



# 2024

FISCAL YEAR

# IMPACT REPORT

**We envision a world...**

Where every child has the opportunity to thrive outside.



From our Executive Director

# A message of Hope.



*Shannon Rozea*  
Executive Director

## **This is our moment to heal our relationship with nature.**

We have an incredible responsibility, and **YOU HAVE STEPPED UP.**

Our children are inheriting an earth damaged by our actions, and their lives have become increasingly indoor-focused and screen-oriented. All of this negatively impacts their health, well-being, development and ability to learn.

## **It's up to each of us to open the door and invite them to a world outside.**

At Thrive Outside, we are working to give our kids vital nature nourishment and to foster their relationship with our natural world. But like any good relationship, it takes time.

This past year, we piloted programs aimed at helping our kids to thrive through nature

relationship. Whether it was our Mindfulness and Birding Workshops, our Garden Explorers after school program, or our Empowering Youth Hike Leaders initiative, we worked to create opportunities for authentic connection over time, especially for kids who have been traditionally marginalized.

We also learned a few invaluable lessons that have led us to reinvigorate our "Outdoor Learning Zone" schoolyard transformation projects, as well as bring more programs directly to schools. We continue to center Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice in everything that we do, and are working to make our designs and programs as inclusive as possible.

**We thank YOU, our fellow Movement Members, for opening the door and helping our kids to thrive outside.**

# THE PROBLEM

Our children are having a long distance relationship with nature.

## EQUITY

Children in traditionally marginalized communities often lack access to safe, beautiful, natural spaces.



74% of communities of color, and 70% of low-income communities in the U.S. live in nature-deprived areas.\*

# THERE ARE TWO CRISES

Yet... Childhood experts agree that connection to nature is a critical component of childhood development.

## OPPORTUNITY

Children who do have access often lack the freedom, encouragement and opportunity to explore and connect with nature.



Kids spend an average of 44 hours a week on a screen and as little as 10 minutes a day outside.\*\*

\*The Center for American Progress and The Hispanic Access Foundation

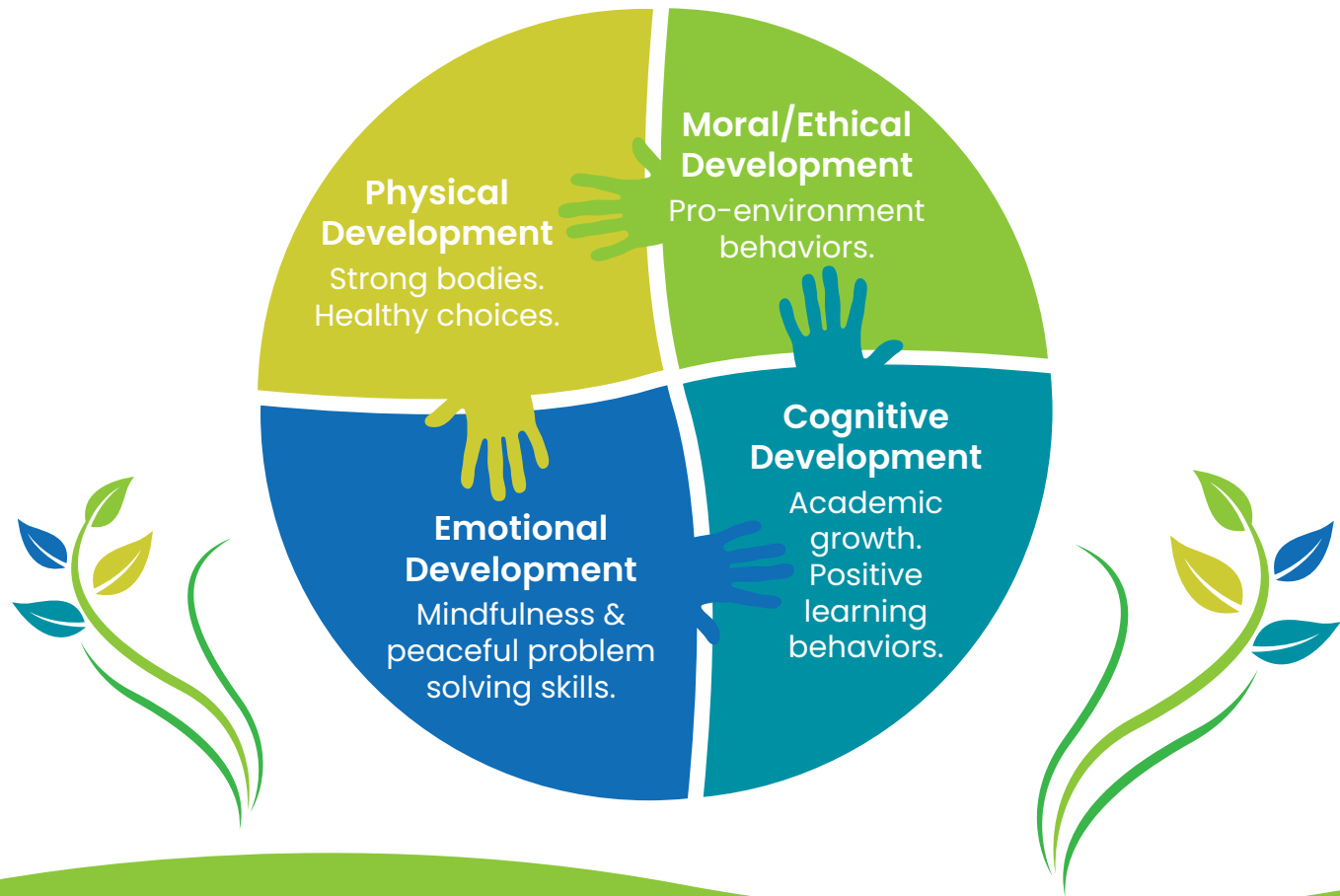
\*\* The Children & Nature Network

# THE SOLUTION OUR MISSION



We believe that a child's  
natural habitat is outside.

Through nature nourishment, Thrive Outside is addressing the child health crisis and promoting a healthy child development process.



**We are on a mission...**

to ensure that all children have the opportunity to thrive outside, honoring their basic need and right to be nourished by nature.

# THE SOLUTION OUR MISSION

You are a part of our solution.



**Together, we are flinging open the door and addressing the crisis in 3 critical ways...**

**KIDS:** We remove barriers to nature and outdoor education through our Outdoor Learning Zones in schools, libraries and community centers, as well as our nature learning programs.

**EDUCATORS:** We enhance their students' learning through our teacher training opportunities in STEAM and beyond.

**FAMILIES:** We create joyful opportunities for children and families to spend time in nature together.



Ultimately, we are serving our next generation who will be tasked with helping us to heal our relationship with nature and our planet.

## Outdoor Learning Zone Projects



## Educator Training



## Nature-Based Programs & Events



# Together, we are a force of nature...

helping kids build that critical relationship.



Removing  
Obstacles  
to Nature  
Access



Encouraging  
Learning  
Beyond  
Classroom Walls



Putting Kids  
& their Families  
in Touch  
with Nature



Empowering  
Our Next  
Generation

# You, our Movement Members, helped nourish kids with nature!



**Outdoor Learning Zones**

STUDENTS IMPACTED

FY24: 560

To-Date Annual Total: 1,770



**After-School Programs**

STUDENTS IMPACTED

FY24: 113

To-Date Total: 113



**Teacher Learning Circle**  
*Outdoor Education Program*

STUDENTS IMPACTED

FY24: 1,018

To-Date Total: 1,744



**Mindfulness & Birding Workshops & Scavenger Hunts**

KIDS & CAREGIVERS IMPACTED

FY24: 45

To-Date Total: 158



**Family Nature Walks**

KIDS & CAREGIVERS IMPACTED

FY24: 177

To-Date Total: 638



**Annual Mud Run**

KIDS & CAREGIVERS IMPACTED

FY24: 299

To-Date Total: 1,577



**Peace of the Whole Program**

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IMPACTED

FY24: 20

**NEW**  
FY 2024



**Youth Leadership Hikes**

YOUTH LEADERS TRAINED

FY24: 7

**NEW**  
FY 2024

# Together, we took action towards a more equitable future.

## Programs

- Expanded our afterschool programs to kids in traditionally marginalized communities such as Pawtucket and Warwick
- Grew our Teacher Learning Circle to include teachers from Title I schools in traditionally marginalized communities, and we included sessions such as “Teaching on Asphalt” to increase nature learning opportunities no matter where teachers are located

## Community Events

- Created our Thrive Outside Spanish/English Birding Journal
- Held our Mindfulness and Birding workshops in Providence with a Spanish translator
- Expanded our Family Nature Walks into Central Falls and Providence
- Created the concept for our Thrive-ability Nature Walks to increase accessibility to our children with disabilities

## Brought New Voices to the Table

- Hired Gen Zers to run our communications and social media to help reach the younger generation





# Together, we are making a difference.

## Program Highlights: Schoolyard Transformations



### Thrive Fresh Air Funders Collaborative Kicks-Off!

*A new initiative to bring our OLZ projects to fruition.*

Through business partnerships and other fundraising efforts such as our Fresh Air Family Fundraiser, we raised \$43,200 for the KMS project.

### Kickemuit Middle School “Outdoor Learning Zone”

*Putting 750 students in touch with nature annually.*

Six years in the making, we made significant progress with bringing the KMS Outdoor Learning Zone project to life through a “Learning Inside Out” grant from the Rhode Island Department of Education and our fundraising efforts. Phase 1 will be constructed in the fall of 2025.

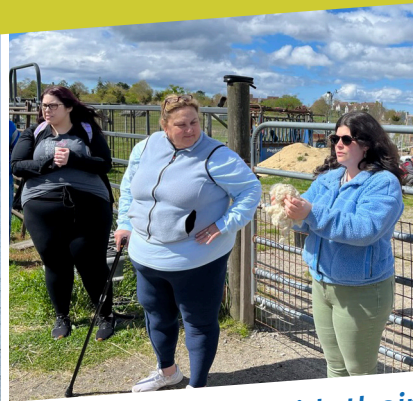
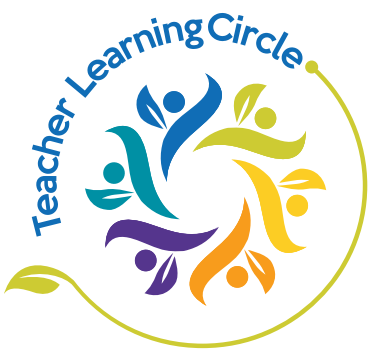


“Having been a child who spent so much time outdoors, my hope is that we can instill the love of learning outside. There is so much to learn simply by observing. The outdoor classroom will allow our students to be ‘disconnected’ from technology for periods of time and this will help them to ‘reconnect’ with the vibrant natural world around them. I am truly appreciative to be a part of this project.”

**Dennis Morrell**  
KMS Principal

# In teaching, we are making a difference.

## Program Highlights: Educator Training



*We encouraged teachers to get outside and thrive with their students.*

### Thrive Teacher Learning Circle!

*Putting 1018 students in touch with nature.*

In its second year, our Teacher Learning Circle expanded outdoor learning opportunities to children across Rhode Island.

This completely free program trains educators in how to enhance and augment their curriculum through hands-on, outdoor learning experiences. It also offers them a unique opportunity to come together in community to share and learn from one another as well as nurture their own love of learning.

Check out the video!



“Hands down one of the more intentional and well-rounded series of Professional Development I have participated in.”

“This was the best thing I have ever done!”

TLC Grad Reflections  
2023-24

# In Our Schools & Community, we are making a difference.

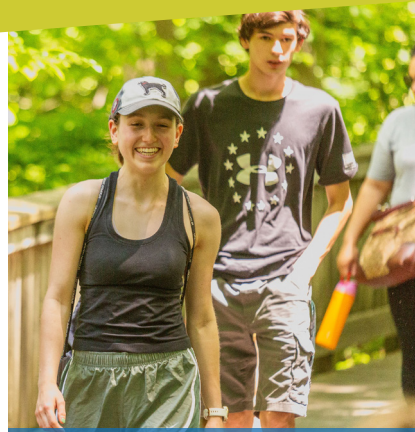
## Program Highlights: Schools & Community

### After School Programs

In our quest to ensure that all children have the opportunity to thrive outside, we launched our **Mindfulness & Birding** and **Garden Explorers** programs to engage children who have been traditionally marginalized living in Pawtucket and Providence.

### Community Events

Meanwhile, our **Empowering Youth Hike Leaders** program trained Bristol Warren middle and high school students to help younger kids trade screen time for green time.



Empowering Youth  
Hike Leader Program



Litter Clean-Ups



Birding Workshops



Garden Explorers



Scavenger Hunts



Thrive Outside  
in the Mud

# The Destination of Your Dollars

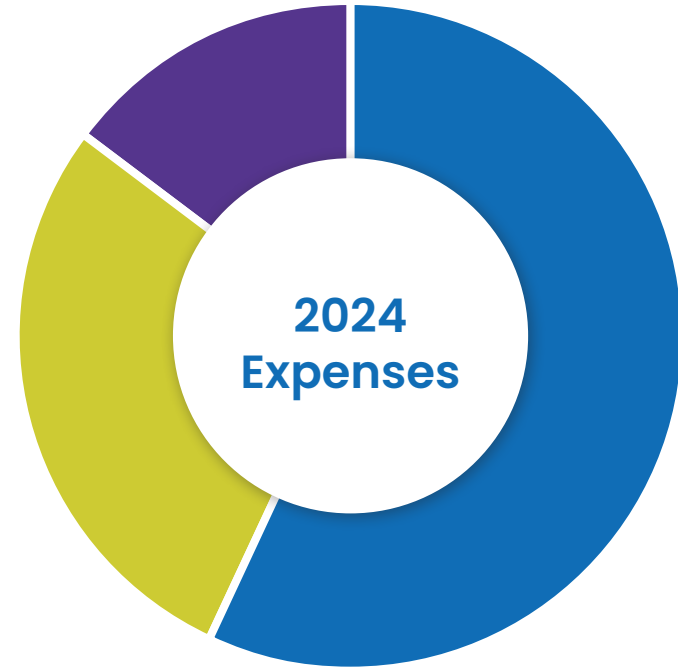
## Financials FY 2024

## REVENUE GROWTH

FY 22: \$53,836  
 FY 23: \$86,833  
 FY 24: \$104,938



Revenue	Amount	%
Individual Donations	\$28,527	27%
Program Income	\$24,417	23%
Business Sponsorships/Donations	\$18,427	18%
Grants	\$14,491	14%
KMS fundraising & Funders Collaborative	\$12,619	12%
In-Kind Contributions	\$6,456	6%
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$104,938</b>	



Expense Category	Amount	%
Program Services	\$63,508	57%
Fundraising	\$31,586	28%
Management & General	\$16,299	15%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$111,393</b>	

# A huge thank you to our Thrive Team, Board, Committees, Experts, Collaborating Organizations, Volunteers, and Family of Supporters.

## Thrive Team

### Shannon Rozea

Executive Director &  
Landscape Architect

### Sheila Dobbyn

Development

### Tiffany Healey

Operations & Programs

### Katherine Skuba

Communications\*

### Carly Reich

Communications, Youth Em-  
powerment Leader, Commu-  
nity Outreach\*\*

### Kelly Hanks

Teacher Learning  
Circle Coordinator & After  
School Program Educator

### Jay Blackbeard

Family Nature Walk  
Coordinator\*

### Benjamin Rozea

Social Media Intern

## Experts & Consultants

### Karen Griffith-Dieterich

Grant Writing

### Brooke Merriam

Landscape Designer  
Sunflower Designs

### Joseph James

Landscape Architect  
Eponymous Practice

### Sarah O'Neil

Graphic Designer  
Virtual Ink

### Jacob Brier

Communications  
Butterfly Benefits

### Patricia Lyons-Bousquet

Human Resources  
CompLyons HR Consulting, LLC

### Melissa Labonte

Education Consultant

### Jacqueline Joly

Social Media Creator/Videographer

### Kati Maginel

Educator - The Compass School

### Jeff Swanlund

Educator - Save the Bay

### Lauren Watka Atwood

Educator - Brown University

### Amanda Peavey

Educator - Woonasquatucket  
River Watershed Council

### Lisa Maloney

Educator - Audubon Society of RI

### Janet Johnson

RIC Education Professor & Author  
Site Director - RI Writing Project

### Beth Alaimo

Education Program Manager  
Ocean Hour Farm

### Awilda Reinoso Lopez

Wellness Educator - Amorosa Wellness

### Alex Hornstein

Educator - Wild Lives

\*Left in 2023 \*\*Left in 2024

# With Gratitude... You fuel the Thrive Outside Movement!

A huge thank you to our Thrive Team, Board, Committees, Experts, Collaborating Organizations, Volunteers, and Family of Supporters.

## Collaborating Organizations

Audubon Society  
of Rhode Island

Save the Bay

Woonasquatucket River  
Watershed Council

## Board of Directors:

Marc Domina  
*Board Chairperson*

Jessalyn Jarest  
*Secretary*

Charlie Kellner  
*Treasurer*

Chuck Rozea \*

Kevin Manuel

Stephen Piper \*\*

John Mulattieri

Jack Conboy

Tony Morettini

## OUR COMMITTEES

### Finance

Tamara Kaplan

Jessalyn Jarest

Charlie Kellner

Stephen Randolph

### Family Hikes

Jay Blackbeard

Tiffaney Cayton

Ed Tanner

Orlando Lugo

Tony Morettini

Mark Courtney

### Mud Run

Chuck Rozea

Amy Boutchie

Marc Domina

### Environmental Thrive-ability

Roger Mark

Alison Ring

Susan Morettini

Carly Reich

Kathy Fisher

Amy O'Donnell

With Gratitude... You fuel the Thrive Outside Movement!

# It takes a village...

## 2024 Sponsors

### Business Partners

NuGen Capital  
Rhode Races & Events  
Domina's Agway  
BankNewport

### Program Sponsors

Rhode Races and Events  
NuGen Capital  
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Parasol Structures  
Dear Avant Gardener  
Brown University Health  
Pezza Orthodontics  
Cardi's Furniture  
Coastall  
Makers  
The Ski House  
Tom's Market  
Sunflower Designs, LLC  
Black Earth Compost  
Boys & Girls Club Pawtucket  
Just Ducky  
East Bay Nature Play  
Nature Play With Vicky  
TreeTop Adventures

REI

Yondr

Jennifer Lial Photography

### Mud Run Sponsors

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Frerichs Farm  
Dave's Fresh Marketplace  
Jaffe Orthodontics  
Rockland Trust  
The Vanech Group, Oppenheimer & Co. Inc  
Connections Physical Therapy  
Neighborhood Health Plan RI  
Ortho Rhode Island  
Ultimate Defense Bristol  
Bartlett Tree Experts  
Borealis Coffee Company  
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John Andrade Insurance  
Law office of Timothy J. Chapman  
Scott Volkswagen  
Sunshine Fuels & Energy Services  
Bristol Bikes  
Staton's Landscaping  
Six Pack Brewing  
Warren Fire Department  
Bonnie Howland Photography

### Fundraising Event Sponsors

The Guild Warren  
WaterRower  
The Beehive Cafe  
Frog & Toad  
Jessalyn Jarest Landscape Architecture  
Jennifer Lial Photography  
Little Kids  
Point32 Health Foundation

### Gift Guides

DISH  
Ink Fish  
Coral Anchor  
Strawberry Moon  
Frog and Toad  
Portside  
Wildflour Vegan Bakery & Cafe  
Farmaesthetics  
Six Pack Brewing  
Audubon Society of RI  
Bajah's Cat Cafe  
Moses Brown Camps  
Piccolo Children's Boutique  
Save the Bay

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment  
before starting to improve the world. -Anne Frank



# It takes a village...

## 2024 Individual Donors

Joyce Adams James

Susan Aiello

Kelly Ales

Anne Alix

Joseph Amaral

Colleen Andrade

Leslie Andrade

Carley Angell

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Patricia Belcher

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Irene Healey

Heather & Peter Harley

Brandt Heckert

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Deah Hofeldt

Thomas Holt

Susan Howells

Joel Huval

Ideal Concrete Block

Chris & Stacia Jackson

Kyle Jackson

Linda James

Sandra Jaquay-Wilson

Charlene Jarest

Love is the capacity to take care, to protect, to nourish.

- Thich Nhat Hanh





# It takes a village...

## 2024 Individual Donors

Jessalyn Jarest  
Kathy Jellison  
Janet Johnson  
Cory Kallfelz  
Tamara Kaplan  
Charles Kellner  
Emily Kellner  
Anna Kendrick  
Linda Khamsyvoravong  
Sarah Khan Daponte  
Marny Kindness  
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Matt Atwood  
Paul Webb  
Eleanor Wickes  
Susan Winterbottom  
Sharon Wollschlager  
Elizabeth Woodhouse  
Marie Zullo

“ Believe you can and you are halfway there.

- Theodore Roosevelt




# Stay engaged

& be part of our community!

**Together**, we can provide opportunities for our youth to flourish in the great outdoors and create a lasting impact. Your involvement is vital, and we're eager to see what we can accomplish as a team.



 [thriveoutside.info](http://thriveoutside.info)

 914.924.0800

 [contact@thriveoutside.info](mailto:contact@thriveoutside.info)



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**DONATE**  
**TODAY!**  
**CLICK**

**CLICK**  
**HERE TO**  
**DONATE**



 **Thrive**  
**Outside**



“Knowing that you love the earth changes you, activates you to defend and protect and celebrate. But when you feel that the earth loves you in return, that feeling transforms the relationship from a one-way street into a sacred bond.”

– Thich Nhat Hahn