

WEAVINGEARTH
Center For Relational Education

2023 IMPACT REPORT

WHAT WE DO

Weaving Earth provides nature-based education for action at the confluence of **ecological, social, and personal systems change**. Through our programs and initiatives, we aim to cultivate earth intimacy, embodiment, and a commitment to co-liberation, while fostering a sense of joy and interconnection with the natural world.



WHAT WE ENVISION

- A world beyond dominance
- Communities that are rooted in justice, interrelationship, and earth care
- A planet whose ecological and cultural brilliance is preserved for the generations to come

HOW WE DO IT

All of our programs for **youth, teens, and adults** are:

- Nature-based, following natural cycles of learning and growth
- Dedicated to equity, justice, and social responsibility
- Designed to cultivate a deep connection to place, self-love, and community service to protect people and the planet

If separation is the ailment, relationship is the remedy.



ATTUNE participant with hand-crafted gourd bird house

GOALS + OBJECTIVES

Weaving Earth's (WE) primary goals for 2023 included revitalizing adult programs after COVID shutdowns and expanding partnerships to reach a wider audience. WE continued to run in-person programs primarily in Sonoma County, the Greater Bay Area, and the wilds of California. We also created online opportunities that extended our reach globally, **serving participants across five continents.**

Testimonials from folks in our youth, teen, and adult programs (sprinkled throughout this report) highlight the transformative experiences of WE participants engaged in our programs, **demonstrating the impact on personal growth, connection to nature, and an embodied sense of interconnection with all of life.**

This work continues to prove its effectiveness at bringing more joy, peace, and hope to the world while imparting the tangible skills needed to face rising social and ecological crises.

As is true for so many, adapting to COVID was challenging, but Weaving Earth responded with new programs to meet a changed world, ensuring continued relevance and effectiveness for years to come.

Through the following programs, alliances, and fundraising efforts, **we are happy to say that Weaving Earth had a successful year!**

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

ADULT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

ATTUNE: Our newest in-person program, focused on fostering intuition and tangible skills for climate emergency response, is underway and will wrap in June of '24. It has been a profound journey, and we're excited to see where we go next. *A photo essay from session 1 is on the pages ahead!*

THE AUSPICES: Our self-paced, online immersion in earth- and star-scapes continued growing, providing participants worldwide with opportunities for ecological practice and connection.

BIRD LANGUAGE AND MINDFUL BIRDING: This online collaboration with Molly Tsongas and Tammah Watts reached nearly 1,000 people and is slated to run again in 2024.

SEASONS OF CHANGE ASTROLOGY: After more than a year of running these online gatherings on the solstices and equinoxes we are excited to see how people learn to discern the wisdom of the stars and apply it to their lives.

RECKONING + REMEDY: In collaboration with Morgan Curtis and WE alumnus/board member Justine Epstein, we held a second rite-of-passage ceremony to support white people with inherited wealth to work with redistribution and reparations for collective liberation.

"Attune was a mirror in ways I didn't realize I deeply needed. It gave me a lived/embodied experience of what my deepest held values can actually feel like – desires for kinship & community (both human & other-than-human!), existing at a pace of slow/deliberate wonder, a template for future world-building that is more alive than ever before.

~ATTUNE participant



After a long period of feeling disconnected from myself, my environment, and my community, [ATTUNE] restored so much of my hope in how we can relate, heal, world build, listen, and work toward liberation for all beings.

~ATTUNE participant



Learning to use power tools for fire preparation



Enjoying our daily sunrise bird sits



In the study of bringing healthy fire to the land



Tending the fire with heart and care

YOUTH AND TEEN HIGHLIGHTS

WILD TENDERS YOUTH PROGRAM: Celebrating its 10th year in 2023, Wild Tenders continued offering a 9-month nature-based learning journey for youth aged 3 to 14.

Additionally, we're excited to welcome Alice Tibbets, a new youth staff member, to the Wild Tenders team! Alice also runs a CSA at Green Valley called Fledgling Farm. Welcome, Alice!

SUMMER PROGRAMS: Our most extensive lineup of summer programs to date included ten day-long camps and backpacking trips, engaging more than 80 youth and teens in immersive nature experiences.



Playing games at Wild Tenders



Good times at the end of year campout



Welcome to the Wild Tender team, Alice!

Our child gained skills and confidence towards being self-reliant in nature, such as fire-making, shelter building, wildcrafting, dealing with the elements, communication with peers and mentors, leading natural sciences (biology/geology/geography/physics), gaining physical strength through hiking, taking on responsibilities and just plain having fun!

~Wild Tenders Parent

COLLABORATIONS

In 2023, we continued partnerships with ***Bioneers, NARA (Native American Rehabilitation Association), and Credo High***, while forging new partnerships with organizations like Stonebridge Elementary. These partnerships furthered our impact through shared initiatives and projects aimed at promoting environmental stewardship, personal development, and social justice.

I think the biggest thing that I found, especially on my solo, was how much connecting to nature really helps me in a lot of aspects of my life, and how in tune I can be with nature. That's probably the biggest takeaway I got from the trip.

~ Alan, Credo High Senior



Credo teens enjoying some quality river time



WE Board Member and guide for Credo Senior Trip Justine Epstein in Hendy Woods sitting with the elders

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT

We want to highlight one special new partnership from last year that we're very excited about:

In late 2023, we announced a partnership with Loam, an independent publishing project and community organization. We have worked with Loam on various projects and publications over the years, and it has been a wonderful experience.

We are thrilled to share the news that Loam and Weaving Earth have decided to merge, with Loam now operating as Weaving Earth's official publishing branch!

Watch for new projects born of this exciting collaboration coming soon.

When we reflect on this shift, the language of "merger" feels insufficient. ***Nesting Loam within Weaving Earth is more like a homecoming.*** *We're hopeful about what might grow from our shared garden, and humbled to be in this work with you.*

~LOAM



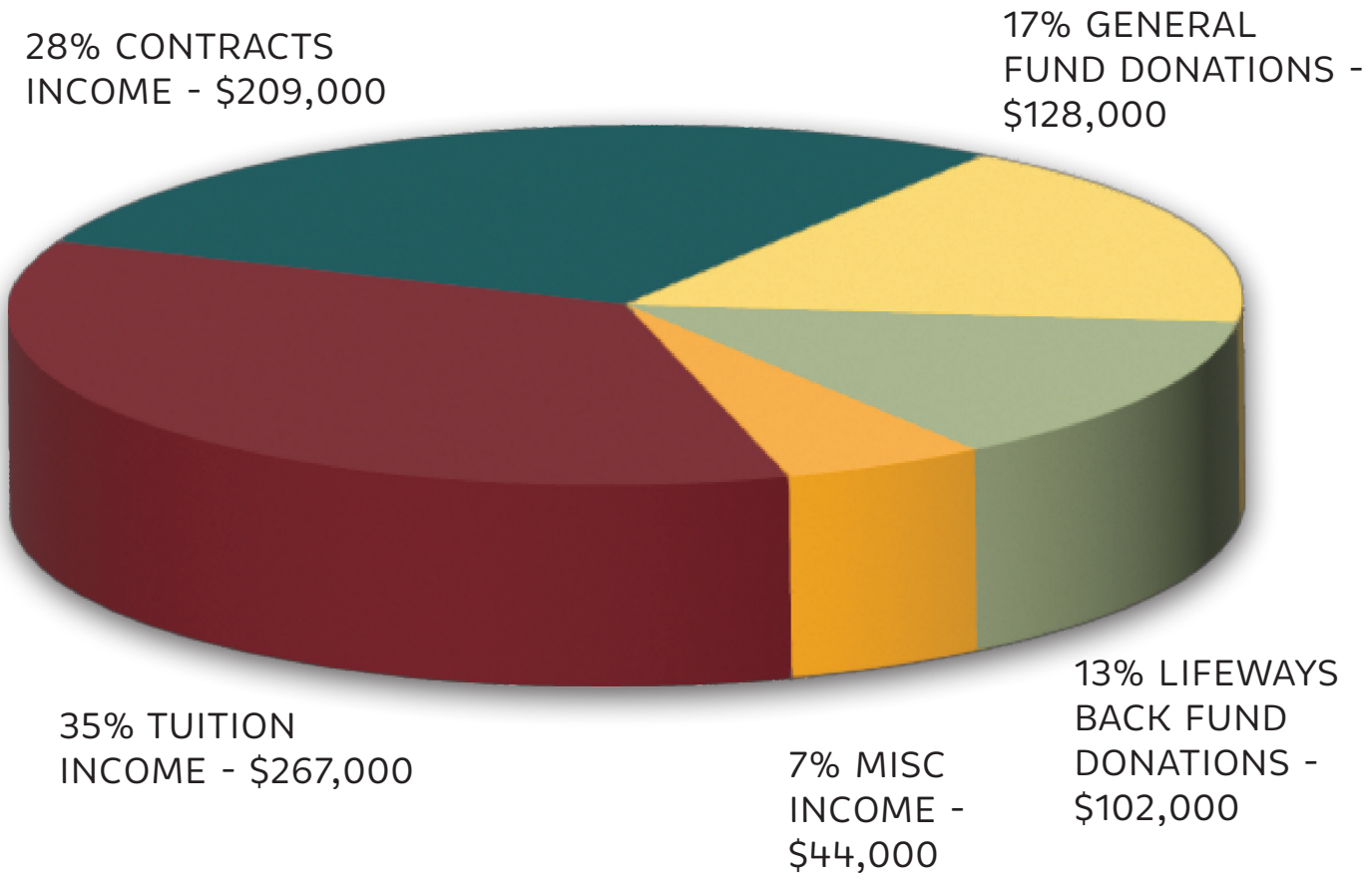
MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

In 2023, Weaving Earth served approximately **2000 youth, teens, and adults.** Our programs catered to diverse demographics, prioritizing accessibility and inclusivity across gender, race, and ability.

Key milestones included launching our first in-person fundraiser (celebrating our 10th anniversary) and our new adult program, ATTUNE. This program received an overwhelming response, and efforts to prioritize accessibility led to a significant increase in BIPOC and queer participation, reflecting our commitment to social justice and equity.

FINANCES

Our Relational Education Curriculum is made possible through a combination of tuition, consulting fees, contracts, grants, and generous donations from our wonderful supporters. In 2023, our total revenue was approximately $750,000, with $267,000 in tuition, $209,000 in contracts, $128,000 in donations to the General Fund, and $102,000 donated to the Lifeways Back Fund. *Read more about this fund here*. The remainder came from miscellaneous income, including various tax credits and refunds.



WE WANT TO THANK ALL OUR DONORS FOR YOUR 2023 CONTRIBUTIONS!

Our heartfelt thanks go out to:
**listed alphabetically*

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WEAVINGEARTH

THANK YOU for being part of the WE web!

LOOKING AHEAD

We are proud of what we accomplished in 2022 and 2023 after closing in-person programming in 2020. With ongoing commitment to our mission and values, we look forward to furthering our impact in the years to come.

We hope that you will continue to accompany us, and can't thank you enough for your support. Please share this report with any and all you think would be excited by what we are up to.

TO LEARN MORE

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Email us at info@weavingearth.org

Set up a consultation on our website: *click here*

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation today at www.weavingearth.org/#donate

We look forward to connecting with you again soon!