

SLIDE RANCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2011



Growing wonder,
Inspiring change

A LETTER FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Like so many others, my family discovered the treasure of Slide Ranch by serendipity while driving up the coast on Highway One. We fell in love instantly, drawn by the ranch's simple and rugged beauty.

My children spent the next few summers as Slide Ranch campers, learning all sorts of things - from the dietary preferences of a sea star to proper goat milking technique and the inner workings of a compost pile. Each year my family grew increasingly connected to Slide Ranch and the values of environmental stewardship and sustainability that it embodies.

Watching how my kids were transformed by this breathtakingly beautiful place, I decided to get involved myself as a board member and steward of Slide Ranch. As Board President, I work to ensure the organization's viability into the future so that other children and families have the opportunity to learn and grow from Slide Ranch.

There is no better feeling than to attend a board meeting in the Slide Ranch yurt, with the sounds of the waves crashing on the rocks below, discussing with my fellow board members how we can deepen the impact of Slide Ranch programs on Bay Area children. It is my honor and privilege.

Sincerely,



Barry Hoffner
Board President



THE CHANGE WE INSPIRE

THE MISSION of Slide Ranch is to teach visitors the impact our choices have on food, health and the environment, through hands-on activities and independent exploration on our farm and coastal wild lands. We use several strategies to inspire positive change among our visitors.

- We build the ecoliteracy of children and youth through hands-on education in environmental science and sustainable agriculture
- We collaborate with schools and community organizations to serve diverse groups of youth
- We cultivate teachers in the field of environmental education through an annual Teacher-in-Residence program
- We offer family programs that provide inter-generational learning opportunities on food, farming and sustainability



SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Each year Slide Ranch provides day and overnight programming to hundreds of schools and community groups from throughout the Bay Area. Through guided exploration and hands-on activities on our farm and coastal wild lands, students learn about the interdependence between people and the environment, with a particular focus on food systems.

The Slide Ranch School and Community Program connects thousands of urban students, including youth from some of the toughest Bay Area neighborhoods, with hands-on environmental education promoting health, stewardship, and ecological literacy. The program focuses primarily on education around agriculture and food as a relevant demonstration of human interdependence with the environment.



Slide Ranch's idyllic setting allows urban students access to an abundance of new and eye-opening experiences. For many of our low-income urban participants, a visit to Slide Ranch is their very first opportunity to connect with the elements, make direct contact with the animals, plants and processes that produce food, and explore the extraordinary biodiversity of the Bay Area. The outdoors, rather than being a dangerous or unfamiliar place, becomes a safe place for discovery, nourishment, creativity and reflection.

In 2011, our School and Community Program served 4,000 participants from over 100 schools and organizations, many of them making multiple visits to Slide Ranch. Half of our group visitors come from low-income communities and received subsidies from Slide Ranch to participate.

PARTICIPATING GROUPS 2011

Alemanya Farm/Alemanya Resident Council, San Francisco
Aspen High School, Aspen
Bayside Elementary, Sausalito
Berkeley High School, Berkeley
Berkeley Rose Waldorf, Berkeley
Berkeley Youth Alternatives, Berkeley
Bernal Bambinos Connection with Nature, San Francisco
Bernal Brownies, San Francisco
Blue Oak School, Napa
Booker T. Washington CSC, San Francisco
Brookside School, San Anselmo
Buen Dia Family School, San Francisco
Chinese American Int. School, San Francisco
California Institute for Integral Studies, San Francisco
City of Dreams, San Francisco
Claire Lilienthal, San Francisco
Coleman School, San Rafael
Concordia School, Concord
Cornell School, Albany
Creative Arts Charter School, San Francisco
Cross Cultural Family Center, San Francisco
Edison Charter Academy, San Francisco
Girls Inc. of Alameda, San Leandro
Glenridge Cooperative Nursery School, San Francisco
Glenwood Elementary, San Rafael
Golden Poppy Preschool, Corte Madera
Golden Valley Charter School, Orangevale
Growing Great, Marin City
Hamilton Family Center, San Francisco
Hamlin School, San Francisco
Helen Diller Family Preschool, San Francisco
Home Away From Homelessness, San Francisco
Hummingbird Co-op Preschool, San Francisco
Jefferson Elementary, San Francisco
Joaquin Miller School, Oakland
Kids for the Bay, Berkeley
Larkin Street Youth Center, San Francisco
Lawton Alternative School, San Francisco
Lovonya DeJean Middle School, Richmond
Lycee Francais La Perouse, San Francisco
Manor Elementary, Fairfax
Marin Montessori School, Larkspur
Marin Montessori School, Corte Madera
Marin Primary & Middle School, Larkspur
Marin Waldorf School, San Rafael
Marshall Elementary, San Francisco
Mill Valley Cub Scouts, Mill Valley
Miraloma Elementary, San Francisco
Mission Kids, San Francisco
Mo' Magic, San Francisco
Montalvin Manor, San Pablo
Montessori de Terra Linda, San Rafael
Mt. Tamalpais School, Mill Valley
Novato Youth Center, Novato
Project Avary, Novato
Rancho Elementary, Novato
REACH Charter School, Sebastopol
Redwood High School, Larkspur
Rocketship Mateo Sheedy Elementary, San Jose
Rocky Mountain Nursery School Co-op, San Francisco
Rosa Parks Elementary, Berkeley
San Anselmo Co-op
San Francisco Friends School
San Francisco Day School
Selby Lane, Redwood City
Soccer Without Borders, Oakland
Southern Marin Mother's Club, Tiburon
St. Anselm, San Anselmo
St. Brigid School, San Francisco
St. Hilary School, Tiburon
St. Vincent de Paul School, San Francisco
Star of the Sea School, San Francisco
Stinson Beach Preschool
Strawberry Point School, Mill Valley
Tehiyah Day School, Berkeley
The Bay School of San Francisco
The Laurel School, San Francisco
Thornhill Elementary, Oakland
Town School for Boys, San Francisco
Twin Cities Cooperative Preschool, Corte Madera
Ulloa School, San Francisco
West Portal Elementary, San Francisco
Willow Creek Academy, Sausalito
Work-it-Out Learning, San Francisco

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Slide Ranch family programs provide intergenerational learning opportunities that promote the health and ecological literacy of the entire family.

Just 30 minutes from the diverse urban centers of San Francisco and the East Bay, families can visit Slide Ranch and learn together about nutritious farm to table cooking, ways to grow and compost food sustainably, tide pools and marine biology, native plants and ecosystems, and stewardship of animals and the land.

Guided by our experienced teachers, participating families draw inspiration from our stunning natural setting and (re)connect with nature and their food sources together. In 2011, Slide Ranch family programs reached 1,800 child and adult participants - from tots to great-grandparents.

Family farm days in 2011 included Ocean Exploration Days, Toddler Days, Sheep to Shawl Day, Family Campouts at our dome by the sea, and Give Thanks for Food Family Farm Day. Hundreds of families learned, explored, created, danced and enjoyed seasonal crafts and foods at our most popular annual events, Spring Fling and Harvest Celebration.



Teaching kids where their food comes from and exposing them to the wonders of nature are two of the most important gifts that you can give to a child. Slide Ranch has given my family these precious gifts and so much more. Thank you, Slide.

- Francesca Vietor, Board Member



SUMMER CAMP



Slide Ranch offers summer camp for ages 5 through 12, and a junior camp counselor program for teens. In five-day sessions, kids explore the farm and wild lands of the Marin coast and learn about where their food, clothing and shelter comes from.

Between June and August 2011, we provided summer camp programming to 545 kids, primarily children ages 5 to 8 from Marin and San Francisco Counties. We made \$9,000 in scholarships to low-income families to allow 32 additional campers to participate. A dozen youth ages 13 to 17 participated in our junior camp counselor program and received mentoring and leadership experience in environmental education.



TEACHER-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

The purpose of our Teacher-in-Residence Program is to develop and inspire environmental educators and prepare them for meaningful careers in the fields of education, sustainable agriculture, and environmental service. Each year we select seven teachers to live and work at Slide Ranch for 11 months (plus two to three additional summer teachers). Slide Ranch provides comprehensive training, professional development, hands-on opportunities working with diverse groups of youth and families, and a living environment aligned with the sustainable practices we teach. Teachers receive room, board, health care, and monthly stipends.

The central focus of the internship is planning and leading experiential learning programs with children and families. Beyond their teaching duties, our teachers also learn to cultivate and maintain a thriving one-acre organic garden; practice a comprehensive soil development program; participate in sustainable building projects; care for our resident farm animals; and work with volunteers and program participants to restore the native ecosystem.

In 2011, the Slide Ranch Teacher-in-Residence Program was re-energized with a highly passionate and talented group of environmental educators. Teachers benefited from opportunities to deepen their impact on students, with particular attention to inner city and low-income populations. This was accomplished by providing a high volume of in-depth (two and three-day) overnight programs—about 30 total—as well as Slide Ranch teacher visits to students in their schools and communities.



2011 Teachers-in-Residence:

Dorothea Arnold*
Jessica Bergman
Karli Cowman
Cate Flanagan*
Dylan Flynn
Taylor Hutchison
Grace Lee*
Jake Mendell
Kaija Ollikainen
Jessica Sanchez

*Summer teachers

INFRASTRUCTURE



Slide Ranch has seen major improvements to its infrastructure between 2007 and 2011.

- For housing our teachers-in-residence, a trailer park was transformed into a village of unique cabins (top left).
- With a nod to the 21st century, we rebuilt our legendary geodesic dome (middle left) to provide a solid kitchen hub for overnight campers.
- We fortified our creamery and wash house, replaced the roof and installed a state-of-the-art solar water heating system.
- We rebuilt our central office in the old Blacksmith House (bottom left) and created a new public waiting room and meeting space.

These improvements have dramatically improved the look and feel of Slide Ranch, while also increasing the capacity of our staff and programs.



BOARD AND STAFF



From left to right: Francesca Vietor, Barry Hoffner, Suzette Clarke, Jon d'Alessio, Meme Scherr, Jon Krotinger, Karen Valentine, Tim Dale, Caroline Loewy, David Hochschild, Suzanne Passalacqua. **Not pictured:** Allen Benello, Max La Counte, Janet Lewin, Andrew Loft, Cynthia Lohr.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012

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Suzanne Passalacqua, VP
Andrew Loft, Treasurer
Robert Lawrence, Secretary
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Suzette Clarke
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Jon d'Alessio
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Jon Krotinger
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Karen Valentine
Francesca Vietor



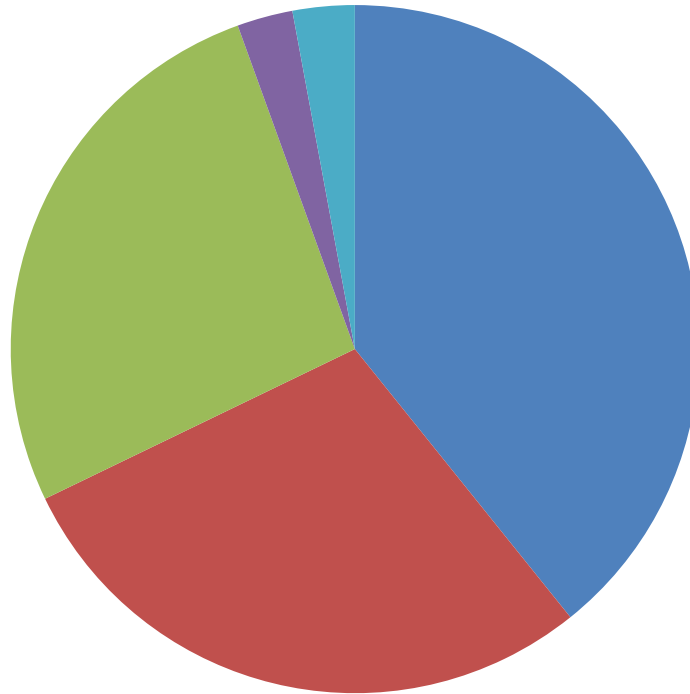
From left to right: Dianne Zimmer, Roby Snow, Geoffrey Bauman, Talia Kirschner, Casen Splain, Julie Epstein, Doreen Rodriguez-Urfer, Emily Cohen, Dylan Flynn, Charles Higgins. **Not pictured:** Kyle Hartman, Joanna Letz, Steve Thompson.

PERENNIAL STAFF 2012

Charles Higgins, MSW Executive Director
Geoffrey Bauman, Finance Director
Emily Cohen, Program Manager
Julie Epstein, Program Coordinator
Dylan Flynn, Ranch Hand
Kyle Hartman, Ranch Hand
Talia Kirschner, Development Manager
Joanna Letz, Head Gardener
Casen Splain, Administrative Coordinator
Doreen Rodriguez, Director of Ranch Operations
Roby Snow, Animal Care Coordinator
Steve Thompson, Facilities Manager
Diane Zimmer, Director of Strategic Development

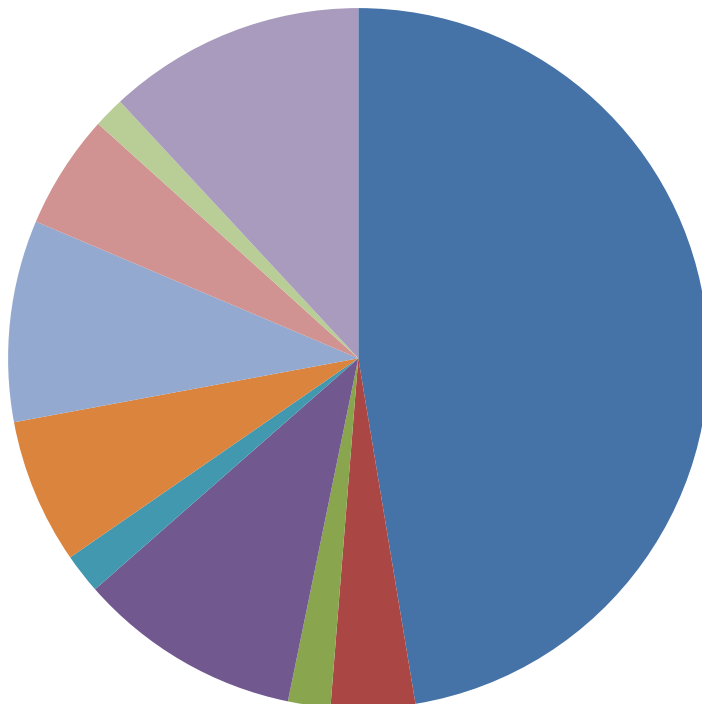
FINANCIALS

2011 Revenue



- Program fees
- Grants
- Individuals
- In kind
- Other

2011 Expenses



- Salaries
- Payroll taxes
- Workers' Comp
- Fringe Benefits
- Contract Services
- Facilities
- Program
- Administration
- Fundraising
- Capital expenses



DONORS 2011

\$50,000 or greater

Suzette and Jeff Clarke

\$25,000 to \$49,999

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Office of the Hon. Steve Kinsey

Clarence E. Heller Foundation

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Anonymous

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Julia Parker Benello and Allen Benello

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The Kimball Foundation

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The Seed Fund

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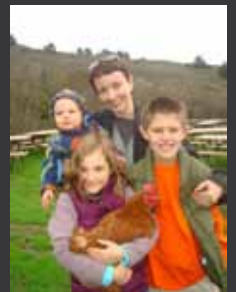
The Bernard Osher Foundation

Meme and Peter Scherr

Whole Systems Foundation



I can think of no other place that equally delights and educates my autistic step-son, my 10 year old daughter and toddler son! Slide gives us all a break from the rigors of urban life, and grounds us in the basics and beauty of nature. By all of us doing our part for Slide, we help extend that experience to children less fortunate who deserve the opportunity.



-Suzette Clarke, Board Member

DONORS 2011

\$1,000 to \$4,999

Alexander and Baldwin Foundation
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Whole Foods Market, Blithedale Ave
Wigt Printing, Mill Valley



Whether you live in the suburbs, the inner city, or the country, whether you're a toddler, a teenager or a parent, Slide Ranch has something important to teach you.
-Rob Lawrence, Board Member (right, pictured with Board Members Allen Benello and Cynthia Lohr)

\$500 to \$999

Zoe Astrachan and Andrew Dunbar
Nicholas Baker and Lisa Stanton
Myra Block
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Katrina Traywick
Kendall Wilkinson Design
Marcel Wilson and Jennifer Carroll Wilson
Erik Wohlgemuth and Arah Erickson



Slide represents so many things that are important to me: nurturing the land, caring for animals, living respectfully and sustainably in this beautiful part of the world. Working in service for Slide has brought both me and my son so much joy and purpose.



-Julia Sze, Donor

DONORS 2011



Terry Husabye 2011

\$250 to \$499

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Ted Bayer
Jonathan Berkeley
Jeffrey Brown
Debra Callahan and Kenneth Cook
Alice and Oliver Chan
Bruce Cohen and Gale Mondry
Frank and Diane Dean
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Honey Family
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Max La Counte and Stephanie Storms
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Kristin Lamoureux
Michael Manzagol
Shanna McBurney and David Stanton
Jerry Peters
Alice Russell-Shapiro and Bill Shapiro
Tiffany Schauer
Kate Stoia
Paul Warrin
Skip Whitney

In the midst of our complex systems, Slide Ranch is grounding. It's where everything else falls away and what is left is the vitality that is common to each of us.

*-Suzanne Passalacqua,
Board Vice President*



DONORS 2011

\$100 to \$249

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Patricia and Eugene Angell
Allison and Eric Boester
Renata Brillinger
Caterina and Louis Cammarosano
Alison Carlson
Cleo Collins
Dawn Daniel and Herb Madan
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Edison Charter Academy
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Elissa Epel and Jack Glaser
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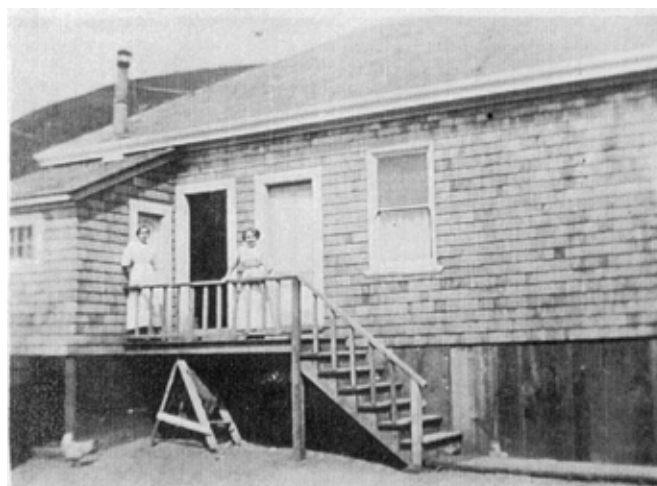
LOOKING FORWARD....

CAMPAIGN FOR THE COMMONS

In 2012, Slide Ranch is embarking on the most defining capital project in its history, the Campaign for the Commons. The Slide Ranch Commons farmhouse was built in 1916 by Portuguese dairy ranchers with lumber salvaged from the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco. Existing floor joists and board bear this moniker in hand-painted letters.

In 1970, when Slide Ranch was established as a nonprofit, the farmhouse became the Commons, the central kitchen and dining room for the community that lived and worked at the ranch. After nearly a century of coastal weather and daily use, the Commons needs a complete rebuild from the foundation up.

Using salvaged lumber, doors and windows, energy efficient appliances and the placement of a photovoltaic solar energy system, the Commons will be an outstanding example of sustainable construction methods.



Traditionally, the Commons kitchen has provided the cooking, refrigeration, and storage facilities necessary to providing our food-based activities for program participants. Now, the garden-facing side of the building will be designed as an expanded educational cooking space under a covered deck .

The improved Commons will also include an exciting new learning lab on the ground floor, a significant expansion of indoor program space available to our students. Through rotating exhibits, video screenings and hands-on learning tools, the learning lab will allow Slide Ranch visitors to more deeply explore the impact our choices have on food, health and the environment.

2012 AND BEYOND

GRATITUDE VIEW

The spirit of Slide Ranch is grounded in those who are stewards of the land. From its early history, the place provided access to the shoreline for harvesting food from the ocean. For centuries, Slide Ranch has been a place of reflection and celebration of life. In the 19th century, immigrant cattlemen from the Portuguese Azores used the place for grazing. Around the turn of the century, a dairy farm was established on this site. Since 1970, Slide Ranch has served more than 200,000 visitors who come to experience the wonder of nature. Many people have nurtured the place and been touched by its spirit. With this in mind, Slide Ranch established Gratitude View.

Located off the Dome trail on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the View is a place to pay tribute to people whose spirits have been or would be nurtured by the spirit of Slide Ranch. Tribute tiles in memory or dedication will be placed around a massive boulder amidst the coyote brush.

A profile of Brian O'Neill in steel will sit atop a column of stone. Designed by local artist Michael Schwab, the profile is both iconic and personal. Brian, the late Superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, was a strong supporter of Slide Ranch.



S l i d e R a n c h

2025 Shoreline Hwy
Muir Beach, CA 94965
(415) 381-6155
www.slideranch.org

