

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018



*Photo credit: Eh Ler Tha*



**OUTDOOR  
OUTREACH**



## A LETTER from Ben

Deven is 6'3" with unruly brown hair and a goofy smile. His energy is infectious and he constantly reminds us of our purpose at Outdoor Outreach. A former participant, Deven is now an employee at OO, a college student, and a supportive friend and family member. His compassion and empathy for others and his strong sense of self are apparent in how he communicates and carries himself. He understands the power of his words and actions, and leads by example.



Life has been a hard climb for Deven. From where he stands today, it's clear to see how far he's come. Folks like Deven play critical roles in our programs and operations. They connect our youth participants to possibility, while modeling strong values and the importance of building supportive relationships. Deven and our student participants ground us in the purpose of our work. Above all, they show us what is possible and inspire us to work harder every day.

As you read Deven's story, I invite you to reflect on the impact you are having on young people in our community. Your support helps the youth we serve to build resilience in the face of challenges and confidence in their power to make a difference. This past year, we served more than 1,700 individual youth—each with their own story of challenge, accomplishment, and belonging.

**Thank you for your commitment to youth like Deven.**  
**Your support continues to change lives.**

In Gratitude,

*Ben*

## 2018 NUMBER OF PROGRAMS BY TYPE



## TOTAL INDIVIDUAL YOUTH SERVED IN 2018

# 1,738

## 2018 PROGRAM PARTNERS

Barrio Logan College Institute  
Blue Heart Foundation  
Boys and Girls Club of Imperial County  
California Community Foundation-  
Warren Christopher Scholars  
Casa de Amistad  
Chaparral High School  
Community Housing Works  
County of San Diego Department of  
Parks and Recreation- Lakeside Teen  
Center and Spring Valley Teen Center  
Crawford High School  
Creative Performing Media Arts Charter  
School

e3 Civic High School  
El Cajon Valley High School  
Encuentros Leadership  
Escondido High School  
Fancy Teen Girls  
Girls Rising  
Gompers Preparatory Academy  
Good Neighbor Project  
High Tech Elementary Point Loma  
High Tech High  
Ingenuity Charter School  
Jerusalem Foundation Youth Exchange  
Just In Time For Foster Youth  
Juvenile Court Community Schools

Keiller Leadership Academy  
King Chavez Community High School  
Lincoln High School  
Mesa Rim Youth Climbing Team  
Monarch School  
Monte Vista High School  
Morse High School  
Mount Miguel High School  
National Conflict Resolution Center  
North County Lifeline - Crown Heights  
O'Farrell Charter School  
Palomar High School  
San Diego County District Attorney -  
CARE Community Center

San Diego Show Allstars  
San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy  
San Pasqual Academy  
SAY San Diego- O'Farrell Family Services  
Simon Fraser University and UCSD  
School of Medicine  
South Bay Community Services -  
Granger MS, Hilltop MS, EXCEL



# DEVEN'S STORY:

## *A participant's impact*

Your support gives teens like Deven the chance to live by a new set of values. Values that help build resilience in the face of challenges. Values that have given Deven confidence in his power to make a difference.

**Q: Can you tell me about your first trip with Outdoor Outreach, and what was it like doing something completely different from what your friends and family were doing?**

A: "My first trip with Outdoor Outreach felt like a great opportunity. One that I rarely had growing up. My dad left when I was 2 years old. My mom did everything she could to support us but she was a single parent who was always working job to job, trying to make ends meet. We didn't have much family time or quality outdoor time growing up because my mom's focus was really just on survival."

"I've always had a love for the outdoors but we never really had the transportation to get to parks or public beaches. I was a real couch potato. When I went on my first stand up paddle boarding trip with OO as a participant at Mt. Miguel Highschool, I felt like I was walking on water. It was so much better than spending my time indoors."

**Q: Can you tell me a little bit about where you grew up and the family system that raised you?**

A: "Alcoholism runs in my family and I was around alcoholic family members a lot throughout my childhood. My father passed away when I was 13, and that's when I started drinking regularly. I thought it was normal to drink whenever, and to excess. Drinking really became my coping mechanism for grieving the loss of my father."



Deven and Refrain J.  
Tijuana River Valley

"Before [Outdoor Outreach], I never liked to express my feelings. I liked to bottle things up inside and not to show that there were things I was struggling with in my life. Even when I was a participant at Outdoor Outreach, I didn't really open up on that level. Alcohol was still my solution for dealing with my feelings."

**Q: What is the biggest change you've seen in yourself throughout your time with Outdoor Outreach?**

A: "Ultimately I've experienced so much growth through my work with Outdoor Outreach. I'm able to see potential in myself. It's helped me get back into school, and given me new motivation to grow so that I can succeed both here in my role at OO and out there in the world. I finally feel connected to something that I love to do and that I'm actually really passionate about."

"In 2018, Outdoor Outreach connected me to mentors who provided me with resources to help with substance abuse, and to find coping tools. When I finally opened up, it opened my eyes to what I'm capable of, and the potential in sharing that with the youth that we work with who have grown up in similar situations."

**Q: Where do you hope to go from here? What are your goals for the future?**

A: "I love sharing the connection that Outdoor Outreach has given me to the outdoors. I think when others see that anything is possible, they can see opportunities for their lives they may not have seen before. Getting pushed out of comfort zones and getting connected to new opportunities creates endless possibility for growth."

"If I can spread the positivity that I've found here to the youth that we serve, that's really important. Being a positive role model in a safe environment has a big impact on these youths' lives. Since I can relate to youth that are going through similar experiences that I had, I can really make that connection with them. I think I can really be a positive example."

*By giving to Outdoor Outreach in 2018, you made possible so many success stories like Deven's. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of the youth that we serve.*

### DEVEN'S YEAR IN REVIEW



**1000+**

# of hours Deven worked  
for Outdoor Outreach 2018



**919**

# of youth Deven  
worked with in 2018



**87**

# of trainings and trips  
Deven instructed

### FULL-TIME STAFF

Ben McCue  
Mallory Thorne  
Molly Morelli  
Matt Smith  
Dustin Panches  
Stephanie Halper

Kaylie Erickson  
Stephanie Ramos  
Sunny Chang  
Luis Perez  
Sam Eller  
Laura Guerrero

Josh Osias  
Megan Sunderland  
Lauren Banovz  
Candace Chu (former)  
Hanna Gneiting (former)  
Kim Stolkowski (former)

Lucy Alejos (former)  
Andrew Paul (former)  
Joe McLeod (former)  
Cuylla Coogan (former)



# STAR'S STORY:

## *A donor's impact*

Star Soltan Lerach is a lover of the natural world, a mentor to local San Diego youth, and a huge proponent of the power of the outdoors. A native of San Diego herself, Star knows firsthand the impact that the outdoors can have on someone's life—which is why she has supported Outdoor Outreach, not only as a donor, but through her time and talent.

Last summer, while Star was working with Way, a local refugee student and mentee, she realized that his new high school, e3 Civic High, was lacking activities and opportunities that Outdoor Outreach could fulfill. Way had been a part of Outdoor Outreach's Adventure Club at his previous school and expressed how much he wished e3 had its own Adventure Club. She immediately jumped at the opportunity to fill the need, and in 2018, in partnership with Outdoor Outreach, she funded the Outdoor Leadership and Education class at e3 Civic High. Thanks to Star's support, youth like Way now have the opportunity to join this class and lean into their passion for the outdoors.

The adventures continue this spring as Star is taking her three mentees on a trip of a lifetime to Yellowstone National Park. For Star, authenticity, respect and passion are key components of her mentorship philosophy, and why she will continue to support our work here at Outdoor Outreach.

*"You can be yourself, respect yourself, each other and the outdoors. And, integrating passion can equal an ability to conquer and achieve anything."*

When Star isn't off conquering today's challenges and bettering her community, you can find her hiking Torrey Pines trails, where she finds her sense of peace and calm.



*Mountain Biking with e3 Civic High Students  
Tijuana River Valley*

*Photo Credit: Eh Ler Tha*

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The San Diego Foundation  
US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

## \$100,000 +

Legler Benbough Foundation

## 2018 FINANCIALS

### 2018 Revenue

Individual	\$214,899
Government	\$187,926
Foundation	\$776,123
Corporate	\$179,636
Church-Civic	\$530
Board	\$16,333
Fee for Service	\$237,817
In-kind Donations	\$55,382
Miscellaneous	\$9,279
Gain/Loss on Assets	\$0
Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$83,680
<b>TOTAL**</b>	<b>\$1,761,605</b>

### 2018 Expenses

Operating	\$469,206
Program	\$1,098,762
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,567,967</b>
<b>2018 Assets</b>	
Fixed Assets	\$66,742
Cash	\$495,538
Other Current Assets	\$14,754
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$577,035</b>
<b>2018 Liabilities</b>	
Current liabilities	\$19,771
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$557,264</b>

\* These figures have not yet been reviewed by our accountant. For our most up to date year-end financials, please visit [www.outdooroutreach.org](http://www.outdooroutreach.org)

\*\* \$73,425 temporarily restricted for 2019 program deliverables