2018 Annual Report

“My life before joining Urban Corps was a disaster. Not only was I a teen mom but I was homeless and lost. I had no direction. Being at Urban Corps has changed my life and has been a magnificent experience. I have learned respect, discipline, patience and even self-control. Being here has opened my eyes to the importance of my future.

Monica
25 year old Corpsmember
Urban Corps of San Diego County is a certified local conservation corps and charter school whose 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.

Program Overview

The nationally recognized conservation corps model addresses underserved young people’s needs for education and job skills and also the broader community’s needs for environmental and neighborhood improvements. Urban Corps’ dual focus program includes a second chance high school education with paid job training, industry recognized certifications, life skills coaching, supportive services, and college and career placement. Our participants, called Corpsmembers, attend our WASC accredited Charter School two days a week and participate in job training projects three days a week in the fields of community improvement, urban forestry, environmental services, recycling, and construction.

After completing the program, youth are more employable and have the skills and confidence to succeed in the workforce, and know the importance of conservation and giving back.
URBAN CORPS  2017/2018 IMPACT
By the numbers

- 80% Of Grads Placed In Jobs
- 100% Youth Below Poverty Rate
- 150 Corpsmembers Are Young Parents
- 778,300 sq. ft of Graffiti Removal
- 340 Acres of Habitat Restored
- 534 Certifications & Licenses earned
- 24,542 Draught Resistant Foliage Planted
- 6,976 Acres of Hazardous Fuel Reduction (Fire Fuel Reduction)
- 586 Miles of Trails Constructed
- 25% of Grads Enrolled in College
- 219,073 lbs of E-waste Collected & Recycled
- 57 Total Graduates
- 100% Youth Below Poverty Rate

City of Carlsbad Parks Maintenance
Administrative Office Remodel
Urban Corps worked with the City of Carlsbad to provide neighborhood revitalization, landscaping, maintenance and remodeling of the Administrative Office Building. The scope of the remodel included framing, dry-walling, texturing and painting in three locations in the facility, removal and installation of doors and windows and base board installations, Urban Corps also participated in fix up community events, landscaping, recycling, and creating mini libraries.

Recycling Department: E-waste activities explode!
The Recycling Department’s e-waste activities included: 59 e-waste Recycling events, 260 hours of e-waste specific training to Corpsmembers and 219,073 pounds of e-waste collected!

Yosemite Tent Camp Spike
In collaboration with CAL FIRE’s Forest Health Program, Urban Corps was asked to complete reforestation and restoration projects during an eight-day camping spike. Work during this project included clearing vegetation, fuel load reduction and forest thinning.

Tree Balboa
Through a partnership with Balboa Park Conservancy, 25 Corpsmembers were provided with the opportunity to plant and install irrigation to 500 trees in the historic Balboa Park. Corpsmembers got a chance to work in one of San Diego’s most iconic locations.
Urban Corps of San Diego County
Audited Financial Highlights
Total Contributions & Revenue: $11,175,611
Total Operating Expenses: $11,268,946
Ending Net Total Assets: $9,043,506

Urban Corps Charter School
(A Sister Agency)
Fiscal Year 2018: $3,200,000
The State of California Funds Urban Corps Charter School based on student attendance, also known as Average Daily Attendance (ADA).

86¢ out of every $1.00 goes directly towards our programs
GRATITUDE to our funders and donors

1—$499
Paula Taylor
Bob Benson
Bruce Saito
Dan Thomas
Daniel Morales
Diane Chalmers
Eric Hostetter
Ingrid Gonales
Jane Baker
John Mendez
Karen Gordon
Ludwig
Kari Martone
Katy Dessent
Kevin Schlegel
Leon Brooks
Michele Marcus
Norman Zall
Patricia Fishtein
Patrick Royball
Paul & Gail Mclain-Lugowski
Philip Scholtz
Stephanie Mood
Vinitha Jagtab
Watson & Eron Branch
Combined Federal Campaign

$500—$4,999
Brakke Schafnitz
Insurance Brokers Inc.
Ingrid Nielsen
Matt Manning
Mission Federal
NonProfits United
Robert Chavez
Tracey Williams
Vera Y. Wang and Jing Wang

$5,000—$9,999
EMS Management
American Internet Mortgage
San Diego County Employees Charitable Organization

$10,000—$100,000
Caesars Enterprise Services (Harrah’s)
Guild Giving Foundation
Las Patronas
SDG&E Environmental Champions
R. J. Donovan Correctional Facility
Supervisor Ron Roberts, County of San Diego
Walter J. & Betty C. Zable Foundation

Our Family of PROJECT PARTNERS

Adams Avenue Business Association
Allan Company
Aramark Facility Services
Balboa Park Conservancy
Barrio Logan MAD
Barrio Station
BAE Systems
Bonsall Unified School District
CAL FIRE
CalRecycle
California Fire Safe Council
California Conservation Corps
California Natural Resources Agency
California State Parks-TJ River National Estuarine Research Reserve
California Workforce Development Board
Caltrans
City Heights Business Association
City of Carlsbad
City of Coronado
City of Chula Vista
City of Encinitas
City of Oceanside
City of Poway
Community Housing Works
City of San Diego
City of Santee
Civic San Diego
Cleveland National Forest
County of San Diego
Coastal Roots Farm
Desert Green Solar Farm
Escondido Union High School District
Franklin Croft Inc.
Friends of Cardiff and Carlsbad State Beach
I Love A Clean San Diego
IMS Recycling
Jacobs Center
Leichtag Foundation
Metropolitan Transit System
Mission Trails Regional Park
ONE San Diego
Piazza D’Oro Land LLC.
Price Charities
Ocean Discovery Institute
Oceanside Mesa LLC
Overland Pacific & Cutler Inc.
Pauma-Yuma Band of Luiseno Indians
Reliable Tires Inc.
Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County
River Partners
San Diego Gas & Electric
SDG&E Energy Innovation Center
San Dieguito River Park
San Diego Canyonlands
San Diego Foundation
San Diego Park & Recreation
San Diego River Park Foundation
San Diego Unified School District
Santee Unified School District
SDSU Panhellenic Association and Inter Fraternity Council
SDSU Research Foundation
Stephen Hawking Charter School, Sweetwater School District
Tree San Diego
University of California San Diego
Nimitz Marine Facility
Unified Port of San Diego
Viejas Fire Department

City of San Diego
“My name is Raghad Al Bawab. I am from Damascus, Syria, and I lived there during the war. After that event, I experienced moving to many places, and understanding what it means to start from zero again, and again, and again. I remember being full of dreams in a world that didn’t have enough space for all of them; because it seemed so crowded with all these conflicts and struggles, wars all over the world, climate changing, and a lot of other things. We moved to California hoping to find better opportunities, and we found one. The Migration Agency told us about the Urban Corps program. I have advice for others and it is to remember the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. And at the end I stand proudly as a Syrian, Muslim, refugee, woman graduating from a wonderful place called Urban Corps.”

- Raghad Al Bawab

“I was born in Sinaloa, Mexico and immediately after my birth both of my parents were incarcerated for reasons I still do not know about. At 5 years old, I was brought to America for a better life. I had a hard time in high school and ended up dropping out. I found out about Urban Corps and attempted to complete the program several times. The 4th time stuck! I graduated with my high school diploma in December 2017. Urban Corps taught me a lot including helping me learn what my passions were and giving me the confidence to go after them. I worked in the Construction department and enrolled in the MC3 training program at Urban Corps. I am now in the Iron Workers Apprenticeship program with Local 229.”

- Jesus Touchet

“I was 24 years old father of two kids and I was having a hard time finding and keeping a job because I did not have my high school diploma. I found Urban Corps when I was homeless and living in my car. In the summer of 2018, I was able to be a part of the MC3 training program and received training and certifications. I was also able to participate in a two week Iron Workers Bootcamp. At graduation, I received an offer to work for Pacific Steel Ironworkers and am now an Apprentice Ironworker with a full benefit package for me and his children, and I have my own apartment. I never know all of this was available to me”

- Esteban Huerta
In Loving Memory of Diane A. Chalmers

December 12, 1942 - April 04, 2018

After a lengthy and courageous battle with cancer, Diane Annala Chalmers, our beloved School Board President passed away on April 4, 2018. Our charter was granted in 2011 and Diane had served on the board and held the position of board president since day one. Diane was a passionate leader of our school and did not let her battle with cancer stop her from her duties. She presided over the March 16, 2018 school board meeting just weeks before her passing. Diane will always be remembered for her amazing eloquence, grace and courage.

Diane Chalmers received her undergraduate education at Denison University, a Master’s degree in Higher Education Administration from Indiana University, and post-graduate certification in Arts Administration from Harvard University. In her professional career she has held a variety of positions in higher education, arts management, non-profit management and government. These include serving as Director of University Events at UCSD, as Chief of Staff for a San Diego Councilmember, Executive Director of the San Diego Performing Arts Foundation and as Director of Development for the College of Professional Studies at SDSU. Most recently she has served as Development Director for the Louisville Orchestra and as Executive Director of the Louisville Ronald McDonald House. While in Louisville, Diane also taught Non-Profit Management at Bellarmine University. In the course of filling these positions she has traveled extensively, including the former Soviet Union to select arts groups for the San Diego Russian Arts Festival, and several trips to China as a planner for an International Conference on Rehabilitation of the Handicapped. In 2004 Diane returned to San Diego after an absence of a few years and lives in La Jolla with her husband, Joseph Chalmers. Dr. Chalmers is a Visiting Scholar at UCSD and San Diego State University and retired Chairman of the Department of Physics at the University of Louisville. Diane is currently retired but remains involved as a member of the Board of Directors of the San Diego chapter of the ARCS Foundation serving as Vice President of Fund Development. She also serves on the Advisory Council of the ATHENA project at UCSD Moores Cancer Center, and Chairs the Concert Committee at La Jolla Presbyterian Church in addition to serving as Board Member of the Urban Corps of San Diego County.