### **Programs that Protect**

Conservation Works' programs provide opportunities for youth and community members to take action to plant habitat, conserve water, recycle waste, and support sustainable agriculture and communities.



## Highlights of 2019

Conservation Works successfully continued our major programs: Bee Patches, Worm Wizards of Waste, Rain Catchers, Fire Resiliency, and Cultivating Commerce. In addition, Conservation Works focused on a new multi-program area project serving under represented communities (Project Oasis), as well as launched our first fire resiliency program (Willits Watershed).

### **Project Oasis**

This project presents STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) training to underserved youth through learning essentials of pollinator habitat,

## **Programs that Conserve**



design of water conservation systems, and use of community science mobile applications. The youth designed and constructed a bountiful habitat garden to be drip irrigated by a rooftop rainwater collection and storage system while learning principles of ecology and conservation, and turned a barren landscape into a beautiful, sustainable pollinator habitat.

#### Willits Watershed

There were two goals for the first funded year of this now 2-year project: (1) re-establish native vegetation necessary for a healthy oak woodland and riparian ecosystem in selected burned areas of the Davis Creek Watershed near Willits, and (2) raise

## **Programs that Inspire**

awareness of Willits community members, especially families, in the importance of a healthy Willits Watershed. The Davis Creek Watershed is the source of drinking water for the community of Willits.

We conducted outreach on habitat needs, collected acorns, planted native vegetation, and formed a local "Plant Protection Squad" to help protect fragile young plants from browsing herbivores.



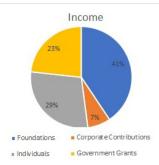
The last outreach event of the 2019 season in the month of November included 16 adults and 24 youth, with eight families In addition, we used our innovative Learn and-Tell model to help expand the knowledge learned about the ecological importance of the Willits Watershed and the specific site to others who did not directly participate.

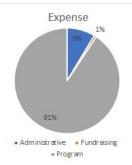
This project will be continuing in 2020.

#### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION FY 2019**

Our income last year was \$351,279 and the largest bulk of the income came from government grants supporting landscape-level Rain Catchers water conservation projects as the fiscal sponsor for Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District. FY2019 also represented our best year yet in private foundation and trust grants supporting our youth environmental education and action projects, resulting in \$44,625 in awarded grants. We were pleased also to have a good fundraising year with direct donations reaching \$39,709 from individuals and corporations.

Our overall expenses were \$375,716 for the year, with the bulk of these expenses being contracts with Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, and the disparity between income and expense related to the lag in deposits from reimbursable grants. We spent \$32,299 on general operating expenses (overhead), and \$2,795 in fundraising expenses. The remaining \$340,622 was spent on program deployment work. This yields a 9% overhead rate. Pie charts of income (excluding pass-through funds) and expenses appear below:





Conservation Works is a nonprofit organization performing environmental education and action with youth and our community that involves onthe-ground change in pollinator protection, water conservation, climate change, and healthy sustainable communities.

#### **Connect with Us**



www.conservationworksnc.org



www.beepatches.org



www.raincatchers.info



www.wormwizards.org



www.cultivatingcommerce.org



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Building a Better Future for Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, & Lake Counties

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

a local grassroots community non-profit

