Dear Friends,

The year 2008 marked EarthCorps’ 15th anniversary. Many alumni and early-stage supporters joined us to celebrate the evolution of this organization and our mission to build global community through local environmental service.

What started as the seed of an idea in 1993 – to bring young people from different countries together to enhance international understanding by planting trees – has germinated into an array of programs that include best-of-breed ecological restoration services, one of the largest environmental volunteer programs anywhere, and a network of more than 800 graduates worldwide who are making positive contributions in their communities.

The context of our work has changed substantially in 15 years. Thanks to the Internet, cell phones, GPS and other technology, the world is more connected than it was in 1993. Having access to email, YouTube and Skype has facilitated EarthCorps’ ability to bring together young adults from far-flung regions of the world, and to keep them connected with each other.

Yet even with these impressive technological advances, there is no substitute for the person-to-person bonding that takes place when our corps members spend hours in the field side-by-side, working to create a healthier forest, stream or backcountry trail.

In the face of challenging tasks like leading dozens of volunteers in pouring rain, or pinning together multi-ton log jams to create salmon habitat, our young adult participants learn to call on new reserves of strength in themselves and each other.

Throughout EarthCorps’ evolution, we have remained true to the simple but innovative idea that working together to restore the Earth is an excellent way to create cross-cultural understanding and mutual trust.

This premise is more timely than ever, with the increased public interest in environmental stewardship, community service and positive international relationships.

The 2008 corps members exemplified the principles of leadership, teamwork, mutual respect and commitment. In a Seattle Times article released just before Earth Day 2008, one reporter aptly called the corps members “environmental superheroes.” These are the young people who are brave enough to answer “yes” to the following questions:

• Do you believe the environment is worth restoring?
• Do you believe the environment can be restored?
• Do you believe YOU are the one to do it?

Every year, EarthCorps’ diverse group of 60 corps members from across the US and around the world make this commitment. They probably occasionally ask themselves, while biking to work at 6:45 am through the dark and rain; or while dangling from ropes to remove stubborn stands of ivy; or while hauling buckets of compost into a wetland at the base of Seattle’s third runway:

Why are we doing this?

We work hard six days a week, rain or shine, in order to show that restoring the environment is an achievable goal, both here in the Pacific Northwest, and in other parts of the world too.

We are proud of EarthCorps graduates and their efforts. One alumna in Chengdu, China, activated the network she had built for GreenSOS in order to provide relief immediately following the May 2008 earthquake. Another alumna in West Seattle is starting her own environmental education corps program with the EOS Alliance. A third is bringing American teens together with Guatemalan youth to complete rural development and environmental projects. Almost anywhere you look in more than 60 countries, EarthCorps graduates are working to enhance community and improve the environment.

You are an important player in this effort to create a healthier, more sustainable world. Your support makes it possible for EarthCorps’ participants to learn, connect and carry on this work in their own communities. What started as an idea 15 years ago is rippling across the Pacific Northwest and around the world. Thank you for helping us continue to grow and serve!

Steve Dubiel, Executive Director

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2008 Field Accomplishments

- 100,000 hours of service
- 11,500 volunteers
- 70,000 plants installed
- 4,400 survival rings
- 150 acres of land in restoration
- 25 miles of trail maintained

Ecological restoration is not a fad. It’s crucial to sustaining life on this planet. Knowing how much there is to accomplish out there is what drives me into the field each day.

– Seta Chorbajian, ’07 Massachusetts
Statement of Activities for the year ended December 31, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
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<td>Individual and Corporate Contributions</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>Foundation Grants</td>
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<td>Government Grants</td>
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<td>In Kind Contributions</td>
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<td>Fundraising Events, net of expenses</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>45,180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>1,304,859</td>
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<td>Investment and Miscellaneous Income</td>
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<td>Funds Released from Restrictions</td>
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<td>(126,000)</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>1,910,238</td>
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<td>Management and General</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>(14,437)</td>
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<td>Net Assets Beginning Of Year</td>
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<td>1,094,642</td>
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<td>Net Assets End Of Year</td>
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<td>96,500</td>
<td>3,300</td>
<td>1,080,205</td>
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</table>

Statement of Financial Position at December 31, 2008

**ASSETS**

- **Current Assets:**
  - Cash & Cash Equivalents: 534,067
  - Pledges Receivable: 46,283
  - Accounts Receivable: 287,420
  - Prepaid Expenses: 16,829
- **Total Current Assets:** 884,599
- **Net Property and Equipment:** 45,450
- **Unemployment Trust Deposits:** 59,357
- **Cash & Cash Equivalents - Board Designated:** 175,000
- **Investments - endowment funds:** 3,534
- **Total Assets:** 1,167,940

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

- **Accounts Payable:** 175,824
- **Payroll Liabilities:** 39,468
- **Vacation Pay Payable:** 30,685
- **Total Current Liabilities:** 87,775

**Net Assets:**

- **Unrestricted:**
  - Undesignated: 805,405
  - Designated for operating reserves: 175,000
- **Temporarily Restricted:** 96,500
- **Permanently Restricted:** 3,300
- **Total Net Assets:** 1,080,205

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS:** 1,167,940

Looking Forward Strategically

Over the course of 2008, the EarthCorps Board of Directors and community stakeholders worked diligently to develop a new strategic plan to guide EarthCorps’ development. Highlights of the plan include:

- Develop young leaders and strengthen their ability to lead their communities in service;
- Create healthy habitat by deploying best practices in restoration science and becoming a regional resource for technical expertise;
- Promote strong community among the corps and community members through hands-on environmental service.

We look forward to continuing to serve local and global communities in the coming years!

Richard Cuff, President, Board of Directors
I met a team of superheroes the other day...
Adapted from The Seattle Times NW Weekend “Local Work, Global View”

Salmon Bay Natural Area is located just west of the busy locks that link Seattle’s Ship Canal to Puget Sound. Under a railroad trestle, tucked up against the south-facing hillside, researchers from the University of Washington located the most important feeding area for juvenile salmon in the region’s Lake Washington runs. Here, young fish make the difficult transition from fresh to salt water and prepare for their multi-year stint at sea. Ballard-based Groundswell NW worked with Seattle Public Utilities and other partners to raise $1 million to buy properties and protect this valuable stretch of urban shoreline. EarthCorps crews participated in clearing and planting the steep slopes.

“They wore hard hats and safety vests instead of capes, and dangled from climbing ropes instead of spider silk. But they battled their arch enemy (in this case English ivy…) with the undaunted determination and modesty that are defining habits of all true superheroes.” – Kathryn True

Link to the full article at earthcorps.org
**Corps Program**

EarthCorps’ flagship corps program is an intensive year-round service learning experience for young adults ages 18-25 from across the United States and around the world. Up to 60 young adults participate in the program annually.

**Crew Leaders and Interns**

Selected corps program graduates qualify for advanced second-year leadership development training. Crew leaders work directly with the corps program. Interns combine environmental education and stewardship, working with youth and adult volunteers.

**Volunteer Program**

Volunteer events in local parks and open spaces engage thousands of community volunteers each year in restoring their local environment. More than 300 events were held in 2008, including collaborations with the Green Seattle, Green Kirkland and Green Tacoma Partnerships.

**International Activities**

EarthCorps hosts participants and delegations from around the world to share best practices in youth development and environmental restoration work. EarthCorps also out-places externs, international participants who serve with other nonprofits and conservation corps.

For more information about EarthCorps programs and requirements, see earthcorps.org

**Awards**

Each year, EarthCorps holds a special volunteer event and awards ceremony to appreciate the many people who make this work possible.

**Cynthia Sullivan Award – Ann Lawrence**

EarthCorps’ highest award, named for the King County Councilwoman who created EarthCorps’ first major public-private partnership, goes to a person who has made a substantial contribution to environmental stewardship. Ann Lawrence is the mother of EarthCorps alumna Sara Lawrence ’00. She served as President of the Board of Directors, volunteered with the Program Committee and has nurtured twelve international participants as a home-stay “mother.” Ann proves that caring for each other is the key to restoring the Earth.

**Volunteers of the Year Award – Mandy Mattson, Tim Wong, Jan and Tom O’Callahan**

EarthCorps honored two extraordinary volunteer couples for stepping up rain or shine to attend service events throughout Seattle and on Mercer Island. They averaged more than one volunteer event each month – exemplifying citizen stewardship while also enjoying all that the parks offer.

**Alumni Award – Mario Flores ’01, Guatemala Country Coordinator, Global Visionaries**

Mario bridges American and Guatemalan culture by recruiting diverse US teens and Guatemalan youth to serve together on rural development and environmental projects, while developing their leadership and cross-cultural communication skills. He is a role model for current EarthCorps participants and has hosted many EarthCorps alumni in service projects in Guatemala.

Even the Mariners Moose volunteered with EarthCorps.