



**OCEAN
DISCOVERY
INSTITUTE**

*young lives transformed
through science*

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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Dear Supporters,

Our community makes me hopeful. We are bound together more than ever before. We have counted on one another, engaged in conversations about race, and reflected on what's most important to us. While each of us has personal values and priorities, I am confident in what we share. We want our students to have every chance to succeed. We want our families to have their basic needs met so that they can support their children's academic pathway instead of standing in food lines. We want our graduates to be seen for who they are and the value they bring. We want science leaders to make the discoveries we need.

Throughout 2020, we inspired each other to be our best. We distributed meals, computers, and educational supplies. We launched live, virtual field trips where thousands of children discovered that they are needed as our future science and environmental workforce, all while sitting in their living rooms. Through open-air labs, K-12th grade students dissected sharks, interviewed scientists, and shared their personal reflections. While the circumstances led to substantial reductions in income, we conserved wherever possible, and you gave whatever you could.

Looking forward, we are more committed to engaging every young person in City Heights and then reaching beyond our community. We will set the expectations our young people deserve. We will provide acceleration rather than remediation, mentorship from science leaders who reflect our students' racial and ethnic diversity, and a learning environment that inspires joy. We will make each dollar translate into greater value through significant impact.

Together, we imagine a nation where all of our young people succeed. We imagine they become the diverse and thoughtful leadership we need. And because of this, cities are resilient to climate change, ecosystems thrive, and discoveries are made that make our time on Earth even richer.

We imagine, but we aren't there yet. I'm grateful to work with each of you to make our vision a reality.



Sincerely,

Shana Fisher

Founder & Executive Director

YOUNG LIVES TRANSFORMED THROUGH SCIENCE

Ocean Discovery provides young people with continuous science opportunities paired with mentoring and the tools to overcome challenges.

Our students believe they can become a scientist, achieve in school, and lead by entering high-paying science fields.

100%

of students are from City Heights, San Diego, an urban, low-income, and racially diverse community

91%

of these young people are eligible for federal free or reduced meal programs

Our students reflect the diversity of our community

53%

HISPANIC/LATINO

16%

ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER

13%

BLACK

14%

WHITE

2%

MULTIRACIAL

2%

OTHER

32,206

program hours provided in 2019-2020 academic year

3,772

young people engaged in the 2019-2020 academic year



THE PROBLEM

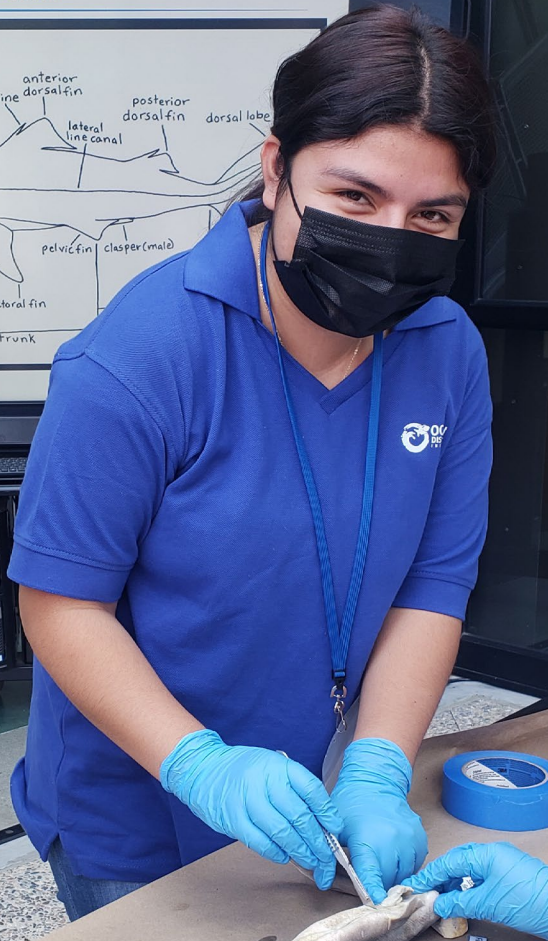
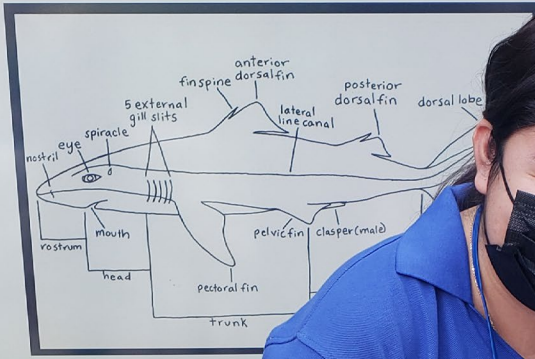
Today, due to societal inequities many young people in our country live in poverty and lack opportunities to succeed.

One of these glaringly absent opportunities is access to rigorous science education. Because of this, young people who grow up in low-income, urban, and racially diverse communities don't believe science is something they can do or that a scientist is someone they can be. This keeps individuals out of high earning careers in science, perpetuating the cycle of poverty and significantly diminishing the chance for great scientific discoveries.



Black, Latinx, American Indian, and Alaska Natives make up **30% of our workforce**, but comprise only **11% of science and engineering doctorates**.

EXTERNAL ANATOMY



OUR SOLUTION

Ocean Discovery Institute provides continuous science opportunities, paired with mentoring and the tools to overcome barriers so that young people unlock their potential.

All programming is 100% tuition-free and provided along a young person's entire development from kindergarten to career.



3,772



32,206

In the 2019-2020 school year, 3,772 students participated in 32,206 hours of programming.

OUR IMPACT

Ocean Discovery alumni break the cycle of poverty and become the science leadership we need to make our world a better place.

Our young people believe a scientist is someone they can be, they achieve in science, and they become leaders who commit to science and encourage others. Their achievements resulted in Ocean Discovery's receipt of The White House's *Presidential Award for Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring*.

During the 2020 calendar year

- 62% of in-school program students demonstrated belief that they can do science and become a scientist, notable for a community where less than 6% of residents enter science and science-related careers.
- 44 students participated in our intensive out-of-school programs had an average GPA of 3.6 as compared the average 2.5 GPA at the local high school. We were unable to measure student achievement more broadly due to COVID-19.
- Through our most intensive program, 90% of participants to date earned a college degree within six years. 77% of these students earned science and related degrees and 42% attained careers in these fields.





OUR PROGRAMS

REIMAGINED IN A CHALLENGING YEAR

IN-SCHOOL PROGRAM

In-School Programs reach thousands of K-7th grade students each year with hands-on science, exposure to science careers and mentors, and field trips to the coast and the Living Lab. Students explore wetlands, tide pools, and canyons during lessons. The instructors reflect the racial diversity of our students, and our students meet scientists who share about their research and academic pathway. Collectively, these experiences inspire our students to see themselves as future scientists.

In 2020, the pandemic challenged us to find creative alternatives to our traditional in-person programming. We launched a virtual field trip program that enabled students in K-6th grade to visit the coast and Living Lab while being at home. In partnership with our committed San Diego Unified School District teachers, we reached thousands of students with programs that kept them safe and learning.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

MS. MILLER

In 2020, Ocean Discovery was honored to present one truly heroic teacher with our Outstanding Teacher of the Year award. Debbie Miller has been a teacher in City Heights for more than 21 years, and 15 of those years, she's worked in partnership with Ocean Discovery.

We leaned on Debbie to help us transition to a virtual learning platform. Debbie worked side-by-side with Ocean Discovery's team to plan, implement, and enhance the program to benefit all our students. Together, we developed a curriculum that taught students about marine invertebrates and ways to protect the ocean. This program made our students still feel that critical connection to their community, even while they were stuck at home staring at a computer each day.



OUR PROGRAMS

REIMAGINED IN A CHALLENGING YEAR

OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Out-of-school programs reach hundreds of students from K-career each year. Students participate in ocean habitat-based after school and summer camps, a research-based leadership program, fellowships, and rigorous mentoring. They are inspired to see themselves as scientists, achieve academically, go to college, and pursue science careers.

In 2020, we had to re-think how we would provide safe programming that would maintain the impact of traditional out-of-school Programs. When the time came for us to make a plan, we asked our students and family members what we could do. The response was clear – families wanted their kids to receive academic support and the chance to be with their friends and mentors at Ocean Discovery. We heard developed our outdoor science camps, where, despite the pandemic, we reached hundreds of K-12th grade students with rigorous hands-on science and mentoring experiences each week. During week long camps, students learned about marine protected areas. They explored the anatomy of sharks, investigated marine invertebrate adaptations, and observed migration patterns of whales.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

YEIMI

While our programming looked very different last year, one thing remained the same – our students' still hoped and dreamed for the future. Yeimi, a 10th-grader in our Ocean Leader program, is just one example of this.

Since she was a small girl, Yemi has always envisioned herself attending a prestigious university. As a would-be first-generation college student, Yeimi works toward that vision every day. And not just so that she can achieve success, but also to set an example of working hard and dreaming big for her five younger siblings.

Yeimi joined our Ocean Leader program in 2020 because she knew she would get the support needed to graduate high school with honors and become the first in her family to go to college. Since starting our program, we learned that Yeimi has a passion for all things DNA, hopes to study Forensic Science in college and is an incredible mentor – in fact, she already got her younger brother to apply to become an Ocean Leader!

We have witnessed Yeimi's commitment, passion for learning, and we can't wait to see how she will make a difference in our world as a science leader.





ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

JAIR

Jair is a full-time undergraduate student at the University of California San Diego. In his 2nd year in college, Jair is gaining the experience he needs to enter the workforce soon.

How has your internship experience prepared you for your future?

I participated in the NOAA Hollings Preparation program where I worked alongside scientists from NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center. I researched the population size of marine mammals, collected data to understand the decline of sardines, and investigated how tuna skin can be used to create self-adhesive bandages. This internship showed me that to make a difference, as a scientist, I need to connect science, policy, and communications. In working with scientists, I built a greater sense of my STEM identity. I found that my passion is at the intersection of policy and scientific research.

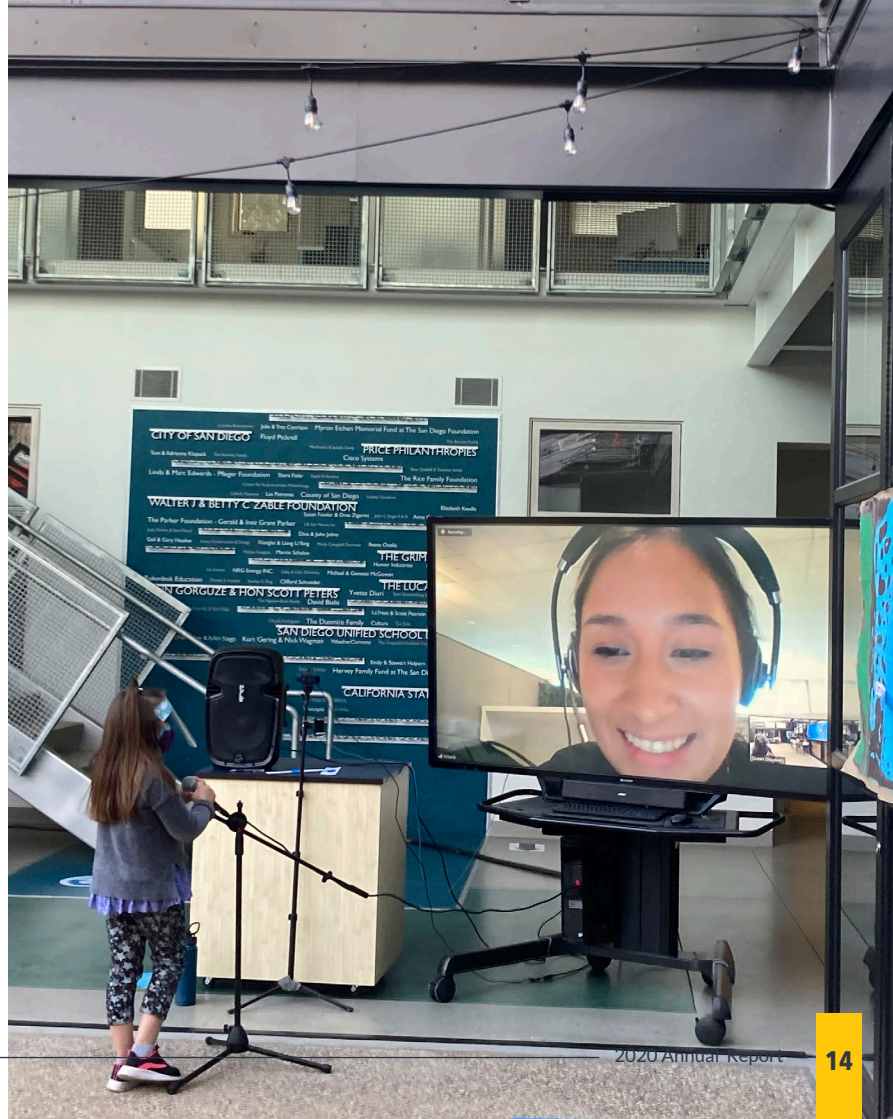
What was challenging about 2020?

This past year, I struggled with mental health. It was difficult to be isolated and away from friends, which made it even harder to focus on exams and coursework. It took time to adjust, but I shifted my focus towards improving my mental health and reaching out to mentors. I found that building a relationship with my mentor meant we are there for each other. We can freely share advice and create a space that encourages us to take risks.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

129 volunteers, including 27 Ocean Discovery alumni and 61 science professionals. Collectively, these volunteers reflected our student's racial and ethnic diversity. Volunteers provided 9,382 hours of volunteer service.

In 2020, we launched virtual volunteer opportunities to ensure our students could still interact with scientist during their experience. This virtual opportunity allowed scientists, from anywhere, to share their career pathway and gave students the chance to ask questions like, “What advice would you give a student like me, who wants to study engineering but struggles with math?”



“I want to change the world to be a fair and just society. I envision a place where there are open minds and hearts, and we embrace differences. And this starts with educating young people.”

ROSARY



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

ROSARY

Rosary is a biochemical engineer at Genomatica and volunteers her time to share her experience and provide guidance to our students. She understands the importance of showing students that people of color will face barriers as they enter science careers and that they can overcome them.

In what ways do you volunteer with Ocean Discovery?

My upbringing allows me to identify with many of the struggles faced by students. As a volunteer, I mentor high school seniors ready to apply for college. I support students in identifying college fit, reviewing personal essays and financial aid packages. I mentor K-5th grade students virtually. During their afterschool camp, I shared my path to becoming a scientist and answered questions about what it means to be a biochemical engineer.

What inspires you to volunteer?

I grew up poor and as an Indian American. I experienced the struggles and discrimination that many Black, indigenous, and people of color face. Honestly, nothing gives me more energy than working with kids. I know that the interactions we've shared have given them hope that the trajectory of their lives can change. It is gratifying to see young people get inspired to pursue higher education and realize that they have unlimited potential to succeed.



OUR SUPPORTERS

Ocean Discovery Institute is committed to serving youth from low-income communities. With the generous and steadfast support of a community of individuals, government, foundation, and corporate partners, we are proud to provide 100% tuition-free programs.

In 2020, our donors acted swiftly and with great flexibility. Our donors helped Ocean Discovery Institute meet the emerging needs of the community. They ensured that our students could stay safe and keep learning. We are grateful for your unparalleled generosity.

During the 2020 calendar year

- Our annual Bubble Up! Gala donors donated more than \$500,000 to support our 100% tuition-free programs
- Our partners at Feeding San Diego donated more than \$450,000 in food donations allowing us to distribute 187,227 meals.
- Our supporters donated more \$32,000 in laptops that we distributed to our students.



OUR SUPPORTERS

IMPACT CIRCLE

(\$250,000+)

Satterberg Foundation
J.W. Sefton Foundation
San Diego Unified School District
Feeding San Diego

INNOVATION CIRCLE

(\$100,000 - \$249,999)

California Department of Parks and Recreation
Price Philanthropies
Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc.
The San Diego Foundation
California Coastal Conservancy
Aqualia International Foundation, Ltd.
Sidney E. Frank Foundation
Anonymous

DISCOVERY CIRCLE

(\$25,000-\$99,999)

11th Hour Racing
Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP
Coastal Quest
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
Harriet E. Pflieger Foundation
New York Life Foundation
Hologic Charitable Fund
AT&T Foundation
Kiwanis Club of San Diego
San Diego Gas & Electric
Jenny & Tony Sweeney
Endangered Habitats Conservancy
Walter J. & Betty C. Zable Foundation

To see the full list of Ocean Discovery Institute supporters, please visit OceanDiscoveryInstitute.org/supporters

2020 Annual Report



“We want Ocean Discovery students to know that they are building a life-long habit of giving back to their community. They are the change-makers, and Ocean Discovery is an outlet for them to make a difference.”

TOM LUPFER

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

THE LUPFER FAMILY

Margaret and Tom Lupfer, along with their family, own and operate Clarity Design, a full-service manufacturing firm in San Diego. Introduced to Ocean Discovery Institute just a few years ago, the family has already made a tremendous impact on the lives of our students. From financial support to in-kind donations to connecting us to new partnership opportunities with the University of San Diego, the Lupfers truly embody the word generosity.

What inspires you to support Ocean Discovery Institute?

We like to joke that we can blame Ocean Discovery Board Member Stewart Halpern for that! A few years ago, Stewart and his wife Emily hosted us at the *Bubble Up!* Gala. We were so impressed with the students and alumni we met. These young people were walking around introducing themselves, shaking hands with everyone they met and even handing out business cards. It's not often that you see young people with the confidence to network in that way. Being deeply involved with other groups working in countries like Nepal, the gala opened our eyes to City Heights' needs. We felt compelled to make a difference locally.

How did the events of the past year influence your giving?

When the pandemic began, we knew we would continue our support – our family believes that giving when it's most difficult is most rewarding. Despite the challenges presented for us and our business, we donated. We had the opportunity to bring 30 laptops to the Living Lab for kids we knew wouldn't be able to learn from home without them. Being there and being reminded of the spark in those students' eyes was so fulfilling.

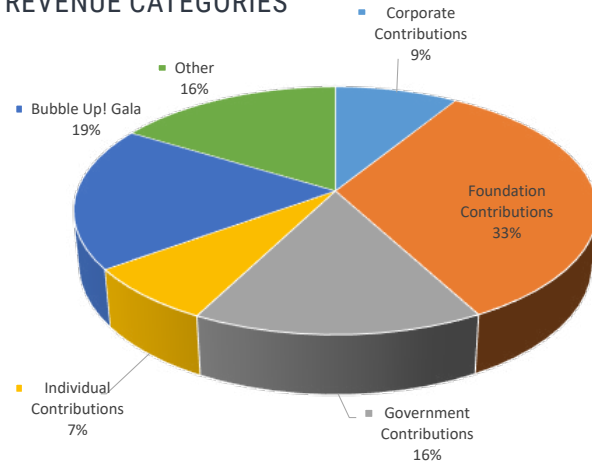
FY 2020 FINANCIALS

By developing a highly diversified donor base, made up of national and local foundations, government agencies, corporations, and deeply committed individual donors, Ocean Discovery Institute is able to ensure the continued sustainability and future expansion of programming.

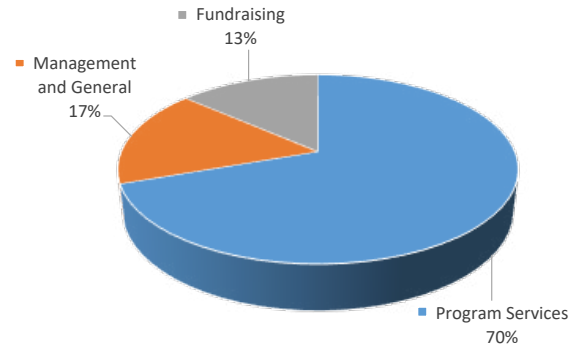
FINANCIAL STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

	FY 2020
Revenues, gains, and other support	
Corporate Contributions	\$ 247,153
Foundation Contributions	\$ 930,682
Government Contributions	\$ 433,820
Individual Contributions	\$ 205,405
Bubble Up! Gala	\$ 524,005
Other	\$ 456,377
Total Revenues, gains, and other support	\$ 2,797,442
Expenses	
Program Services	\$ 1,493,505
Management and General	\$ 359,655
Fundraising	\$ 292,072
Total Expenses	\$ 2,145,232
Change in Net Assets	\$ 652,210
Net Assets at beginning of year	\$ 6,570,830
Net Assets at end of year	\$ 7,223,042

REVENUE CATEGORIES



EXPENSE CATEGORIES





**OCEAN
DISCOVERY
INSTITUTE**

*young lives transformed
through science*



GIVE. LEARN. VOLUNTEER.

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