

## A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

On our courses the Leader of the Day helps guide her group, set the route, plan rest stops, and keep up morale. Some days are smooth sailing and everything works to plan. Other days are full of curveballs, with challenge after challenge presenting themselves. Yet with compassion for one another, a spirit of adventure, and a healthy dose of grit and determination, the group makes its way forward.

We too have made our way forward at Outward Bound California. We celebrate 2013 as our second full year of operation as an independent Outward Bound School, part of the National Network of OB Schools across the United States. Proving that our success of 2012 was not a fluke but rather steady progress, 2013 was a year where:

We increased our Student Program Days by 11% to a total of 6,869 overall while continuing our strong record of safety and high program quality.

We invested in our field staff, offering 28% more training and Professional Development days than 2012, and increased field staff pay, solidifying one of the highest retention rates in the industry.

We made strong progress in our fundraising efforts, adding new donors, new philanthropic partnerships, and made significant headway in planning and raising funds for our First Annual City Skyline Challenge—a rappelling fundraiser held in March 2014.

2013 also saw a comprehensive redesign of our local school and community-based programs operated out of our Bay Area base. In close coordination with our partners, we worked to increase the average number of days in the field for our students, serving 15 new and renewed community partners - all while improving measurable outcomes.

Not to be outdone, in 2013 our board and staff began the process by which we will chart our organizational future, diving into the exciting world of strategic planning. This work, carrying over in 2014, will be the foundation from where we gather our collective aspirations in order to build an Outward Bound California that can best serve our communities for decades to come. 2013 was a great year and—spoiler alert!—2014 already looks to be even better.

With respect and gratitude,

M De

Josh Brankman, Executive Director

## **2013 BY THE NUMBERS**

## **BAY AREA CENTER**

37

753

2,885

COURSES

STUDENTS

STUDENT PROGRAM DAYS

## **HIGH SIERRA**



294

3,984

COURSES

STUDENTS

STUDENT PROGRAM DAYS



The total number of miles hiked by Outward Bound California students and instructors on 2013 courses.



The number of "bickies" (calorie dense crackers) that students ate on High Sierra expeditions in 2013.



The cumulative number of years that our 43 returning field staff had worked for Outward Bound!



The number of students who have backpacked in Joshua Tree with us since we reopened this course area in 2013.





"Outward Bound is more relevant now than ever. These days schools are filled with students who are technologically competent but need to learn how to be brave, compassionate, and adventurous."

## Reno Taini, Outward Bound California Board Member 2008-2013

"As teachers we sometimes forget that we're not just preparing our students academically, we are preparing them for life, for future leadership opportunities and for what type of person they are going to be in the world. It's important to take kids out and just have a life experience. Afterwards, a lot of academic goals and challenges at home suddenly don't seem as daunting."

Greg Gallup, 6th grade teacher at Edison Charter

"It's been 20 years since I participated in Outward Bound, and I now run a large business and manage a team of people. I believe the leadership skills I learned in Outward Bound contributed to my early career development, and outside of work to my love of the outdoors."

Megan Ford, Outward Bound alum and City Skyline Challenge volunteer fundraiser

## **MEASURING STUDENT GROWTH**

Comparing students' "pre" and "post" responses to a survey instrument, we found students on average had gained:



# UDVAL'S



# JOURNEY

## **MEET UDVAL**

She is a two-time Outward Bound California alum whose expeditions were made possible through the generosity of donors like you. Udval immigrated to the US from Mongolia three years ago. She faced some tough circumstances growing up in Mongolia and then when she was adjusting to life in San Francisco and learning English as a second language. Her compassion, leadership and commitment to service have found their full expression through Outward Bound.

## **THE SPARK**

Udval got a taste for Outward Bound last spring when she joined her classmates for a 5-day Peer Leadership Expedition in the Bay Area. We offered this course to her school at a significantly discounted rate, given that the majority of youth there are lower-income. Inspired by this first experience, she then applied for our yearlong Youth Leadership Corps (YLC), a merit-based scholarship program which includes a 14-day expedition in the High Sierra.

"There were days when I wanted to quit and go home but the program taught me to appreciate each moment and that giving up is not an option."

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

Udval will be a senior this fall and has been elected Student Body President. One of the big things she wants to accomplish is to win a grant that would allow the school to offer Advanced Placement classes. She has big dreams for her future. She hopes to attend UC Berkeley, Stanford or Harvard and major in business with a minor in science.



## PREPARING FOR ADVENTURE

Udval worked with our Student Services representatives to prepare for this expedition. She asked questions about what to expect on a longer course and how she should prepare physically. She started running, hydrating, and stretching to get her body ready for the rigors of living at high altitude.

## SETTING OUT INTO THE UNKNOWN

With a crew of eight other students and two instructors, Udval headed out into the wilderness. She and her crew carried heavy packs, hiked and navigated long routes, slept out under the stars, worked to improve their leadership skills, and tackled the daunting 170 ft Kings Rappel.

## RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

When challenges cropped up, Udval would always engage the problem head on and help facilitate a solution. She kept up a positive attitude despite the real struggles she felt inside: "There were days when I wanted to quit and go home but the program taught me to appreciate each moment and that giving up is not an option."

## **PAYING IT FORWARD**

Udval has shown a deep appreciation for the Outward Bound scholarships she has received: "I feel that this is a once in a lifetime moment that made a huge impact on me. If I did not receive a scholarship, I wouldn't have been able to take part." Udval is committed to paying it forward. So much so that in March, she courageous rappelled in the City Skyline Challenge to help raise scholarship funds for future students.



FOR MORE STORIES

**VISIT US ONLINE** 

"If I didn't receive a scholarship, I wouldn't have been able to take part."

## 2013 DONORS AND LEADERSHIP VOLUNTEERS (JANUARY I, 2013 - DECEMBER 31, 2013)

Gandhi once said, "In a gentle way, you can shake the world." You, our generous supporters and donors, have done just that through your philanthropic investment in Outward Bound California. We can't thank you enough!

Jim and Katie Hansen

John Kehl

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## **UP TO \$249**

 $168\,generous\,donors\,gave\,gifts\\totaling\,\$14,745.\,Each\,gift\,is\,greatly\\appreciated\,and\,made\,a\,difference\,in\\the\,lives\,of\,our\,students.$ 

#### 2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## **THANK YOU**

## **2013 FINANCIAL RESULTS**

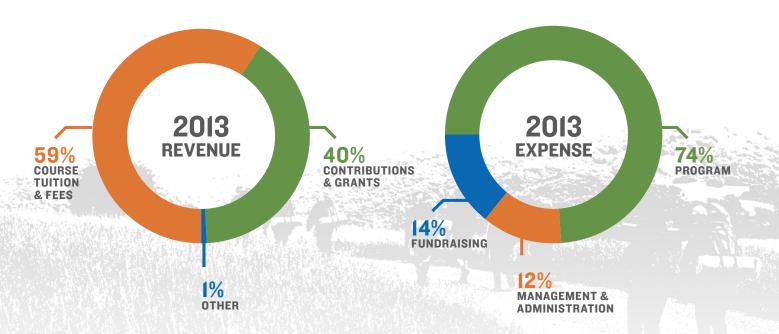
We take stewardship of our donors' funds very seriously. When you make a contribution to Outward Bound California, you can rest assured that your funds will be used for the purpose you intended. We are a fiscally responsible and transparent organization and are happy to share our financial information. Highlights of our 2013 financial results are:

Including net assets released from restriction, we were cash positive for 2013.

Unrestricted net assets at the end of 2013 were \$584,934, up 18% over the previous year. This amount puts Outward Bound California in a place of financial stability in terms of cash flow.

Course tuition and program fees were up 47% in 2013 compared to 2012, due in part to strong enrollment trends and targeted national marketing campaigns as well as local marketing efforts and program partner outreach.

 $Increases in fundraising, management and administration \ expenses in 2013 \ represent investments \ necessary \ to \ support \ Outward \ Bound \ California's \ programmatic \ growth.$ 



Revenues & Reclassifications	2013		Total	2012 Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted				
Course Tuition & Fees	\$930,188		\$930,188	\$632,598		\$632,598
Contributions & Grants	\$382,172	\$240,651	\$622,823	\$597,430	\$167,750	\$765,180
Other	\$9,422		\$9,422	\$30,081		\$30,081
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$423,663	\$(423,663)		\$379,941	\$(379,941)	
Total Revenues & Reclassifications	\$1,745,445	\$(183,012)	\$1,562,433	\$1,640,050	\$(212,191)	\$1,427,859
Expenses						
Program	\$1,232,971		\$1,232,971	\$1,154,743		\$1,154,743
Management & Administration	\$200,397		\$200,397	\$135,929		\$135,929
Fundraising	\$224,093		\$224,093	\$134,597		\$134,597
Total Expenses	\$1,657,461		\$1,657,461	\$1,425,269		\$1,425,269
Change in Net Assets	\$87,984	\$(183,012)	\$(95,028)	\$214,781	\$(212,191)	\$2,590
Net Assets, End of Year	\$584,934	\$68,297	\$653,231	\$496,950	\$251,309	\$748,259