A MESSAGE
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to present Environmental Learning for Kids 2020 annual report for your review. The year brought many challenges to our staff, students, supporters, and families. With your help and commitment, we persevered. Our programs never paused, and we stayed true to our mission to provide science-based education and outdoor recreational opportunities to under-resourced youth in Montbello and far northeast Denver. We pivoted to virtual programming and continued to engage students and families in our high-quality science education projects and developed innovative and fun family-oriented programs in the community.

Despite all the challenges presented in 2020 by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Montbello Open Space Park is open to the community, and we completed fundraising for the ELK Education Center and construction is underway. Thank you all for your dedication to our youth and to ELK’s continued growth. We will continue to inspire, educate, and clearly transformation is in our future.

For our youth,

Loretta Pineda | Executive Director

A MESSAGE
FROM ELK’S BOARD CHAIR

Looking forward...

We are celebrating 25 years in 2021 and looking forward to ELK’s continued growth and engagement in the Montbello community. ELK is a solid model in the metro Denver nonprofit sector in environmental education and youth development for under-resourced youth. Further, ELK has taken a strong leadership role in national networks in STEM education, youth development, DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) and outdoor recreation. The ELK Education Center, which, along with the Montbello Open Space Park, will become the home ELK students and staff, as well as a neighborhood hub of science education and youth engagement for Montbello and the surrounding community. This is also an opportunity for us to recognize and celebrate the ELK partnerships that made this vision a reality for our dedicated staff and deserving students.

A consolidated effort by the board, executive director, and staff has produced strong, diverse board leadership and a robust consistent program and development staff. We have continued to diversify our funding streams and have developed systems to steward our donors. We are ready to move the organization to the next phase of growth in our community, engage with more community members, and thrive long into the future.

Sincerely,

Ryan Nichols | ELK Board Chair
MISSION
Environmental Learning for Kids cultivates a passion for science, leadership, and service in a diverse community of learners.

VISION
ELK envisions a world in which all people are caretakers of themselves, each other and the natural world.
## Youth Demographics 2020

**Ages 5-25**

- **50%** Hispanic/Latino
- **25%** African American
- **21%** Multiracial
- **2%** Asian/Pacific Islander
- **1%** Caucasian
- **1%** American Indian

**Denver, Adams, and Arapahoe Counties**

- **85%** of Elk Youth qualify for free/reduced price lunch
- **53%** Female
- **47%** Male

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## Impact Stats 2020

- **126 Elk Programs:** 4,309 youth & families served - 2,011 through year-round programs and 2,298 through community education programs / science & STEM education, outdoor experiences & career exploration
- **87 School Programs:** 706 youth, 3 districts, 9 schools

- **100% Graduates:** 100% high school graduation rate for Elk youth
- **College Enrollment:** Helped youth obtain $18,761 in college scholarships
- **10 Youth Employed:** Summer youth employment via Urban Rangers & partnerships
- **$0 to Participate:** 100% of Elk youth participated at no cost

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"The outdoors is a place to forget everything; I feel more calm, peaceful and independent. I love it!"

— Elk Youth

"I really began to like the outdoors when I realized it was so good for my mental health. Being outside is free therapy."

— Elk Youth

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**2020 FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**

**REVENUE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>$372,647</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>$53,532</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Grants</td>
<td>$320,742</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board &amp; Individual Contributions</td>
<td>$65,194</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events (Net)</td>
<td>$46,115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earned Income</td>
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<td>Capital Campaign</td>
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<td>In-Kind Contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest/Other</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,086,096</strong></td>
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**EXPENSES**

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
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<td>Management</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$205,457</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td><strong>$831,632</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS**

$254,464

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**ELK PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS**

**SCHOOL-BASED AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**, provide a wide selection of science and natural resources programs to community groups and public schools from grades P-12, correlated to Colorado State Academic Standards, in nine (9)* schools within three (3)* school districts.

**DENVER YOUTH NATURALLY (DYN)**, a year-round, multi-year program, immerses youth in hands-on science and exploration of natural resources. With mentoring by science professionals, DYN youth find the support necessary to succeed in school and life.

**YOUTH IN NATURAL RESOURCES (YNR)** offers college mentoring, career exploration, and work experience in the field of science and natural resources, including college campus visits, leadership development, one-to-one scholarship and college entrance application support and summer employment.

**LEARNING ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES (LEAF)** involves families of DYN and YNR youth in their children’s science learning, service projects, and outdoor experiences, encouraging quality family time side-by-side in nature.

*School district participation numbers affected by COVID-19 protocols.
Despite Colorado’s abundance of National and State Parks, opportunities to experience these natural resources are not equitably available in communities of urban youth.

Enter the Urban Rangers. Through a partnership between Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK), National Park Service (NPS), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and Denver Parks & Recreation (DPR), the Urban Ranger program outreached to and provides educational, professional development, and employment opportunities to underrepresented youth from the Denver metropolitan area. In its 8th year, the Urban Ranger program provided summer employment opportunities to ten (10) urban youth and educational experiences to over 1,739 community youth and family members.

Despite the complications and delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring of 2020, Urban Rangers continued to make significant contributions in helping ELK, NPS, CPW, and DPR to fulfill their missions to outreach and engage with urban communities about the opportunities available through each organization. Through trainings administered by NPS Rangers, CPW Rangers, ELK staff, and DPR staff, the Urban Rangers were able to work as educational facilitators and ambassadors on behalf of all agencies throughout their urban communities.

2020 Urban Ranger Highlights:

- Taught 8 fishing clinics to 146 youth and family members
- In-person programs reached 671 youth and family members
- Taught 1,068 youth and family members through vital platforms
- Reached a total of 1,739 youth and family members
- Participated in a total of 98.5 hours of Professional Development, helping the Urban Rangers gain the skills and insights to be successful in the work field, especially in a natural resource career
- Received hands-on work experience and professional development at Golden Gate Canyon State Park and Barr Lake State Park. Project work included: Water quality testing, birding, noxious weed removal (to expand beach access), fire mitigation (brush removal), trail reroute (building bridge and buck and rail fencing)
- The Urban Rangers spent 13 days working a total of 111 hours at four Colorado State Parks; State Park days included a combination of professional development, fieldwork, and participating/leading educational activities;
- Created a film all about the Urban Ranger program and highlighted the varies ways in which people can enjoy the outdoors here in Colorado
- Created a design for Smartwool all around honoring Latinx Heritage
- Two Urban Rangers were featured in a TED X talk about Environmental Justice
- Professional Development opportunities provided by: CPW, National Parks Conservation Association, Natural Leaders, Sierra Club and ELK Staff
- Completed the National Association for Interpretation Training Program and Urban Rangers received Certification

“THE OUTDOOR REMINDS ME TO VALUE EVERYTHING AROUND ME. IT MAKES ME VALUE LIFE MORE, LETS ME DISCONNECT AND BE AT PEACE WITH WHO I AM.”

— ELK YOUTH
### 2020 CONTRIBUTORS LIST

#### NORTH AMERICAN Elk

**$10,000+**
- Denver Active 20/30 Children’s Foundation
- The Outdoor Foundation
- Patagonia
- U.S. Bank Foundation
- Kristen Venick
- Verizon
- Ann and Henry Klaiman
- Xcel Energy Foundation
- Karl & Barbara Friedman
- Colorado Nonprofit Development Center
- AJL Foundation
- The Denver Foundation
- National Recreation Foundation
- VF Outdoor LLC
- Mile High United Way
- Suncor Energy U.S.A.
- Opus Foundation
- The Anschutz Foundation
- The VF Foundation
- Argosy Foundation
- Scientific & Cultural Facilities District

#### ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIG HORN SHEEP

**$5,000-$9,999**
- Evo
- The Melvin and Elaine Wolf Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Opus Foundation
- Pacific Life Foundation
- RevGen
- Sierra Club
- Turner Foundation, Inc.
- Wright-Ingraham Institute
- Schlessman Family Foundation
- Darcy and Ben Freer of The Gale Foundation
- American Academy of Dermatology

#### COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE

**$1,000-$4,999**
- Bob and Tina Bishop
- Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife
- Dr. Keith and Kelsey Connaghan
- Denver Health
- Scott and Councilwoman Stacie Gilmore
- Johns Manville
- Keystone Policy Center (Next 100)
- VF Corporation
- Walmart
- Scott and Sara Carpenter
- Kirsten Brown
- Sara & Rob Bayless
- Freeport McMoran
- April Denmon
- Craig Myles
- Laurie Troge
- Joedy and Dr. Charles Arnold
- Norris William Davis, III
- Loretta Pineda and David Burchette
- The Colorado Health Foundation
- Gilmore Construction Company
- Olsson Associates Foundation
- Schoelzel Family Foundation
- Steps to Success
- Brendan Flynn Faddick Fund
- Jane Klawitter Crisman
- Cliff Bar Family Foundation
- The Edmund and Eleanor Quick Foundation
- FirstBank
- Generation Wild Northeast Metro Coalition
- Lauren & Scott McEachron
- Polar Field Services, Inc.
- David L. Bucknam Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Quality Community Foundation
- Eagle Creek
- The Schuster Family Foundation
- Emily Thaxton
- Community Shares Colorado

#### RED FOX

**$5,000-$999**
- Charlie Atkins
- Kelly Brough
- Tara Alderfer
- Kaspo
- Brian Kurzel
- Jen McLaren
- Montbello Organizing Committee
- Trea Nance
- Gloria Nedved
- Jessica and Gerrit Ostermick
- Parsons
- Heath & Kelly Port
- Jeanne Usher
- Patrick Walton
- Ray Merenstein & Ilana Steinberg on behalf of RDM Communications
- Anne Pogoriler
- Community First Foundation
- David Russell
- Effley Brooks
- Holly Sly
- Vladimir Urias Martinez
- PNC Foundation
- Samantha Palladino
- Point Seven Group, LLC
- Juan Urias
- Ryan Lane Nichols
2020 CONTRIBUTORS LIST (continued)

WESTERN TIGER SALAMANDER
$100-$499

Taishya Adams
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Susan Anderson
Dee Dee Asten
Maureen Benton
Mercedes Blea-Davis
William Crossen
Mike Dunn
Matthew and Lisa Emerson
Donna Garnett
Brea and Gavin Gilchrist
Laura Rizzo
David Hubbs
Shannon Jones
Ellen Kearns
Karla Maraccini

Chelsea Mutual
Ellen Palgi
Rocky Mountain Center for Positive Change
Zully Salazar
Lizee Troub
Robert Wheelhouse
Suzanne White
Ida and Rick Wickizer
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Bree Warot
Nordson
Christopher Urias
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Kellen Thomas Baker
Doris Marx Inslee
Mark & Meredith Nichols
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Harriet Crittenden
LaMair
Nancy Walsh
Rodney Jay Bollhoefer
Thomas Glatz
Hunter Borner
Tish Gonzales
Rose Community Foundation

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Julie Annear
Point 6
Amazon Smile
ImpactAssets
Bruce and Lisa Stover
Alexander Wilczewski
Mikaela Gibson
Popsockets, LLC.
Laurel Palladino

HONORARY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

Katheryn Carfrae
In honor of Malcolm Stevenson
Ann Cooper
In honor of Erik and Michelle Fuller
Alma Winterbotham
In memory of Ernie Dunlap
Odie Fraley
In honor of Taylor Ruffin
Ririko Voelker
In honor of Jacob Gilmore
Eric Godoy
In honor of Vera Raya Alvarado
Cathleen Hall
In honor of Marc Hladik
Cathleen Hall
In honor of Ben Gregory
Joe Mauro and Hukum Singh Khalsa
In honor of Jolynn Crownover
Jennifer B Long
In honor of Malcolm Stevenson
Lori Winterbotham
Pedersen
In memory of Ernie Dunlap
Betty E. Stevenson
In memory of Malcolm Stevenson
Laurie Troge
In honor of Cohen von Troge
Matthew Trone
In honor of Mark Trone
Wendi Van Lake
In honor of Christina Hoffman
Alma Winterbotham
In honor Ernie Dunlap

FOR A FULL LIST OF OUR 2020 SUPPORTERS PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.ELKKIDS.ORG

THE OUTDOORS IS OPPORTUNITY
– ELK YOUTH
2020 ELK
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HUGO VALDEZ | Board Vice-Chair
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