



resources restored.
lives changed.

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

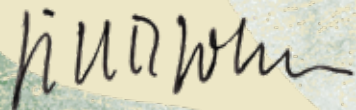
DEAR FRIENDS OF THE CORPS

We are thrilled to share that 2017 marked another successful year of changing lives and restoring resources. Because of the support of donors and partners like you, Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa **transformed the lives of 594 young people**, including 268 youth ages 15 to 18 and 326 AmeriCorps members ages 18 to 25. These young people gained valuable outdoor experiences and a wide range of life skills.

I was inspired by the words of a crew leader who said what she loved about the Corps is that there is a place for everyone...that everyone is good at something and has something to give. She said the best part of her summer was watching Corps members discover their strengths and gain confidence in themselves and those around them.

We are looking forward to continuing this work and hope we can count on your continued support. You have played an integral role in helping us serve young people in our communities and make long-lasting improvements to our environment.

Thank you!



Jill Mahon Johnson, Board Chair
Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa



NEW ALUMNI COUNCIL

2017 marked the first year of the Corps' Alumni Advisory Council. The council was created to support our mission and goals by strengthening our alumni network. Seven members joined the council this year and helped develop alumni engagement strategies, assisted with planning events, recruitment efforts, and fundraising and provided input to staff and board from an alumni perspective.

Through quarterly meetings and ongoing communication throughout the year, our team researched alumni needs and wants, tested new events, shared ideas and built a framework for ongoing Alumni Council projects.

Thank you to our 2017 Alumni Council members!

"I would like to give thanks to everyone who has contributed to making the Corps experience a positive one for so many young people. It is up to us to continue voicing how important this work is to all of our lives." -Caitie, Alumni Council Member



YOUTH OUTDOORS

connects Twin Cities teens to the natural environment through hands-on conservation and neighborhood beautification projects, and empowering young people to become active, engaged citizens and leaders.

120 YOUTH PARTICIPANTS
20 AMERICORPS LEADERS



PROGRAM PROFILES

FIELD CREWS

serve outdoors restoring habitat, managing resources and responding to natural disasters.

242 AMERICORPS MEMBERS



SUMMER YOUTH CORPS

connects teenagers to the natural environment through hands-on conservation and empowers young people to become active, engaged citizens.

148 YOUTH PARTICIPANTS
19 AMERICORPS LEADERS

INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENTS

serve in nonprofit and government agencies focused on energy, natural resource management and community outreach.

26 AMERICORPS MEMBERS



SEASONAL PROGRAMS

APPRENTICE

Serves alongside professionals in a Soil and Water Conservation District.

I CAN!

Teaches families paddling and camping skills.

BRIDGES

Provides the next step for teenagers interested in a career in natural resources.

RESTORING RELATIONS

Connects American Indian teenagers to their heritage through projects on lands and waters of cultural and historical significance.

FACES OF TOMORROW

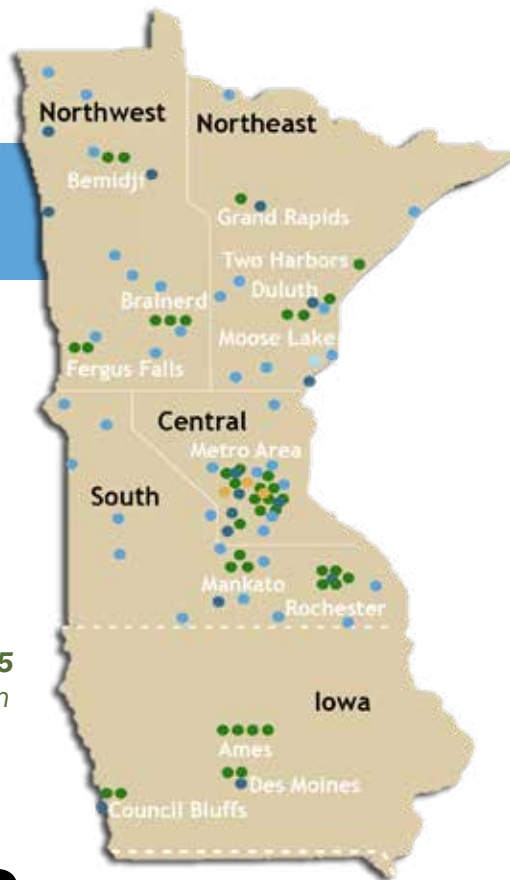
Improves diversity of the Superior National Forest's future workforce.

2017 IMPACT

CREW & PROGRAM LOCATIONS

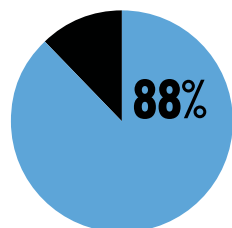
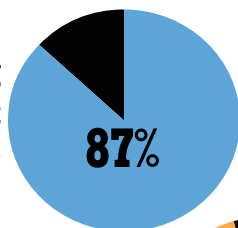
- Field Crews
- Youth Outdoors
- Summer Youth Corps
- Individual Placements
- Apprentice Academy

Project work completed in a total of **15 states and 1 territory including work in **Missouri, North Dakota & Nebraska**.*



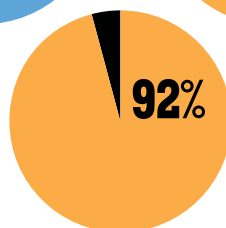
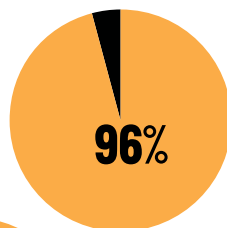
LIVES CHANGED

Increased understanding of different cultures

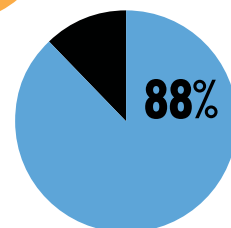


Increased self confidence

Greater appreciation for nature and protecting the environment



Work better on teams



Increased problem-solving skills

RESOURCES RESTORED

Animal Exclosures/Fencing - **109,401 feet**
 Campsite Establishment/Maintenance - **880 sites**
 Community Outreach - **2,349 hours**
 Construction/Carpentry - **5,266 hours**
 Debris Removal - **13 tons**
 Debris Removal - Disaster Response - **5,421 cu. yards**
 Disaster Response - **29,039 hours**
 Erosion Control & Slope Stabilization - **497,105 sq. feet**
 Education/Training Provided - **5,150 hours**
 Fire Suppression - **114 acres**
 Firebreak Construction/Maintenance - **70 miles**
 Forest Inventory & Analysis - **278 plots**
 GIS/GPS Mapping/Data Collection - **4,696 hours**
 Historic Building & Landmark Restoration - **51 structures**
 Invasive Species Management - **14,999 acres**
 Man-made Feature & User Surveys - **1,987 surveys**
 Non-motorized Trail Work - **2,397,979 feet**
 Nursery Activities - **3,983 hours**
 Oak Wilt Management - **91 trees**
 Planting - **203,104 plants & trees**
 Prescribed Burning - **21,564 acres**
 Public Access Maintenance/Signing - **1,427 hours**
 Rain Garden Installation/Maintenance - **949,797 sq. feet**
 River Obstruction Removal - **711 miles**
 Seed Collection - **5,014 hours**
 Seeding - **390 acres**
 Timber Stand Improvement - **278 acres**
 Trail Construction & Improvement - **579 miles**
 Tree Removal - **63,549 trees**
 Water Quality Sampling - **3,272 samples**
 Wildlife Structure Installation - **302 structures**
 Wildlife, Tree & Plant Surveys - **3,160 surveys**

IN THE FIELD

"The Corps has taught me valuable and important skills and made me a more conscious and confident worker and person. I recommend all Americans take a year of service." -Jamie, AmeriCorps member



BURN SEASON

After a week-long Fire Academy at Camp Ripley where AmeriCorps members learn about fire behavior and earn their red card certification, crews are able to restore prairie lands through prescribed burns and respond to wildfires.



TECH SAVVY

With two tools – EDDMapS and ISMTrack – AmeriCorps crews have begun integrating digital mapping, data collection and reporting into their field work. They have also had the opportunity to field test new products.



BATS & BUCKS

The Wildlife Studies Crew, based out of Iowa, spent their service term engaged in two research projects. The first study was to gain knowledge on the migratory patterns and behaviors of the Northern Long Eared bat. The second study focused on learning how to remove and test lymph node samples from deer to study the presence of Chronic Wasting Disease. The AmeriCorps members served with biologists from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Bureau and local hunters to complete their research.



"The crews are willing and open to trying something new. You can develop something in an office, but being able to use it in the field and see what works is invaluable."

-Monika Chandler, Noxious & Invasive Weeds & Biological Control Program Lead with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture

"Youth are very tech savvy, and it's nice they are able to see technology used in a way that is essential in natural resources work." -Brett, Youth Leader



YOUTH UNPLUGGED

CIVICS LESSONS

Representative Keith Ellison visited our Youth Outdoors crews to share his story with eager listeners, walking them through the path he took from his childhood in Detroit to his current role as the U.S. Representative for Minnesota's 5th congressional district. He told them how important it is to bring the environment and jobs together, like Conservation Corps is doing, and that they are all heroes for doing such great work throughout the city's parks. But most importantly, Rep. Ellison encouraged these Youth Outdoors members to be active and engaged citizens by voting, speaking up for what they believe, and even running for office!

GOAT CO-WORKERS

Youth Outdoors Crews had the chance to participate in a particularly unique way to manage invasive species in Minneapolis parks—with goats! Crews worked with goat contractors to prepare sites, set up fences, put signs up and do other maintenance in order for the goats to eat buckthorn and other invasive species.



OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS

Our brand new School Forest Program, along with the Department of Natural Resources, supports 130 sites across Minnesota ranging in size from a quarter acre to more than 300 acres. These outdoor classrooms serve communities with high cultural and socio-economic diversity in both rural and urban locations.

Duluth East High School was one site that received help from this crew to build an outdoor classroom and wildlife sanctuary for their students.



DISASTER RESPONSE

Following a natural disaster, national service acts as a force multiplier, providing key resources and significantly expanding the capacity of existing organizations on the ground. Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa responds to national disasters by providing relief work that includes a variety of tasks such as debris removal, home repair assistance, volunteer coordination, donation supply management and hazard tree removal. **In 2017, over 100 AmeriCorps members spent 25,572 hours serving in disaster response.**



DEPLOYMENT DETAILS

HURRICANE HARVEY TEXAS

49 AMERICORPS MEMBERS
3 STAFF MEMBERS

HURRICANE IRMA FLORIDA

42 AMERICORPS MEMBERS
4 STAFF MEMBERS

HURRICANE MARIA PUERTO RICO

7 AMERICORPS MEMBERS
1 STAFF MEMBER

We are part of a larger effort of over **2,000 national service members** supporting disaster relief.

"This is a once in a lifetime chance to be part of something bigger than myself. I'm young, able and ready to put my disaster training into action." -Elizabeth, AmeriCorps member

CHAMPION OF SERVICE



Maggie Barnick, of Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa, served as Branch Director of AmeriCorps - Disaster Response Teams operations in Southwest Florida. Maggie received the Champion of Service Award in honor of her service from Florida Governor Scott and Volunteer Florida.



"Yesterday I woke up feeling that it was a dream...but my yard says it was a reality. You are the clear representation of the real human nature." -Javier, Homeowner



IN THE COMMUNITY

CLEAN THE CROIX

This year's St. Croix cleanup was extra special because the Corps teamed up with two local organizations - The Washington Conservation District and the St. Croix River Association to clean the Croix! Our Summer Youth Corps crew got to show off what they have been learning during their service and led our volunteers in invasive removal. Two pickup trucks full of trash were also removed from the shoreline. *This event was made possible by the **Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation** and **Andersen Corporate Foundation**.*



**ENGAGED OVER
2,000 VOLUNTEERS**



FUTURE SKILLS

GIS training introduces students to a wide variety of digital mapping applications that natural resource professionals use in the field. *Thank you to **Otto Bremer Trust**, **McNeely Foundation**, **Mardag Foundation**, **Wells Fargo Foundation** and **F.R. Bigelow Foundation** for your support of GIS technology in Youth Outdoors.*

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Over the past seven years, the **Betty A. Lewis University Environmental Charitable Trust** has funded AmeriCorps projects in Southwest Minnesota. Because of their support, over 1,200 hours of crew time has been dedicated to invasive removal, erosion control, trail building, fence repair and building maintenance at local parks in the Truman and Lewisville area. Conservation Corps is pleased to carry on the legacy of Betty A. Lewis by improving public park spaces in the area she was from and loved.

*"My greatest accomplishment has been making lasting impacts on multiple communities."
-Fernando, 2017 AmeriCorps member*



2017 PROJECT PARTNERS

FEDERAL

AmeriCorps/CNCS
FEMA
National Park Service
US Army Corps of Engineers
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Forest Service

STATE

Arkansas Game and Fish
Commission
Iowa Department of Natural
Resources
Minnesota Board of Water
and Soil Resources
Minnesota Department of
Agriculture
Minnesota Department of
Employment and
Economic Development
Minnesota Department of
Natural Resources
Minnesota Pollution Control
Agency

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aitkin SWCD
Anoka Conservation District
Anoka County
Anoka SWCD
Bassett Creek Watershed
Management Commission
Becker SWCD
Blackhawk County
Conservation Board
Blue Earth SWCD
Buena Vista County
Conservation
Butler County Conservation
Board
Capitol Region Watershed
District
Carlton SWCD

Carver County
Chisago SWCD
City of Bemidji
City of Burnsville
City of Champlin
City of Detroit Lakes
City of Morton
City of North St. Paul
City of Oakdale
City of Oronoco
City of Prior Lake
City of Red Wing
City of Richfield
City of St. Paul
City of Winona
Clay County SWCD
Crow River Organization of
Water
Crow Wing SWCD
Dakota County
Dakota SWCD
Des Moines County
Conservation Board
Douglas SWCD
East Ottertail SWCD
East Polk SWCD
Elm Creek Watershed
Management Commission
Fillmore SWCD
Grand Portage Reservation
Harrison County
Conservation Board
Heron Lake Watershed
District
Isanti SWCD
Kanabec SWCD
La Qui Parle SWCD
Lake County SWCD
Lake of the Woods SWCD
LeSeur SWCD
Lyon County SWCD
Marshall SWCD
Martin SWCD
McLeod SWCD
Metropolitan Council

Middle St. Croix Water
Management Organization
Minneapolis Park and
Recreation Board
Minnehaha Creek Watershed
District
Mississippi Watershed
Management District
Monona County Conservation
Board
Mower SWCD
Pelican River Watershed
District
Pennington SWCD
Pine SWCD
Polk County Conservation
Board
Pottawattamie County
Conservation Board
Prairie Island Indian
Community
Ramsey Conservation District
Ramsey County
Ramsey Washington Metro
Watershed District
Root River SWCD
Roseau River Watershed
District
Sac County Conservation
Board
St. Paul Parks and
Recreation
Sand Hill Watershed District
Scott County
Scott SWCD
Sherburne SWCD
South Washington Watershed
District
Stearns County SWCD
Stevens SWCD
Story County Conservation
Board
Todd SWCD
Traverse SWCD

Washington Conservation
District
Washington County
West Otter Tail SWCD
Winona County SWCD
Woodbury County
Conservation Board
Wright SWCD
Yellow Medicine SWCD

NONPROFIT

Assisi Heights
Audubon Society
Belwin Conservancy
Bur Oak Land Trust
Center for Energy and
Environment
Conservation Legacy
Fox Lake Conservation
League, Inc.
Friends of Prairie Creek WMA
Friends of Stone Park
Great River Greening
Green Hollow Center
International Water Institute
Iowa Natural Heritage
Foundation
Lake Superior Steelhead
Association
Metro Blooms
Minnesota Deer Hunter's
Association
Minnesota Trout Unlimited
Minnesota Valley Trust
National Fish and Wildlife
Foundation
Pheasants Forever
Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club
RNeighbors, Rochester
Neighborhood Resource
Center
Science Museum of
Minnesota

Standing Cedars Land
Conservancy
Sugarloaf North Shore
Stewardship Association
Superior Hiking Trail
Association
The Conservation Foundation
The Corps Network
The Nature Conservancy
Three Rivers Park District
Warner Nature Center
YMCA
Zumbro Watershed
Partnership

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Horace May Elementary
School
Iowa State University
Rochester Community Tech
College
St. Paul Public Schools
University of Minnesota
University of Minnesota
Extension
Macalester College

ADOPT-A-RIVER

Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop
BSA Troop 188
Camp Sunrise
Carver County Sheriff's
Office
CHS Field
City of Robbinsdale
Detroit Lakes High School
Digi-Key Electronics
Eastside Pioneers
Neighborhood Association
Elk River Rotary Club

Fox 9
Friends of Upper Landing
Fulton Brewing
Hastings High School
Headwaters Science Center
Lake of the Woods SWCD
Minnesota Adventure
Company
Northshore Mining
Owatonna Izaak Walton
League
Roosevelt Elementary School
Rush Lake Improvement
Association
St. Cloud State
St. Croix River Association
Swiftwater Adventures
University of St. Thomas
U.S. Bank
Wabasha Brewing
Washington Conservation
District
Watergate Yacht Club
Voodoo Dolls & Friends



Join our
**Evergreen
Circle** as
a sustaining
donor. Ongoing
monthly contributions
support our programs
now and into the
future. Join today by
selecting "monthly"
donations on our
website: [conservation-
corps.org/donate/](http://conservation-corps.org/donate/)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FISCAL YEAR 2017 | JANUARY 1, 2017 - DECEMBER 31, 2017

MINNESOTA

Support & Revenue Support

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
AmeriCorps	\$877,552		\$877,552
Charitable Donations	\$26,565		\$26,565
In-Kind Contributions	\$163		\$163
Foundation & Corporate Grants	\$10,951	\$188,080	\$199,031
State General Funds (State FY15)	\$16,653	\$945,000	\$961,653

Revenue

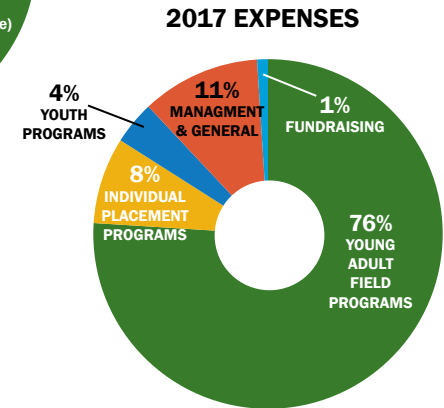
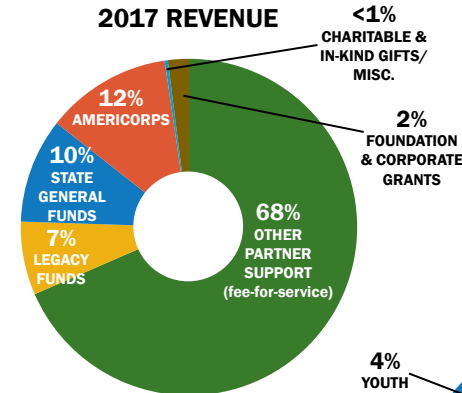
Legacy Funds	\$682,959		\$682,959
Other Partner Support	\$4,629,733		\$4,629,733
Interest & Miscellaneous	\$341		\$341
Total Support & Revenue	\$6,244,917	\$1,133,080	\$7,377,997

Net Assets Released From Restrictions

State Natural Resource Fund	\$592,419		
State General Operating Funds	\$455,000		
Charitable Grants	\$163,027		
Total Released	\$1,210,446	(\$1,210,446)	

Expenses

Youth Programs	\$451,134		\$451,134
Young Adult Field Programs	\$6,527,537		\$6,527,537
Individual Placement Programs	\$799,959		\$799,959
Management & General	\$1,022,134		\$1,022,134
Fundraising	\$126,375		\$126,375
Total Expenses	\$8,927,139		\$8,927,139



ORGANIZATIONAL TOTALS

Change in Net Assets	\$980,997	\$77,366	\$1,058,363
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$5,514,331	\$618,741	\$6,133,072
Net Assets, end of year	\$4,533,334	\$541,375	\$5,074,709

IOWA

Support

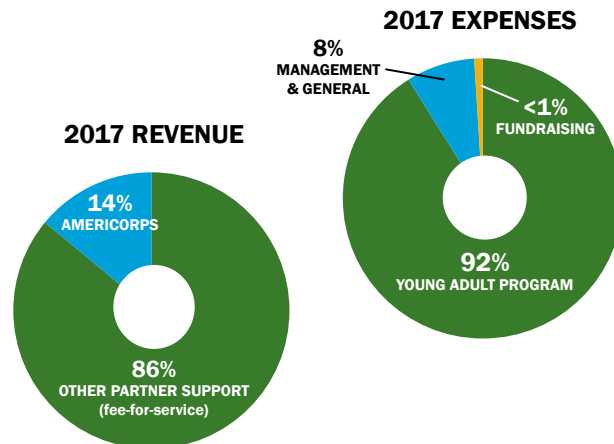
AmeriCorps	\$284,197
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Revenue

Other Partner Support	\$1,739,156
Miscellaneous	\$0
Total Support & Revenue	\$2,023,353

Expenses

Young Adult Program	\$1,404,965
Management & General	\$126,332
Fundraising	\$1,277
Total Expenses	\$1,532,574



BALANCE SHEET

Assets

Current Assets	\$5,001,438	\$6,163,670
Fixed Assets	\$280,662	\$211,828
Other Assets	\$65,739	\$9,010
Total Assets	\$5,347,839	\$6,384,508

Liabilities & Net Assets

Current Liabilities	\$273,130	\$251,436
Total Liabilities	\$273,130	\$251,436
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	\$4,533,344	\$5,514,331
Temporarily Unrestricted	\$541,375	\$618,741
Total Net Assets	\$5,074,719	\$6,133,072
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$5,347,849	\$6,384,508

Income & Expense Statement

Revenue	\$9,401,350	\$9,297,055
Expenses	\$10,459,713	\$9,002,113
Increases in Net Assets	\$(1,058,363)	\$294,942

2017 DONORS

Institutional Donors

\$25,000+

Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation | Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development | Otto Bremer Trust

\$10,00-\$25,000

Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation | F.R. Bigelow Foundation | Greater Twin Cities United Way | Mardag Foundation | McNeely Foundation | The North Face Explore Fund

\$5,000-\$10,000

Andersen Corporate Foundation | Betty A. Lewis University Environmental Charitable Trust | Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation | Wells Fargo Foundation

Up to \$5,000

Amazon Smile | Bremer Bank | Enterprise Foundation | ERM Foundation | Leadership Transitions, Inc. | Schlenner Wenner & Company | Tin Whiskers Brewing Company | Wells Fargo Home Mortgage



*denotes 2017
sustaining donor in
our Evergreen Circle



\$1,000-\$5,000

Jeff & Deb Berg* | Theodore Chien | Barbara & Neil Normandin* | William & Judy Walter

\$500-\$1,000

Melissa Cuff | Stephen Flagg | Jill Johnson | Jim & Deborah Kielsmeier | Frank Petralito* | Mike Shoafstall | Denise & Gary Stelzner | Mary Jo Synnott | Mary Titler

\$150-\$500

Valerie Carlson | David Cary | Pamela & Michael Cuff | Christian Dwyer | Ronald Eichten* | Hollis Emery | Rita Garcia | Miriam Gieske* | Elise Haupt | Anja Hogan | Jim Hulbert | Anthony Indelicato | Robert Jensen | Phyllis Kahn | Scott Keefer | Linda Kriel | Robert Lager | Troy Maggied | Erika Mork & Takashi Maie* | Michael & Beth Nevala | Marson Rinkenberger* | Adrian Schottroff | Tom & Sarah Scott* | Amanda & Ryan Senechal | Jane Siegal | Teresa Spaeth | Scot Walstrom* | Beverly Wolfe

\$75-\$150

Cindy Angerhofer | Jim Backus | Justin Bakken | Simba Blood* | Brian Miller | Matthew Coulter | Elizabeth Cox | Roberta Daigle | John Degan* | Talisyn Flagg | John Friedmeyer* | Cathi Gabrielson | Amy Gernon | Blaine Gudbjartsson* | Harley Hanson | Gary Heaser* | Tyler Hesseltine | Mary Hilfiker | Bailey Johnson | Robert Kaczowski | Laura Keller* | Diane & Gordon Kepner | Janna Kysilko | Johannes Magdal | Theresa Meyer | Ronald Miller* | Robert Moilanen | Michael Nation | Donna Nelson | Cynthia Parson | Louise Pesavento | Sherry Sanchez Tibbetts | Christina Saville | Rachel Sicheneder | Scott Swendsen | Richard Thomas | Marilyn Victor* | Cindy Videen | Beth Villaume | Rebecca Zadroga*

Up to \$75

Christine Arndt | Vicky Arntson | Alex Askew | Walter Atwood | Maggie Barnick | Blandine Berthelot | Allegra Birdseye-Hannula | Eldora Boldt | Gina Bonsignore | Michael Brinda | Neil Brouwer | Jerry Buker | Teresa Butel | Sheila Cain | Linda Campbell | Eric Chien | Patricia Clarke | John & Molly Cuff | Theresa Custodio | Laurel Cutright | Alexandra Dart | Brian Elder | Jeff Fenner | Cheryl Flack Barr | Jonathan Gall | Michelle Genereux | Josh Gerdes | Nate Granzow | Laura Gumpert | Christine Hammes | Mary Hammes | Ralph Hanson | Dave & Mary Hile | Michael Holden* | Brian Hubbard | Debbie & Jim Ingebretsen | Kathy Jaeger | James & Alda Jensen | Jan Johnson | Jim Kaczowski | Mark Knops* | Kellie Lager | Greg Leierwood | Diane & Marvin Magnuson | Kathy McCarthy | Joshua Milleson* | Cari Morgan | Yee Moua | Jacquie Munson | Howard Nelson* | Emily Newhall | Brian & Charlotte Ogdahl | Jan Peterschick | Ian Pringle | Alyson Quinn | Mike Roberg | Caitie Ryan-Norton | Ronald Salazar | Maxine Samuelson | Laura Savin | Julie & Jeff Seeley | Marissa Shelver | Ashley Sierra | Eben & Kathleen Spencer | John Stelzner | Thomas Stone | Caleb Stracke | Sandre Strauss-er | Patty Stupca | Judge Louis Thayer | Duane Theisen | Peter Van Calligan* | Kevin Viken* | Lauren Vilen | Kenneth Warner | Warren & Nina West | Anna-Maria & John Weston | Bette Whitaker | Jim Wilfert | Michael Wurth | James Zaun | Megan Zeiher | Nicole Zyvoloski

OUR MISSION

Conservation Corps provides hands-on environmental stewardship through service-learning opportunities while accomplishing conservation, natural resource management and emergency response work. Our goals are to help young people from diverse backgrounds become more connected to the environment, engaged in conservation and involved in the community and prepared for future employment.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jennifer Goepfert
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Mary Hilfiker
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Liz McAllister
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