



— Friends of the —
RAINFOREST
St. Louis, MO

2023

Annual Report

1342 Clarkson Clayton Center #312
St. Louis, MO 63011

www.friendsoftherainforest.org



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 through our education programs, grants, and ecotours.

IT ALL STARTED IN 1987...

... when a group of Swedish school children started a worldwide fundraising effort to purchase rainforest land in Monteverde, Costa Rica, to protect its priceless natural treasures forever. This land became the Children's Eternal Rainforest, one of the largest private preserves in Costa Rica. Our founder, Rachel Crandell, took her passion for the Rainforest, conservation, and education and created Friends of the Rainforest (then called the Monteverde Conservation League U.S.) to carry on her mission of connecting kids and adults to the Rainforest and sharing her love and enthusiasm.

OUR PROGRAMS

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

CONSERVATION GRANTS

ECOTOURS TO THE RAINFOREST

ECOTOUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM





HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM FRIENDS OF THE RAINFOREST!

Thank you to everyone for making this year an incredible year for Friends of the Rainforest. Early this year, we were sad to say goodbye to our previous Education Director, Jamie Kisela, as she moved back home to Washington State, however, we were joined by Tori Green, our new Education Director, who has brought a phenomenal amount of expertise and experience to our team, from board management to grant-writing. She hit the ground running, and we can't express our gratitude for her enough.

Thanks to your help, we are so thrilled to announce that our Crandell-Waller Scholarship program is fully funded for 2024, and our first scholarship trip is set to travel to the Children's Eternal Rainforest in July. This scholarship will provide important financial aid to students who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford our ecotour programming and will help us to further confront inequality in access to environmental education in our community of St. Louis.

Join us in 2024 as we strive to grow our organization, our reach, and our impact. We are unable to do this important work without your help. Your support of Friends of the Rainforest ensures our ability to provide important education to our St. Louis community, important conservation grants to our friends at the Monteverde Conservation League, and important experiences to the explorers and adventures that join us on our ecotour trips.

Eternal thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sophie Arp'.

Sophie Arp
Executive Director



RAINFOREST EDUCATION

IN 2023, WE REACHED...

2,793

kids and adults through our
classroom rainforest lessons

1,747

kids and adults through our
YouTube channel

14,273

kids and adults through
**outreach and tabling
opportunities**

79

learners with our **free boxed
butterfly mounting kits**
distributed to schools and
other community groups

ECOTOURS

IN 2023, WE HOSTED...

5

ecotour trips to the Children's
Eternal Rainforest in Costa Rica

WITH

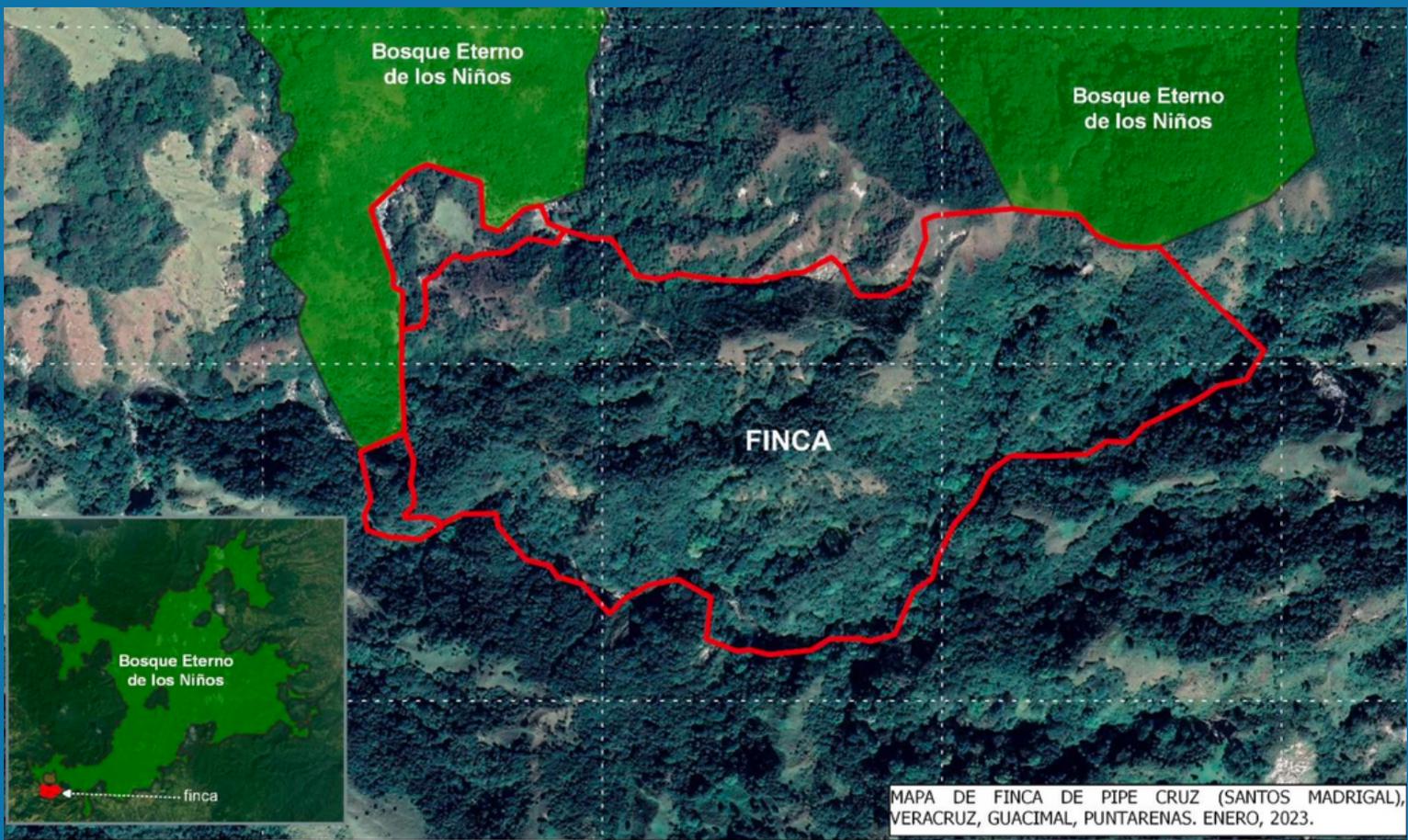
57

travelers ranging in age from 7
to 78 years old, from 5 different
states and 3 different countries



Natural Solutions
Costa Rica

Reconnecting people with nature



Grant #36

Land Purchase and Protection of the Cruz-Madrigral Property

\$93,066.00 to the Monteverde Conservation League

Through this grant, MCL finalized the purchase of the 54.8-hectare (135.4 acre) Cruz-Madrigral property, which borders the CER on the Pacific slope below Monteverde, in the southwestern part of the reserve. The property is about 80% forest, including areas in natural regeneration, and about 20% pasture. Elevation ranges from 1,000 to 1,400 meters (3,280 to 4,595 feet) above sea level.



In addition to being strategic in terms of its physical location, the Cruz-Madrigral property fits squarely into MCL's vision of pursuing ecological connectivity down the Pacific slope in the Bellbird Biological Corridor. In recent years there has been growing recognition among conservationists that the Pacific slope of the Monteverde region requires urgent action. The Cruz-Madrigral property falls within the Premontane Wet Forest life zone, which ranges from 800 to 1,450 meters (2,265 to 4,760 feet) above sea level and is commonly referred to as "rain shadow forest" in the Bellbird Corridor.



Grant #37

Environmental Education in Monteverde, Costa Rica

\$25,170 to the Monteverde Conservation League

This grant helps sustain MCL's Education and Outreach Coordinator position in Monteverde but also funds 24 additional field trips for local Monteverde schools and families and an overnight excursion to San Gerardo field station for 16 students. Additionally, this grant allows MCL to extend their education program to underserved rural communities on the southern border of the CER, serving as a pilot for creating opportunities for environmental education in other remote, agriculture-based communities.





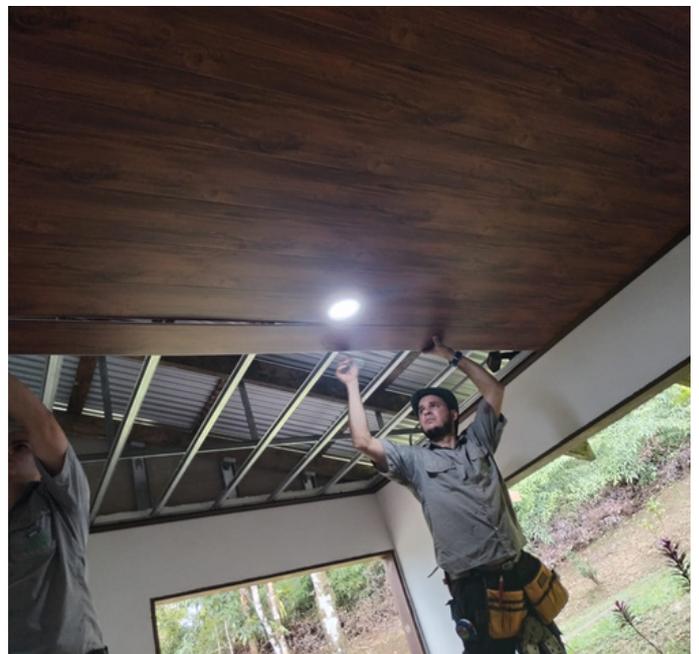
Grant #35 Update

Headquarter Update for Forest Rangers

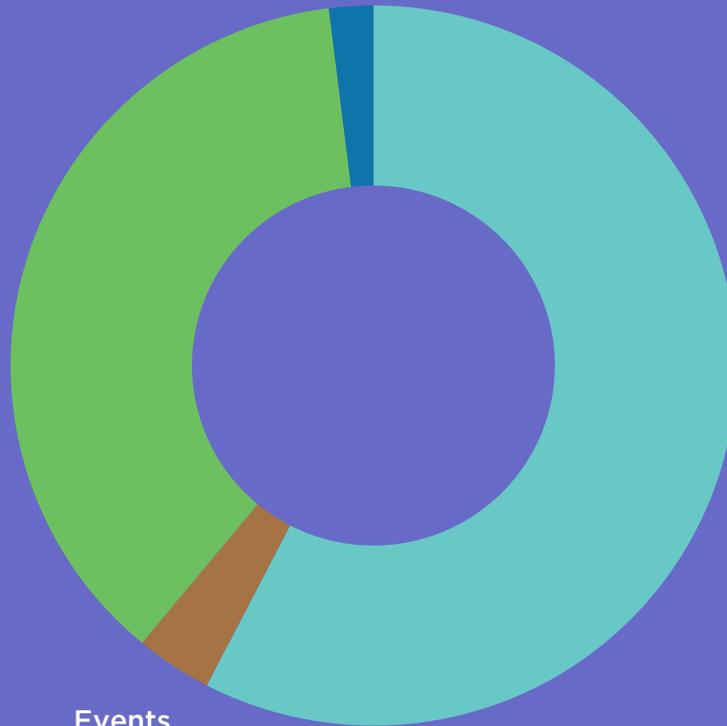
\$11,910.00 to the Monteverde Conservation League

This project was postponed first due to the absence of key maintenance MCL staff members, and then due to other urgent maintenance priorities in the Children's Eternal Rainforest. In the last couple of months of 2023, MCL completed the bulk of the work on the Ranger Headquarters. MCL has now replaced the roof, replaced the electric wiring, repaired walls, created interior divisions for sleeping quarters, installed new windows and painted the interior and exterior of the building.

Still to be completed is the installation of flooring, the construction of a new bathroom and shower, the purchase of bunk beds and mattresses, the construction of a new kitchen counter, and the purchase of a stove, cooking implements, and food storage containers.



Ecotours
\$96,743.00



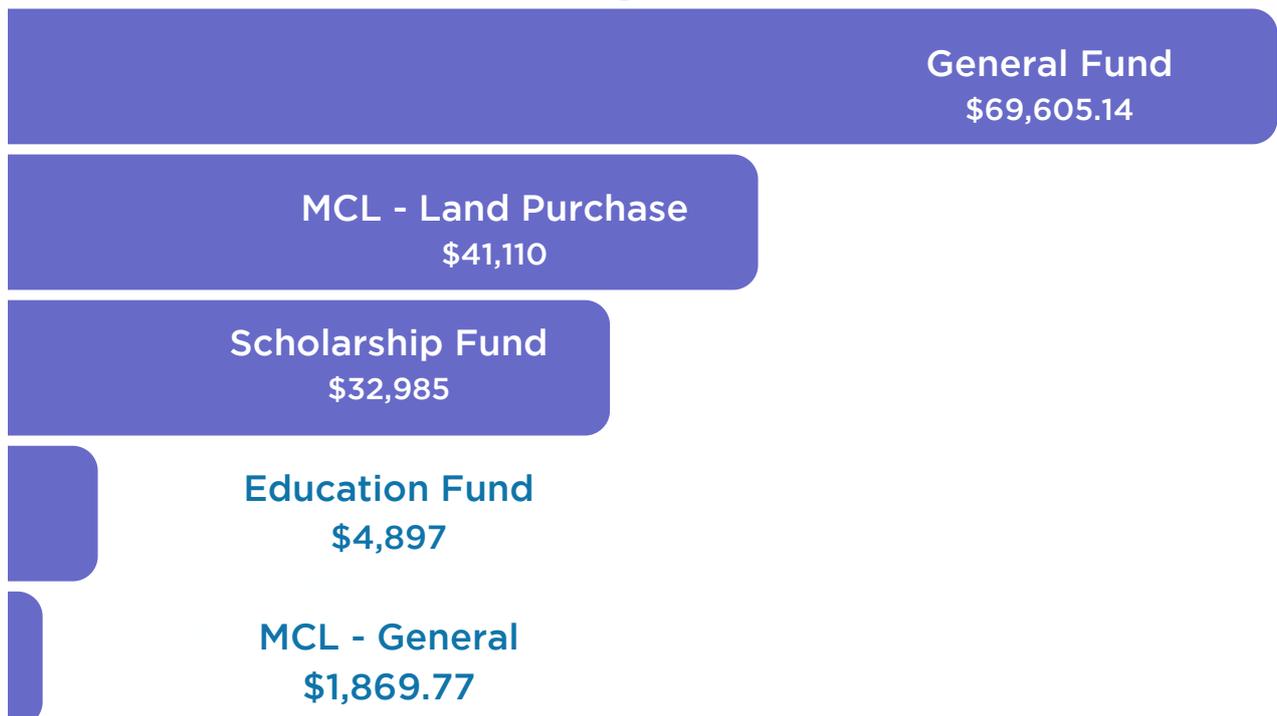
Donations
\$150,466.91

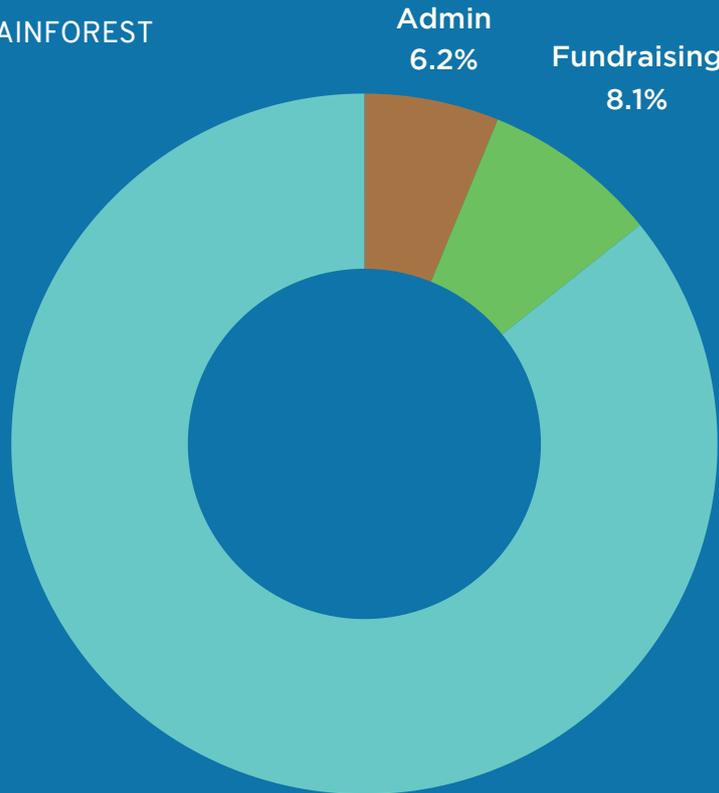
Events
\$8,910.98

Total Revenue: \$266,380.79

FINANCIALS - REVENUE

Donation Designations:



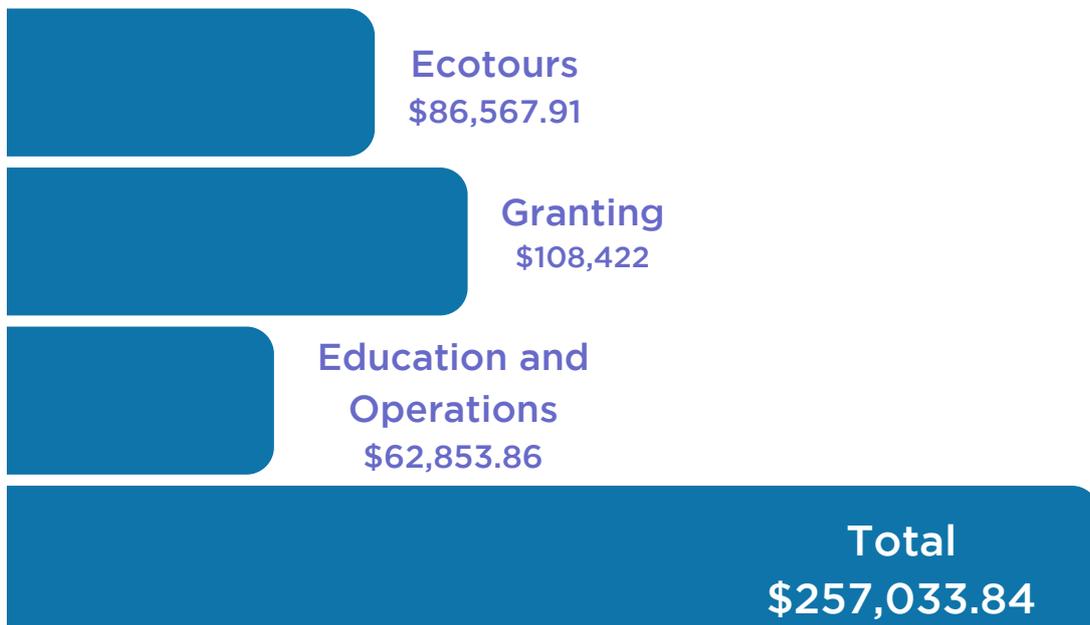


Program Services
85.7%

Total Expenses: \$299,652.82

FINANCIALS - EXPENSES

Program Services:



2023 EVENTS

We love any opportunity to connect with the people in our community. This year, we got our hands dirty at MO ReLeaf's nursery for a tree potting day, organized a World Rainforest Day fundraiser with Earthbound Beer, explored the rainforest with adventurous folks on our community ecotour trip, and hosted our 9th annual Trivia Night in October!



MO ReLeaf Nursery Day
April 8th, 2023



WRD at Earthbound Beer
June 22nd, 2023



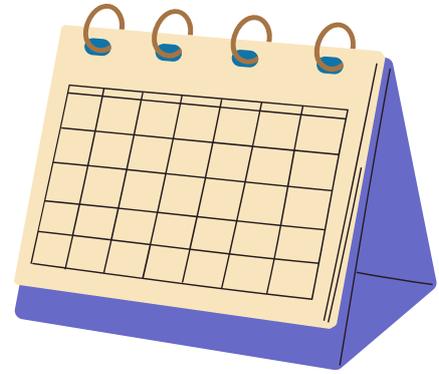
Community Ecotour Trip
August 10th-17th, 2023



9th Annual Trivia Night
October 14th, 2023

Find upcoming events at
www.friendsoftherainforest.org/events

JOIN US IN 2024!



Q&S WITH LINDSAY STALLCUP OF MCL

April 10th, 2024
11am-12pm CDT

Virtual through Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86386486461>

Join us live to learn more about the Monteverde Conservation League, their most recent land purchase, as well as their environmental education programs, and current priorities an organization.

EARTH DAY 365

April 20th-21st, 2024
11am-5pm each day

Muny Grounds in Forest Park

1 Theatre Dr, St. Louis, MO 63112

Friends of the Rainforest will be tabling at the Earth Day Festival in Forest Park. The St. Louis Earth Day Festival is an annual celebration of sustainability and green living in St. Louis!

LITTLE CREEK EARTH DAY

April 20th, 2024
8am-12pm

Little Creek Nature Area

2295 Dunn Rd, Florissant, MO 63033

Join us at Little Creek Nature Area for their outdoor Earth Day event. They will have a series of experimental and interactive activities for the whole family.

PIZZA HEAD DONATION MONDAY

April 22nd, 2023

Pizza Head

3196 S Grand Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63118

In celebration of Earth Day, Pizza Head will be donating 50% of proceeds from their MO 314 Pizza sales to benefit Friends of the Rainforest

STEM STL CELEBRATION WEEK

April 22nd-April 27th, 2024

All Over St. Louis

Friends of the Rainforest will be participating in STEM STL's annual celebration week. Each day of the week will have a theme with an accompanying event, all leading up to the STEM STL block party on April 27th!

GIVE STL DAY

May 9th, 2024

Anywhere

Give STL Day is an annual event that raises money and awareness for nonprofits in the St. Louis region. Stay tuned for our fundraising page.

WORLD RAINFOREST DAY CELEBRATIONS

JUNE 18TH- JUNE 21ST

Zee Bee Market Meet and Greet
7270 Manchester Rd. Maplewood, MO 63143
Come shop at Zee Bee Market, a fair trade shop full of wonderful gifts. They will donate 15% of in-store purchases to FOTR for the whole week.

JUNE 25TH

Earthbound Beer Trivia Fundraiser
2724 Cherokee St, St. Louis, MO 63118
Join us for rainforest-themed trivia at Earthbound beer happy hour and they will donate \$1 for every beer sold to FOTR!

COMMUNITY TRIP TO COSTA RICA

July 22nd-July30th, 2024

Children's Eternal Rainforest, Monteverde, CR
Friends of the Rainforest is organizing a community EcoTour to the Rainforest. Join our motley crew of board members, explorers, and Rainforest Enthusiasts. Dates and prices to be determined.

FOTR ANNUAL MEETING

September 21st, 2024

Location TBD

Our Annual Meeting is open to all. This is a great time to come by and learn more about our programming, financials, and goals for 2025. Mark your calendars - more information to come.

BUTTERFLY MOUNTING CLASS

October 5th, 2024
11am-12pm

Thomas Dunn Learning Center

3113 Gasconade St, St. Louis, MO 63118
Join Friends of the Rainforest for a butterfly mounting lesson at Thomas Dunn Learning Center where you will leave with your own mounted butterfly specimen for free.

SLOTHERHOUSE SCREENING

October 24th, 2024

Arkadin Cinema and Bar

5228 Gravois Ave, St. Louis, MO 63116
Celebrate spooky season with Friends of the Rainforest and a screening of 2023 film, Slotherhouse. The premise? What if Sloths were only pretending to be slow? We're not promising it'll be a good film, but who doesn't love a great bad movie?

TRIVIA NIGHT
November 16th, 2024

Miriam School and Learning Center

501 Bacon Ave, St. Louis, MO 63119
Mark your calendars and get ready for our **10th Annual Trivia Night event**. Trivia, raffles, silent auction, snacks, drinks, and more! More details to come.

All made possible by:





Get in Touch

We are always happy to hear from you! If you have questions about scheduling a lesson, planning a trip, making a donation, volunteering or anything else - just drop us a line!

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Toll-Free: 1.855.941.1257

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Email: info@friendsoftherainforest.org

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