



GRADES *of*
green
annual report 2018–2019



Celebrating ten years of students
changing our world for the greener!



RAISE A GLASS TO TEN YEARS

Dear Friends of Grades of Green,

We raise our glasses to you! In our first decade, the support and dedication of the Grades of Green team, funders, friends, families, and volunteers created a movement that has given rise to hundreds of thousands of Eco-Leaders across the globe. Imagine what we can do in the next 10 years!

As we reflect on the work and achievements that took place last year we are equally humbled and inspired. Because of the generous donations of our supporters, we empowered and inspired more students than ever to create real and long-lasting environmental change and advocate for cleaner communities in their schools, cities, and states. We invite you to jump in and explore our annual report to discover the amazing environmental impacts that our Student Eco-Leaders have made in the last year and get to know a few special students and teams in the pages that follow.

When you do great work, people notice! Grades of Green was awarded the 2019 SEED award for environmental leadership and our Water Campaign was awarded the Los Angeles County 2019 Green Leadership Award, making every one of our programs an award winner. In April of 2019, we capped off our first decade, by celebrating the Grades of Green global student Eco-Leaders and their extraordinary accomplishments at an unforgettable gala that was the most successful gala we've had to date - raising over 1/3 of our annual budget.

Heading into our next decade, we welcome Kim Siehl as our new Executive Director. Her experience, positivity, and drive will provide the vision and leadership to elevate our programs and expand our reach in building the next generation of Eco-Leaders. We've already begun to further develop our award-winning programs to support the passions of the students we work with every day. In response to our Eco-Leaders' requests, we're designing an updated program model to tackle the biggest and most pressing threat to our environmental future: the climate crisis.

We look to the future with confidence that with your support, Grades of Green will equip, empower and energize the next generation of Eco-Leaders to create a greener, healthier planet for us all.

THE GRADES OF GREEN LEADERSHIP TEAM

OUR STUDENTS CAMPAIGN FOR A GREEN FUTURE

In the fall of 2018, Grades of Green launched an innovative new program to help students across the globe achieve their dreams for a world that is more sustainable, healthy and equitable. The program, named the RISE Campaigns, is engineered to help our students rise together as a team to advocate for environmentally-focused change in their community. By pairing project-based learning with one-on-one mentorship from our dedicated advisors, we help students develop leadership skills and make a measurable impact on their world. The outcome? Grades of Green empowers the next generation of environmental leaders.



TAKING MEASURE

ECO-LEADERS TRAINED

1,400 STUDENTS

STUDENT-LED CAMPAIGNS

131 PROJECTS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

16,000+ PEOPLE PITCHED IN-PERSON

41,000+ ADVOCACY VIDEO VIEWS

WASTE REDUCED

229,217 POUNDS

WATER CONSERVED

10 MILLION GALLONS

GRADUATING ROCKSTARS

SOPHIA

Sophia is from Redondo Beach, CA, and has been a part of the Grades of Green program since 2012, first as a member of the Youth Corps Eco Leadership program and then as a student leader of the South Bay Water and Waste Campaign teams. Over the years she has tackled environmental projects such as making her own reusable lunchboxes, holding e-waste drives, creating educational documentaries and videos, and presenting to peers at the Green School Summit. She'll be graduating from high school this year.



ISAIAH

Isaiah has been an integral part of the Grades of Green family for over 8 years. He has demonstrated not just a remarkable range of environmental interests, but also the dedication to act on them all. On top of building habitat for birds, he has inspired thousands of students to care about wildlife and the environment. Even as a first-year student at the University of Pennsylvania studying environmental science, Isaiah has continued to support Grades of Green by acting as a student judge for our RISE Campaign program.



FALL 2018 WATER CAMPAIGN

It's easy to overlook the extent of the impact people have on water resources every day. Whether it's the water that comes from the tap, the water required to produce the products we use or the water affected by the trash we put into the waste stream, every one of us has an impact. Limiting that footprint was the focus of the students participating in our inaugural Water Campaign in the fall of 2018. And, wow, what a change they made, conserving nearly 10 million gallons of water!

ACTIVE ECO-LEADERS

530 STUDENTS
51 CAMPAIGN TEAMS
37 CITIES
8 COUNTRIES

WATER CONSERVED

9,761,237 GALLONS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

4,200+ PEOPLE PITCHED IN PERSON
28,400+ ADVOCACY VIDEO VIEWS
428,653 PEOPLE REACHED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

LOCAL ADVOCACY

4 CITY COUNCILS MEETINGS
2 SCHOOL DISTRICTS MEETINGS



Campaign Heroes: Columbus Tustin Middle School

The CTMS team demonstrated all the key skills teams need to take effective environmental action. The students conducted a water audit that revealed their school's custodial team used an average of 90 gallons of water each day to hose down the outdoor lunch tables. The team experimented with using buckets of water and rags to wash the tables and found they could achieve the same level of cleanliness while saving approximately 87 gallons of water per day. The class called on the student body to help clean, which resulted in water savings of 435 gallons per week! The CTMS team was awarded the Grand Prize \$1,000 Eco-Grant which they used to purchase additional rain barrels and table cleaning supplies to continue their project.



Campaign Heroes: Greater South Bay Team

The South Bay team was made up of students in grades 6th-12th who attend schools in the Southern California beach communities of Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, and Long Beach. For their Fall Water Campaign, students on this team decided to create an informational video for their community to educate residents on how to protect the nearby ocean from urban runoff. The team taught their community simple steps everyone can take to reduce water pollution in the ocean, such as cleaning up after pets, avoiding pesticides in landscaping, and picking up litter that can travel into storm drains. To spread their message, the video was shown at the students' respective schools as well as on city websites. The team was awarded an Eco-Grant of \$500 to extend their project.



SPRING 2019

WASTE CAMPAIGN

How many times a day do you throw something away? Our students have forever changed the trip to the trash for thousands of people across the world! During the inaugural Waste Campaign in the spring of 2019, our Eco-Leaders got in front of more than 12,600 people to educate them about the importance of reducing and reusing waste and the proper way to recycle. Together, they prevented nearly 114.6 tons of waste from entering the landfill or becoming pollution!

ACTIVE ECO-LEADERS

879 STUDENTS
80 CAMPAIGN TEAMS
42 CITIES
11 COUNTRIES

WASTE REDUCED

229,217 POUNDS

RESOURCES CONSERVED

4.6 MILLION KWH OF ENERGY
800,000 GALLONS OF WATER
45,000 TONS OF CO₂ REDUCED

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

12,600+ PEOPLE PITCHED IN PERSON
13,000+ ADVOCACY VIDEO VIEWS

LOCAL ADVOCACY

4 CITY COUNCILS MEETINGS
4 SCHOOL DISTRICTS MEETINGS



Campaign Heroes: Bridgeport Elementary

Bridgeport Elementary is located in Santa Clarita, California. After noticing the large amount of food waste produced by their school each day at lunch, their Waste Campaign team of 37 students decided to tackle this issue. Their incredible work pushed them to the fore and they were awarded our Grand Prize Eco-Grant of \$1,000. To reduce food waste, the students created an educational campaign to teach students the importance of not wasting food. They also set up a donation box at lunch for uneaten food and established a donation program in which this food is collected daily and distributed to those in need. To further their impact, Bridgeport shared their Campaign video with local schools to inspire them to set up food donation programs as well, diverting tons of food away from the landfill while fulfilling an important need in their community.



Campaign Heroes: Whitney High School

The Whitney High School Eco-Club is an active, organized, and no-nonsense group of Eco-Leaders. The 19 member team recognized that a considerable amount of food waste was going to the landfill daily from their campus and decided to start an onsite composting program. The team collected fruit and vegetable scraps at lunchtime and started making compost in a tumbler compost bin. In addition to collecting compostable scraps, the team shared their efforts on Whitney High School LIVE, their school's live stream, to teach their school community about the positive impact that composting has on the environment. The Whitney High School Eco-club was the recipient of Best Alumni Grades of Green Team award and received a \$500 Eco-Grant. The team used the grant to help pay for biodegradable forks and knives for their annual International Day event and to purchase a second compost bin.



CHANGING COMMUNITIES FOR THE GREENER

Long Beach School District Convinced to Go Green

During the Waste Campaign in the spring of 2019, three teams of Grades of Green students in Long Beach, California, banded together to push Long Beach Unified School District to take action to reduce the amount of waste it produced. The outcome was amazing – a district-wide investment in waste reduction backed by a budget allocation of \$1 Million! A huge achievement for the third-largest district in California.

Our student teams at Rogers Middle School, Keller Middle School and Hughes Middle School worked together alongside their Adult Leads to develop a convincing presentation on waste-reduction that they delivered to their school board. The highly-detailed presentation covered the students' analysis of what the law required the district to do, what competing districts were doing, a cost analysis, and an evaluation of the environmental benefit of the district taking further action.

After listening to the students' moving presentation, the district decided to go full-steam ahead with their recommendations to create a district-wide waste reduction certification program, invest in waste sorting infrastructure, and ensure that teachers would get paid for their time spent getting trained and implementing the waste-reduction practices championed by our students. Last fall, the students and teachers held the first annual Long Beach Green Summit to train leaders across the district to implement their waste-reduction program. What a success!



Grand View Elementary Students Inspire District to "Ban the Bottle" at Elementary Schools

Grades of Green was founded a decade ago at Grand View Elementary in Manhattan Beach, California, and the Grand View community is still a big part of the Grades of Green family. Every year, we've had a student team from Grand View and the 2018-2019 school year was no exception.

For their project during the 2018 Water Campaign, the students were concerned about the amount of single-use plastic bottles that are sold to students every day at lunch. They noticed that many students only drank part of the water before throwing away the bottles, adding up to a large amount of water and plastic waste every day.

The Grand View team made a video to educate their peers about the amount of money and natural resources that are wasted by the consumption of single-use plastics on campus each day and encouraged their peers to switch to reusable containers. On top of that, they also showed the video to their school superintendent to encourage the Manhattan Beach School District to reduce single-use plastics by installing hydration stations district-wide.

The outcome of their project was far-reaching. Not only did the Manhattan Beach Unified School District install hydration stations, but also went one step further and pulled all single-use plastic bottles from the district's Elementary schools! It's a great example of how our students are able to have an outsized impact on their communities.



INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

We're so proud to work with teams all across the globe. Since Grades of Green was founded, **we've worked with teams in 27 countries!**

From Kenya to Costa Rica and India to Italy, our Advisors have helped students change their communities for the greener. It has been wonderful to introduce student teams across the world to one another so that they can help solve each other's problems. As you'll discover in the following stories, sometimes the solutions we help our international students pursue are related to basic infrastructure so that they're able to tackle the environmental issues facing their community.

George Washington Academy Casablanca, Morocco

This Moroccan team of 30 students, led by Water Campaign Student Leadership Award Winner, Younes, (pictured), resolved to reduce plastic water bottle usage on campus by encouraging students to use newly installed water fountains. While water fountains may be commonplace in some parts of the world, stigma and distrust prevented students from switching over from their habit of drinking from single-use plastic water bottles. The team creatively challenged this stigma through seminars and by conducting a taste test between the fountain water and bottled water, educating the student population about the harmful effects of plastic water bottles, and encouraging them to use reusable water bottles. Through encouraging sustainable practices, the team helped their school save over 3 million gallons of water by reducing plastic water bottle use on campus!



PSGR Krishnammal Nursery and Primary School

Tamil Nadu, India

The PSGR team's highly-organized food waste reduction efforts made them a force to be reckoned with in the 2019 Waste Campaign. The students set up waste sorting stations and onsite composting projects and worked together to create an innovative song to show the importance of not wasting food. They educated their entire community to inspire them to participate in waste reduction efforts like recycling and composting. PSGR won the award for Best Community Changemakers and an Eco-Grant of \$500 for their efforts to involve the entire community in their Campaign which they reinvested in their project.



Malezi Community Centre

Nairobi, Kenya

Malezi's team of 25 primary school students faced one of the biggest challenges during the 2018 Water Campaign: there was a complete lack of a waste disposal system in their community. Their team recognized that, without a disposal system, their community's household waste would pollute waterways – risking an increase in water-borne diseases and reducing overall water quality. Their team rose to the challenge by installing proper waste receptacles far away from water sources to prevent contaminants from ending up in their local waterways. Moreover, their intrepid team presented their proper waste disposal techniques and solutions to local leaders and community members. Malezi was the winner of the Best Alumni Grades of Green Team and the recipient of a \$500 Eco-Grant. The team used the grant's funds to increase the number of community waste collection points in order to further protect their waterways.



VERTE 2019

April 20, 2019
The Westdrift Hotel
Manhattan Beach, CA

A special thanks to all the wonderful supporters who joined us to toast our 10-year anniversary and make VERTE 2019 our most successful annual gala to date!

It was a magical evening featuring a fantastic live and silent auction, two live bands, dancing and dinner celebrating the nations around the world where our students live.

Visit gradesofgreen.org to learn more about Verte 2019 and our generous donors!

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Shaya Kirkpatrick
Suzanne Kretschmer
Kim Martin

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Lauren, Student Leader
Juliette Hart, Adult Lead
Tim Mages, Adult Lead

FUNDS RAISED

\$290,719

MAJOR DONORS THANK YOU!

GREEN CHAMPIONS - \$50,000+



&



GREEN HEROES - \$35,000+



GREEN LEADERS - \$25,000+



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THANK YOU!

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Long Beach Community Foundation

Katy Stone Memorial Fund

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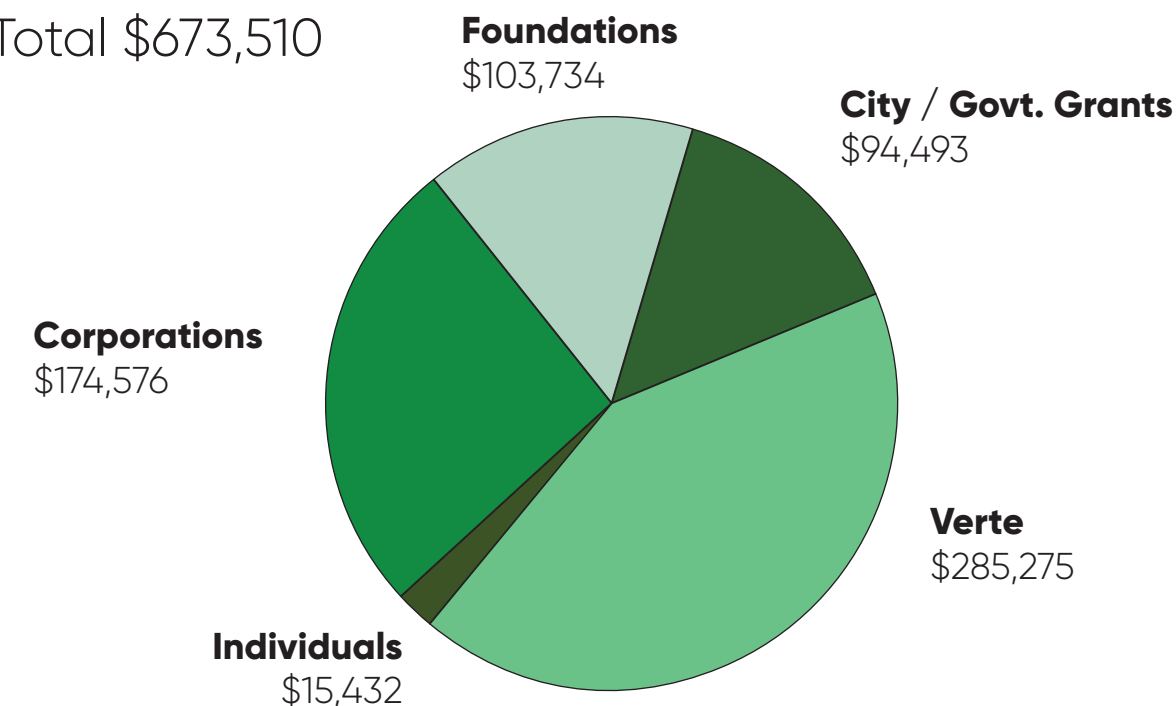


FISCAL YEAR 2019 FINANCIALS

85% of every dollar goes to programs

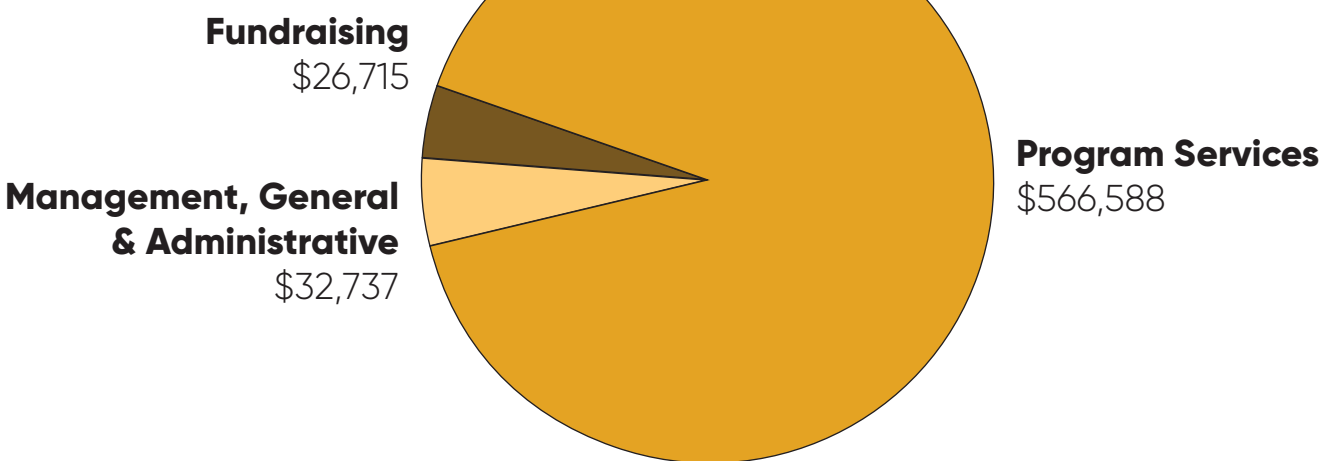
Revenue

Total \$673,510



Expenses

Total \$626,040



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CONTACT US

Interested in learning more about Grades of Green or working together? Please reach out!

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