LA CONSERVATION CORPS

2018/2019

Gratitude Report

lacorps.org
Dear Friend of the Corps,

Have you ever stopped to think about what gives you the strength to face your toughest challenges and believe you will succeed?

For young people like Natalie, it is the Corps. “The Corps to me is like a backbone,” she will tell you. When she came to the Corps, Natalie had big obstacles to climb. She was angry and disillusioned, but now she stands tall in her new career with California State Parks. We are so proud of everything she has accomplished, and we are grateful for the opportunity to help her develop that strength, maturity, and purpose.

Our goal is to give every young person the confidence and the tenacity to stand up for themselves and for their community. Every day, Corpsmembers show us their commitment. They face housing and food insecurity; transportation barriers; and medical, mental health and legal crises. Yet they still show up for work. They stand together on the work grade and say, “Today we are going to make our community better.”

We are so grateful for these young people who push us to be our best and to seek out new opportunities to serve. We are grateful to the partners who are working with us in new ways to tackle the complex challenges that we must confront in order to give Corpsmembers that backbone they may need.

Standing tall for our Corpsmembers, our co-workers, our families and our friends is what the Corps is all about. We give each other the strength to keep our heads up and our feet moving forward. We lend a hand or a shoulder to lean on when someone needs support. We walk together over every bump in the road.

We know that with an extra boost of confidence and trust, Corpsmembers can do anything. As you will read, they are bringing cleaner air to a tree-poor urban jungle and healthy meals to those who have gone without. They are standing up for themselves, their neighbors and our collective future.

Finding the courage to change your circumstances can be difficult. Committing to the long hours and hard work can be daunting. Believing that you are worthy of something better can take your breath away. If we can be the backbone for young people when they feel they are falling down, then we have succeeded.

Thank you for helping us build that backbone within our organization and within Corpsmembers. Thank you for standing with these amazing young people as they look ahead and declare that they are ready to change the world.

Sincerely,

Wendy Butts, CEO
Teresa Cisneros Burton, President & Chair of the Board
Bryan LeRoy, Past President
We would like to thank Risa Green, Helenann Hirsch, Mary Leslie, and Julie Waxman who retired from the LA Conservation Corps Board this year. We are grateful for their years of service to the Corps.
Alumni Spotlight

Jasmin Angeles Zuniga is an alumna Corpsmember who joined the Corps in 2014. Often the only woman in a crew of men, she earned the respect of her peers through hard work and determination. A stellar Corpsmember, she delivered speeches at Corps events, traveled to the state and national Capitols with the Corps, and was selected as a 2016 Corpsmember of the Year by the national Corps Network.

The Corps came into Jasmin’s life at the right time, as she was leaving the foster care system. Once she was able to return home to her mother, she joined the Corps to be able to support herself financially. As a Corpsmember, she specialized in technical construction and was elevated to drive pick-up trucks and dump trucks for her team. She was also certified to operate power tools and heavy machinery. Jasmin received an AmeriCorps Education Award and attended East Los Angeles Community College and LA Trade Tech to study Wildlife Biology.

Today, Jasmin works at the Koreatown Youth & Community Center, a key Corps partner, as an Environmental Specialist. She works with court-referred residents who need to fulfill their community service hours. She appreciates that the people she works with often learn from the experiences she leads them in, cleaning up trash in the community. She described, “Some of them, it sticks with them. They get something from it and learn. Some actually start recycling afterward at home.” She continued, “We’re here to take care of nature. People ask me: ‘What’s the point? Why restore the environment?’ I tell them it’s a job we’re given to help take care of our world—it’s a responsibility we all have.”

Jasmin credits the Corps for helping to propel her career toward her passion for the environment. She says, “The Corps really helped me build up my leadership abilities. Looking back, it impacted me in so many ways. And it has helped so many young people. Who knows what their situation would have been without the Corps. It helps people financially, emotionally, physically. It’s a real support.”

---

Corpsmembers make a lasting impact

Corpsmembers gain valuable skills and enhance their futures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>222,678</th>
<th>Hours spent in job training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>202</td>
<td>Corpsmembers earned a vocational training certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Corpsmembers went on to new and meaningful jobs after the Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Corpsmembers earned their driver’s license</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Corpsmembers, alumni, and staff received the Russell Kantor Next Steps Fund Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>Corpsmembers received AmeriCorps Education Awards for service in the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$120,678</td>
<td>Total amount of financial support awarded to Corpsmembers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

They work hard every day on their personal and professional growth, while helping to make our greater L.A. community cleaner and greener. This map shows the places where Corpsmembers have tapped into their #LACorpsPower to broaden their skills and make a widespread impact on the lives of others. Interact with our map online at www.lacorps.org/lacorpspower.
Corpsmembers conserve and care for the community as environmental stewards.

- 960,055 Square feet of graffiti painted over
- 376,000 Pounds of food rescued for hungry families or for composting
- 47,918 Illegally dumped bulky items removed from alleys and sidewalks
- 13,525 Trees distributed to City of LA residents
- 23.84 Acres of fire fuel cleared from the urban-wildlife interface
- 5,013 Trees planted to fight climate change
- 5,133 Tons of litter and debris collected
- 157 Acres of habitat restored

#LACorpsPower is a true commitment to our Corpsmembers, their promising futures, the community we love to serve, and to YOU.

#LACorpsPower is fueled by our team

- # of 14-21 year old Clean & Green Corpsmembers: 247
- # of 18-24 year old Young Adult Corpsmembers: 414
Recycling has always been a mainstay of Corps activities. Thanks to a new initiative from longtime-funder CalRecycle, this year we expanded from recycling CRV containers, e-waste, tires and mattresses to the innovative idea of recovering and recycling food waste.

Heading up this unique community mobilization project in the San Fernando Valley is a small team of Corpsmembers that recovers up to 3,100 pounds of food waste every day. They’ve collected over 376,000 pounds since beginning the program last year—a heroic effort in a county that is home to the largest food insecure population in the United States.

Every morning, the crew visits local supermarkets, school cafeterias, restaurants and convenience stores to collect food items that cannot be sold but are still safe and healthy. Contributors have included Costco, Albertsons, Pizza Hut, 7-Eleven, Whole Foods, Trader Joe’s, Coca Cola and Sunland Produce. Corpsmembers deliver all the recovered edible food to our Pacoima food bank partner, MEND (Meeting Every Need with Dignity).

After visiting MEND, Corpsmembers take remaining inedible food waste to local schools to compost in community gardens. Nothing goes to a landfill.

Corpsmembers see the direct impact they are having with every afternoon delivery to the food bank. Since beginning the program, the food bank has been able to increase their service by 10,000 people every month.

Corpsmember Juan, who drives the food rescue truck, expresses, “It makes me feel good that I’m actually helping out. I didn’t know anything about landfills until I started working here. The Corps has taught me a lot. This food was considered waste, but now other people are able to enjoy it. Something we take for granted, a lot of other people now enjoy.”

Corpsmember Alex shares, “This is my first real job. It’s interesting to see how people react. You wouldn’t expect people to be super joyous when we hand them just one little basket that’s for them. Now I know there are more options than just getting rid of whatever food is not being sold by a certain date. Instead of putting it to a dumpster, we can give food to people who actually need it.”

Juan, Alex and their crew are each developing new professional skills that will make them ideal candidates for positions in supply chain management, food sustainability and food waste reduction. They’ve built experience in food safety, received job skills training, developed customer service abilities, coordinated logistics, collected data, navigated pickup and delivery routes, had hands-on experience with equipment and trucks and learned about waste reduction, composting and food insecurity.

The program has also been helped by support from funders and partners SoCal Gas and Kroger. We are excited about the future growth and development of this program. With Corpsmembers at the helm, it is providing a solution that crosses boundaries and brings local businesses and nonprofits together in a cooperative approach. The potential for this program to thrive—its ability to successfully impact people AND the planet—is unlimited!
This year the Corps helped launch the Green Together Collaborative, a grassroots initiative to increase the climate resilience of Pacoima and Sun Valley through tree planting, solar panel installation, and active transportation. The northeast San Fernando Valley suffers from numerous environmental hazards including three elevated freeways, industrial uses, and a commercial airport. It is also one of the most vulnerable areas to climate change in the City of Los Angeles with the number of extreme heat days predicted to multiply in the coming decades.

The Green Together Collaborative—which also includes Pacoima Beautiful, GRID Alternatives, LA Business Council, LA CleanTech Incubator, Trust for Public Land/LA, LADOT, LA Sanitation and Community Partners—received a grant of $23 million from the California Strategic Growth Council’s Transformative Climate Communities Program to demonstrate that meaningful community engagement coupled with strategic investments can reduce greenhouse gas emissions while advancing social equity, economic opportunity, and community resilience.

Nearly three million dollars will be dedicated to planting trees to increase the climate resilience of the community, and Corpsmembers will put 2,000 trees in the ground in the Pacoima-SunValley project area. This will provide work experience and on-the-job training for 100 opportunity youth recruited from the northeast San Fernando Valley. As part of a $1.5 million workforce development initiative in partnership with GRID Alternatives, 50 opportunity youth will subsequently have the option to get trained and certified in GRID Alternatives’ photovoltaic solar panel installation training program, or they may enter the Corps’ US EPA-funded Environmental Workforce Development Job Training Program. The latter would afford trainees marketable skills in environmental services, as well as increase the local labor pool for much needed remediation to counteract decades of environmental injustice in this community.
IN HER OWN WORDS:

A Corpsmember Builds Confidence through Hard Work, Camaraderie, and New Experiences

It felt good to join the Corps.

My previous receptionist jobs weren't hands-on. The Corps is so different—I never had a job like this. I really got my feet wet and had to grow thick skin.

At first, it was hard work being out there with the crew. I was working with boys and I felt like I had to work twice as hard. It was hard but worth it. I couldn't slack off even a little bit. My supervisor Nora expected so much. She's a hard worker herself and expects her crew to work just as hard—we are a representation of her. I like that we are so hard working.

I've learned that sometimes you have to step outside your comfort zone. I've always been really shy. But when you're working with a team, you've got to get to know everybody. I'm grateful for my crew. My coworkers became like family to me. We even have movie nights to spend time together as a crew.

I took the trip to Manazar State Park with the Corps for three days. It took six hours to get there! The park staff wanted to be able to retrieve artifacts from the land, from when the Japanese were interned there. We worked really hard every day, cutting down trees and clearing the area where the wind had blown everything around. I also learned a little bit of history there about the Japanese community. I'd never been anywhere outside of LA. The air quality was so nice. When I saw the waterfalls, I almost forgot it was a job.

I go to night school after work and then take care of my grandmother when I go home. This job is beneficial in many ways. It helps you with your personal life. The Corps helps you with different programs, with your bills, with things you need for your children.

I've learned a lot at the Corps already: responsibility, team work, taking initiative, and that sometimes you have to carry the whole team on your back. You have to put in 100% effort. This is something I can add to my resume. I've learned I'm versatile. I can work with myself, I can work with a crew. My supervisors push me forward to work harder and go farther. My crew believes it's important to do difficult things and get the job done.

Being a part of the Corps makes it easy for you to succeed. When you walk into this job, you quickly learn it's not just a job, it's an experience.

— Corpsmember Ka’Jane, age 18
When a young person enters his/her first job experience, there's bound to be several lessons ahead. The Clean & Green Program is no exception, as it's often a Corpsmember's first job and first opportunity to earn a paycheck. This program, funded through the City of Los Angeles and the individual LA City Council Districts, focuses on developing a solid work ethic, patience, effective communication, working well in a team, valuing accountability, believing in one's own abilities and building leadership.

“I didn't know how to use any of the tools on my first day—I didn't even know how to use the rake!” shares Clean & Green Corpsmember Diego. He says, “I started studying my Crew Supervisor to learn how to do things and then I started jumping in to help. Sometimes you doubt yourself because it's a lot of work. You have to have good expectations and not put yourself down. I learned you have to show initiative. Someone is always watching, even if you don't think so. I love the job. It's everything you don't expect.”

The opportunity to earn a diploma while working at the Corps is what makes the difference for some Corpsmembers. They are able to pair their work project obligations with a class schedule at our Los Angeles Education Corps partner, Saito High School. “When I was younger, I used to say school was for suckas! I regret that. I eventually realized that window shopping all the time and being broke wasn't good,” confesses Diego. “Everyone is out here trying to survive. If you don't have a diploma, it's hard to get a job. When I went to Saito to get my classes taken care of, I was happy to learn that I could have a job with the Corps while I worked on my diploma. It's a blessing for me. Not only am I finishing school, but I'm making money. And I'm going to get my diploma. I'm going to walk the stage. I never thought I'd do that. I'm thankful for everything.”

As a member of Clean & Green, Corpsmembers build a sense of kinship and a greater awareness about conservation through interactive teambuilding and leadership activities, environmental education programming, and hands-on community beautification work throughout the City of LA. Diego says, “You really mature and grow up around your crew—it feels good being a part of a team. It's motivating to see their work and put in my work, too.” Diego has watched his brother Juan elevate from being a Corpsmember to becoming a supervisor on staff at the Corps. He adds, “I'd like to tell a lot of young people to join the Corps. It will help you change.”

A highlight for Clean & Green Corpsmembers is their participation in a team building challenge course at Fulcrum Adventures in Culver City. Diego shares, “I have a good support system here. Everyone wants to see me on a good path. And I've overcome some fears here. At Fulcrum, I conquered my fear of heights by climbing a big tree. Everyone helped me and supported me to get to the top. When I got up, and everyone looked like ants down there, I wanted to face my fears. So, I jumped down when they told me to, and I trusted the Crew Supervisors who were there. I felt good after. I'd been waiting all my life to conquer my fear. If I did that, it means I can do a lot of things. If I did it yesterday, I can do it again. It makes me confident. I thank my brother and my supervisor for encouraging me to do right.”

Clean & Green Corpsmembers are collecting over 11,000 bags of trash, cleaning up close to three million pounds of garbage, clearing over one million square feet of weeds, and removing more than 18,000 illegally dumped bulky items from more than 6,000 of Los Angeles’ streets and alleys. Looking closer, it’s apparent that these numbers don't tell the full story. When their youthful energy is unleashed and guided by caring, committed Corps staff, each Corpsmember’s efforts are a step on their journey to future ambitions and goals. Their desire to learn and grow as individuals with unlimited potential fuels them to show up at 7am every morning, eager and willing to do some of the dirtiest work in the community—work that revitalizes so many areas of the city. Block by block, street by street, they feel good about being a part of something bigger than themselves.
Thank you to everyone who joined us in May back at the LA State Historic Park to celebrate the amazing accomplishments of our Corpsmembers at our 2019 Spring Luncheon.

We are very grateful to everyone who supported the 2019 Spring Luncheon Celebration. This list was updated as of April 2019. We apologize for any omissions.

### Park Builders
- American Chemistry Council
- Southern California Edison

### River Guardians
- Lime
- Metabolic Studio
- Banc of California
- Cityview

### Habitat Restorers
- Blackstone
- Boeing
- Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP
- Dake Wilson Architects and Dake Luna Consultants
- FedEx Corporation
- Goodwin Procter LLP
- Institutional Property Advisors
- Jacobs
- Jaime and Andrew Schwartzberg
- John Ek
- Julie Waxman and Seth Freeman
- LA World Airports
- Nixon Peabody
- SoCalGas
- TELACU Construction Management, Inc.

### Recyclers
- Allyne Winderman and Glenn Wasserman
- American Airlines
- Anchor Capital
- Aviation Facilities Co.
- Beneficial State Bank
- Caroline Wittcoff and Doug Fuchs
- Enterprise Fleet Management
- Ernst & Young, LLP
- Fidelity National Title Group
- Gaw Capital USA
- HCVT
- Helenann Hirsch and Phillip Recht
- HNTB
- Holland & Knight LLP
- John Labib & Associates
- Structural Engineers
- Johnstone Moyer, Inc
- K2D Consulting Engineers
- Los Angeles County Supervisor
- Hilda Solis
- M Consultants
- Mark Wittcoff
- Nadia Geller Designs
- The Nature Conservancy
- Renewable Resources Group
- Teresa Cisneros Burton and Sean Burton
- TroyGould Attorneys

### Friends of the Corps
- AFL-CIO
- Albert Chavez
- Allen Erenbaum
- Andrea Van De Kamp
- Andrew Glazier
- Andrew Kirsch
- Andy Spahn
- Barbara Romero
- Bryan LeRoy
- California Resources Corporation
- Catherine Pederson
- Dakota Financial
- Dan Sloan
- Dana and Toi Treister
- Dawn Wilson
- DFS
- Ed Avila
- Elliot Faulkner
- Gensler
- Greenberg Glusker
- Hugo Suarez
- Jack and Betty Lee Enterprises LLC
- Jan Levine
- Jennifer Blumenthal
- Joanne Harris
- Kindel Gagan Inc.
- Los Angeles City Councilmember
- Gil Cedillo, District 1
- Los Angeles City Councilmember
- Joe Buscaino, District 15
- Los Angeles City Councilmember
- Mitch O’Farrell, District 13
- Los Angeles City Councilmember
- Monica Rodriguez, District 7
- Larry Gilson
- Laura Treister
- LINXS
- Lucy McCoy
- Marisol and Dennis Rodriguez
- Mary Leslie
- Melissa Perez
- Mercedes Morton
- Nancy Bernstein
- Nicolet Rusconi
- Northern Trust
- Partner Engineering and Science, Inc.
- Patricia Palleschi
- PNC Real Estate
- QueensCare
- Rashmi Menon
- Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling
- Risa Green
- Robert Traylor
- Samantha and David Martinez
- San Antonio Winery
- Sean Dennison and Tony Gingiss
- Shoreline Law
- Siemens Corporation
- Steve Shestog
- Sugerman Communications Group
- Togawa Smith Martin
- Tom Eisenhauer
- Tylie Ad Solutions
- Vipul Patel
- Wells Fargo Bank
- Wendy and Steve Butts
- Wendy Felson and David Goodman

---

We are very grateful to everyone who supported the 2019 Spring Luncheon Celebration. This list was updated as of April 2019. We apologize for any omissions.
Under bright blue skies with a view of the downtown skyline we celebrated #LACorpsPower with honorees Lime and Sean Burton of Cityview, as well as Park Builder sponsors American Chemistry Council and Southern California Edison, plus 500 supporters and friends. Eric Garcetti, the 42nd Mayor of Los Angeles, served as the event’s keynote speaker, and we heard powerful testimonials from two amazing Corpsmembers – Natalie and Ty’ari. We thank everyone who attended for joining our Corps family. We hope our stories will be carried out into the world so that we can continue to create new opportunities for more Corpsmembers all year long.

“Being a part of the Corps is about being a part of something bigger than just yourself. All of our honorees, awardees, guests, friends, and Corpsmembers are a part of that. Our annual Luncheon is a clear demonstration of triumph over challenges. It’s an honor to recognize our Corpsmembers and to celebrate their perseverance and accomplishments.”

– Wendy Butts, Corps CEO

“‘All we need is an opportunity, some encouragement and someone who believes in us.’

- Ty’ari Hunter
Corpsmember speaker at the 2019 Spring Luncheon

“The Corps is a wonderful organization that provides critical opportunities for youth here in Los Angeles. I am proud to have been a long-time supporter and to be honored this year.”

– Sean Burton
Cityview CEO

Lime is proud to support the work of the Los Angeles Conservation Corps in our shared goal of building better communities with access and opportunity for all residents in our great City. All of Los Angeles benefits by the good work of the Corps and we look forward to a long partnership.”

– Karla Owunwanne, Lime Community Affairs Manager
Financials
Year Ended June 30, 2019

Statement of Activities

**Revenue and Support**
- General Agencies & Contracts: $19,037,029
- Contributions - Private: $618,833
- Contributions - Corporate: $525,984
- Program Fees: $171,157
- In-Kind Revenue: $626,626
- Contributions - Individuals: $41,745
- Special Events Revenue: $508,197
- Other Income: $268,690
- Total Revenue & Support: $21,798,261

**Expenses**
- Program Services: $17,848,197
- General and Administrative: $3,203,804
- Fundraising: $93,273
- Total Expenses: $21,145,274

**Net Assets**
- Net Assets - Beginning of Fiscal Year: $7,489,573
- Change in Net Assets: $652,987
- Net Assets - End of Fiscal Year: $8,142,560
Thank you to all of the individuals, corporations, foundations, and government partners who supported Corpsmembers and our mission between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. This list includes gifts and grants to our programs, our capital campaign and general operations. Your generosity transforms youth and enhances communities. We apologize for any unintentional omissions.
In June, the Board of Directors and staff leadership made the difficult decision to close our SEA Lab in Redondo Beach.

For more than 20 years, the SEA Lab team of Corpsmembers and staff greeted hundreds of thousands of school-aged students on school trips, rescued and rehabilitated thousands of fish and marine animals, maintained a native plant nursery, raised abalone, organized beach clean-ups and much more. The decision to shutter the program's doors was reached through thoughtful deliberations between staff and the Board of Directors, in close communication with our local partners.

Undoubtedly, we are proud of the many successes that our dedicated SEA Lab staff garnered for the community, sea creatures, and Corpsmembers it served.

As we close out this chapter of our organization's history, we would like to share our gratitude:

• **We are forever grateful for the many ways that our South Bay neighbors, the greater community, and so many embraced us** when we set out to educate visitors and encourage environmental stewardship via the SEA Lab program. We thank AES who graciously provided the property that housed and financially supported our operations at the SEA Lab; we thank Redondo Beach Mayor Bill Brand and other City of Redondo Beach officials who have been great champions of the facility; we thank the many school classes, visiting families, local media and community partners who supported us in their own ways.

• **We are thankful for the heart-full people that powered the SEA Lab for so many years.** We are thankful to Maria Madrigal, a former Corpsmember, long-time staff member and Director of the SEA Lab, for her compassionate service to our mission. She was often behind the scenes, encouraging young Corpsmembers to step up and into the limelight. Maria was a true example of the best that the nonprofit spirit has to offer. We are grateful for her leadership and all she helped create and accomplish at the SEA Lab over two decades. Her team was extraordinary, even through difficult times. We thank each of them for giving above and beyond the call of duty.

• **We are proud of our Corpsmembers, their growth, their camaraderie and their ambitions.** Our SEA Lab Corpsmembers were extraordinary, passionate and inspiring young adults who have incredible goals ahead of them, many of which they say were sparked by their education, mentorship and empowerment at the SEA Lab.

Thank you, thank you, thank you all. We hope you will carry forward many more acts of service and compassion to support our environment, oceans, and youth in ways that are meaningful to you. Together, we have made a difference.
Thanks again for your support.
Together, we can create an environmentally resilient generation.

www.lacorps.org/makeadifference
LA CONSERVATION CORPS

1400 N. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

@lacorps   #lacorpspower

lacorps.org