FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We live in a world filled with daunting challenges like climate change. Rather than focus on what can’t be done, EarthCorps operates on the principal that everyone can act to change the world. Our growing network of alumni leaders continues to spread around Puget Sound, across the US, and to more than 80 countries around the world. Through hope and hard work, our alumni inspire positive community action.

We are proud of what we accomplished with your support in 2012 and inspired by the work of our alumni locally and globally. As we began to celebrate our 20th Anniversary, we took the time to reflect and plan for the future. We engaged 200 people during a strategic planning process. Our strategic plan set five priorities:

- Develop environmental leaders: Provide hands-on leadership training that enables our corps members to change the world.
- Be the best at community-based restoration: Provide a model for engaging communities in restoring and stewarding the places where we live with a special commitment to Puget Sound restoration.
- Extend the finish line: Leverage long-term connections with EarthCorps volunteers and alumni to realize our shared vision of a world where people live in balance with the earth.
- Align the funding model: Grow philanthropic revenue to fully fund our investment in leadership development and international participation in our programs.
- Tell our story: Through storytelling, inspire people to become part of our work.

This year in particular, as we celebrate our 20th anniversary, I want to take a moment to say thank you to the thousands of donors, volunteers, and partners who team up with us to create the change we want to see in the world.

Sincerely,

Steve Dubiel, Executive Director

WEB EXTERNS

Zephaniah Apelo
Paul Apelo

EXTERNS PARTNERS

Cooper Center for Environmental Learning
Yakama Nation

Designed by: Sara Ditka
Photographic Special Thanks to Monte Alves

Meet Assela

Assela Ongarbayeva comes from a wheat-farming family in southern Kazakhstan, where it is traditional for women to marry around age 17. Assela knew she wanted something different. She pursued a degree in environmental studies.

Assela joined EarthCorps’ environmental leadership program in 2011 and stayed as a Volunteer Specialist in 2012. She surprised herself by rising to the challenge of leading a team of 50 volunteers in 2012. She surprised herself by rising to the challenge of leading a team of 50 volunteers in 2012.
In 2012, 1,250 volunteers came out and got their hands dirty to remove invasive plants that threatened forest health. Restoration efforts included removing 50,000 square feet of invasive plant habitat from the Hylebos Watershed. The watershed lies primarily in Federal Way and stretches from South King into Pierce County. In 2011, Friends of the Hylebos joined forces with EarthCorps through the Hylebos Watershed Project. Since 1983, Friends of the Hylebos has been working to 53,662 plants installed 27 school partnerships 53 environmental leaders trained 12,844 volunteers 108,615 hours of service 55,662 plants installed 9 miles of trail maintained

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2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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Project work includes People For Puget Sound's robust Sound Stewardship Program that connects dedicated volunteer Stewards to restoration sites; engaging in a national pilot carbon sequestration project to better understand the huge carbon storage capacity of tidal wetlands; and providing leadership needed to move large-scale tidal marsh restoration projects forward in Snohomish and Thurston Counties.

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Growing up in Olympia and spending time in the wilderness fostered in me a love of nature and the need to be outdoors. I learned to love cities in college and to see them as integral to solving many of society's environmental challenges. I am troubled by the idea that we must escape cities to immerse ourselves in nature. To build a truly sustainable future, it's crucial that we make cities more livable and see them as interconnected with our natural environment. I came to EarthCorps because the habitat restoration and community building we do is a meaningful step toward that vision.

Erin Thomas, Corps Program Manager

Avery Bowron, Corps Member 2012, Crew Leader 2013

I am so proud of our 2012 EarthCorps cohort. These young adults have worked tirelessly to make the world a better place. Through adversity, commitment, challenge and hard work, they have learned resilience and courage to go further than what they thought was possible, they have enabled themselves and others to activate and inspire needed change. The power of this group is unstoppable and I truly believe they hope for love for humanity.

Erin Thomas, Corps Program Manager
It brings me great joy to open my home to EarthCorps international corps members. Though I give of my home, I receive so much more in return. By giving a home to international corps members, I can do good work for ecosystems without having to pull blackberry myself! It has been so good for my kids to grow up alongside EarthCorps internationals. The corps members are great role models, and my own children have become comfortable sharing a home with people from different cultures from all over the world.

The hardest thing about being a homestay is saying goodbye. I have kept in touch with every one of my internations and now think of myself as having an extended family living all over the world.

JESSIE DYE, HOMESTAY SINCE 2005