



The Community Foundation
Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund Grant Evaluation Form

Grant Period:

December 1, 2012 to November 30, 2013

Organization: Environmental Nature Center (ENC)

Contact Name: Mr. Bo Glover

Title: Executive Director

Phone Number: (949) 645-8489

Grant Period: 2012/13 Fiscal Year

Award Amount: \$25,000

Grant Number: 2012923

- **Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on your goals and objectives. Provide the number of clients served and other relevant statistics.**

S.L. Gimbel's generous award of \$25,000 helped the Environmental Nature Center (ENC) to fulfill the 2012/13 goal and objectives of our two core educational programs, the School Tours Program (STP) and the Traveling Naturalist Program (TNP). Each year, the STP welcomes K-7th grade students to ENC's 5-acre campus featuring 15 ecological habitats, a U.S. Green Building Council LEED Platinum Learning Center, butterfly house, and propagation area. The students' lessons engage them with these educational resources. The TNP delivers ENC's interactive lessons directly to K-8th grade school classrooms, including the classrooms of low-income and Title I schools that cannot visit the ENC. A staff Naturalist brings an age-appropriate environmental science and social science curriculum complemented by live animals, birds, plants, and artifacts.

The goal of the STP and TNP is to provide high-quality environmental science and social science education for kindergarten through 8th grade students throughout Orange County. ENC not only met this goal, we exceeded the objectives set forth for its execution:

Objective I: During the 2012/13 Fiscal Year, 11,000 K-7th grade students will receive onsite, hands-on, environmental science and social science education through the Student Tours Program.

Outcome: The STP served 11,301 students, 301 more participants than projected.

Objective II: A minimum of 74 in-class presentations will be given through the Traveling Naturalist Program, serving as many as 4,000 children directly in their classrooms.

Outcome: The TNP served 4,790 students, 790 more than projected.

Total Number of Clients Served: ENC served a total of 16,091 students through the STP and TNP during the grant period, exceeding the proposed number of clients served by 1,091.

- **What were the challenges and obstacles you encountered (if any) in attaining your goals & objectives? How did you overcome and/or address the challenges and obstacles? What were the lessons learned?**

While the STP and TNP ran smoothly, a challenge we continue to overcome is that the budgetary reductions experienced by schools over the last few years have left them with many fewer financial resources for extra-curricular and off-site activities. This means that fewer schools are able to bring students to the ENC's campus for STP lessons or to have the ENC send a Traveling Naturalist to schools for TNP lessons. This resulted in a dip in attendance a few years ago. In response, in the last two years, ENC expanded the TNP and engaged in aggressive outreach and marketing to schools and teachers to restore attendance levels.

Our systematic expansion of the TNP helped significantly, and a good problem to have relates to this success. Because the positive response to the TNP's outreach created a much larger expansion than anticipated, serving 1,521 more students than last year and 790 more than projected for this grant period, we are paying very close attention to balancing the demand for TNP with our capacity to deliver very high quality lessons through this program. It would impact program quality to over-schedule our Traveling Naturalist. Therefore, a lesson learned and one of the program improvements we have implemented is presenting the TNP's lessons not only in a classroom setting, but also in a multi-class assembly setting. This allows us to create a great learning experience for more children at a time and to reach more students overall without diminishing program quality.

Another challenge experienced by ENC during the grant period was fundraising for programs while simultaneously fundraising for a capital campaign. The ENC recently purchased an adjacent 1.3 acres of open land, bringing the campus to its current size of 5 acres. This land is being developed to serve as an extension of the Nature Center's natural habitat. Our vision is to expand existing programs for the community and to use a portion of the site to build an 8,000 square-foot building, which will be our (and Orange County's) second U.S. Green Building Council LEED Platinum Certified building. Its purpose will be to house Southern California's first Nature Preschool. When we were offered the opportunity to purchase the adjacent land and keep it as open space, we knew it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. ENC moved forward with a capital campaign while also conducting our normal annual fundraising activities. Individual giving was mostly dedicated to the capital campaign, and so program support from funders such as S.L. Gimbel played an even more critical role in the ENC's ability to fulfill its mission and provide high quality educational, recreational and enrichment programming for the 40,500 children, teens, and adults of all ages who enjoy the ENC every year.

- **Describe any unintended positive outcomes as a result of the efforts supported by this grant.**

As mentioned above, the ENC's marketing and outreach efforts led to a robust demand for the TNP's services, and also created an increase in numbers served through the STP. An unintended positive outcome is that the ENC provided interactive, hands-on environmental science and social science education to 1,091 more students than projected for this grant period.

- **Describe the overall effect this grant has had on your organization.**

The ENC's reputation as a leader in interactive environmental science and social science education is based largely upon our ability to provide high-quality educational programming through the STP and TNP. Support from funders such as the S.L. Gimbel Foundation is instrumental to the success of these programs and therefore plays a key role in securing the ENC's excellent reputation, not only in Southern California, but also throughout the nationwide community of environmental education centers.

By supporting the STP and TNP, this grant helped position the ENC to experience several important successes as an agency. Most notably, ENC was invited to host the Association for Nature Center Administrators' annual conference, known as the ANCA Summit. ANCA is an international network of nature and environmental learning center leaders. The invitation to host the ANCA Summit in August 2013 presented a rare opportunity for ENC to provide four days of intensive professional development for over 200 nature center administrators, naturalists, and volunteers from throughout the United States.

Also, ENC's Executive Director, Bo Glover, has taken on an additional role of national and international advisor. In December 2012, Mr. Glover traveled to China for speaking engagements facilitated by the Earth Charter Communities Network, and also to provide educational consulting on behalf of the Nature Conservancy. As a result of this collaboration, a delegation from China attended the ANCA Summit.

And finally, support from funders such as the S.L. Gimbel Foundation enables the ENC to better position itself to fulfill its role as a leader in environmental education in Southern California. As mentioned above, ENC purchased an adjacent parcel of land to expand its campus and programming, including building Southern California's first Nature Preschool. The goal of the Nature Preschool is to provide education and nature exploration for the young children of Orange County in an effort to increase early environmental awareness and appreciation. The Nature Preschool will further distinguish itself as an exceptional and highly desirable learning environment by providing nature play areas rather than constructed playgrounds, employing highly-qualified early childhood educators and environmental educators, meeting or exceeding all the state requirements for licensure, and enabling children to spend extensive time outside, engaged in multi-sensory outdoor experiences. More information about the expansion and forthcoming preschool is available on the ENC's website at: <http://encenter.org/capital-campaign/>. We invite the S.L. Gimbel Foundation's representatives to visit the ENC campus and learn more about our plans for the future.

- **Tell us a few success stories that made an impact on your organization and/or community as a result of this grant.**

This grant helped ENC to expand the TNP's curriculum. The curricula of the STP and TNP are already aligned with the California Science or Social Science Content Standards and the Science Framework for California Public Schools. This means that the ENC's lessons help students to meet the State's education requirements in science and social science for each grade level. To provide a good interactive experience in the classroom setting, the TNP's curriculum now also aligns with the California Board of Education's Visual Arts Standards and includes more art activities in the lessons. The use of art as a teaching tool is especially effective when teaching environmental science concepts to young children, such as the kindergarten and elementary grades served by the TNP. Art projects mixed with artifacts and live animals are an excellent way to engage young children in their lessons, encourage creative thinking and decision making, hone observation skills, and help them to understand, integrate and remember the concepts presented in the lesson.

Additional organization-wide successes include:

- Serving more people – During the 12-13 program year 21,084 people participated in programs (2692 more than last year). ENC staff Naturalists presented nearly 41,000 hours of educational programs. Museum Docents tally the number of guests visiting without attending a program and, during this same fiscal year, we had an additional 14,302 visitors. This means that ENC served over 34,000 individuals with some form of education or enrichment that is grounded in promoting environmental conservation, preservation and a relationship with nature.
- Volunteer engagement – We had 612 student volunteers who gave a total of 8,552 hours of their time. We also had 242 adult volunteers who donated 4,219 hours of their time.

- Provide a financial report on the use of your grant funds (expenditures).

ENC spent funds from this grant before the end of the grant period, and therefore we are submitting actuals for an 11-month period, or from December, 2012 to October, 2103. Funds for this grant were used for Marketing and Outreach, Program specific and general support costs. Details are below.

| | Projected Budget Dec, 2012 - Nov, 2013 | Actual Dec, 2012 to Oct, 2013 | SL Gimbel Funds |
|--|---|--|----------------------------|
| Salary | \$ 399,500 | \$ 359,900 | \$ - |
| Marketing & Outreach | \$ 21,500 | \$ 17,739 | \$ 10,000 |
| Program Support | \$ 16,100 | \$ 16,084 | \$ 10,000 |
| Grounds | \$ 19,700 | \$ 14,706 | \$ - |
| General Support of Education Programs | \$ 8,000 | \$ 19,897 | \$ 5,000 |
| | | | |
| Totals | \$ 464,800 | \$ 428,326 | \$ 25,000 |

- ❖ Please send copies of publicity and other promotional materials.
- ❖ All variances or time extensions must be approved by The Community Foundation’s Grant Committee. Please contact us at 951-684-4194, ext. 114 immediately if a variance or extension becomes necessary.

Please return the completed form to:

Celia Cudiamat, Executive Vice President of Grants & Programs
 3700 Sixth St., Suite 200, Riverside, CA 92501 or fax to 951-684-1911
 Or email to: ccudiamat@thecommunityfoundation.net