

## **ORGANIZATIONAL BASICS**

- What does your organization do? *(200 word limit)*

Earthroots Field School brings people into deep connection with nature through outdoor, real-life experiences, hands-on classes, field trips & camps. We get kids and adults to touch soil, grow food, cross creeks barefoot and teach them to harvest rainwater, identify and use local wild plants for food, medicine and tools. We teach people to trust their instincts and build community. We train adults to mentor future generations to become strong leaders with healthy values for themselves, each other and the earth. We work with schools to bring nature based education on campus and in alignment with state standards. In doing so, we support the teachers, parents & administration on finding the best ways to be in partnership with leading specialists in rainwater harvesting, permaculture and nature awareness. Our programs are designed for people of all ages and focus on wilderness awareness, sustainable living skills, ecological gardening, natural crafts & whole food cooking.

- When was it established?

2005

- Where is it located?

Our programs take place at over 20 different locations in Orange County, Ca. We have created partnerships with local organic farms, wilderness parks, schools and private land owners to bring our outdoor, hands-on programs to these unique and beautiful places. Our home office is in Trabuco Canyon, CA, but our school does not own any land or property. I would like Earthroots to own property one day and introduce a style of land stewardship that is not currently embodied in our region: one of sustainability & regenerative land use for education, demonstration & inspiration.

- Please provide a succinct history of the organization. *(200 word limit)*

In 2004, I returned to Orange County, CA after traveling the world and experiencing earth based education both as a student and teacher. I moved in with my parents while healing from a severe injury and was invited to teach a gardening class for children at a local community garden. That single class was the impetus for what later became Earthroots Field School. Local parents saw a need in for nature education for their children and I volunteered to lead them. More requests came for me to guide wilderness awareness hikes, cooking classes and natural building workshops. One mother wanted this so strongly for her children that she and her husband created the school's first website & invited their friends to participate. Earthroots became a sole proprietorship in 2005 while hosting 2 classes a week. In 2008 Earthroots became a 501c3 organization with 3 part time instructors. Today we teach 5 days a week with 3 office staff and 5 instructors. We serve families from Los Angeles, San Diego and Riverside Counties. We have benefited thousands of families by encouraging and teaching them to have a healthy connection to local ecosystems, themselves and our greater global community.

## **THEORY OF CHANGE**

- What is the organization's theory of change? *(200 word limit)*

"In order to protect something, you first need to care for it. And to care for something, you first need to know it". Earthroots Field School educates and empowers children and families to create healthy relationship with the earth, themselves and each other to create a better world for all. In our region today, most children and many adults live disconnected from nature. They do not know where food comes from, how their lifestyle impacts local ecosystems or others around the world, why nature is important or that they have the power to live with a positive impact on the earth and others. Earthroots creates opportunities for people to become aware of their habits, the earth, natural cycles and sustainable living practices so that our planet will be cared for, protected and healthy for future generations. Earthroots honors traditional wisdom, cultural knowledge, peacemaker principles and community building practices.

- How might a grant from the One Percent Foundation to this organization be used? *(200 word limit)*

Please note: our grants are unrestricted, meaning that you may use them for whatever program expense your organization selects. We are asking this question to give our Partners a sense of what it will go for—it helps us to understand your work and to connect with what you're doing.

This grant will be used to complete a pilot program for Rainwater Harvesting at Elementary Schools. This program could potentially solve our state's water shortage by training all school age children, their parents and staff to capture water falling from the sky and use it for irrigation and restoring the aquifers. Now, most water on school campus in California hits asphalt, flows into the gutter and out to the ocean as quickly as possible, missing opportunities to give life to plants & soil. During phase 1 of our pilot program, Fifth graders at Journey School in Aliso Viejo, CA calculated the amount of rainwater falling on their classroom roof to be 8,677 gallons per year. That is only one of 13 roofs on campus. Next month, they will redirect one downspout to water a garden next to the classroom where they sit each day. That rainwater will water a fruit tree. These children will experience how easy it is to transform a broken pattern into a successful, life-regenerating system. We are partnering with internationally renown Rainwater Harvester, Brad Lancaster to develop state standard curriculum that may one day reach millions of people.

- How does your organization's theory of change and work relate to the One Percent Foundation's core values? *(200 word limit)*

Please refer [here](#) for a description of our core values.

Earthroots Field School is 100% in alignment with One Percent Foundations core vales. Earthroots creates change in our community by engaging people of all ages to actively work together for sustainable solutions. We know that the earth needs healing, so we look to cultures that have healthy relationships with the earth and invite them to mentor us as leaders of our community. We work in partnership with other organizations, experts & mentors to create change in this lifetime for the benefit of all beings. At Earthroots, we take responsibility for our actions and model clear communication and peaceful resolutions both during class time and among staff. Our work at Earthroots Field School is to create healthy local ecosystems, vibrant community and creative individuals who make decisions with an awareness of and that honor our inextricable global relationships.

## **FINANCIALS AND STAFF**

*When returning the profile, please attach your organization's two most recent 990s.*

- What is the most recent IRS 990 filing year? 2009
  - Total revenues? \$89,198
  - Total expenditures? \$82,324
- What was the year-end balance as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010? -\$3060
- If the organization had a year-end surplus or deficit greater than \$30,000: What is the reason for the surplus or deficit?  
N/A
- What was the amount spent on salaries, benefits, and payroll taxes? \$67,563
- What was the highest paid employee (title and salary)? Executive  
Director, \$28,000
- How many people staff the organization?
  - Full-time? 1
  - Part-time? 7
- Is there any other information you think is relevant to understanding the organization's budget or financial situation?

Earthroots is supported by class fees, donations & sponsorships. We work on a shoestring budget and have high impact in our community. Instead of spending our finances on expensive material items, we invest our money on hiring quality mentors, trainings for our staff & the important necessities like insurance, accounting & site fees. Our staff are dedicated to living by example and create amazing programs that change lives for children and families in our region. Our staff love what they do and it shows.

- If a specific program is nominated: what is the total budget for the program?. How many people staff this program?

\$35,000 Staffed by 4 people

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Are there any volunteer opportunities with the organization for OPF members?

Yes. We offer volunteers "one time" or long term mentoring opportunities with our weekly classes, overnight camps & summer day camps.

- Has the organization received any significant awards? (*Limit to 3 awards*)

Not yet : )

**Organizational Profile: Earthroots Field School**  
**2011 One Percent Foundation Environment Cycle**



- Has the organization received any significant press? Where? (*Limit to 3 press mentions*)

Parenting OC Magazine article on Nature Deficite Disorder,  
<http://www.parentingoc.com/january-2010-featured-articles/793-nature-deficit-disorder.html>

Explore.org Jack Johnson Concert Interview as Non-Profit Partner  
<http://ochomeschooling.com/earthroots/classes/jack-johnson-ohana-foundation-gives-2500-to-earthroots/>