



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

# NATURE EDUCATION COMMUNITY



New Canaan Nature Center



New Canaan Nature Center





SALLY WATERS HERB GARDEN



JACK POISED FOR ADVENTURE IN THE NORTH WOODS



CAMPER CONTEMPLATES HER NEXT CATCH IN KIWANIS POND





BOARD PRESIDENT, LINDA ANDROS,  
WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BILL  
FLYNN, AT THE SECOND ANNUAL  
LECTURE & LUNCHEON

The New Canaan Nature Center is a not-for-profit environmental education organization dedicated to inspiring people of all ages to respect, protect, and enjoy the world of nature.

This is our organization's mission statement. It drives everything we do here. All of our programs are designed to provide positive, fun, educational experiences that lead to the all-important connection with the natural world. It is our hope and core belief that this connection will lead to a life-long love and protection of the environment.

This past year has been an extremely exciting time for the New Canaan Nature Center. We can say, with confidence, that the organization expanded its programming, improved the aesthetics and preservation of our campus, and laid the groundwork for exciting new projects. Each year, one of our most important goals is to provide a nature sanctuary that serves New Canaan and the surrounding areas. In 2018, we were delighted by the increased numbers of participants in our events, preschool, education programs, and casual visitors, confirming to our organization that the community is supporting our mission, vision, and purpose. In addition to this increased involvement, we remain bolstered by our wonderful partnership with the Town of New Canaan. Of equal importance to our external support, the strength of the organization is a direct reflection of the strong working relationship between the staff and the Board of Trustees. I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for making the New Canaan Nature Center such a treasured institution.

Please enjoy this Annual Report. It highlights our successful 2018 fiscal year and looks ahead at even greater fulfillment of our mission. Our organization's achievements work in tandem with our community support and are made possible through your participation and generosity. Thank you!

Sincerely,

**Bill Flynn**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

VISIT [NEWCANAANNATURE.ORG](http://NEWCANAANNATURE.ORG)

# HIGHLIGHTS

“One touch of  
nature makes the  
whole world kin.”

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

# HIGHLIGHTS

## SPECIAL EVENTS & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

There is a lot to explore, encounter, and enjoy at the New Canaan Nature Center. We are a place for visitors of all ages to gain hands-on experiences with nature. Each year we offer a wide variety of community programs and special events to engage and educate our guests. Annually these include: Owl Moon Night Hike, Adopt-A-Tree Syrup Program, Great American Campout, Harvest Festival, Fall Fair, New York Botanical Garden Lecture Series, Community Yoga, Cider Saturday, Winter Wonderland, and so many more.

Our events are part of New Canaan's community fabric. We hope to see you soon.

[VIEW OUR FULL SCHEDULE](#)

## Unique to 2018 we enjoyed:

An informative program with Ethnobotanist and one of TIME's "11 Heroes of Medicine," Dr. Paul Cox. He shared his team's research on the potential environmental causes as well as natural cures for challenging neurological illnesses including Alzheimer's, ALS, and Parkinson's disease.

Eat, Drink & Learn event with leading landscape photographers Diane Cook and Len Jenshel, who have also contributed to National Geographic for over 20 years. They presented their book *Wise Trees*—a stunning photography book containing more than 50 historical trees with remarkable stories from around the world.

Annual Lecture and Luncheon featuring celebrated interior designer Katie Ridder and renowned architect Peter Pennoyer, who offered a behind the scenes look into their careers, collaborations, and their home and garden in Millbrook, NY.

## Looking ahead we are excited to share:

### MAY 2, 2019

Annual Lecture and Luncheon featuring Ellie Cullman, cofounder of the esteemed decorating firm Cullman & Kravis and recognized on the venerable "AD 100" *Architectural Digest's* list of best designers and architects.

### MAY 4, 2019

New Canaan Dog Days, a joint event with Pet Pantry and Adopt-a-Dog. An afternoon of activities celebrating your pets, nature, and the community.

### JUNE 13, 2019

The return of the Nature Center's beloved and reimagined Secret Garden Tour, featuring the celebrated gardens of one of New Canaan's most iconic homes. This event will also include a lecture program and guided tour with a horticulturalist and certified Master Gardener.

### FALL 2019

Watch for the unveiling of a redesigned Visitors Center.

NATALIE ENJOYING A RIDE AT OUR 49TH ANNUAL FALL FAIR



# 4000+

**ATTENDED COMMUNITY PROGRAMS &  
SPECIAL EVENTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2018.**

THIS NUMBER DOES NOT INCLUDE THE COUNTLESS VISITORS WHO COME TO EXPLORE OUR TRAILS, MEET OUR BALD EAGLE GLORY, OR LEARN IN OUR DISCOVERY ROOM.



# HIGHLIGHTS

## NATURE-BASED PRESCHOOL

Nature-based education is the fastest growing movement in early childhood education due to the increased research on the positive impact it has on children's development. Ten years ago there were approximately 50 nature-based preschools in the country, now there are over 300. As the oldest nature-based preschool in the country, we have always been a national leader of this important trend.

Our preschool is filled with fun and adventure.  
Click to learn more about our unique program  
and curriculum.

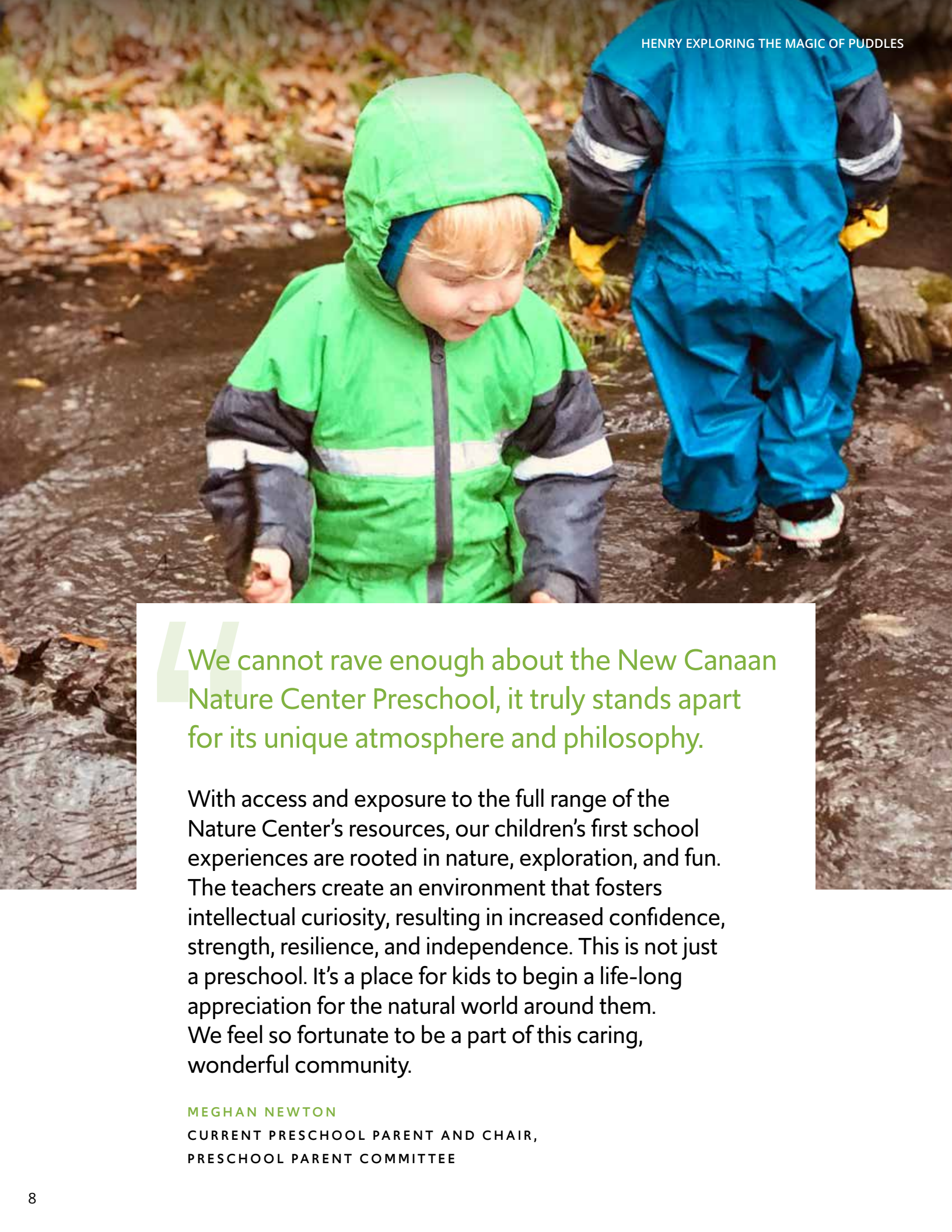
LEARN MORE

## CELEBRATING 51 YEARS

WE ARE CURRENTLY IN OUR 51ST YEAR CELEBRATING A ROBUST PROGRAM THAT OFFERS HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES IN NATURE FOR CHILDREN AGE 18-MONTHS TO 5 YEARS.



ELLA CUDDLING ONE OF OUR CLASSROOM GUINEA PIGS



“We cannot rave enough about the New Canaan Nature Center Preschool, it truly stands apart for its unique atmosphere and philosophy.

With access and exposure to the full range of the Nature Center’s resources, our children’s first school experiences are rooted in nature, exploration, and fun. The teachers create an environment that fosters intellectual curiosity, resulting in increased confidence, strength, resilience, and independence. This is not just a preschool. It’s a place for kids to begin a life-long appreciation for the natural world around them. We feel so fortunate to be a part of this caring, wonderful community.

MEGHAN NEWTON

CURRENT PRESCHOOL PARENT AND CHAIR,  
PRESCHOOL PARENT COMMITTEE



# HIGHLIGHTS

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Nature Center has a long history of servicing the greater Fairfield County community and beyond, reaching as far as New York City. Our environmental education programs offer experiential learning opportunities for all ages, from toddlers in our Mommy & Me classes to programs catering to the retirement community at the New Canaan Inn. Not only are we proud of the diverse age group we serve, we are also proud of our outreach to all socioeconomic communities.

Another example of our outreach is The Haley Nature & Science Education Program. This project brings children from low-income communities into the natural world, giving them the opportunity they might not otherwise have to learn, experience, and ultimately become invested stewards of their global and regional environment. The Haley Project takes 5th grade urban school children on two watershed ecology field trips and immerses them into the natural world where hands-on science, natural history, and 21st learning skills take place with our skilled and experienced environmental educators.

Our Programs appeal to groups of all sizes and provide a variety of customizable experiences. Consider a visit soon.

LEARN MORE

# 415+

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

IN FISCAL YEAR 2018 WE RAN OVER 415 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS BOTH ON AND OFF SITE

# 92

## URBAN OUTREACH PROGRAMS

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS HELD 92 URBAN OUTREACH PROGRAMS AT VARIOUS NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY LOCATIONS.



VISITOR EMBRACING THE FUN OF MUD

“I’ve never seen a  
real live snake before!  
It’s so cool and bendy!”

JUAN

1ST GRADE ATTENDEE AT “WILD LIFE SUPER HEROES”  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM AT  
JEFFERSON SCIENCE MAGNET SCHOOL





# HIGHLIGHTS

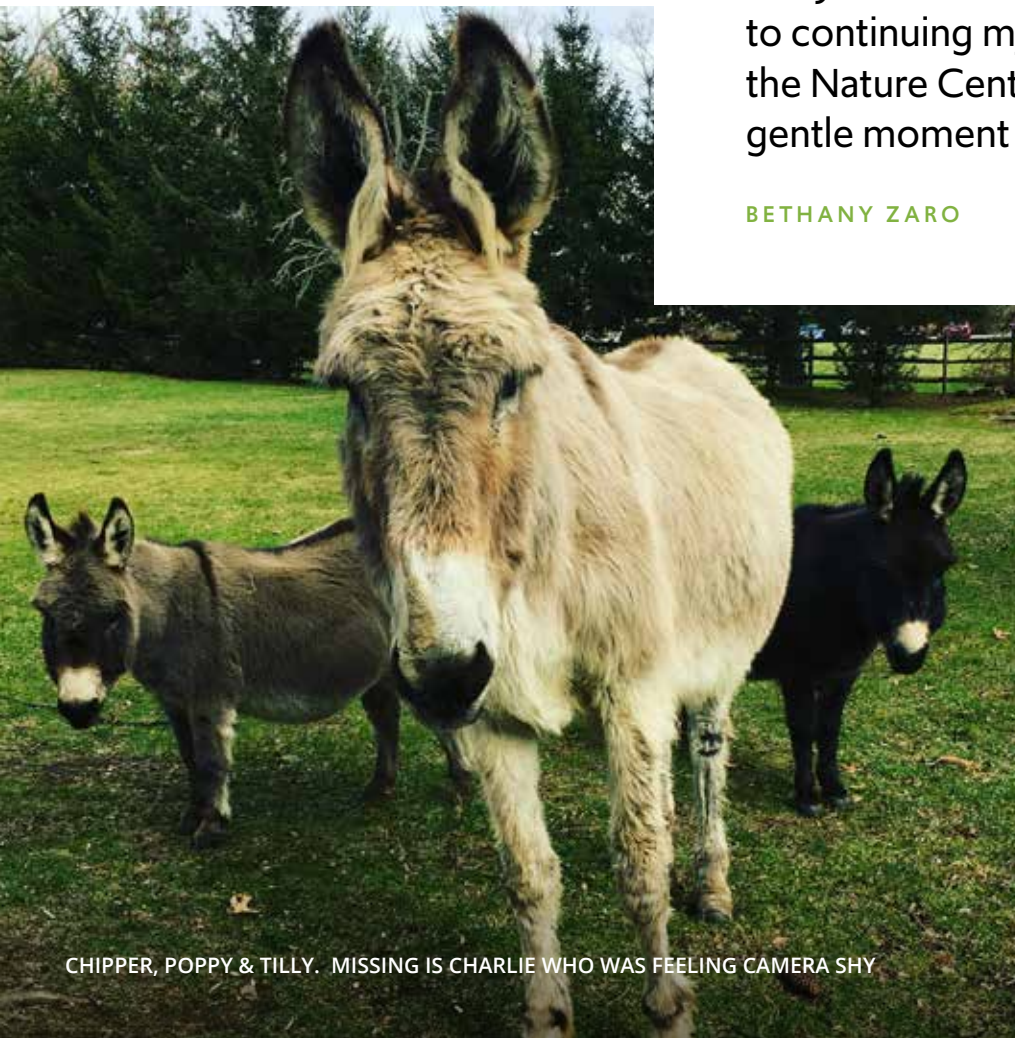
## ANIMAL AMBASSADORS

Our animal ambassadors are an essential component of our education programming. They help us give people tangible experiences with the natural world. For instance, students might be interested if you told them that an owl can turn its head 270-degrees around. However, they are truly captivated when they meet our Great Horned Owl, Socrates, and see in person his head turn directly behind him. We are so fortunate to have a vast array of animals—ranging from invertebrates, to fish, to amphibians, to reptiles, to birds, to mammals—that provide positive connections to the natural world.

We are thrilled to welcome the newest members of our animal family, Poppy, Charlie, Chipper, and Tilly. Come visit and share a quiet moment with these gentle and wise therapy donkeys, generously donated to us by Bethany Zaro.

I could not have asked for a more nurturing, caring, and environmentally conscious organization to open their doors to a very lucky herd of therapy donkeys. I look forward to continuing my strong relationship with the Nature Center, where people can share a gentle moment with animals and nature.

BETHANY ZARO



CHIPPER, POPPY & TILLY. MISSING IS CHARLIE WHO WAS FEELING CAMERA SHY

# HIGHLIGHTS

## NATURE SANCTUARY

The Nature Center's 40-acre property hosts nearly every habitat found in New England including natural fields, streams, ponds, wetlands, and forests. There are over 2 miles of trails that wind through our campus connecting community with nature. We invite you to visit and explore our new Discovery Trail, which highlights our ecological biodiversity.

Our trails are the perfect place for an afternoon hike or family adventure.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

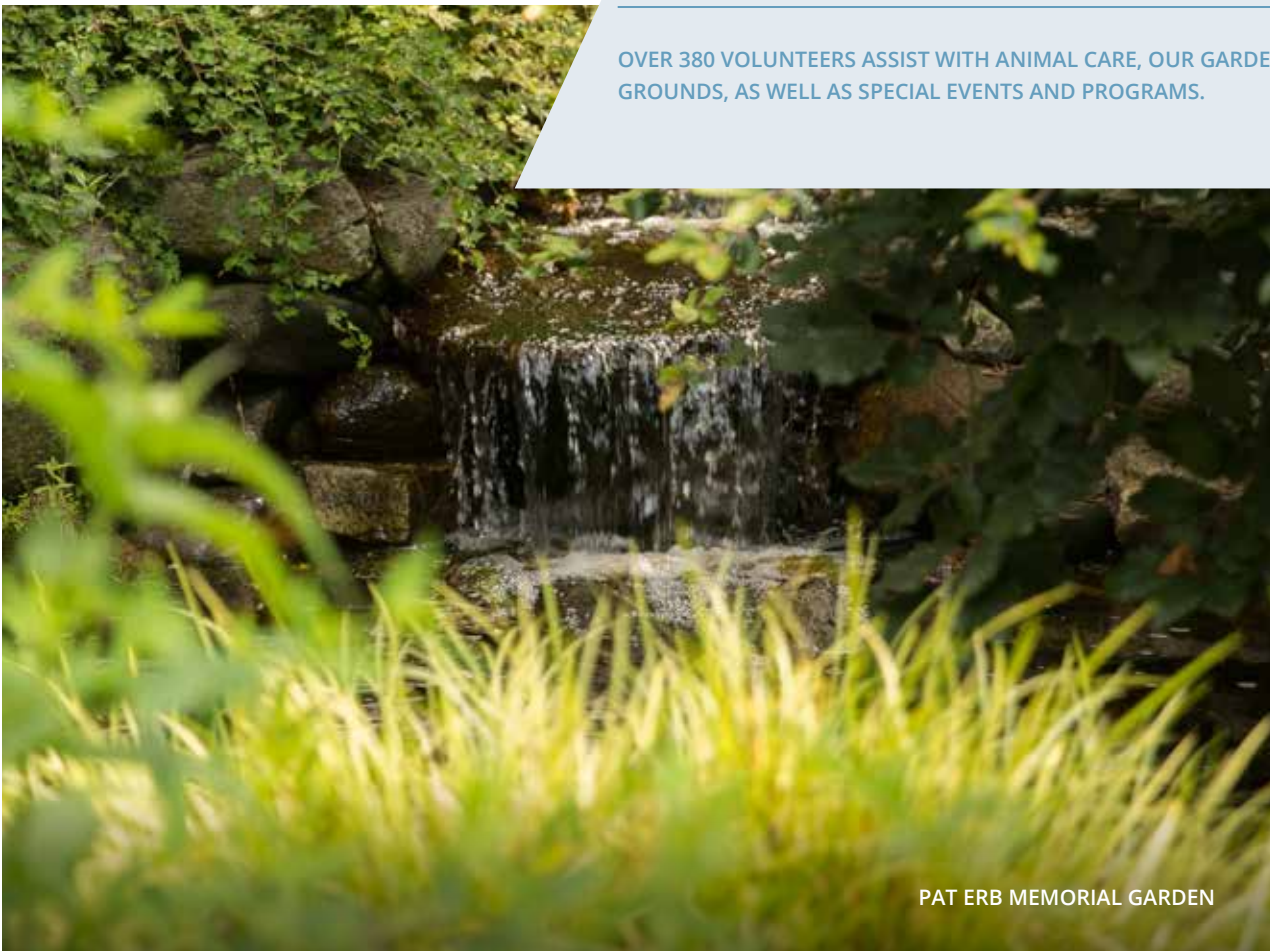
~600

CURRENT NCNC MEMBERS

380+

VOLUNTEERS

OVER 380 VOLUNTEERS ASSIST WITH ANIMAL CARE, OUR GARDENS AND GROUNDS, AS WELL AS SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS.



PAT ERB MEMORIAL GARDEN





## The New Canaan Nature Center is one of our town's extraordinary jewels.

As 30 year residents of New Canaan we have had the good fortune of being neighbors, with our home adjacent to the Nature Center property. When our children were young they loved exploring the woods and trails. In addition, our grandchildren have thrived while attending the Nature Center's Preschool program where they have learned first-hand the importance of enjoying and preserving nature. All generations are benefitting from this wonderful organization.

MARY & FRANK FETCHET,

LONGTIME NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS OF THE NATURE CENTER

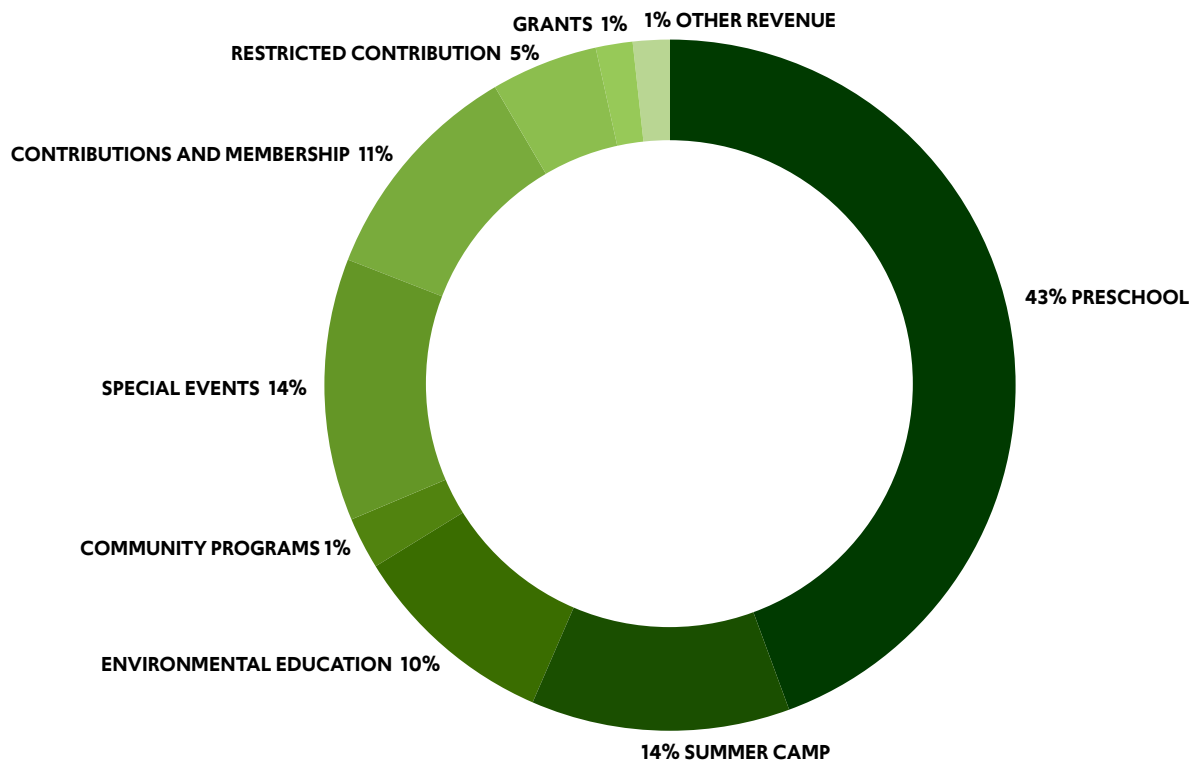
# FINANCIALS

Audited Financial  
Information  
Fiscal Year 2018  
July 1, 2017 -  
June 30, 2018



# FINANCIALS

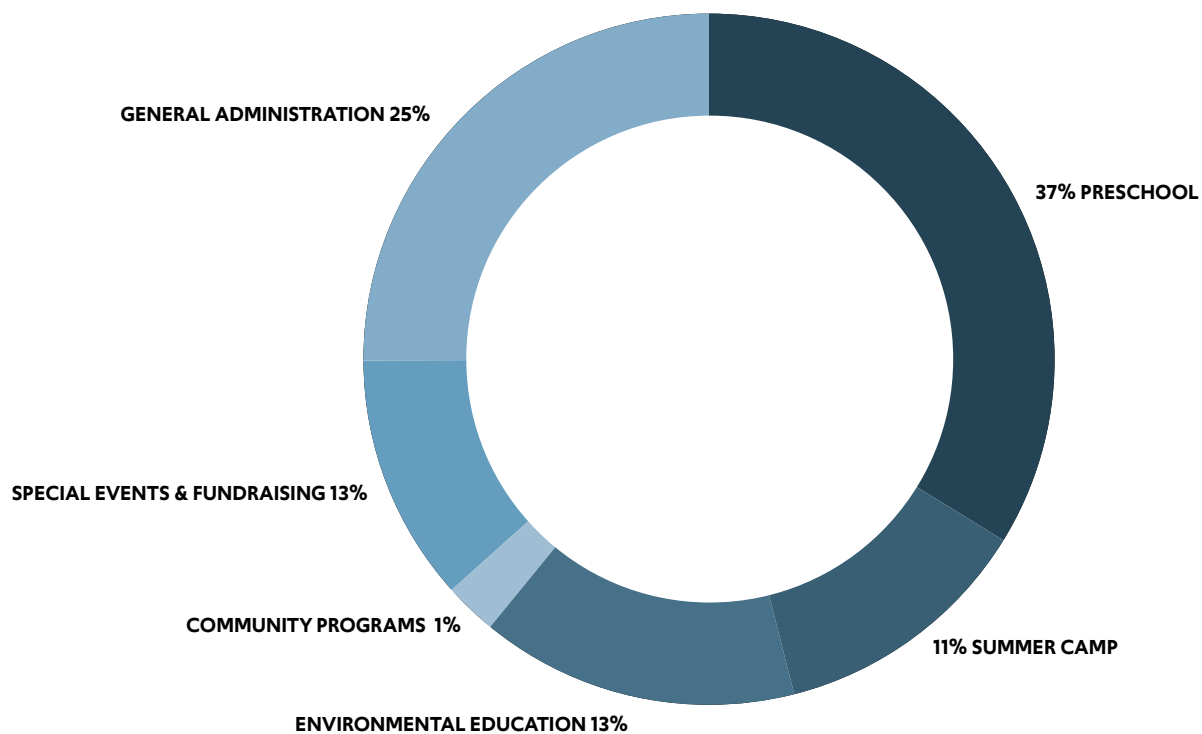
## REVENUE



PRESCHOOL	\$ 648,799
SUMMER CAMP	\$ 216,136
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION	\$ 144,877
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS	\$ 21,190
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$ 211,341
CONTRIBUTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP	\$ 174,066
RESTRICTED CONTRIBUTION	\$ 68,515
GRANTS	\$ 21,500
OTHER REVENUE	\$ 11,121
TOTAL	\$ 1,517,544

# FINANCIALS

## EXPENSES



PRESCHOOL	\$534,981
SUMMER CAMP	\$157,552
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION	\$195,230
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS	\$18,370
SPECIAL EVENTS & FUNDRAISING	\$186,363
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION	\$370,535
TOTAL	\$1,463,031





A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF A HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE WITH NATURE



HEDWIG OUR BARRED OWL



WILLIAM & BRADY DISCOVERING SOME WIGGLY FRIENDS

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“ In an attempt to slow down these beautiful days flying by too fast, I often take my dog for a walk through the New Canaan Nature Center, where my kids went to preschool, made cider, maple syrup, went on night hikes watching for owls. Right in the middle of New Canaan, 40 magical acres are there to help us disconnect from technology and reconnect with nature.

M.E. O'CONNOR,  
NATURE CENTER TRUSTEE

# DONORS

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

A sincere thanks to those who supported our  
Annual Appeal, Special Events, and made Restricted  
Gifts & Grants in Fiscal Year 2018!

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 Elizabeth M. Tobin  
 Pamela & Kevork Toroyan  
 Amy Zinser & Robert Trudel  
 Ulrika Veroude  
 David Vollweiler  
 William Walbert  
 Walter Stewart's Market  
 Andrietta M. Weber  
 Amy Werner  
 Joan H. Wexler  
 Eva Wingate  
 Chrissy Woerz  
 Joshua Wooldridge  
 Chuck & Debbie Wright  
 Torrance York  
 Bethany Zaro  
 Victoria Zbylut  
 Jin Zheng

### CORPORATE, FOUNDATION & MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES

ACK Asset Management  
 Ainsley Design  
 American Endowment Foundation  
 Andersen Tax  
 Asha By ADM LLC  
 Ayco Charitable Foundation  
 Baltimore Community Foundation  
 Bankwell Bank  
 Benevity Community Impact Fund  
 The Briar Foundation  
 Camsan Electrical  
 Community Foundation of New Jersey  
 Barbara Benton Davis Fund  
 Designs by Lee, Inc.  
 Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation  
 Elm Street Books  
 Exchange Club of New Canaan  
 Fairfield County Community Foundation  
 Fidelity Charitable  
 Genesco Sports Enterprises  
 Goldman Sachs Gives  
 Half Moon Foundation  
 Holland & Knight  
 Horizon Foundation  
 Houlihan Lawrence  
 IBM Corporation  
 India Hicks  
 K Foundation  
 Lillian August Designs, Inc  
 Norbert E. Mitchell Co.  
 Morgan Stanley Global Impact Funding Trust, Inc  
 New Canaan Community Foundation  
 New Canaan Music  
 New Canaan Artisans  
 Newcomers Club of New Canaan  
 O'Connor Family Foundation  
 Pfizer Inc.  
 Reed & Acanthus  
 Rick Sillo Construction  
 Rittenberry Design  
 Schwab Charitable Fund  
 Schwedel Foundation  
 Shoreline Painting  
 Sorelle Gallery  
 Thomson Reuters Community Program  
 TisBest Philanthropy  
 Vanguard charitable  
 Wagon Wheel Fine Wines  
 Walmart  
 Walter Stewart's Market  
 West Passage Capital  
 Zumbach's Coffee

### GIFTS IN KIND

Linda Andros & Bill Avery  
 Asha By ADM  
 Kathleen Ashley  
 Barton and Gray Mariners Club  
 Baskin Robbins  
 Benefit Cosmetics  
 Blueline  
 Bon Fleur  
 Bruce Museum  
 Canaan Nails  
 Consider the Cook  
 Earth Garden  
 Ebenstein Family  
 Elm Restaurant  
 Field & Stone  
 Handwright Gallery & Framing  
 G. Albert  
 Genevieve Lehman (RGL Industries)  
 Grace Farms  
 Heather Gaudio Fine Art  
 Anda & John Hutchins  
 Christi Jones  
 Faith Kerchoff  
 Lindsay Burn Landscape Design  
 Little Voice Photos  
 Manfredi Jewelers  
 Masiuk Family  
 Mitchell Family  
 Moffly Media  
 Morse Family  
 New Canaan Police Department  
 New Canaan Selfie  
 New Canaan Ski & Sport  
 New Canaan Summer Theatre  
 Pennoyer Newman  
 Newton Family  
 Nina McLemore  
 Old Faithful Antique Fire Engine Association  
 Organika  
 Gillian Ozkaplan  
 Katie Ridder & Peter Pennoyer  
 Rad Lab  
 Molly & John Reilly  
 Luciano Ricchezza  
 Salon Jaafar Tazi  
 Samuels Family  
 She La La  
 Sleepy Cat Farm Foundation  
 Stacy Schneider  
 The Glass House  
 The Country Club of New Canaan  
 The Toy Chest  
 Thomson Family  
 Peggy & Joe Toce  
 Total Wines  
 Tucker Family  
 Toddy & Tom Turrentine  
 Vineyard Vines  
 Vock & Vintage





BOARDWALK TRAIL THROUGH OUR WETLANDS



New Canaan Nature Center

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