

December 16, 2011

America's Great Outdoors Grant Announcement

Today, the LA Corps helped organize a special event with the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) announcing a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant program to provide financial support for youth conservation job training programs. About \$1M is being provided in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service and CEQ. The Honorable Nancy Sutley, Chair of CEQ, launched the program at a press event where our C&G and LA River Corps crews led a service project removing invasive plants and replacing them with natives at the Rio de Los Angeles Park. LA Conservation Corps Board President organized a business roundtable following the project in which Board members John Van de Kamp, Ari Swiller, and John Rego gave their input on this national initiative. To view the slideshow, click [here](#).



Only 15 Days Left in the Global Giving Campaign!

We are just two weeks away from the end of our Global Giving Open Challenge in which we need to raise \$4,000 from 50 donors in one month's time. We have not yet broken \$1,000 and we need 30 more donors to make our goal. You can text **GIVE 9213** to **80088** to make a \$10 pledge or if you are looking for a great holiday gift, you can give a donation in someone's honor and send them an e-card! Please help us by making your donation today and spreading the word on your Facebook and Twitter pages. All proceeds will go to building our urban farm / community garden at the East LA Center! For more information, visit our [page](#).



EMA and Tiffany & Co. Celebrate School Garden Program

On Monday, December 12th, the LA Corps participated in a press event with the Environmental Media Association (EMA) and sponsor Tiffany & Co. to launch the garden our crew from ELA built at Marvin Avenue Elementary School. Actress Mary-Louise Parker was there to talk about her involvement with the school gardens program and help plant some vegetables with the school's second grade classes. The event will be featured on E! News and ABC's On The Red Carpet - stay tuned for the details. If you would like to see more photos from the event, please go to our [Facebook page](#).



Transition Program



L to R: Trashawn Smith, Emerson Castillo, Balmory Arredondo, & Kenneth Marroquin

Some Words from the Transitioning Corpsmembers who are now alumni!

When I first heard about the Transition Program I thought, "Man, what am I going to do? I knew this day was coming. The LA Conservation Corps doesn't last forever." I heard it time and time again, but it's a good thing. When I started at The Corps I thought it was going to be just like school. I was just doing this for the money. Instead, I stuck with it. It turns out I actually enjoyed my time here. I appreciate all the staff and teachers that help corpsmembers with their positive attitudes; they helped me to decide to continue my education by going to college and become a guidance counselor. The Transition Program helped me sharpen my skills one last time. I learned how to send e-mails to employers and attach documents, fill out applications, and how to create a resume. I want to say thank you guys for what you have done for me.

- Emerson Castillo

My name is Kenneth Marroquin, a former South LA corpsmember that recently attended the transition classes offered by the LA Conservation Corps. I spent 16 months with The Corps and I have to say it was an overwhelming experience. I learned a lot through the Corps and its transition program. I highly recommend it to any future corpsmembers that are in the process of leaving the program. It offers a lot of useful information and the staff will help you to accomplish your goals in the future. I would like to thank everybody from the Corps for everything and for helping me take a positive step forward in my life.

- *Kenneth Marroquin*

My name is Balmory Arredondo a former East LA corpsmember who completed the Transition Program. I am writing this letter to personally thank the staff and creators of the program. I can honestly say I learned so much from it, not just personally but socially as well. I learned how to write a cover letter and set up a resume thanks to George's sessions. I also received great help from Kari, Roxana, and Melinda. With their job leads I was able to gain experience in job searching. I also would like to thank Brian and Esteffi, who helped me register for classes at LA Trade Tech College. All this has motivated me to keep education as my main goal to succeed in my life. I will now advise other corpsmembers to participate in this program. After finishing this program I planned to begin college as a full time student this upcoming spring.

- *Balmory Arredondo*

SEA Lab

This week Cynthia Carmolinga, SEA Lab education supervisor, and Brent Scheiwe, SEA Lab Director, accepted an award on behalf of The Corps, from the Montrose Settlement Restoration Program, in recognition of our partnership and dedication to fishing outreach and educational activities. Montrose oversees the restoration of natural resources in the southern California marine environment that were harmed by DDTs and PCBs. The Montrose Trustee Council consists of: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; United States Fish and Wildlife Service; National Park Service; California Department of Fish and Game; California State Parks and California State Land Commission. This will be the fifth year that corpsmembers have been teaching the fishing program to Clean and Green participants.



Brent & Cynthia are pictured with Gabrielle Dorr, NOAA Montrose Settlements Restoration Program

Recycling Across Los Angeles

This weekend a RACLA crew will be recycling at STAPLES Center during their Disney on Ice events starting Wednesday night through Sunday night.