



Building Our Power

2017 Annual Report



VISION

Catalyzing our collective power, Rachel's Network influences social, political, and economic systems to advance a healthy, thriving world.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Kathy Borgen
- Martha Davis
- Barbara Gonzalez-McIntosh
- Ann Hunter-Welborn
- Kef Kasdin
- Laurie Kracum
- Fa Liddell
- Annarie Lyles
- Elena Marszalek
- Janet Miller
- Abigail Rome
- Molly Ross

ABOUT US

Rachel's Network is a vibrant community of women at the intersection of environmental advocacy, philanthropy, and women's leadership. With a mission to promote women as agents of change dedicated to the stewardship of the earth, we meet with cutting-edge thinkers, build productive alliances, and connect with savvy, like-minded women to strengthen our leadership and effectiveness.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD CHAIR

We started 2017 by marching for change on the packed National Mall in Washington, DC, with hundreds of thousands of women from across the country. Like many women that day, our members established their committed to a better future throughout 2017, standing up for each other, for environmental protection, for civil and human rights, and for the values that really make America great.

We are proud to have seen the difference our network of women made in 2017, from supporting a coalition campaigning against the damaging US-Mexico border wall and launching our *When Women Lead* report lauding the environmental records of women in Congress, to elevating women environmental leaders through our Ashoka Fellowship, and more.

We continue to build our power, join with partners, and work to change political, financial, and social systems for a better world.

We often think of our namesake, Rachel Carson, and the courage and tenacity she displayed during her own politically — and personally — challenging times. She inspires us to hold on to what's true and right, and to fight every day for what matters — a healthy world for all. Momentum is on our side and we will carry on this fight into 2018, holding our ground, and protecting our planet now and for future generations.

With warmth and resolve,



Fern
Fern Shepard
President



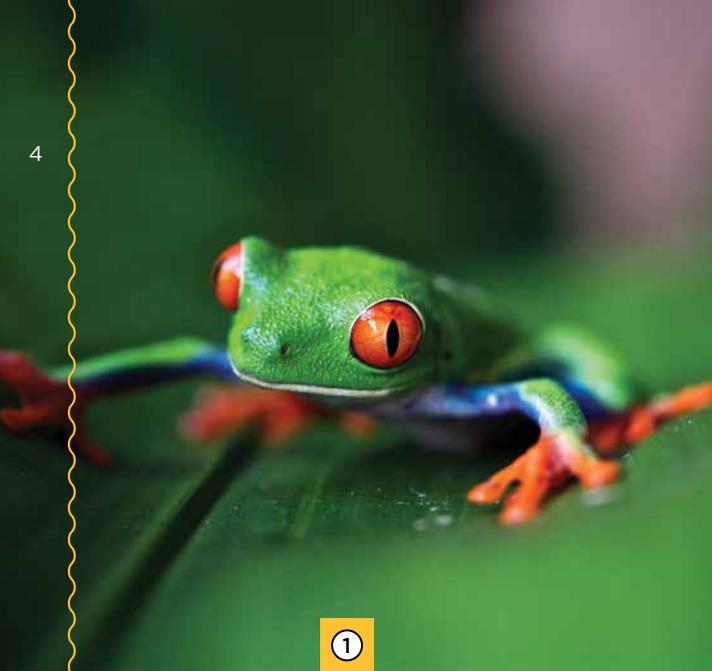
Kef
Kef Kasdin
Board Chair



Unless otherwise noted, all photos are © Rachel's Network. front cover: Tim Marshall; forest: Sleep Music

RACHEL'S NETWORK MEMBERS
MAKING IMPACT

Our members grant an estimated \$60 million annually through personal giving, foundations, donor advised funds, stock, and more. The majority of members allocate 75% or more to environmental causes. Here are just a few of their accomplishments, projects, and accolades.



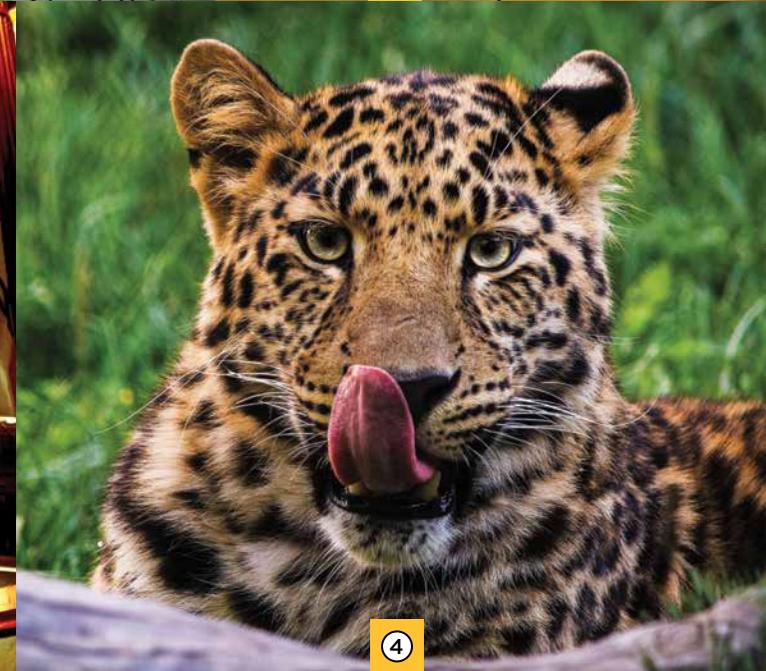
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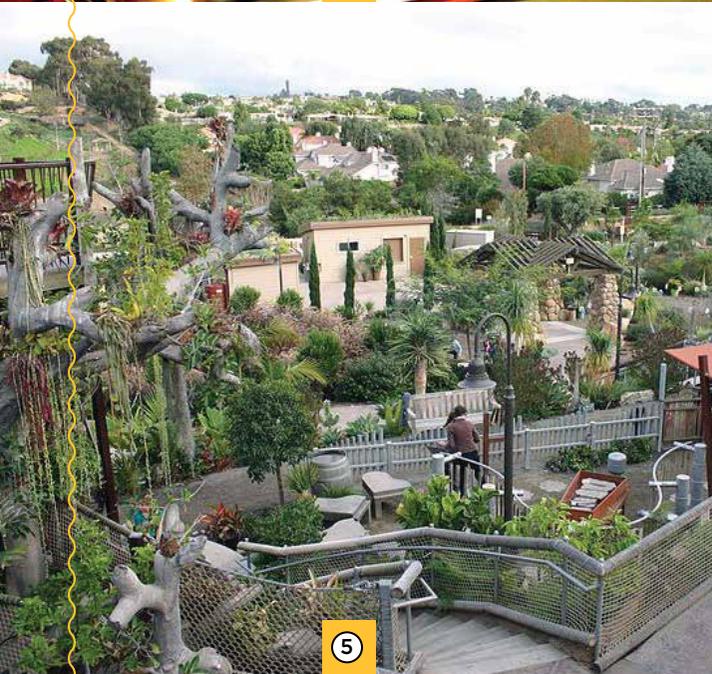
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1 **Kim Bendheim** was honored with the People and Planet Champions award at the Rainforest Alliance Gala for her work to help the organization build strong forests and healthy communities.

Mary Bookwalter was featured in the *Indy Star* for successfully protesting the removal of old growth trees in Indianapolis along with fellow advocates.

Doe Browning pledged \$1 million to launch the Bright Future Foundation's \$2 million capital campaign to build a new home for families fleeing domestic violence in Eagle County, Colorado.

2 **Alison Carlson, Kef Kasdin, and Winsome McIntosh** spoke at the Smithsonian Institution's inaugural Earth Optimism Summit in Washington, DC about success stories in philanthropy.

3 Films funded by members **Alison Carlson** (*The Devil We Know*), **Caroline Gabel** (*The Game Changers*), and **Ruth Ann Harnisch** (*Night Comes On*) were accepted into the 2018 Sundance Film Festival.

Betsy Fink was honored for her involvement in Wholesome Wave at their 10th anniversary celebration. Betsy was an original board member and seed-funder of the organization.

Carolyn Fine Friedman's foundation, the Fine Fund, launched an environmental health initiative called the Results Project which aims to reduce the prevalence of toxic products.

4 **Diana Hadley** was featured in the *Progressive*, the *Pacific Standard*, the *Sierra Vista Herald*, and *bioGraphic* for her conservation work with the Northern

Jaguar Project and her anti-border wall activism.

5 **Ann Hunter-Welborn** won the Paul Ecke, Jr. Award from the San Diego Botanic Garden for her "generosity, vision and exceptional ability to make a positive impact."

Sustainable Princeton, an organization **Annarie Lyles** serves as treasurer, was awarded \$100,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to develop a Climate Action Plan for Princeton, New Jersey.

Elena Marszalek and her daughter lobbied Congress on environmental issues during the Mom's Clean Air Force fly-in in Washington, DC.

Winsome McIntosh announced that ClientEarth, the environmental law firm that she helped establish in Europe, is opening a new office in China.

Jocelyn Sladen was awarded the Citizens for Fauquier County Kitty P. Smith Conservation Award for her "lifelong commitment to rural conservation."

6 **Marty Talbot** appears in a commemorative book about the Student Conservation Association (SCA), an organization she helped establish in 1957. (pictured here with SCA President and Rachel's Network Liaison Jaime Matyas and SCA Founder Liz Putnam)

Lynde Uihlein was instrumental in helping open a new, state-of-the-art Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin health center in Milwaukee.

Ruth Westreich helped fund a study on glyphosate that was published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Frog: Trevor Cole; Sundance: Travis Wise; jaguar: Alexandre St-Louis

Q&A with Rachel's Network Member Lisa Holmes



oysters: Chesapeake Bay Program; ocean: Gaetano Cesseti

Lisa Holmes had an eventful year. In addition to joining Rachel's Network, she accepted an INDEX award in Copenhagen on behalf of GreenWave, an organization supporting sustainable ocean farmers that she represents as a founding board director. She also volunteered for GreenWave at the People's Climate March in Washington, DC, where she helped lead a delegation of fishermen and ocean farmers by boat to the march.

Busy advocates like Lisa find Rachel's Network valuable because the collective wisdom of the group helps members with limited time make better strategic funding decisions. We asked Lisa about her experience with the network.

Which issues do you fund?

When I woke up the morning after the election and saw the headlines, I made an immediate and visceral decision to re-focus all my energy and resources on climate change, particularly through the lens of regenerative agriculture, ocean farming, and environmental education. I also support work around local food access and food justice—always with soil health in mind. My family foundation believes that smaller nonprofits and social enterprises have great potential to positively impact local economies.

“I was immediately drawn to the expertise of Rachel's Network members and the power of the collective impact of such impressive women.”

What inspired you to join Rachel's Network?

I first heard about Rachel's Network through Pleiades (a women's leadership in sustainability network I am involved with) when making plans for the Women's March. I was immediately drawn to the expertise of Rachel's Network's members and the power of the collective impact of such impressive women. I so appreciate the shared wisdom of the members, the Environmental Leadership Liaisons and Advisors, and of course, the staff! Having direct access to expert and vetted information is invaluable in making informed and strategic funding decisions.

Why is it important to empower women in addition to funding environmental work?

I'm constantly quoting the *When Women Lead* study (see page 16)! But it goes beyond environmental issues, of course; it's irrefutable that supporting women and girls results in healthier communities.

Which Rachel's Network event speaker or conference session did you enjoy most this year?

There's no question the most moving speaker was Garrett Reppenhagen from the Vet Voice Foundation; his story of environmental redemption was tremendously heartening. However, it was the Climate Change and Clean Energy panel that resonated with me the most; Advisor Hunter Lovins' championed career working in sustainable economic development gives me hope that environmental protection will ultimately prevail! ■



Funding the Fight Against the Border Wall



After a year of campaign rallies featuring inflammatory “Build the Wall” rhetoric, President Trump began pushing for massive new walls along the US-Mexico border at the expense of the American people.

In response, Rachel’s Network and the Sierra Club partnered in 2017 to draw the public’s attention to the landscapes and communities threatened by border walls, strengthen the coalition fighting these projects, and develop a legal strategy to resist further construction.

“Border walls are built without consideration for basic environmental protections like the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act,” said the Sierra Club’s Borderlands Program Coordinator Dan Millis. “With Rachel’s Network’s help, we’re growing the opposition to both proposed and existing walls that have done so much damage to people and wildlife.”

After President George W. Bush signed the Secure Fence Act of 2006, more than 600 miles of steel and concrete walls and vehicle barriers were built along the border. Public interest organizations, municipalities, Native American tribes, and committed individuals responded by forming a coalition to better resist walls and other environmentally harmful border militarization.

Supported by a grant from Rachel’s Network members, the Sierra Club is mobilizing new constituen-

cies and organizations in the coalition, mounting legal challenges to the procurement process, alerting the media to border wall impacts, and supporting public art exhibits on the wall.

The genesis for the partnership began at the Rachel’s Network Annual Meeting in March 2017, when Member Diana Hadley of Tucson shared the impacts she’s seen at the border, particularly the fragmenting of vital wildlife corridors, and the worrisome scale of proposed projects. Her presentation convinced members that they had to act and they soon convened with experts to learn where resources were most needed. ■

Rachel’s Network continued supporting a number of co-funding projects started in past years, granting a total of \$137,082 in 2017. These projects included:

- *Ashoka Fellow Angelou Ezeilo’s work to help young people of color find meaningful careers in conservation through her organization Greening Youth Foundation.*
- *Our strategic partnership with As You Sow which leverages shareholder advocacy and investor mobilization to target large food companies and curb the overuse of antibiotics on farms.*

“This wall threatens everything I’ve been working for in the Southwest, from jaguar conservation and local economic development, to river restoration. I’m grateful that my fellow Rachel’s Network members recognize the unique and priceless beauty of this place and have stood up to defend it.”

Diana Hadley
founder and president of the Northern Jaguar Project

When Women Lead, the Environment Wins



In the wake of the 2016 presidential election, tens of thousands of women around the country have pledged to run for office. This surge has the potential to achieve victories not only for equality, but for the environment too.

That's the message conveyed by Rachel's Network's 2017 report *When Women Lead*.

Using data from the League of Conservation Voters Environmental Scorecard, Rachel's Network found that women federal legislators vote for environmental protections more often than their male counterparts in both the House and Senate.

Women's average environmental score in the House of Representatives over the 10-year period studied was 69 (of 100) compared to men's 45. In the Senate, women scored an average of 71 to men's 48.

"These numbers bolster the data Rachel's Network has previously reported going back to 1983. The im-

plications are clear: if you care about the environment, you must elect more women to office," said Rachel's Network Board Chair Kef Kasdin.

Climate change, pollution, food and energy insecurity, chemical safety, and biodiversity loss have become urgent global concerns that threaten lives and livelihoods in the US. With women representing only 20 percent of Congress, our ability to address these problems is severely hampered.

On the heels of the report's release, Rachel's Network partnered with the League of Conservation Voters and others to host a women's candidate training following the People's Climate March in Washington, DC. Hundreds of women environmental leaders attended to learn how to run for office in their communities.

For more information, read the full report at whenwomenlead.rachelsnetwork.org.

"Female leaders are working to build a better future for our children and grandchildren in the face of climate change. Putting more women in charge will mean more votes for clean air, safe drinking water and a healthier tomorrow."

Rhea Suh
president of the Natural Resources Defense Council Action Fund



Capitol: Diliff; Rhea: Natural Resources Defense Council

Q&A with Loren Blackford on Leadership and the Sierra Club



office: Breather

After 125 years, the Sierra Club elected its first all-female board executive committee and has a majority-female staff executive team. Rachel's Network Member Loren Blackford leads the celebrated environmental nonprofit as board president and shared with us the importance of inclusive leadership and her organization's vision for the future.

Your board's all-women executive committee is quite a milestone. Why is it important to have women in the boardroom?

Women generally have a more collaborative style. Whether it's nature or nurture, many of us have experienced this. I have heard that women on corporate boards tend to improve a company's financial performance over time. I was recently interviewed for the new book *Better Together* that looks at these and other benefits.

What is the Sierra Club's approach to diversity?

We've been grappling with this for a long time. Our Equity, Inclusion, and Justice principals have evolved beyond narrowly focusing on diversity. Increasing diversity is important but, taken alone, can be tokenizing. Ultimately you need to look at how people are supported and how power is held within the organization and in relationships with partners.



How is the Sierra Club responding to all the new threats to our environment?

We've never seen membership grow as fast as it has since the last election. It's allowed us to create a flexible, rapid response fund for urgent needs. And that's not just for politics — that's also for disasters like Hurricane Maria. We raised over \$1 million for Puerto Rico and are deploying those resources through an extensive network of local members and allies there. We're also decentralizing more of our decision-making, working with groups outside the environmental movement, and standing up for our democracy. We can't address our environmental issues without a functioning democracy.

It's hopeful to see all the civil society and private sector entities step up in the wake of Trump's announcement he was pulling the US out of the Paris Climate Agreement. When that agreement went into effect, then-UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon said that it needed civil society to be successful, and we're seeing these groups activate more than ever.

What's your vision for the organization?

This moment is devastating, but we can't just constantly react to the latest disaster whether it's environmental or political. At the Sierra Club, we're focusing on building long-term power in a way that strengthens the grassroots. I'm excited about tapping into all the mobilizing that's happening — our movement has a huge long-term growth opportunity right now. ■

“We’re focusing on building long-term power in a way that strengthens the grassroots.”

Events That Inspire Action



How do you make a coastal city resilient to climate change? How do you re-wild a river? How can we repair a broken political process? These were the questions Rachel's Network members sought answers to during our 2017 semi-annual meetings in the Everglades and Colorado.

In the Everglades in March, we learned from conservation experts and climate resilience officers what threats coastal Florida is facing from climate change and how big plans to restore the Everglades ecosystem will benefit wildlife and residents.

During our stops at Shark Valley and the Anhinga Trail, we were also joined by Everglades National Park Superintendent Pedro Ramos and others who introduced members to the region's unique wildlife including the long-necked Anhinga, Florida Softshell Turtle, the brilliant Purple Gallinule, and, of course, the ubiquitous American Alligator.

Our Fall Retreat in Colorado also looked at water management, but from the perspective of scarcity.

On an excursion around the Western Slope communities of Fraser, Winter Park, Granby and Kremmling, members learned about contentious water diversion projects and efforts to repair the damage through restoration projects. Advocates and scientists also introduced members to water preservation efforts along the entire Colorado River basin.

Annual meetings like these are bolstered by smaller regional events and webinars with experts held throughout the year. We also raise money after our signature events to support local advocates working on the ground.

A regional event in Arizona and Mexico closed out a busy year and supplemented the work members are doing to fight the border wall (see page 8). Borderlands Working Group Chair Diana Hadley lives in Tucson and planned a three-day event with grassroots leaders working for fairer outcomes for immigrant populations and safer, healthier environments for border communities. ■

“We have to harness all the energy, goodwill, solidarity, and camaraderie from the Women’s March to continue to work together for change. We have come too far to let Rachel down now.”

Kef Kasdin
Rachel's Network Board Chair



NEW LIAISONS AND ADVISORS

At Rachel's Network, we connect members with the top thinkers and advocates on issues we care about and shine a light on women leading the environmental movement. This year, we welcomed seven exceptional women as liaisons and advisors to our Network.

These women enrich our Network by sharing their unique insights at events and in webinars on everything from conservation laws under threat and diversity in the movement, to building coalitions for climate action.

We also bolster their role in the environmental community by amplifying their work and promoting their accomplishments and expertise.

Within the nonprofit community, men still make up the majority of directors of large NGOs. By bringing women CEOs together with our engaged membership, we build support for new kinds of leaders and leadership styles in the environmental community and beyond.

NEW LIAISONS



May Boeve
350.org Executive Director



Seema Janan
Universal Access Project Director



Janis Searles Jones
Ocean Conservancy CEO



Jaime Matyas
*Student Conservation Association
President & CEO*

NEW ADVISORS



Julia Olson
*Our Children's Trust
Executive Director*



Janelle Orsi
*Sustainable Economies Law Center
Co-Founder*



Whitney Tome
Green 2.0 Executive Director

“Networks are a critical way that we all build the movements to tackle the most pressing challenges people and planet face. I’m proud to be a deeper part of Rachel’s Network!”

May Boeve
350.org Executive Director

NEW BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Rachel's Network members serve on the boards of organizations like Defenders of Wildlife, National Parks Conservation Association, NatureServe, Planned Parenthood, Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, Union of Concerned Scientists, Boys and Girls

Club, Environmental Film Fest in the Nation's Capital, International Fund for Animal Welfare, and many more.

Here are the board and professional positions our members were appointed or elected to in 2017.



Diane Brinkmann
Board Director
Project V.E.T.S., a nonprofit dedicated to improving the health and welfare of animals around the world by collecting veterinary equipment, technology, and supplies.



Kim Milligan
Awards Jury
Wild & Scenic Film Festival, the world's premiere environmental and adventure film festival designed to inform, inspire and ignite solutions to restore the earth and human communities. Kim also became chair of the American Rivers board.



Anne Butterfield
Board Director
Wild Earth Guardians, a nonprofit that protects and restores the wildlife, wild places, wild rivers, and health of the American West.



Dane Nichols
Board Director
National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, an organization supporting our marine and Great Lakes sanctuaries for generations to enjoy.



Gladys Cofrin
Co-Chair
EMILY's List National Conference and Gala, the organization's annual event highlighting the work of pro-choice Democratic women across the country.

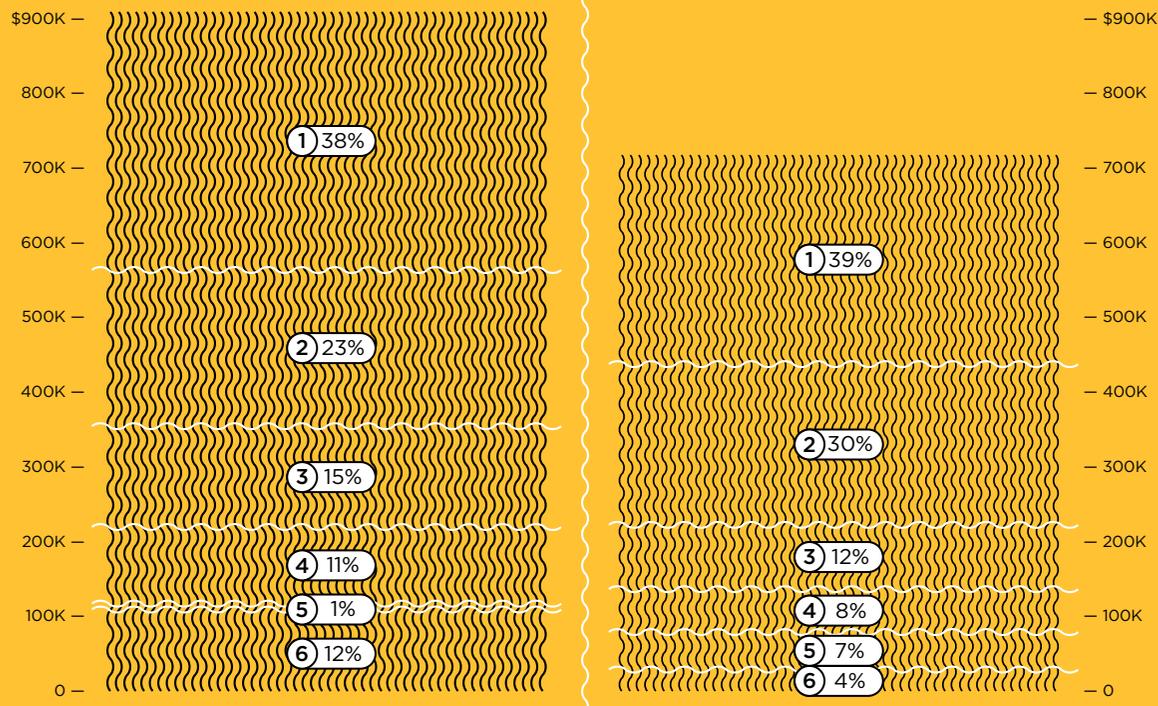


Susan Wallace
Board Director
American Rivers, which protects wild rivers, restores damaged rivers and conserves clean water for people and nature.



Kef Kasdin
Executive Director
Princeton AlumniCorps, a nonprofit whose mission is to inspire and build civic leadership among Princeton alumni across generations. Kef previously served as the organization's board president.

FINANCIALS



REVENUES

① Membership Grants	\$342,829
② General Support	\$210,620
③ Restricted Program Funds	\$137,082
④ Meeting Registration Fees	\$96,120
⑤ Rachel's Action Network Reimbursement	\$15,150
⊖ Unrealized Gains/Losses	-
⑥ Investment Income	\$107,542

Total Revenues \$909,342

EXPENSES

① Member Programs	\$280,671
② Outreach Programs & Strategic Partnerships	\$214,848
③ Management & General	\$86,539
④ Public Relations	\$56,169
⑤ Fundraising	\$49,256
⑥ Membership Development	\$30,189

Total Expenses \$717,673

ASSETS

Change in Net Assets	\$191,670
Net Assets Prior Year	\$928,179

2017 Net Assets \$1,119,849

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP LIAISONS

Nan Aron
Founder and President, Alliance for Justice

May Boeve
Executive Director, 350.org

Keya Chatterjee
Executive Director, US Climate Action Network

Jamie Rappaport Clark
President and CEO, Defenders of Wildlife

Suzanne Ehlers
President and CEO, Population Action International

Katie Frohardt
Executive Director, Wild Earth Allies

Seema Jalan
Executive Director, Universal Access Project

Janis Searles Jones
CEO, Ocean Conservancy

Annie Leonard
Executive Director, Greenpeace USA

Jaime Matyas
President and CEO, Student Conservation Association

Stephanie K. Meeks
President and CEO, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Theresa Pierno
President and CEO, National Parks Conservation Association

Rhea Suh
President, Natural Resources Defense Council

CIRCLE OF ADVISORS

Rev. Sally Bingham
President and Founder, Interfaith Power & Light; President, The Regeneration Project

Dr. Helen Caldicott
Founder, Physicians for Social Responsibility; Founding President, Beyond Nuclear

Paula DiPerna
Special Advisor, Carbon Disclosure Project - North America

Dr. Sylvia A. Earle
Oceanographer and Explorer-in-Residence; National Geographic Society

Kathryn S. Fuller
Chair, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution

Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE
Founder, Jane Goodall Institute and Gombe Stream Research Center

Hazel Henderson
Founder, Ethical Markets Media, LLC

Hunter Lovins
Founder and President, Natural Capitalism Solutions

Carolyn Merchant
Professor of Environmental History, Philosophy, Ethics, UC-Berkeley

Julia Olson, Esq.
Executive Director & Chief Legal Counsel, Our Children's Trust

Janelle Orsi, Esq.
Executive Director & Co-Founder, Sustainable Economies Law Center

Nora Pouillon
Author; Chef, and Owner, Restaurant Nora, Washington, DC

Carolyn Raffensperger
Executive Director, Science and Environmental Health Network

Vikki Spruill
President and CEO, Council on Foundations

Whitney Tome
Executive Director, Green 2.0

Debbie Walsh
Director, Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University

Alice Waters
Author; Chef and Owner, Chez Panisse Restaurant, Berkeley, California

Terry Tempest Williams
Author, Naturalist, and Conservationist

STAFF

Mit Allenby
Operations Manager

Anna Card
Program Manager

Ariana Carella
Network Engagement Director

Erica Flock
Communications Manager

Fern Shepard
President



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