Urban Corps of San Diego County is a certified local conservation corps and charter school whose mission is to provide young adults with tools to expand their career opportunities through education, life skills training, and paid work experience on projects that benefit our communities.

**Board Members**

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  Board 1st Vice President

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- **Mario X Sierra**
  Board Member

- **Richard Barrera**
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- **Ralph ‘Wil’ Williams**
  Board Member Emeritus

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**Executive Team**

- **Kyle Kennedy**
  Chief Executive Officer

- **Dr. Marie Brown-Mercadel**
  Chief Operating Officer

- **Dan Thomas**
  Executive Director
  Urban Corps Charter School
We made it through.

From entering 2020 with sky-high expectations, to learning how to serve our students and keep them safe during a series of events that no one expected, we made it through. If it were not for the support and dedication of our staff, our partners, and friends, we would not have.

Thank you.

Urban Corps exists to serve the futures of some of San Diego County’s most marginalized young adults. We exist to remind our Corpsmembers that there is indeed hope for an AMAZING future, and it is our mission to surround them with the assets they need to thrive. I am so proud of our Corpsmembers and what they have accomplished this year.

I am especially proud of our staff. Despite such fierce headwinds, it is because of the dedication and grit of our staff and Corpsmembers that we have been able to accomplish so much this year.

From providing essential services, such as food collection and distribution, to undertaking MASSIVE fire-fuel reduction projects to keep San Diego residents safe, to supplementing the services of amazing city and agency partners throughout the county, the Urban Corps team has demonstrated amazing resolve during a period full of uncertainty.

Further demonstrating this resolve, we even began construction on our Escondido location! A grand-opening is set for 2021, so get excited for amazing things to come!

To our partners at the Urban Corps Charter School - Thank you for continuing to provide the quality education that will open doors for our Corpsmembers. Pandemic or not, you continue to support our Corpsmembers with the educational tools and social support systems that they need to achieve success at Urban Corps and beyond. A special thanks to Dan Thomas, Executive Director of Urban Corps Charter School for his continued leadership.

To our board - We have needed your guidance and support now more than ever. Thank you so much for providing it.

However, I know that alongside our successes and demonstrated resilience, has been great personal loss. Our family has been affected. Our family has been wounded.

Thank you, staff and Corpsmembers, for your strength. Thank you for circling the wagons around our family members who have experienced deep loss.

WE are Urban Corps, and we are family. I am so proud of how you have shown that over the past year.

To our staff, to our Corpsmembers, to our board. To the Urban Corps Charter School, to our friends, our family, and our community - Thank you very much for your support of the Urban Corps of San Diego County.

Kyle Kennedy
Chief Executive Officer
Meet Zena.

Her favorite food? Crunchy, fresh, preferably homemade, thinly cut french fries.

Her favorite activity? Walking and smiling (the latter is not a surprise to anyone who has ever met her).

Zena graduated from Urban Corps in 2017. More recently, she graduated from San Diego State University in December (2020) with her Bachelor of Science in Child and Family Development.

Here's a little bit of her story.

Zena was born in Iraq. With her parents and two of her siblings, she moved to San Diego to escape both war and persecution. “It was very dangerous to stay there,” she recalls.

In 2016, Zena joined Urban Corps of San Diego County, where she made a concerted effort to excel in her academics. “It was amazing for me,” she says describing her time in the program. “The staff were all great.”

Zena's hard work, focus and determination paid off, and as a member of the class of 2017, she was named Valedictorian. She credits Lisa Tomas for encouraging her to accept the role of class speaker.

After graduating from Urban Corps, Zena shifted her focus to continuing her studies at community college and looking for a job.

However, after encouragement from both friends and family, Zena decided to pursue her bachelor's degree at San Diego State University.

“[University] was not part of the plan,” recalls Zena. “It's hard to keep pushing through.”

Push through she did.

She earned her Bachelor of Science in Child and Family Development, while simultaneously working as a crucial member of Urban Corps’ Human Resources department.

Why the degree in Child and Family Development?

“I love kids. Who doesn't love kids?”

Her dream? To make the lives of children better.

By leveraging her administrative skills and strong work ethic, alongside her clear love of kids, Zena is currently looking for opportunities to serve kids in an administrative or case management capacity. Specifically, Zena would love to work at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego.

“I love that place. I love the people”.

Wrapping up our time with Zena, we asked about the impact Urban Corps made on her life. She responded saying, “Urban Corps made me feel more self-confident and ready to go out into the world...I feel I'm ready.”

Asked about how she feels right now? “Very happy.”
149 Graduates
149 Corpsmembers graduated from our program last year!

2,738
Trees planted throughout San Diego County

972,674
Pounds of e-waste recycled
FY19/20
Urban Corps by the Numbers

973,170
Square feet of trails restored

37,712
Square feet of roofing installed or repaired

431,270
Square feet of graffiti removed

240
Acres of habitat restored
"My name is Michelle Sanchez, and I would like to share my life before I found Urban Corps.

Before I came to Urban Corps, I was not doing well in school. I was failing classes since middle school, and I was with the wrong crowd. My life became a greater mess as soon as I got to high school. My family struggled financially and was repeatedly evicted from homes we moved in and out of.

It was hard to watch my siblings struggle and it felt like it was a never-ending cycle of poverty and struggle. I was young, lost and had no direction or motivation. I was discouraged and made decisions that I regretted, like quitting school.

No counselor or support group seemed to help.

It wasn’t until I found my faith in Jesus Christ. It was then that I learned that, through hard work, I could break the cycle of struggle. I wouldn’t have been able to do this without the help of God, as well as a compassionate, understanding teacher who chose to see the best in me. After looking for various ways to get my high school diploma, I was referred me to Urban Corps.

There, I learned many job skills in environmental conservation. I learned how to do brush management, how to plant trees, and how to maintain forests. Many of these projects were very hard at times.

I also learned how to work in a diverse group. However, what I loved most was building positive relationships with my coworkers and learning and understanding where they came from. I could relate to them and also help them see the best in themselves.

I believe kindness, love, and empathy is what builds a community.

I have met many wonderful people that have inspired me. Now that I have finished high school, I want to encourage people in a similar position to finish school and never give up.

My plans after Urban Corps are to go to college to study psychology, and continue to give back to the community by volunteering with my church.

I look forward to a brighter future."
Urban Corps of San Diego County successfully completed general contracting services on buildings within Seaport Village. Having opened to the public in 1980, Seaport Village is a 90,000 square foot waterfront property.

Through partnership with the Port of San Diego, Urban Corps performed maintenance repairs, ranging from exterior painting and roof replacement, to a variety of structural repairs, on 31 buildings within the property. This work included the removal and replacement of approximately 23,310 square feet of roofing.

Throughout, our Corpsmembers demonstrated the ability to produce excellent construction work on a large scale – doing so during a global pandemic!
This year, Urban Corps provided essential Covid-19 services by harvesting over 220,800 servings of produce for food insecure San Diegans.

This was accomplished in partnership with ProduceGood and as a participant in their Orchard Upcycler Program – a program, supported by CalRecycle, whose mission is to increase immediate access to fresh produce for those in need.

Working alongside ProduceGood, Urban Corps harvested produce from orchards across San Diego and, additionally, provided delivery services to feeding partners. Corpsmembers took pride in being part of the solution to food insecurity and were excited to serve.

Said Felix Velasco, supervisor at Urban Corps, “We love that we have been able to keep working, especially during these hard times, and to also provide food for the community.”
Urban Corps of San Diego County  
Audited Financial Highlights  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

**Total Revenue & Support** - $13,669,224

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Services Revenue</td>
<td>$8,752,273</td>
<td>64%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gov' Grants and Contracts</td>
<td>$3,030,986</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations Income</td>
<td>$926,461</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$959,504</td>
<td>7%</td>
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90 cents of every dollar goes towards programs!

**Total Operating Expenses** - $13,176,257

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Projects</td>
<td>$5,832,163</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Improvement</td>
<td>$2,266,537</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recycling Projects</td>
<td>$1,817,950</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction Projects</td>
<td>$1,764,076</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management &amp; Fundraising</td>
<td>$1,363,340</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</table>

**Net Assets** - $9,150,276
FY19/20

Funders and Donors

AIMLOAN
Ann Van Leer
Anne Bernstein
Antonio Contreras
AT&T
Atousa Monjazeb
Bank of America
Betty Hua
BJA Partners
Bob Benson
Bombas
Brakke Schafnitz Insurance Brokers
Bryan Linggi
Cake Pop Shop
California Community Foundation
Camille Gustafson
Carol Bransford
Catherine Ecklund
Cheesecake Factory
City National Bank
City of San Diego
County Employees Charitable Organization
County of San Diego
Cushman Foundation
Dan Thomas
Dave Robertson
Deana Perske
Derek Booth
Donna and David Porreca
Douglas Kress
Downtown San Diego Lions Club
El Tapatio Catering
Erik and Rebecca Johannesen
Fuller's Liquor
Gabrielle and Marc Doss
gafcon
Goodwin Family Memorial Trust
Guild Giving Foundation
Hervey Family San Diego Fund
Ingrid Nielsen
J Whalen Associates
Jeff Einhorn
Jim Madsen
John Loggins
Karen Ludwig
Kelly Gage
Kevin Schlegel
Kiwanis Club of San Diego
Kristie Buckley and Carolyn Ouya
Kyle Kennedy
La Jolla Sunrise Rotary Club
Linda and Mario Sierra
Lynn Schenk and Jewish Community Foundation
Margeret Jackson
Mark Lewkowitz
Michael McIntosh
Michael Sterns
Michele Marcus
Mike and Kat Dessent
Mission Federal Credit Union
Niel Pollock and Robert Barnes
NonProfits United
Nordson Foundation
Pacific Western Bank
Paul McLain Lugowski
Paula Taylor
Ramon Hershman
Robert Seela
Ross Stores
S. Flack Nielsen Family Fund
Sam and Sandy Lopez
San Diego Building and Construction Trades Council
San Diego Futures Foundation
Sandy Kerl
SDG&E
Six Flags Magic Mountain
Smart and Final
Sol Carlsson
Son-Zee Inc.
Sundt Foundation
The Toro Foundation
Todd Gloria
Tom and Berit Durler
Tracey Williams
Trish Boaz
Union Bank
US Bank
Viasat, Inc.
Vinitha Oesterle
Walmart
Zable Foundation

Thank You!
FY19/20
Sponsors

Barrio Logan MAD
Back Country Land Trust
BAE Systems
CAL FIRE
CalRecycle
California Fire Safe Council
California Conservation Corps
California Natural Resources Agency
California State Parks OHV Division
California State Parks-TJ River National
Estuarine Research Reserve
Caltrans
City Heights CDC
Community Housing Works
City of Carlsbad
City of Coronado
City of Chula Vista
City of Encinitas
City of Escondido
City of Imperial Beach
City of La Mesa
City of Oceanside
City of Poway
City of San Diego
City of San Marcos
City of Santee
City of Vista
Civic San Diego
City of Vista
County of San Diego
Groundwork San Diego
Nazareth House
Mattress Recycling Council
Metropolitan Transit System
Oceanside Mesa LLC
Overland Pacific & Cutler Inc.
Pauma-Yiuma Band of Luiseno Indians
Piazza D’Oro Land LLC
ProduceGood
Reliable Tires Inc.
River Partners
San Diego Gas & Electric
SDG&E Energy Innovation Center
San Dieguito River Park
San Dieguito River Park Conservancy
San Diego Canyonlands
San Diego Foundation
San Diego Park & Recreation
San Diego River Park Foundation
San Diego Unified School District
Sweetwater Authority
Stephen Hawking Charter School,
Tree San Diego
Unified Port of San Diego
Wildlife Conservation Board

Thank You!
We are Urban Corps.

Urban Corps of San Diego County

San Diego Center
3127 Jefferson Street, San Diego, CA 92110

North County Center
2200 Micro Place, Escondido, CA 92029

Office Hours
Monday – Friday | 8:00AM – 4:30PM

Phone: (619) 235-6884
Fax: (619) 235-5425
info@urbancorps.org