

Willow Bend

environmental education center

Annual Report 2009-2010

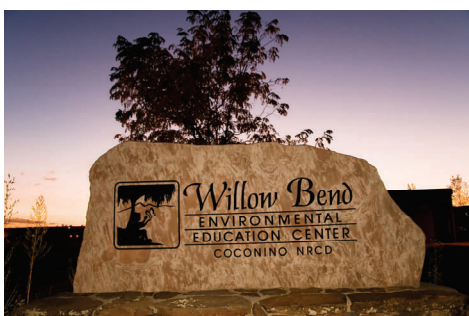
July 2010



Having lots of fun at summer Bug Camp.

Our Mission: *To provide educational services that build environmental awareness and an ethic of responsible stewardship of our natural and cultural resources.*

All of our programs strive to build the kind of world—socially, environmentally, and economically—we want to live in; a world we want our children and grandchildren to inherit.



Environmental Education for Northern Arizona



Students enjoy a hike on a field trip to Willow Bend.

Willow Bend Environmental Education Center has a rich 31-year history of providing place-based environmental education that fosters an ethic of stewardship and responsibility by deepening people's understanding of and connections to nature.

Our educators work with all levels of the community to connect local environmental issues to larger environmental science concepts. We believe that just as a tree needs deep roots, a solid trunk, and strong branches in order to bear fruit, our community needs a deep foundation and connection to the local environment, solid knowledge and awareness of natural history, and a sense of empowerment in order to achieve the fruit of sustainability. **Willow Bend's programs provide the necessary education that nourishes hearts and minds, and leads to self-driven action for a sustainable community.** In other words, our goal is to create a forest of healthy, thriving "trees" that think and act with the earth in mind.



A Year In Review: 22,945 Community Contacts!



Kirstie leads students on a field trip to the Recycling Center.

Field Trips

Willow Bend hosted 47 on-site field trips, connecting more than 1,100 students to the natural world. In addition, Willow Bend led 65 tours of Flagstaff's recycling facility for more than 1400 community members.



Parents and kids enjoy stretching and balancing during our Family Yoga Series.

Family Science

Families join Willow Bend staff to learn more about nature at our monthly Family Science Events. This year, we reached over 300 people through these events. Our most popular nights included Family Gift Making, Midnight Hunters, Radical Reptiles, and Amazing Arthropods.



Flagstaff teachers on a volcano at the Willow Bend Hawaii Teacher Workshop.

Teacher Workshops

Teachers use Willow Bend to learn more about environmental science issues to incorporate into their classrooms. This year, we led teachers on the adventure of a lifetime to the Big Island of Hawaii to study geology, biodiversity, culture, and more.



Casey Anza cuddles up to her favorite snake at the Radical Reptiles Family Science Event.

Community Events

Willow Bend participated in 35 community-wide events including the Festival of Science, Science in the Park, Earth Day in the Park, and the Northern Arizona Sustainable Living Fair. Through these events, we were able to reach over 3,300 community members!



The Mayor shows her support for Willow Bend at Earth Day.

Classroom Programs

We taught more than 570 hands-on classroom programs featuring our local environment to 14,250 students in Flagstaff, Parks, Williams, and Fredonia. We offer over 45 standards-aligned classroom programs that are place-based and interactive.



Kirstie teaches students about seeds at Parks Elementary.

From the Director



Sapna Sopori
Director

Kirstie Bickford
Program Coordinator

Matt Cohen
AmeriCorps Development Assistant

Laura Daum
AmeriCorps Development Assistant

Elsbeth Inglett
AmeriCorps Educator

Alyssa Rothstein
AmeriCorps Educator

It has been simply an incredible year for Willow Bend! Though economic times are difficult, our community has rallied and declared that **northern Arizona values environmental education!** This was evident through our record Friends of Willow Bend donations, new Business and Program Supporters, purchases from our Artists for Awareness gallery, successful fundraisers including our Electric Bike Raffle and the NAU Fun Run, and so many more successes it can make your head spin! One of the biggest accomplishments this year was the formation of our Willow Bend Board of Directors. With the blessing and support of our founding board, the **Coconino Natural Resource Conservation District**, Willow Bend now has 9 new dedicated and talented individuals whose collective goal is to secure environmental education for northern Arizona. None of these successes would have been possible without hard work of the **amazing Willow Bend staff and volunteers**, and I can never thank them enough. With the support of the community, our two boards, volunteers, and staff, I hope to keep Willow Bend alive and thriving for another 31 fabulous years. I love this job! — *Sapna*

Coconino NRCD Board

Mike Macauley, Chair
Duane Coleman, Vice Chair
John Davison, Supervisor
Steve Drye, Secretary
Kit Metzger, Treasurer

Willow Bend Board

Cuyler Boughner, Chair
Andy Gould, Vice Chair
Heather Gearhart, Secretary
Kathy Hayes, Treasurer
John Davison, NRCD Rep

James Sell, Director
Veronica Hipolito, Director
Nicole Woodman, Director
Matt Roberts, Director

How You Can Help:
We are successful
because of your
generosity!

- ◆ Become a *Friend of Willow Bend*
- ◆ Volunteer Your Talents & Time
 - ◆ Use our Programs
 - ◆ Adopt our Gift Wish List
- ◆ Support through your Business
 - ◆ Shop at our Gallery



For more information about these options or to create your own way to support Willow Bend, please call 779-1745 or email info@willowbendcenter.org.



*environmental
education center*

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What People Are Saying:

"I learned so much!!! **It was the best thing that happened in school.** Come back again please." -Ben, 3rd grade, Sechrist Elementary

"We have all become aware of our surroundings...(We) **believe we all can make a difference...**" -Upward Bound high school student

"The experience for them was something so wonderful and freeing as they could not have imagined...**you opened their eyes to a whole new world, the natural world,** and themselves as natural beings." -Jane, middle school teacher

"[We need] to ensure that children in our region will continue to receive a "green" education about the importance of living a balanced and harmonious life through respect for our ecosystem. **Willow Bend programs are a lynchpin** for this educational enhancement to school curricula and must be preserved and strengthened." -Coconino County Supervisor Carl Taylor

"**Everyone talks about sustainability. This organization lives it.** Not only that- they teach the practical side of that life to our future. Kids learn respect for our planet and responsible stewardship of our resources. I have personally seen how they open kids eyes and minds." -Flagstaff Vice Mayor Al White



www.willowbendcenter.org

Hooray for our Supporters!

We would like to thank our top 2009-2010 business and community supporters:

Willow Level (\$4,000 and above): City of Flagstaff, Coconino County Board of Supervisors, Flagstaff Unified School District, Flagstaff Community Foundation, Flagstaff Cultural Partners / City of Flagstaff / BBB Revenues, Arizona Forestry Division-Urban & Community Forestry, and the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program

Ponderosa Level (\$2,000-\$3,999): Flagstaff Community Foundation and New Frontiers Natural Foods

Aspen Level (\$1,000-\$1,999): Arizona Raft Adventures, Elliott Family Fund, Hope Construction, Lifetime Automotive, and Prometheus Systems

Juniper Level (\$500-\$999): Environmental Fund for Arizona and ReGroup Conservation

Pinyon Level (\$100-\$499): Paul Moore Architect, Cottage Place Restaurant,, Mountain Oasis, PASTO Restaurant, and Red OTS Salon



Thank You to our generous 2009-2010 Program Supporters:

City of Flagstaff, Coconino County Parks and Recreation, Ecological Restoration Institute, National Park Service Flagstaff Area Monuments, Northern Arizona Audubon, and Rocky Mountain Research Station

Thank You to our amazing Artists for Awareness:

Jana Aukon, Jennifer Brown, Dano Gruen, Kathy Hayes, Joe Justad, Stacy Mark, Toni Prothero, Nathan Renn, Chandra Robinson, Sapna Sopori, and Alex Wisniewski

Thank You to our dedicated *Friends of Willow Bend*:

Amanda Acheson, Annette Avery, Anonymous (2), Bryan Bates, Sat Best, Cuyler Boughner, Phil and Barbara Brunner, Neil Cobb, Jim and Michelle Corning, Richard and Hanna Cortner, Lisa and David Daum, Bracken Davis, Karan English, Barbara Furbush, Bob Gaylord, Heather and Ryan Gearhart, Andy Gould, Kathryn Hayes, Mark and Val Hough, Caroline Hughes, John and Janet Kersh, Marcia Lamkin, Norm and Gail Lowe, Karen Malis-Clark, Chuck McDougal, Toru and Jeanne Miyoshi, Angie Moline, Peter and Elisa Muscarella, Diane Nelson, Chris Newell, L. Newell, Matt Roberts, Karen and Andrew Saal, Kathie Satterfield, Michael Schneegas, Mark Spinti, Steve Verkamp, William Walsh, Jack Welch, and Joe and Lori Wisniewski (*see website for complete list of all donor levels*)

Special Thanks to our wonderful Volunteers who donated over 1,000 hours and saved us over \$20,000!!!

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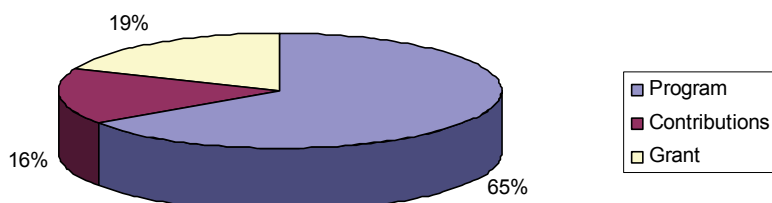
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2009-2010 Financial Report

We have been very fortunate this year with the outpouring of generosity from our community! Thank you to all our business, program, individual, volunteer, and artist supporters! With this amazing foundation, we were able to net a profit of over **\$22,000!** While this success is unprecedented for Willow Bend, we are planning ahead to counteract the anticipated funding cut from the loss of the Secure Rural School Act, which will **deplete funds by \$30,000 each year**. If we hope to keep our outreach levels at their current capacity and eventually increase our education programs to meet our demand, **your help is more crucial now than ever!** Please consider joining our Friends of Willow Bend circle or increasing your donation to the next level **to ensure that environmental education stays in northern Arizona for another 31 years!**

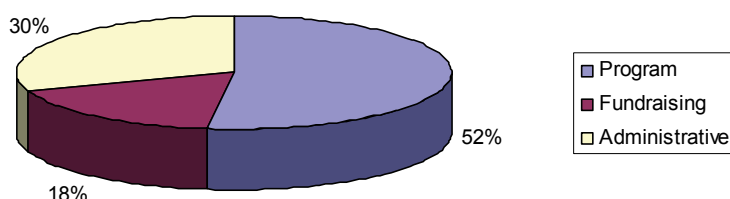
Income Sources

Total \$130,094



Expenses

Total \$107,662



Take the pledge to support environmental education in the public schools of northern Arizona!