



# IMPACT REPORT

2023 - 2024



# OUR STORY

## AGENCY & ACTION

At O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO), we think about agency. We think about giving youth the knowledge to take action, the confidence to know their voice matters, and the opportunity to advocate for their world and their communities. To create positive change in our world, each child needs access to science education and the confidence to take steps that lead to large-scale change in their communities. With your help, we continue this vital work.

***"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has." ~ Margaret Mead***



We celebrate the large and small ways we have made a difference in the last year:

- We celebrate the joy of a student interacting with the ocean for the first time.
- We celebrate the sense of pride a student feels when they prevent trash from flowing into the watershed.
- We celebrate each student's passion when they share what they learned from OSO with their friends and families.

Teaching science with real-world experience is necessary to transform theory into action. Last year, our unwavering commitment to equity and continuing efforts to improve our program led us to focus on the student community action component of the OSO program. As a result, we saw more engagement and awareness. Ten classes wrote letters to elected officials. More than 30 classes produced creative art or media projects. Students participated in 53 beach/ watershed/ campus cleanups with 100s of pounds of trash removed!

Let's celebrate our students' success and the positive change they are bringing to their communities. Join us in celebrating all the ways the O'Neill Sea Odyssey has made a positive impact this year. Because the ocean is not just a classroom—it's YOUR classroom —and class is in session.

# 2023-24 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

178

2023-24 Trips

119

Transportation Scholarships

46%

Multilingual Learners



"All staff were extremely helpful and provided a rigorous yet engaging curriculum that all students could participate in. Thank you for everything!!!"  
-William Sheppard Middle School

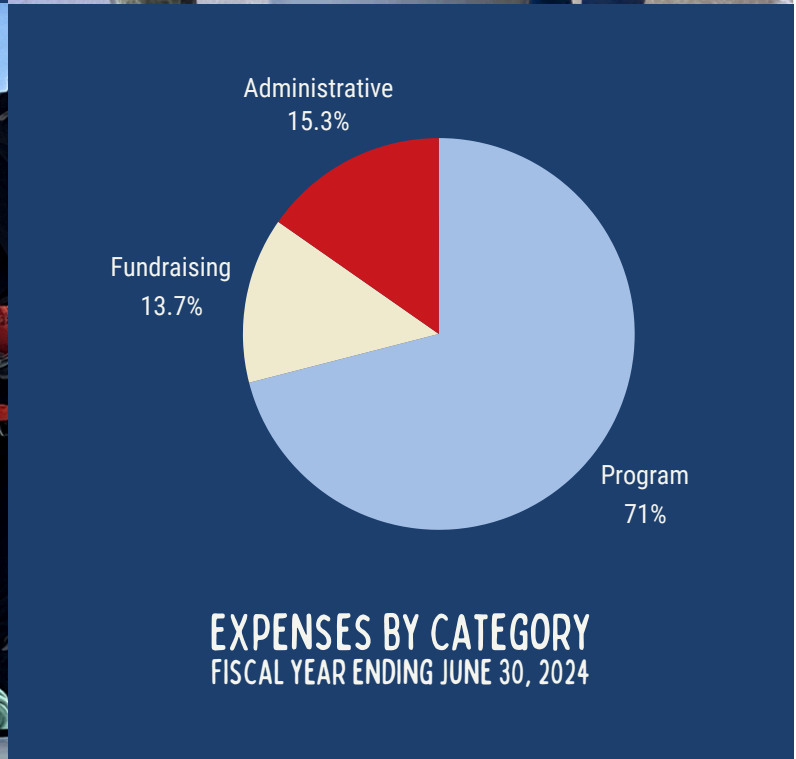
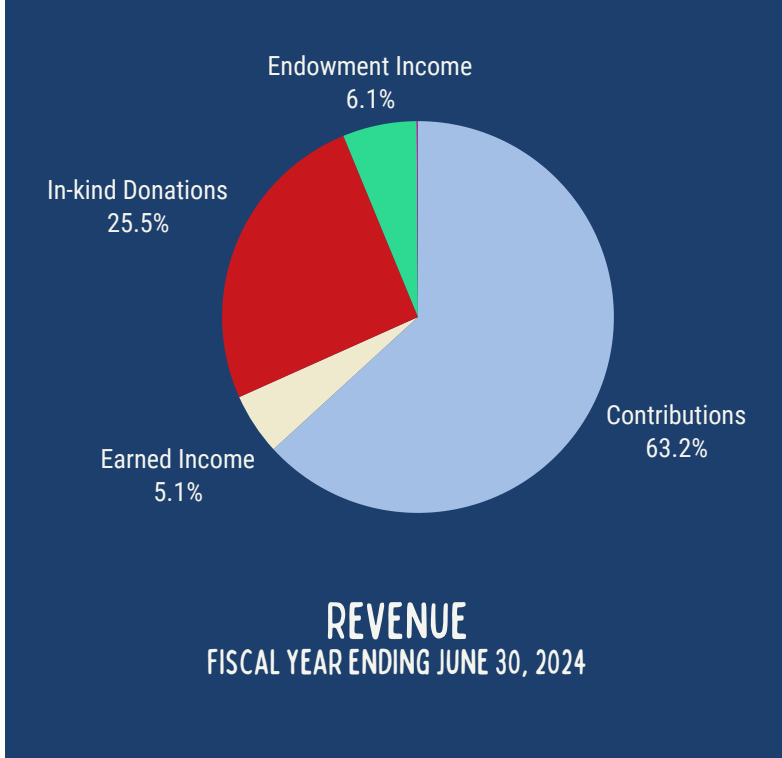
4,358

Students Served

127,462

Students served since 1996





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Staff

Tracey Weiss, Executive Director • Abby Newman, Ed.D Program Manager  
Liz Murphy, Finance & Operations Manager

## Marine Science Instructors

Breanne Hunt • Anisa Rizo • Shannon Low • Katie Lewis • Lina Nelson  
Rachel Lapp • Itzel Chavarria • Andrina Martinez • Emily Casaretto  
Lauren Marshall • Abbey Cannon • Carol Casey • Jessica Gallione  
Joey Rodrigues • Kimberly Wainscoat

## Skippers

Tim O'Neill • Mike Egan • Steve Spiliotopoulos • Darci Shea

## Board of Directors

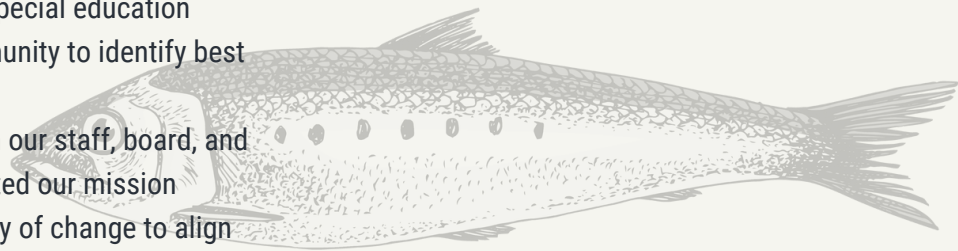
Bridget O'Neill, President • Tim O'Neill, Chair • Mike McCabe, Treasurer • Nick Petredis, Secretary  
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Dr. Daisy Morales



# OUR IMPACT TODAY & TOMORROW

In the fall of 2024, the OSO team redefined our work through the lens of equity and inclusion, guiding how we allocate our resources.

- We recruited staff and board members who reflect the diverse backgrounds of the students we serve.
- We administered a program barriers survey and are working to identify ways to support teachers and students better.
- We partnered with special education experts in our community to identify best practices.
- In collaboration with our staff, board, and teachers, OSO updated our mission statement and theory of change to align with these principles.



## MISSION

“O’Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO) provides free and transformative ocean-going educational experiences to students from diverse backgrounds, igniting their scientific curiosity and empowering them to take action to protect our oceans and watersheds.”

GOALS	HOW WE DID IT!	OUTCOMES
Increase ocean literacy and knowledge of science standards	Provide engaging lessons connect students' to the Monterey Bay, highlighting their community's relationship with this vital ecosystem.	<b>21%</b> increase in environmental awareness after OSO program
Reduce barriers to access to our coasts, oceans, and watersheds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritized socioeconomically disadvantaged<sup>1</sup> schools</li> <li>• Provide over \$49,000 for transportation scholarships</li> </ul>	<b>48%</b> first time on a boat on the ocean
More connection with program to local communities	Launch a volunteer chaperone program	<b>75+</b> volunteer hours of program and administrative support

<sup>1</sup> Demographic information captured from the California School Dashboard.

# 2023-2024 CONTRIBUTORS

## Jack's Circle: Over \$50,000

County of Santa Clara • Jack O'Neill Foundation • David and Lucille Packard Foundation  
Troy and Leslie Daniels

## Chair's Circle: \$10,000- \$49,999

Applied Materials Foundation • City of Capitola • City of Santa Cruz • City of Scotts Valley  
California State Coastal Conservancy(~) • Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County  
County of Santa Cruz • Jim and Deborah Thoits • Robert Martin

## Director's Circle: \$5,000-\$9,999

Bevin Daniels • Bridget O'Neill • Carol Fuller • Cathi O'Neill • Don Listwin • Harden Foundation  
Janelle Takamatsu • Lynda Tran and Kai Family Dentistry • Pat O'Neill  
Randy Repass and Sally-Christine Rogers • Robert and Carol Simpkins • Roger and Angela Amarante  
Terry and Cathleen Eckhardt • The Nicholson Family Foundation • Tim and Lisa O'Neill

## Admiral's Circle: \$2,500-\$4,999

Caroline's Thrift Store (\*) • Community Foundation Monterey County • Joe and Cheryl Pruss  
Monterey County Fish and Game Commission(~) • Richard and Valerie Russell Lapp  
Robert and Nancy Bremner(~) • SockSmith

## Commodore's Circle: \$1,000 - \$2,499

Bill and Brigid Simpkins • Capitola Public Safety & Community Service Foundation • Gary and Marianne Livaich  
Gary Fillizetti • James Beckett • Joan Wenglikowski • John Carlson • K&CS Brothers Fund • Lincoln West  
Martha Seaver • Michelle Molfino and Mark Grilli • Milton Chen and Ruth Cox • Pacific Gas & Electric  
Randall and Cynthia Pond • Rotary Club of Santa Cruz County • Santa Cruz County Bank  
Santa Cruz Sunrise Rotary Club • Sidney Stern Memorial Trust • Susan Casentini • The Kling Family Foundation  
Tim Haifley • Vance Landis-Carey(\*) • Walter and Karen Loewenstern

## Captain's Circle: \$500- \$999

Alison and Kevin Butler • Brad and Linda Wiles • Carol R Sisney • Craig and Diana Thomas(\*) • Daisy Morales  
Dan and Rebecca Haifley • Douglas Hetzler • Emily Reilly • Fred Gawlick(+) • Geo H. Wilson, Inc. • Jane Orbuch(~)  
Jim and Annie Marshall • John and Carolyn Overton • John and Michelle Whelan • Jon and Margie Sisk • Keith Gudger  
Martin Brown • Nicholas and Theresa Petredis • Patrick Carstens • Rachel Whelan • Richard Novak • Robert Ludwig  
Robert Stephens • Tom Burns and Eileen Leary • Tracey and Melissa Weiss

## OSO Supporter

Alison Kele • Astrid Holberg • Bonita Nicolle • Carol Hill • Dave Welles • David and Geri Lieby(+) • David Sweet and Elaine Kihara • Derrick Clark  
Don and Meg Harlor • Don Lauritson • Donald and Susan Snyder • Gary and Marilyn Patton(+) • Gregory Clark • James and Susan Ritchey  
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Patrick and Sheryl Coulston • Richard Hyman • Ron Pomerantz and Jane Weed-Pomerantz(+) • Rosemarie M Dow • Stefanee Bingaman  
Steven Harper • Tanner Beckett • Willam and Britt Powell

KEY: +Dan Haifley Program Fund \*Adam Webster Fund ~Transportation Fund

# WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN OUR PROGRAM

