



— Friends of the —
RAINFOREST[™]
Monteverde, Costa Rica

FOREST FIELD
NEWS & NOTES
Winter 2020

SUPPORTING THE CHILDREN'S ETERNAL RAINFOREST SINCE 2002

My Dear Friends,

My gratitude for you is boundless. At the end of 2019, our organization made big plans to keep our momentum of record levels of school visits, ecotours, and donor engagement. As 2020 threatened what we had worked so hard to create, our staff, through the support of our donors, have been able to adapt and make this year a success.

Our work is more important now than ever. I have heard it said that 2020 is the year of misfortune, but I believe it is a year of consequence. We are seeing the consequences of treating our Earth and its inhabitants as disposable for hundreds of years. Mass extinctions, climate crises, and even the pandemic can be directly attributed to our own behavior and negligence when it comes to protecting our planet from harm - rainforests and all.

Destruction to the rainforest is, sadly, nothing new. However, 2020 came for this resource with renewed ferocity. The fires in the Amazon have destroyed over 5,019 square miles this year alone. Price increases and health concerns in the meat industry led to unmitigated deforestation and violence against indigenous communities to allow for cattle grazing.



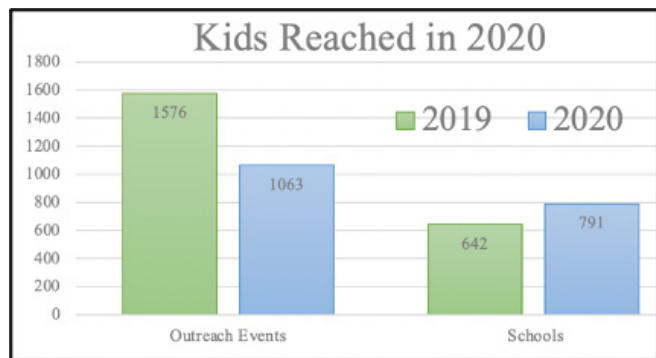
And yet, I am hopeful. This is a year of positive consequence as well. When we first began to see that the pandemic was going to have a huge financial impact on many of our donors, we asked those of you with the means to make an extra donation in their stead. You responded quickly. When we knew we would be losing our income from our annual trivia night, you began sending in donations the second we announced our campaign, before it officially began. Two long time donors have even offered a match of \$25,000, which is available through the end of the year. We have already reached \$14,845 towards that match with just a few weeks left in the year.



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Thanks to two very generous donors, from now until the end of the year, *your gift will be matched.*

We still have a portion of our \$25,000 matching fund available until the end of the month. You still have time to double your donation and help us finish 2020 on a high note!

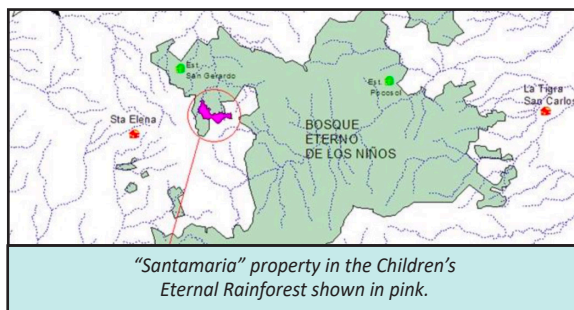


educational reach. With only two months of in-person lessons this year, we were still able to reach nearly 70% of the number of students from the previous year.

Our granting has also had a mast year. Monteverde Conservation League still struggles with making their payroll, even after drastically reducing costs. Our board and donors made them a priority and fully funded two quarters of their guard salaries with \$22,320. We also were able to make sure the property they had been trying to secure was not lost through a land purchase grant toward the Santamaria property of \$40,560. Finally, we completed the transaction sending \$25,000 to their endowment fund, thereby giving the Children's Eternal Rainforest a more secure future.



I am asking one last time this year for your help. I choose not to remember 2020 as a year when everything went wrong, but as a year when we recognize our impact - positive or negative - on the surrounding people and environment. We all carry different passions, resources, and capacity for giving aid at any given time. As we transition into this new year, I ask you to consider what you are able to offer to protect the rainforest for ourselves, our children, and our children's children.



With a grateful heart,
Chelsea Raiche
 Chelsea Raiche

We now have the ability to appear virtually to schools across the country and bring our lessons to new learners. In the future, we will be able to combine this with our in-person lessons to maximize our

Friends of the Rainforest

Our mission is to promote a sustainable world by educating and inspiring children and adults to take action to protect, support and expand the Rainforest in Costa Rica and beyond.

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Jenn DeRose of Known & Grown



We had the chance to chat with **Jenn DeRose, the manager of the local St. Louis non-profit Known and Grown.** Known and Grown works to connect local farmers with local grocers and restaurants and provides the farmers with the resources and support necessary for their success.

Jenn's experiences in sustainability make her an awesome resource. It was wonderful having her answer some of our questions about sustainable farming practices and why buying and consuming local produce and products is a meaningful step you can take to become more environmentally friendly and conscious!

Here's Jenn's explanation for why eating local is so important:

"There are so many good reasons to buy local food. When people buy locally, they are helping to create a more resilient food system. They are supporting real people who grow real food in our area, reducing the miles food has to travel to your plate, making it more nutritionally dense and better tasting. The more people growing real food, as opposed to commodity corn and soy, the more prepared we are as a region to face the inevitable shocks and stressors of climate change. Money spent locally has a multiplier effect and tends to stay in the community, helping other small businesses thrive. Additionally, when you buy from local, environmentally responsible farmers, you are avoiding giving money to giant factory farms that pollute our air and water "while degrading our soil and forcing animals to live in unspeakably cruel conditions."



Read the full interview at: www.friendsoftherainforest.org/post/jenn-derose

Why We Give: Our Friends Share Their Stories Simone and the Howe Family



Jonathan Howe and his sisters, Caroline and Natalie

El Bosque Eterno de los Niños (the Children's Eternal Rainforest) holds a very special place in my family's heart.

Soon after our 10-year-old son Jonathan died in March of 1992 - struck by a car as he walked home from the nearby public library - we received a letter from the Monteverde Conservation League notifying us that his school's parent association had made a donation to the Children's Eternal Rainforest in his memory. The parents hoped "to save an acre of precious rainforest in memory of our beloved Jonathan Howe so that life may continue to flourish in his name as his spirit does in our hearts."

Jonathan was happiest when he was outside, going on family hikes, exploring local streams, ponds, and beaches. He was fascinated by all aspects of nature. He loved animals. One of his first drawings was of a seal that he had seen at the Mystic Aquarium. Another was of a fish. How deeply comforting it was to know that the BEN would be enlarged slightly by that donation, that an irreplaceable area sustaining so much life, was to be preserved in his name. We imagined his nature-loving spirit being thrilled by the awesome beauty and variety of life there.

We told ourselves at the time that someday we would visit the BEN. We finally had the chance to do so in July of 2005. The trip felt like a pilgrimage, like a journey to a sacred place. We spent hours hiking in the BEN, led by dedicated and knowledgeable guides who pointed out innumerable wonders of nature in the surrounding flora and fauna. Our hearts were filled with amazement, and love, and hope for continued healing after his loss. We felt Jonny's inquisitive spirit accompanying us, teasing us as he liked to do, asking "What took you so long to come here? And aren't you glad you did?" Yes, we were indeed delighted to have spent time in the BEN!



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Happy Holidays from 
Friends of the **RAINFOREST**[™]

Thank you to those who gave a little extra in place of those who couldn't. Thank you to those who were patient with us as we navigated through 2020. Thank you to our affiliates, The Women of the Cloud Forest and Force of Nature - and thank you to those who have supported them. Thank you to those who bought a shirt, book or Protect-a-Pal. Thank you to those who participated in our Q&A with Lindsay Stallcup and our The Rainforest is Not Trivial Raffle.

**As always, we owe every single one of our
successes to you. Thank you.**