“Thanks to this program I have a high school diploma and a good paying job...thanks to all the teachers and staff as well, I love you. You all can achieve anything”.

~Martin Ayala
(Urban Corps Alum)
The Urban Corps of San Diego County is a not-for-profit local conservation corps and charter school founded in 1989. Our mission is to provide young adults with a high school education combined with job training and community service in the fields of conservation and recycling, which assist youth in becoming more employable while protecting San Diego's natural resources and instilling the importance of community service.

“Greatest program ever!!!! Teachers actually take the time to teach .. it's more like a big family then a school... I miss this place.”
~Arlene Valeriano (Urban Corps Alum)

“I want to say thank you on the behalf of all the aquatic environments team. We honestly could not have completed this project without your crew. They’re a pleasure to work with and it was great getting to know all of them. We will call on you again between now and March to clear debris from the weir again, and we will definitely be relying Urban Corps for future projects!”
~Eli Kersch (Aquatic Environments)

“What an amazing group of workers showed up to the beach on Saturday! On behalf of John Manson, THANK YOU for all you did to make Saturday’s Bocce Championship such a success. Each of Urban Corps’ workers were wonderfully helpful, enthusiastic, and just plain fabulous! Please accept my heartfelt appreciation for the gift of their time, energy, and willingness to do the job and do the job well.”
~Pat Maldi (Boys and Girls Club)
Today I was a volunteer for the Valley Center Firesafe Council Chipping Day. I was in charge of directing cars to each of the chipping stations so I had a very close view to all of the chipping activities during the day. I want you to know how impressed I was with the entire crew that you had on site to chip materials. They worked very closely with obvious teamwork and I was amazed at the amount of effort put forth by everyone. It was a reasonably warm day and I don't think I have seen as much effort expended by a group this size in my 45 years in the construction industry. You have a great program and I wish all of your people the best. They worked hard and I (and as a community), appreciate their efforts. Job well done.”

~Larry Patterson (Valley Center Resident)
CITY OF SAN DIEGO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LANDFILL OPS
Urban Corps and City of San Diego personnel collects litter and debris (house furniture, clothing and litter) from various alleys in the City of San Diego mainly in the Logan Height’s and Shell town and other various communities. Most recently the City of San Diego has added another route to the debris abatement services utilizing UCO’s packer truck.

DISTRICT 9 CLEAN UP
Thanks to the office of Councilmember Georgette Gomez, Corpsmembers gave back to the community with support from a County of San Diego Community Enhancement Program grant.

UPPER OTAY LAKE FIRE FUEL REDUCTION
Urban Corps is collaborating with River Partners, a nonprofit habitat conservation organization engaged in restoration throughout this watershed. One component of the restoration is removal of invasive species, including non-native grasses and eucalyptus. Urban Corps crews work with River Partners to fell eucalyptus and remove non-native grasses, reducing fuel loading on 41 acres around Eastlake while benefiting wildlife. River Partners coordinate with the landowner and direct crews to the project sites. Crews use hand tools and power tools such as chainsaws for felling eucalyptus. Weed whacking, hand tools, and herbicide are used to control grasses in open areas.

UCSD CONSERVATION WATERSHED PROJECT
Working alongside with I Love a Clean San Diego, Wild Coast and State Parks the Urban Corps of San Diego County crews collected tires from Tijuana River Valley.

“Urban Corps is such a great program. There's so much that you can achieve there in terms of certifications, licenses, job training, college planning, and of course, a high school diploma. The campus is really nice (and environmentally friendly). All the teachers, supervisors, and staff are great and help you reach your job/educational goals. I've really enjoyed working there and definitely recommend it to anyone who needs their diploma and a job”. ~Jeremy Ruiz (Urban Corps Alum)
“I am a former Corps member. Best program I've ever been in.”~Aye'yo Relly (Urban Corps Alum)

“Urban corps saved my life. I can only imagine where I would be without them.”~El’Tee Turner (Urban Corps Alum)

76% of Graduates Placed in Jobs
4,973,600 sq.ft. of Fire Fuel Cleared
2,671 Tires Removed and Collected
79 Total Graduates
1,200 Trees Planted
500,426 lbs. of CRV Recyclables Collected
173,822.5 lbs. of E-Waste Recycled and Collected
1.73 Million lbs. of Litter Removed From Public-Right-of-Ways
452,973 sq. ft. of Graffiti Removed
16% of Graduates Currently Enrolled in College
Urban Corps values its ability to provide a quality education to a diverse student body. In a 2013 qualitative study, 67% of program graduates reported that Corpsmember Diversity positively impacted their growth and performance. Urban Corps serves many refugees and newly arrived immigrants from around the world. Some Corpsmembers have very limited English ability and are not familiar with the professional and social system in America. Urban Corps has partnered with San Diego City College to offer extended Vocational English Language classes to help improve our Corpsmembers’ proficiency in English. Our school has implemented a variety of top-notch web-based programs for English Language Learner’s to support vocabulary acquisition, grammar, listening, reading, phonics, and interactive classroom instruction. Meanwhile North American-born students see broad benefit from working and learning alongside youth with diverse world backgrounds and experiences. We are also working with our Corpsmembers to help them understand the expectations that will help them succeed in a professional environment and are working closely with youth on attendance, punctuality, appearance and work ethic. We have also recently hired several new case managers to help fulfill our commitment to ensuring that all Corpsmembers are being supported with their needs and have the opportunity to thrive and successfully transition to the workforce or higher education.

Students by Race
- Hispanic or Latino—30.4%
- Black or African—35%
- White/Middle Eastern—28.8%
- Asian—3.3%
- Other/Pacific Islander—2.5%

Primary First Languages
- English
- Arabic
- Spanish
- French
- Burmese
- Farsi (Persian)
- Kurdish
- Somali

Gender
- Male—64.8%
- Female—35.2%
Urban Corps’ combined budgets from both programmatic operations and Urban Corps Charter School represent a total of $13.4 million.

Urban Corps of San Diego County
Audited Financial Highlights
Total Contributions & Revenue: $9,994,688
Total Operating Expenses: $9,578,068
Net Increase in Assets: $416,620
Ending Net Total Assets: $9,136,841

Urban Corps Charter School (A Sister Agency)
FY17: $3,400,000
Proposed FY18: $3,100,000

The state of California funds Urban Corps Charter School based on student attendance, also known as Average Daily Attendance (ADA).

2016-2017 Revenue

- Service Fees: $6,519,851
- Government Grants and Contracts: $2,152,366
- Donations: $76,090
- Other Income: $39,530

2016-2017 Expenses

- Environmental Projects: 35%
- Recycling: 23%
- Construction: 13%
- Community Improvement: 16%
- Management & Fundraising: 13%

PROGRAMATIC EXPENSES
- Recycling: $2,146,025
- Environmental Projects: $3,368,037
- Community Improvement: $1,524,710
- Construction: $1,218,627

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES
- Management & Fundraising: $1,218,917

86 cents of every dollar goes towards programs
$100-$499
Bob Benson
Amy Besnoy
Leon Brooks
Charity Checks
Cara Chisholm
Paul Cleary
Patricia Fishtein
Ingrid Gonzalez
Beth Goodman
Ramon Hershman
Michael Jenkins
Linda LeGerrette
Martha Longworth
Karen Ludwig
Arashmidos Monjazeb
Daniel Morales
Ricardo Moran
Robert Musial
Danny Paramo
Linda Pennington
Patrick Roybal
Bruce Saito
Lynn Schenk
Paula Taylor
Nora Vargas
Gail Weed

$500-$999
Kari Martone
Michael & Christie Meehan
Atousa Monjazeb
Moose Lodge
Ingrid Nielsen
Non-Profits United
Target
Wells Fargo
Wil Williams
Dennis Wilson

$1,000-$9,999
Marian Brodigan
CECO
Robert Chavez
Earthshare
Chuck Faith
Mission Fed
Nielsen Construction
Christine Moore
Warden Paramo
Union Bank
Vera & Jim Wang
Wells Fargo Foundation
Tracey Williams

$10,000-$100,000
American Internet Mortgage
AT&T
County of San Diego
Harrah’s
Nordson Foundation
SDG&E
The SD Foundation
Zable Foundation

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Gratitude to Our Funders and Donors

Our Family of Project Partners

Adams Avenue Business Assoc.
Allan Company
Alliance Environmental Group Inc.
Alvarado Hospital
Aramark Facility Services
Barrio Logan MAD
BAE Systems
Bonsall Unified School District
CAL FIRE
CalRecycle
California Fire Safe Council
California ReLeaf
Calif. Conservation Corps
Calif. Invasive Plant Council
Calif. Natural Resources Agency
Calif. State Parks-TJ River National Estuarine Research Reserve
California Workforce Development Board
Caltrans
City Heights Business Assoc.
City of Carlsbad
City of Coronado
City of Chula Vista
City of Oceanside
City of Poway
City of San Diego
City of Santee
Civic San Diego
Community Housing Works
County of San Diego
Community Research Foundation
Desert Green Solar Farm
Earth Day Network
Elena Foster
Franklin Croft Inc.
Friends of Cardiff and Carlsbad State Beach
Grondin Construction
Groundwork San Diego-Chollas Creek
Home Equity Funding Corporation
I Love A Clean San Diego
IMS Recycling
Jacobs Center
La Esperanza Development Co.
Leichtag Foundation
Metropolitan Transit System
Mission Trails Regional Park
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
Nuera Contracting & Consulting
ONE San Diego
Piazza D’Oro Land LLC
Price Charities
Ocean Discovery Institute
Oceanside Mesa LLC
Overland Pacific & Cutler Inc.
Reliable Tires Inc
Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County
River Partners
Lenora Robinson
San Diego Gas & Electric
SDG&E Energy Innovation Center
San Dieguito River Park
San Diego Canyonlands
San Diego Commercial, LLC
San Diego Foundation
San Diego Housing Commission
San Diego Park & Recreation
San Diego River Conservancy
San Diego River Park Foundation
San Diego Unified School District
Santee Unified School District
SDSU Panhellenic Association and Inter Fraternity Council
SDSU Research Foundation
Sweetwater Authority
Stephen Hawking Charter School, Sweetwater School District
Tree San Diego
University California San Diego
Nimitz Marine Facility
Unified Port of San Diego
Valley Center Fire Safe Council
Valley Center RCD
Viejas Fire Department
Western Chapter ISA
Whalen & Assoc.
Tania Sanchez grew up in Mexico and joined Urban Corps’ job training and high school education program in August 2015. When she joined the program she spoke little English and was painfully shy but had a winning disposition that shone through in her attitude and work ethic. She quickly excelled in school, mastered communication skills, and became a student role model. She first earned a position on the Recycling Marketing Team where she promoted E-waste collection events and conducted educational campus tours and recycling presentations to local school students and scouts.

Tania also served on the Corpsmember Advisory Board (CAB), the representative group of the student body, where she advocated for student matters and represented Urban Corps at the State Capital in Sacramento. She was also selected to participate in Urban Corps’ elite Prop 39 Clean Energy Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program where she earned M3C construction certification and completed Survey Audit, Retrofit, OSHA 10, and EPA Lead Renovator Initial trainings. In this traditionally male-dominated field, Tania enjoyed the challenge and shared her experience while serving as youth speaker for San Diego Workforce Partnership’s November 2016 Workforce Conference: The Future of Work.

“I found a family in the Urban Corps program,” says Tania. “I learned that when you work in a team, everyone works better. I have also learned a lot about people in general. I see that we are all the same. We all have some problems we are dealing with. But we are all here for one purpose.”

Tania graduated with her high school diploma in December 2016, and continued on in Urban Corps’ Prop 39 program until August 2017. She is now working part time and attending community college.

“I plan to study marine biology,” says Sanchez, “The beach is my favorite place to go...When you are there, it seems like you don’t have a care in the world. I hope that someday in my career I am able to help take care of the ocean because it has given me so much. As I see it, the environment is heading in a rough direction and I, for one, am willing to make a difference.”