

FRIENDS OF THE RAINFOREST



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

Friends of the Rainforest is dedicated to promoting a sustainable world by educating and inspiring children and adults to take action to protect, support and expand the Rainforest in Costa Rica

AND BEYOND!!

IT ALL STARTED WITH...

Dedicated environmentalists, Rachel and Dwight Crandell were inspired by the example of the Swedish second grade class that took the initiative to support the Children's Eternal Rainforest after a 1989 visit to Costa Rica. The efforts of the Crandells over 15 years ago have inspired thousands of people world wide to take action to support and protect Rainforest land.

IN 2017 OUR DONORS FUNDED THE FOLLOWING GRANT

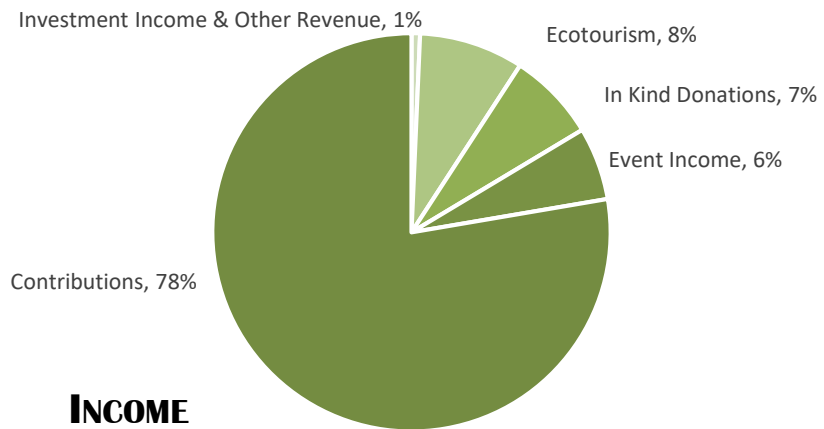
#23 Pocosol Repairs

The Lodge at Pocosol in the Children's Eternal Rainforest suffered structural damage during and following a strong earthquake. This damage has required that the station close down until the funds to properly repair the damage could be raised. Pocosol is an especially vulnerable area in terms of hunting and other illicit activities. By funding this grant, the stabilization of the slope as well as repairs to the lodge itself have already begun! *"I am delighted to report that Pocosol is well on its way to reopening. In an overwhelming act of solidarity, Friends of the Rainforest raised the full \$60,000 necessary*

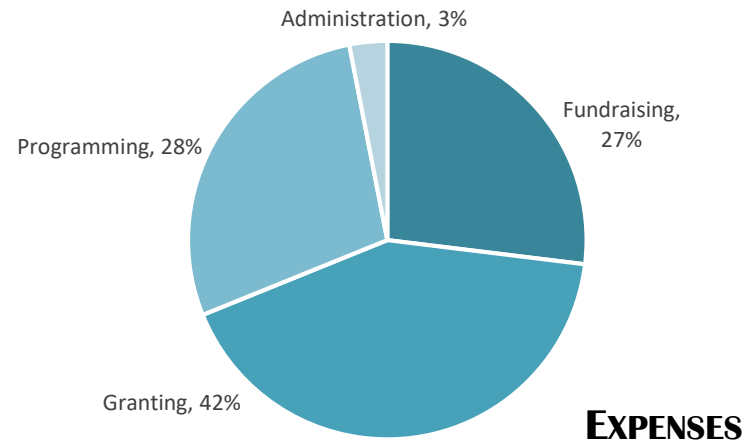


to complete repairs to the slope and building itself. Repairs began in January 2018, and we hope to have the station open for visitation in May 2018." - Lindsay Stallcup, Executive Director - Monteverde Conservation League

2017 BY THE NUMBERS



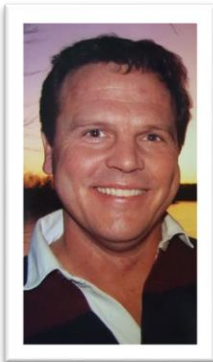
TOTAL INCOME:
\$157,925.48



TOTAL EXPENSES:
\$148,766.62

TOTAL ASSETS: \$808,350

TOTAL LIABILITIES: \$808,350



We are grateful for our **FRIENDS**

Those who support Friends of the Rainforest are like family for a small organization like ours, which is why it is so difficult for us to lose those who so closely embody our cause. It is with heavy hearts that we announce we lost one of our board members in December of 2017. Steve Tomey was a passionate and active member of our board. He was committed to the education of his students, and truly embraced our mission.

Steve was an avid outdoorsman, environmentalist and educator. He spent 5 years at the Saint Louis Zoo, fulfilling a childhood dream of working with endangered species. Steve traded his shovel for a chalkboard and began a career as a science teacher in 1993, earning his Masters in Secondary Education at UMSL. Steve taught in Maplewood and then at Lindbergh High School for 20 years, where he was a “Lindbergh Leader” and inspired hundreds of students to pursue their passions in science and environmental issues. Steve’s mission in education



was to get kids outside to explore the world. He guided more than 100 student trips to the Ozarks, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the rainforests in Costa Rica.

Steve’s passion for education and conservation was a gift, he will be missed.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



What an amazing 15 years it has been!

I am so inspired by the work the Crandell's started 15 years ago, and honored to be a part of their legacy. Did you know that in our first full year as an organization we donated a truck to the Monteverde Conservation League, facilitated funding for a year-long trail maintenance project, provided scholarships for 15 Maya students in Belize, as well as securing donations of a washing machine at the San Gerardo field Station, a refrigerator for volunteers, and finally equipment for a medical center in the community of Los Tornos?

We have changed and grown over the years. Much like the plants and animals in the Rainforest, we have adapted to keep ourselves going and put us in a more favorable position for the coming years. While the Children's Eternal Rainforest will always hold a special place in our hearts, I am glad to see that the change we made to our mission in 2014 more closely reflects the inclusive spirit with which Rachel and Dwight began.

In evidence of our growth - just this year alone we were able to provide a grant to MCL to repair Pocosol Field Station. This serves as a place for locals and visitors to take day trips, where our schools participate in field studies, and as an outpost to guard against the ever present threat of poaching. Amazingly, this one grant totaled more than all of the donations we received in our first year!

This year, we have focused on growing our education program. As we are able to reach out to more children locally and regionally, we hope to increase our efforts by continuing to provide educators with the resources they need to make engaging and memorable lessons on the rainforest. Our founders knew the impact children have on the fate of our planet, and how well the wonder of the Rainforest speaks to them.

In the past year, we have seen an increasing threat to the protections placed on our natural resources. One way you can make a difference is by supporting the organizations that you know make responsible and effective choices with your donations. The other is to support science and ecological education for our children, so they grow up knowing the value of the Earth. Thank you for helping Friends of the Rainforest to do both of these things. We are looking to the future with hope, and in anticipation of great things.

Chelsea Raiche

**Chelsea Raiche
Executive Director**



Our dedicated Board & Staff

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN

Patrick Osborne

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Steve Tomey

SECRETARY & SCIENCE/TRAVEL DIRECTOR

Magaret Eisenberger

TREASURER

John Hoffner

BOARD MEMBERS

Jeremy Crandell*

Teresa Crossland

John Hoffner

Dr. Thomas Lovejoy*

Steve Mahfood

Tom Newmark*

Dr. Patrick Osborne

Dr. Peter H. Raven*

David Robnak

Norman Shore

Steve Tomey (in memoriam)

**Advisory Board Members*

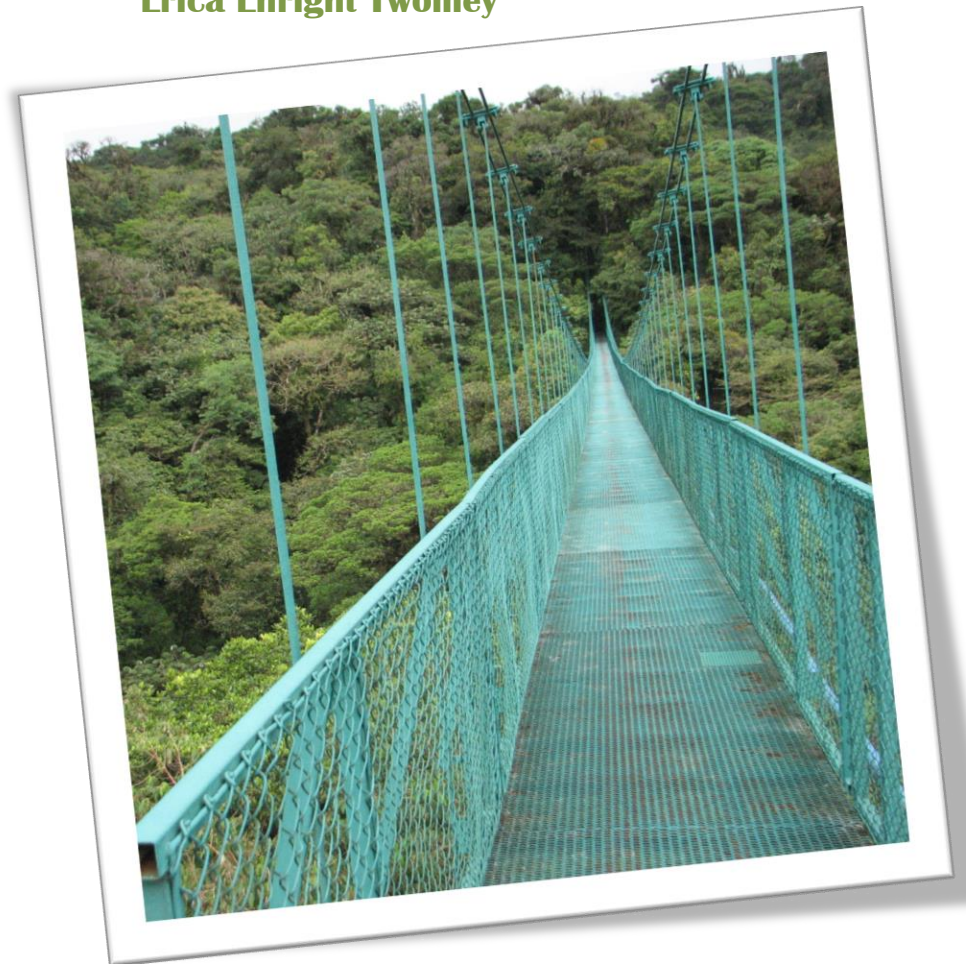
STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chelsea Raiche

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Erica Enright Twomey



Friends of the Rainforest

1324 Clarkson Clayton Center, #312 | Saint Louis | Missouri | 63011

www.friendsoftherainforest.org | 314-941-1257