

## FISCAL YEAR 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

### *Celebrating 20 Years*

Inspiring stewardship of and connection to the natural world through experiential learning in ecology, conservation, farming, and sustainability.



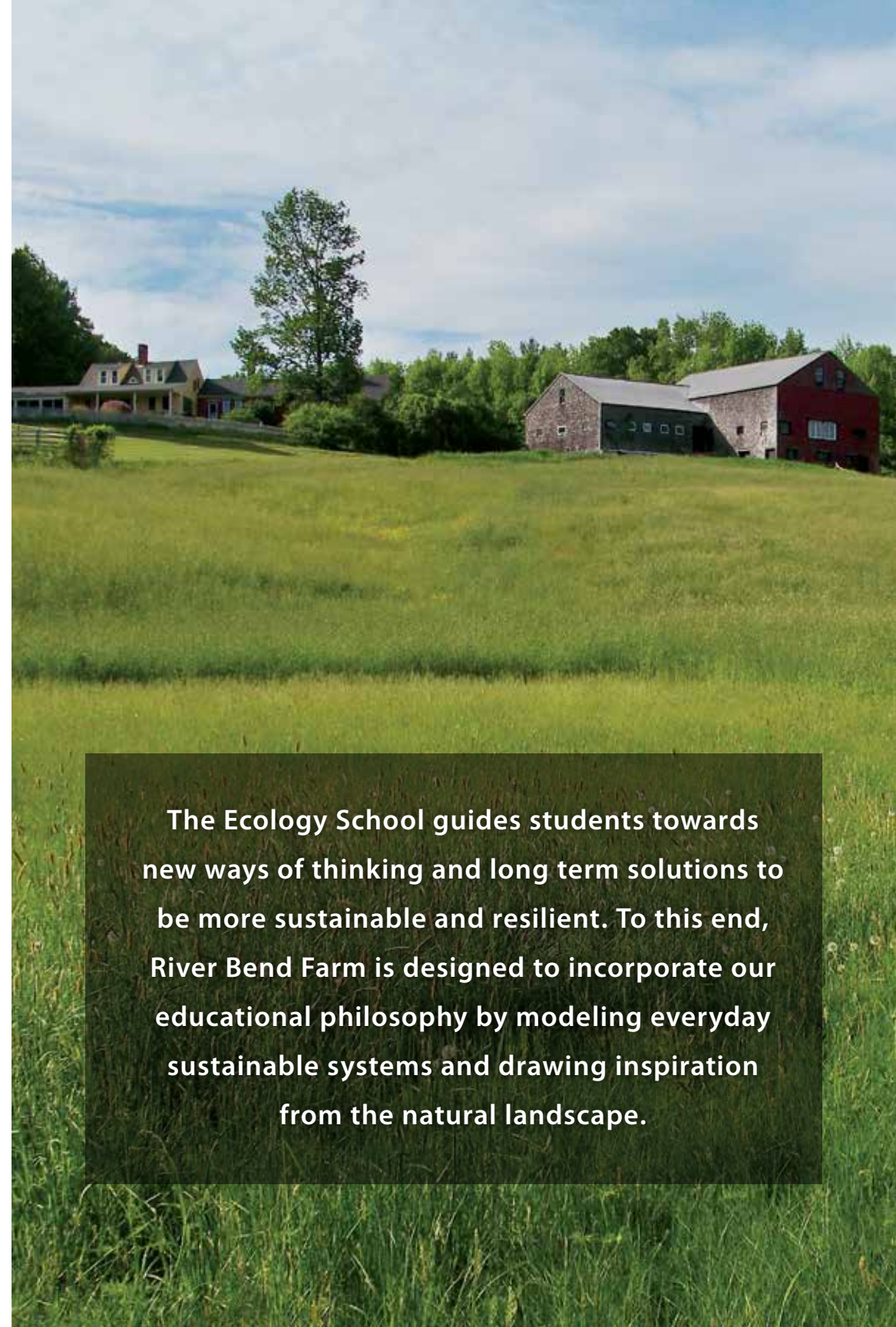


**Ecology: \i-ˈkă-lə-jē\ from Ancient Greek οἶκος (oîkos, “house”, “home”, “environment”) + -λογία (-logía, “study of”)**

Ecology is much more than an important branch of science, it is a way to understand the world and make important connections by studying **“HOME”** in all of its many forms. In 2018, The Ecology School welcomed more than 12,000 total participants to learn about:

- the specific **homes** created and lived in by a diversity of plants and animals,
- the wider ecosystem **homes** that they compete and cooperate with,
- the human **homes** we inhabit and interact in ranging from our family houses to our classrooms to our work places,
- and, perhaps most importantly, our shared **home**, the Earth.

Our program participants learn that systems we incorporate in our everyday **homes** are often modeled after system processes which naturally occur. They also learned that **the systems in nature’s homes are sustainable over hundreds, thousands, and millions of years**; whereas current human-made homes are most often not.



**The Ecology School guides students towards new ways of thinking and long term solutions to be more sustainable and resilient. To this end, River Bend Farm is designed to incorporate our educational philosophy by modeling everyday sustainable systems and drawing inspiration from the natural landscape.**



Few words hold as much emotional resonance and deep meaning as the word **HOME**. Expressions like *coming home*, *home for the holidays*, *home is where the heart is*, and *home sweet home* all invoke feelings of warmth, understanding, and happiness. On the other hand, words such as *homesick* and *homeless* invoke sadness, disconnection, alienation, and even fear. To be away from your home, however you define it, leaves you ungrounded and uncertain. To have no home endangers your health and safety.

The Ecology School began, grew, and flourished for 20 years as an anchor tenant at a leased facility but we were limited as seasonal renters with the majority of our programs and tuition revenue happening in just 20 weeks (11 Spring Term and 9 Fall Term)—weekdays only. After four years of planning and preparation starting in 2015, and now construction slated to begin this summer, River Bend Farm will officially become the year-round **home** in the summer of 2020 for all of our programs, our offices, our farming operations, and our ecology research.

When you're at **home** you know where to find things, you know where the food is, you know how to sustain comfort, warmth, and well-being. This is as true for any animal as it is for us. The Ecology School at River Bend Farm will model this idea of **Home** in the broadest and deepest ways with the meals we serve in our dining commons featuring food grown in our own fields. When you spend the night in our Living Building dormitory, you'll know that the power to light the hallways and dorm rooms comes from the 700+ solar power panels just a few hundred yards down the hill! When you spend time exploring the varied and diverse ecosystems of River Bend Farm you will begin to feel fully at **home** in the most meaningful way possible, connecting your own life to the Earth and the natural cycles and systems that sustain us all. These new deep connections will lead to a generosity of spirit and a true commitment to being an active part of healthy and resilient communities.

Welcome home!

—Drew Dumsch, Co-founder, President, and CEO, The Ecology School

*Celebrating 20 years of welcoming people home!*



Drew Dumsch, pictured with wife Lisa and daughters Sophie and Nia



Mary Martin, pictured with husband Forrest Martin

As The Ecology School Board Chair, and as an educator, I want to take this opportunity to **thank you** for your ongoing support and to share with you the excitement and promise that surrounds us all at River Bend Farm.

Within just a few weeks the foundations for the new dormitory and dining commons will be laid and construction will begin. While these foundations will provide the support and stability for the structures, the ideological foundation for these buildings has been present for twenty years and has impacted thousands of children and adults.

As we make our **home** at River Bend Farm, relationships and a sense of belonging remain at the heart of who we are and what we do. While exploring our relationship to the environment, we also seek to build and strengthen the relationships that connect us to each other. We recognize that the contributions of our collaborative partners and generous donors continue to make it possible to focus on our vision for a sustainable future.

River Bend Farm provides the ideal opportunity for us to deepen our commitment to our mission through expanded programming and to become a national model for environmental education, sustainable farming, and conservation. **Thank you for supporting our vision and joining us on this important journey.**

—Mary Martin, The Ecology School Board of Directors, Chair



Instead of learning about our world from a textbook or inside classrooms, our residential students receive **more than six hours of interactive education outside in nature** each day. Using costumed characters and story-telling techniques, we teach important ecological concepts through hands-on activities. We call this approach to learning **Narrative Education**; utilizing skits, songs, and games to **uncover nature's systems and themes** like reading chapters in a book.

Our music **parody popular songs while including important environmental and agricultural themes** to make them educational. One of our newest songs, "Fallow" is about the "Garden Recycling Center" and how decomposers, like worms, can enrich the soil. It parodies the song "Shallow" from the movie *A Star is Born*. (Sung with your best Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga impressions!)

**"Fallow"** (Em7, D/F#, G)  
to the tune of "Shallow" from *A Star is Born* (2018)

Tell me something, worm  
Are you happy in your garden world  
Or do you need more?  
Are there nutrients you're searching for?

I'm calling  
For all the fruit peels and salad greens  
Longin' to change  
Them into rich soil we farm ourselves.

Tell me something, kids  
About the plate waste that you thought you hid  
so You think you need more?  
Could you take less next time or think, "What for?"

I'm calling  
For-you-to-think-what-you-choose for yourself  
Longin' for change  
And it can come if we think for ourselves.

I'm in the garden, watch as I dig in  
I'll always till this ground  
Plants on the surface, where they can feed us  
It's soil in the garden now.

In the garden, gar gar-den  
In the garden, garden, gar gar-den  
In the garden, gar gar-den  
It's soil in the garden now.



\*chords you need to know to play this song.

Parody written by Meg Edstrom Jones, The Ecology School  
Director of Education and Curriculum Design



## PROGRAM IMPACT

Total Participating Towns in New England: **60**

Total Participating Schools in New England: **75**

Residential Program Participants: **3,268**

Outreach, Events, and Day Program Participants: **9,975**

Total Program Participants: **13,243**

Total Participant Contact Hours: **225,052**

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## PROGRAM IMPACT IN MAINE

Total Participating Towns in Maine: **23**

Total Participating Schools in Maine: **31**

Total Maine Teachers Reached: **697**

Total Maine Students Reached: **8,377**

Total Program Participants from Maine: **10,066**

Total Contact Hours with Maine Participants: **50,770**

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## TUITION IMPACT

Total Program Tuition: **\$1,039,704**

Tuition Discounts and Scholarships: **\$256,686**

Actual Tuition Paid: **\$723,018**

\*Tuition discounts and scholarships are made possible, in part, through the generous contributions of individuals, businesses and foundations to our Annual Fund.



*As we were working on our postcards, a student, Danielle, called me over to ask a question. I saw that on the front of her postcard she drew a picture of The Ecology School and wrote 'community' above it. Danielle asked, 'Would it be okay if I wrote 'love' too?' She said that she feels so much love here while in The Ecology School community. I said, "Of course! Add it!" This is the same girl that later cried tears of joy at the closing ceremony.*

–Gabby Brodek, Educator, March 2018



## FINANCIALS

Audited financial statements by Albin, Randall & Bennett, CPAs

Thanks in large part to our friends and supporters, we ended the fiscal year December 31, 2018 with **an increase in Net Assets of \$916,392**, primarily through funding of the River Bend Farm Project. This represents a tremendous increase in contributed support and by far our most financially significant year in our 20-year history. The expenses shifted to higher costs for fundraising and management due in part to new IRS reporting requirements and to preliminary work on the River Bend Farm Capital Campaign along with important staffing increases.

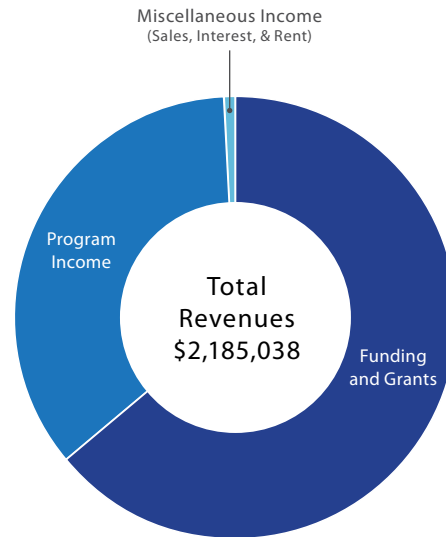
### 2018 REVENUE

Fundraising and Grants Income \$1,186,946

Program Income \$783,018

Other Income (Sales, Interest, & Rent) \$215,974

**Total Revenues \$2,185,038**



### 2018 EXPENSES

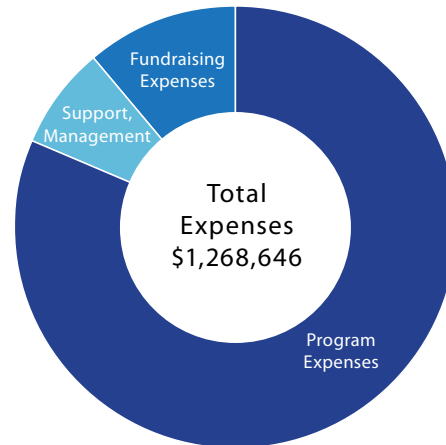
Program Expenses \$911,721

Fundraising Expenses \$177,823

Support, Management \$179,102

**Total Expenses \$1,268,646**

### 2018 ACTUAL



*During my trip I learned so much! I learned about composting and zero food waste, ecosystems in the woods, and dunes and beaches. We learned about animals and their adaptations and even tried some new food. I had so much fun this trip! I also learned about our environmental footprint, and even watched lots of funny skits and listened to and sang funny songs. I am proud of stepping out of my comfort zone and becoming interested in nature. Overall I loved it here; especially when we all sat down to dinner and I felt like a part of an amazing big family.*

–Derek, Grade 6, April 2018

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of December 31, 2018

### CURRENT AND OTHER ASSETS

Cash & cash equivalents	370,386
Campaign pledges & other receivables	398,762
Prepaid expenses & debt issuance costs	48,658
Inventory	6,163
Investments	1,249

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**Total Current & Other Assets** **825,218**

### PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Land (105-acre River Bend Farm Property)	936,141
Buildings (River Bend Farmhouse, Barn, etc.)	685,382
Furniture and equipment	27,849
Construction in progress	969,873
<i>Less Accumulated Depreciation</i>	<i>-43,066</i>

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**Net Property and Equipment** **2,576,179**

**TOTAL ASSETS** **3,401,397**

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

#### Current Liabilities

Line of credit	416,880
Current portion of long term debt	1,525,250
Accounts payable	92,151
Accrued expenses	8,443
Tuition deposits	41,905

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**Total Current Liabilities** **2,084,629**

**Long-Term Debt, net of current position** **10,000**

#### NET ASSETS

Without donor restrictions	64,919
With donor restrictions	1,241,849

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**Total Net Assets** **1,306,768**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** **3,401,397**

\* Audited financial statements conducted by Albin, Randall & Bennett CPAs



## FOAM [ˈf ōm]

1. A mass of bubbles formed on top of liquid
2. A lightweight material reused to make fun and educational costumes
3. **Fantastic Order of Alumni Masters**
4. A group of extremely talented, outlandishly funny, and supremely passionate environmental educators who have been, and continue to be, the foundation of The Ecology School.

### FOAMer Spotlight: Gabby Queenan, *Getting Real About Boston's Dirty Water*

Gabby was recently featured on WBUR, Boston's NPR News Station, to bring much needed attention to the raw sewage that is discharged in some local rivers.



*One of the many takeaways I brought with me from teaching at The Ecology School is the mantra that 'all water is local.' Everyone should feel connected to their water system because we are integrally tied to it. This is essential because if people feel connected to their waterways, they are far more likely to want to protect them. I try and push that idea in all of my work in safeguarding our water resources*

–Gabby Queenan, Educator, Spring 2015 & Fall 2016

Gabby is the current Policy Director at the Massachusetts River Alliance (Cambridge, Massachusetts), an organization that works to strengthen statewide river policies in four areas: water quality, stream flow, wildlife habitat, and investment in green infrastructure. As reported by WBUR, her group is pushing for notifications to be sent to the public, not just government entities as currently mandated by Clean Water Act standards. Read the full article at [theecologyschool.org/newsletters](http://theecologyschool.org/newsletters) (April 2019).



*At the start of the week, my group had some clearly defined boundaries about "who's who" and preconceived judgments about each other. After only a few lessons, those walls began to dissolve and students started to organically work with each other—redefining who they are and bursting with creative energy. It was really encouraging to see the kids lead songs and develop activities they wanted to do together to make the experience memorable. This was a group where I could DIRECTLY see where they came from and where they were going had changed.*

–Chris Emery, Educator, April 2018

## 2018 EDUCATORS AND SEASONAL STAFF

Dawn Allison, RN  
Giovanna Bishop  
Gabrielle Brodek  
Kyle Brooks  
Alex Chasse  
Nolan Crees  
Tessa Diehl  
Mallory Durkee  
Chris Emery

Chelsea Hubert  
Ellie Johnson  
Alexandra Keith  
Katie Legnard  
Maya Littlefield  
Krissy Lynch  
Philip Mathieu  
Josh Miller  
Leah Mould

Rich O'Brien, Head Chef &  
Owner, Pangea Food Service  
Shenandoah Raycroft  
Molly Scanga  
Kaitlin Stiltner  
Brody Todd  
Miranda Wheeler



## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

### \$100,000+

**Daniel E Offutt III, Charitable Trust**

**In Honor of Norma Harrison**

Anonymous  
Olivia Clawson  
Jane Cloutier  
Bruce and Marlene Cummings  
Drew Dumsch and Lisa Farago  
Keil Dumsch  
Nick and Mary Dumsch  
A. Donald and Susan H. Grant  
Benjamin Harrison and Megan Rohrsen  
Buck and Jackie Harrison  
Jordan Harrison and Adam Greenfield  
Rebecca Harrison  
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Marjory Keeler  
Peggy Kornegger and Anne Katzeff  
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Gail Parker  
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Sandra K Roberts  
Lizabeth and John Snell  
Lisa and Phillip Swinehart  
Jeffery and Margaret Swinehart

**Jane's Trust**

### \$50,000-99,999

**In Honor of Sharon Parent**

*Total raised in 2018: \$54,615*

Anonymous (2)  
The Armstongs  
Jill Boivin  
Michael and Maggie Cox  
Bob and Adrienne Fournier

Michala Gallagher  
The Harrow Partal Family  
Priscille Michaud  
Jonathon Olesen  
Amy and Lucien Ouellette  
Bernard and Lisa Ouellette  
Paul and Alma Ouellette  
Albert and Elaine Ouellette  
Craig and Mary Parent  
Reg Parent  
Scott and Wendy Parent  
Fred Watson Pierce  
George and Colette Quirion  
The Reed Family  
Ries Family  
Robert and Del Anne Rowe  
Katherine Rutheford  
The Saymours of Massachusetts  
Darlene Stubbe  
Amy Winslow  
Warren and Barbara Winslow

**In Honor of Mary D. Merrill**

Tom and Polly Merrill

**In Honor of Sara Gabrielson and the fall 2012  
and spring 2013 cohort of environmental  
educators**

Mary Love May and Paul W. Gabrielson

**In Honor of Alumni Educators**

Anonymous

**Anonymous**

**In Honor of Floyd L Huntley**

Guy and Robin Huntley  
Dee and Tom Brown  
Nolan and Kathy Stokes

**Steven and Merilee Grindle**

**Virginia Hodgkins Somers Foundation**

### Up to \$49,999

**Bridget Jones and Dinesh Goburdhun**

Poland Spring, Nestle Waters N.A.

**Quimby Family Foundation**

**Martha L. Taylor**

**Bobbi Keppel**

**John W. Paynter**

**Deborah Thaxter and Robert Adkins**

**Mike Hansen and Hannah Sukonick**

**In Honor of Jack, Lily, Charlotte**

Bryan Matluk

**In Honor of Holly Hascall Jominie**

Corey Hascall

Anonymous Foundation

**Linda and Guy Boudreau**

**Mary and Forrest Martin**

**Catherine and Mike Goodwin**

**Susan and Michael Swanton**

**Jonathan Rooks**



## ANNUAL DONORS

### BUSINESSES

#### \$10,000 +

Poland Spring, Nestle Waters, N.A.  
Pratt & Whitney

#### \$1,000-9,999

Inspira Marketing Group, LLC  
Oakhurst Dairy  
Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution

#### \$250-999

Edison Press  
Flatbread Company  
Kennebunk Savings Bank  
Network for Good

#### Up to \$249

DataRite of Maine, Inc.  
Moody's Nursery & Garden Center  
Old Orchard Beach Chamber of Commerce  
Saco Bay Trails  
Saco Valley Credit Union

### FOAM

(Fantastic Order of Alumni Masters/ Past Educators)

#### \$100-999

Joel Alex  
Grace Barber  
Will Broussard\*  
Anna Cynar  
Drew Dumsch and Lisa Farago  
Sara Gabrielson  
Alexandra Grindle\*

Laura Poppick  
Gabby Queenan  
Sarah Trapido

#### Up to \$99

Dawn Allison  
Leanna Bonds  
Gabrielle Brodek  
Kyle Brooks  
Grace Mary Carbeck  
Alex Chasse  
Sam Collins  
Tyler Core  
Charlie Creagh  
Nolan Crees  
Katy Davis  
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Mallory Durkee  
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Shenandoah Raycroft  
Claire Russo  
Casey Schott  
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Kathleen Smith-Caruso  
Amalie Sonneborn  
Kaitlin Stiltner  
Emma Stuhl  
Brody Todd  
Katrina Venhuizen  
Miranda Wheeler  
Andy Wood  
Amos and Monica Wright

### FOUNDATIONS

#### \$30,000 +

Elmina B. Sewall Foundation—*Funding the ELLMS project administered by Chewonki Foundation\*\**

#### \$10,000-29,999

D. Suzi Osher  
Horizon Foundation  
Morton Kelly Charitable Trust  
Sam L. Cohen Foundation

#### \$5,000-9,999

The Belayer Fund of the Maine Community Foundation  
Clif Bar Family Foundation  
S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation  
*administered by NatureBridge*

#### \$1,000-4,999

Margaret E Burnham Charitable Trust  
York County Children's Aid Society Fund of the Maine Community Foundation

#### \$500-999

Anonymous  
Alfred M. Senter Fund  
Bangor Savings Bank Foundation  
Jahns Family Foundation  
The Kresge Foundation

### INDIVIDUALS

#### \$5,000-9,999

Bill and Louisa Graver  
Craig and Mary Parent  
Linda Sullivan



## ANNUAL DONORS

### \$1,000-4,999

Virginia Crocker  
Maggie and Bob Daigle  
Nick and Mary Dumsch  
Bridget Jones and Dinesh Goburdhun  
Tom Klak and Jeanne Hey  
Tom and Polly Merrill  
Martha L. Taylor

### \$500-999

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Bud Harmon  
Benjamin and Megan Harrison  
Margy Hobson  
Guy and Robin Huntley\*  
Alan Minthorn  
Bob and Sue Murphy  
John and Barbara Zotz

### \$250-499

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Linda & Guy Boudreau  
Caitlin Walker Brooke  
Steve and Rebecca Buccieri  
Lisa Buck  
Corey Hascall\*  
Mary and Fod Martin  
Bryan Matluk  
Dirk and Carol Sonneborn  
Susan Swanton

### \$100-249

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Karen and Patrick Fox  
Howard Haimes  
Kathy and Paul Katie Hanna  
Jane and John Hartnett  
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David and Rommy Holman  
Albert Howlett  
Susan Jennings  
Don and Kathy Knight  
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Wendy and Scott Parent  
Reg Parent  
Mark and Claire Parent  
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E. Bruce and Mary L. Plummer  
Jo and Grant Reynolds  
Adam Routhier  
Nan Schildroth  
Kelley Shimansky  
Tom and Joan Sonneborn  
Donna Miller Ward  
Dale Yerger  
Susan Louisa Zayac

### Up to \$99

Vicki and Al Adams  
Joanne Alex  
Penny and Dirk Asherman  
Dorothy D Barton  
Ann Boynton  
Jessica Burton  
John Clark  
Dr. John And Cheryl Cox  
John and Elizabeth Daggett  
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Judith Fletcher  
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Carol Lenna  
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Judith Morse  
Lucien and Amy Ouellette\*

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Lois and Brown Pulliam  
Jesse Pyles  
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Todd and Kelly Rodriguez  
Sash Sash  
Ryder Scott  
Anthony and Dawn Seymour  
Karen Shorr  
Todd and Sarah Smith  
Julie and Curtis Smyth  
Susan Swanton  
Jim Tiberii  
Dorinda Toppan and Ray Peterson  
Gayle A. & Michael J. Tweed  
Peter and Margaret Zack

### IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Robert Adkins  
Catherine Goodwin  
Suzanne Goucher  
Rosemary Griffin  
Steven H. Grindle  
Lucien and Amy Ouellette\*  
Laura Poppick

\* Recurring gifts

\*\*ELLMS Funding- Environmental Living and Learning for Maine Students

It has been our honor over the past year to have had so many students, teachers, community members, supporters, educators, and Board Members consider The Ecology School as a place that they can call **home**. It is our hope that everyone who leaves our programs will do so with a better understanding of our natural **home** and will enact positive changes which will sustain it for generations to come.



The Ecology School Leadership Team

## OFFICERS

Chair: **Mary Martin**  
Vice Chair: **John Rooks**  
Treasurer: **Steven H. Grindle**  
Secretary: **Linda Boudreau**

(As of December 31, 2018)

## DIRECTORS

**Robert Adkins**  
**Joel Alex**  
**Catherine Goodwin**  
**Mike Hansen**  
**Corey Hascall**  
**Tom Merrill**  
**Amy Ouellette (MD)**  
**Susan Swanton**  
**Richard Mersereau, Board Advisor**

## LEADERSHIP TEAM:

**Leanna Bonds**, Development Manager  
**Caitlin Brooke**, Marketing Manager  
**Drew Dumsch**, President & CEO  
**Alex Grindle**, Director of Programs  
**Meg Edstrom Jones**, Director of Education and Curriculum Design  
**Caley Mackenzie**, Residential Programs Manager  
**Bryan Matluk**, Development Director  
**Rich O'Brien**, Business Operations Associate  
**Amalie Sonneborn**, Program Assistant



*"I became and remain honored to be elected to the Board because The Ecology School has provided and continues to provide children from a wide socio-economic demographic with valuable and entertaining life lessons on sustainability and ecological stewardship. And now we are embarking on the most exciting expansion of our campus and capacity to reach many more children as well as adults."*

–Steven H. Grindle, The Ecology School  
Board of Director's, Treasurer





River Bend Farm  
184 Simpson Rd.  
Saco, ME 04072

[TheEcologySchool.org](http://TheEcologySchool.org)  
(207) 283-9951

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Sign up for our newsletter: [ecologyschool.org](http://ecologyschool.org)