

# NATURE 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

## 2015 was an exceptional year for Thorne Nature Experience.

Thorne connected more than 12,500 youth to nature through its Field Trip and In-School programs for Front Range elementary schools and Thorne's Summer Camp in Boulder, Littleton, and Longmont. For the seventh year in a row, Thorne's summer camp reached a record number of participants and awarded a record number of scholarships. Beyond the delivery of programs, in compliance with Thorne's new strategic plan, significant investments were made in strengthening the Thorne employee and volunteer/intern team and growing collaborative efforts with like-minded organizations. The most significant outcome of this work was the establishment of a new





multi-organization program, Nature Kids/Jovenes de la Naturaleza Lafayette (NKJN). Thorne established a 25 organization collaborative and secured up to \$5 million in funding to provide backyard to backcountry, pre-k to high school environmental education and outdoor recreation experiences for low-income and Latino youth living in Lafayette. Looking to the future, collaborative efforts like NKJN offer Thorne the capacity to meet its mission more efficiently by engaging other organizations as partners in building Earth stewardship by connecting youth to nature. Of course, none of Thorne's 2015 accomplishments would have been possible without the generous support of Thorne's contributors, the leadership of Thorne's Board of Trustees, the guidance and wisdom of Thorne's Founder, Dr. Oakleigh Thorne II, and the hard work and dedication of Thorne's staff, led by Executive Director Keith Desrosiers.

# Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Assets

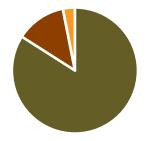
Fiscal Year 2015 (Ended 12/31/15)

#### **OPERATING REVENUES**

| Earned Income 58%         | \$505,197 |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Foundation 13%            | \$113,310 |
| Government 8%             | \$66,857  |
| Corporate 5%              | \$44,351  |
| Individual 10%            | \$89,343  |
| In-Kind Support 3%        | \$28,872  |
| Special Events 2%         | \$20,702  |
| Endowment Distribution 1% | \$8,649   |
| TOTAL                     | \$877.281 |

#### **OPERATING EXPENDITURES**

Programs 84% \$683,189 \$103,315 Fundraising 13% Administration 3% \$26,237 TOTAL \$812,741



Operating Revenue Less Expenditures \$64,540 Change In Perm. Restricted Assets (endowment) \$ (13,671) Change In Temp. Restricted Assets \$47,059

**Net Assets Start of Fiscal Year** \$833,106 **Net Assets End of Fiscal Year** \$931,034

## **Program Report**

School Year 2014/15 and Summer 2015



#### IN-SCHOOL PROGRAM

The In-School Program reached 6,670 elementary students (100% increase since 2009/10 School Year). The Program expanded students' knowledge in the areas of science and literacy through a three class series of lessons that involved interactive explorations, inquiry-based experiments, scientific instruments and specimens, and writing a picture book. A twelve-week After-School Program was offered at six low-income schools.



#### SUMMER CAMP

Thorne's summer camp reached 2,384 youth through field-based classes for kids ages 3-15 (121% increase since 2010). Popular classes like Mud Mucking, At Home in the Woods, and Bird Banding utilized local prairie grasslands, evergreen forests, and wetland habitats as a classroom and enabled youth to connect with and learn about nature.





### FIELD TRIP PROGRAM

The Field Trip Program engaged 1,735 fourth graders in a day-long field trip to the 45-acre Sombrero Marsh Environmental Education Center (34% increase since 2009/10 School Year). At the Marsh, students learned about wetland ecology while hiking on boardwalks, viewing birds from a bird blind, and undertaking experiments in a laboratory.

### **2015 PROGRAM FACTS**

- 93% of parents felt their child is more connected with nature after attending Thorne's summer camp
- 17% of Thorne's summer camp participants received tuition assistance in 2015 totaling \$112,372 (more than 7 times the amount awarded in 2010).
- 92% of teachers felt the In-School Program had "a lot of value" in correlation to school district science standards (7% "some value").
- 59% of In-School Program students participated in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program and 57% were students of color.

# 2015 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

