding counties were treated to an exciting week of outdoor adventures. Many professionals

volunteered their time to give the students outstanding experiences in the conservation field.

The highlight of the week was a day kayaking on the Delaware River with 10 Bald Eagle sightings. Other favorites include but are not limited to cheese tasting at Calkins Creamery, Water Sampling on Lake Wallenpaupack, learning to fly fish, bird banding with Dr. Meg Hatch and Dr. Rob Smith and a high ropes course. This diverse group of campers lived and worked together for 6 days, laughing, singing, exploring, learning, and having the time of their lives.

Francesca, a participant camper described her experience: “CLA has taught me many things about science, leadership and myself. Before attending this camp, I was unsure of my interests, but now my love for biology has been solidified and I plan to study that in college.” “

“I learned many virtues about leadership and conservation that I will have for probably the rest of my life,” wrote Chris, another camper, “and have 16 new best friends that I will know for a very long time. My week at camp was truly an amazing adventure, and I hope the next generation of campers can have the

same experience next year.”

Since its inception in 1966, the mission of Lacawac Sanctuary has been to preserve Lake Lacawac, its watershed, the surrounding forest and historic structures; provide a venue for ecological research, scholarly interaction and the training of scientists; provide public education on environmental and conservation issues; and conserve open space in Pennsylvania. For over 40 years, Lacawac has accomplished this mission by offering a diverse set of natural areas, facilities, and programs for K-16 and post-secondary educators and students, area residents, scientific researchers, and summer visitors to the region. Lacawac is located on the southwestern shore of Lake Wallenpaupack in Lake Ariel.





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