

LIFE LAB SCIENCE PROGRAM 2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT

A NOTE... FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 2008-2009 fiscal year was challenging for many. At Life Lab we focused on sticking to our core values and paring down our expenses. We spent time looking to the future and planning to meet the needs of our community in a time of limited resources. In spite of fears of funding shortages, this year Life Lab provided hands-on inspired land- and garden-based education programs for local youth, and met the needs of more youth, teachers and community members than ever before.

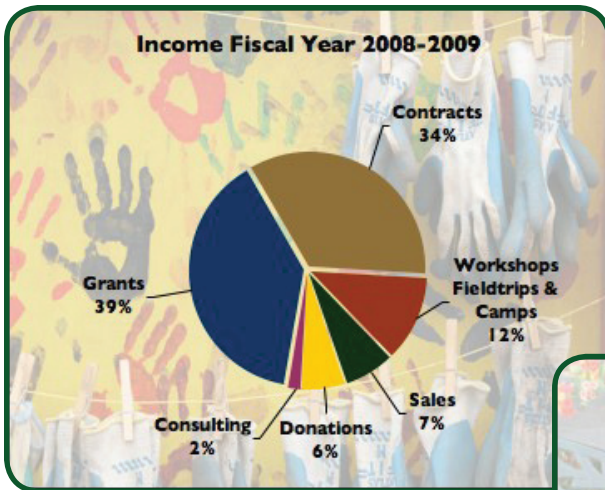


- We worked with 1,347 educators; 207 of these educators were trained right here in the Garden Classroom.
- We touched the lives of over 400 youth participating in the Food What?! program and 38 parents.
- Over 2,249 children visited the Garden Classroom for field trips and camp.
- We worked with over 7,000 students in Santa Cruz, San Benito and Monterey Counties to improve ecological sustainability and teaching practices in schools.

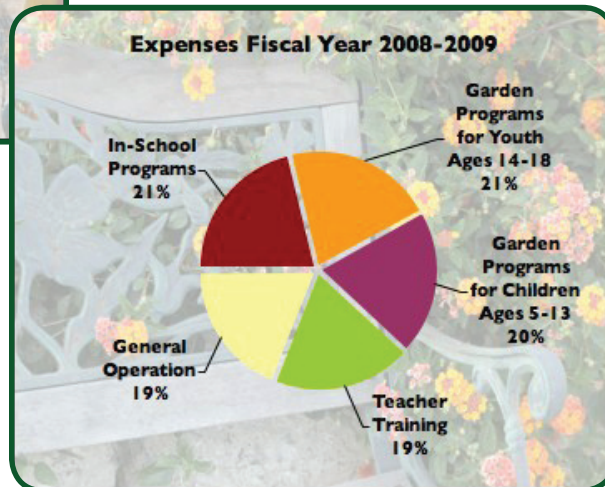
In 2009, we celebrated our 30th year as garden-based educators and brought many exciting events to the community and beyond. Life Lab's 30th Birthday Party, held on May 30th, was a family festival for the young and young at heart. Then, later in the year we hosted a School Garden Sustainability Summit, a School Garden Open House, and a handful of other community workshops to inspire youth and adults to be life long learners in the garden. To top off our year, on September 10th Life Lab was recognized by The Honorable Sam Farr at the 111th Congress.

We are excited to bring you this good news as Life Lab continues to dedicate itself to providing quality educational programs for youth and teachers. Each day we touch the lives of youth and educators, focusing on learning, conservation and healthy lifestyle choices. Most of our work could not be done without the help of many student interns, the Life Lab Board of Directors, CASFS farm staff and apprentices, and the amazing donors who support our programs throughout the year. Many thanks to each of you.

With Gratitude,
Gail Harlamoff
 Executive Director, Life Lab Science Program



Left: Chart of Income generated to support all programs.
 Below: Chart showing allocation of funds.



- LIFE LAB STAFF:**
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JONATHAN WITTEW



Providing land-based experiential education for all learners with a focus on environmental education, academic success, and creating healthy lifestyles.

Offering programs for educators, students and community members in the Life Lab Garden Classroom located at the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems on the Farm at UC Santa Cruz. The Life

Lab Garden Classroom, designated The Central Coast Regional Training Center for Garden-Based Education by the California Department of Education, is a hub for many collaborations and networks serving over 15,000 visitors annually.

Life Lab Garden Classroom Field Trips - offering hands-on experiential field trips to the 2-acre Life Lab Garden Classroom site for students pre-school through middle school from the central coast and adjacent regions.

Life Lab Garden Classroom Camps - providing a unique experience in garden-based science, environmental awareness, and nutrition education to children and youth of diverse populations in Santa Cruz County.

Food What?! - a youth empowerment program meeting the needs of local teenage youth through environmental and nutrition education, increased activity, job skills training, food systems advocacy, and healthy lifestyle practices.

Green Schools - a collaboration with the County Board of Supervisors and Green Waste promoting environmental awareness and waste reduction through resource conservation education in Santa Cruz County schools.

Monterey Bay Science Project - A California Subject Matter Project training educators in science and language development during a workshop series, science conference, summer institute, and ongoing peer coaching.

Professional Development - presenting workshops, locally and nationally, in garden-based education for teachers, garden educators, and volunteers.

After-School and Special Programs - offering community youth and family programs based on special topics such as: Family Farm Fresh Cooking, Gardening with Children, Family Camp and Garden Crafts.

Special Events - working with other organizations to create rich opportunities for members of our community, such as the Annual Regional Conference, Rooted in Community and the School Garden Sustainability Summit.

Consulting and Collaborating - providing services to schools and community groups interested in developing and using educational gardens.

Curriculum - creating, publishing and distributing nationally recognized garden-based education curriculum to schools and individuals throughout the world.

Website www.lifelab.org - offering information and materials on garden-based learning to all.

To All Our Supporters!



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- Regional Nutrition Network
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- Renee's Garden Seeds
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- Ristorante Avanti
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- Santa Cruz County Office of Education
- Santa Cruz Gymnastics Center
- Santa Cruz Live Oak Grange
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- Santa Cruz Roller Paladium
- Santa Cruz Seaside Company
- Savannah Channele Vineyards
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- Walnut Ave. Café
- Andrea Wass
- Naomi Wayne
- Well Within Spa
- Whole Foods Market
- Winchester Mystery House
- Zayante Vineyards
- Mary Zicarelli
- ...and all of our generous donors, volunteers and interns.

