

# Stories of Gratitude

How Your Giving Changes Lives

WINTER 2021



WILDERNESS  
AWARENESS  
SCHOOL

## Going Barefoot

by Davis Luanava

I've gone from being the muddiest kid in the woods at Wilderness Awareness School's youth programs in 2004, to starting my own outdoor preschool in 2020. Since I can remember, my life has included WAS.

I have memories of making my own bow drill kit and building bonfires on Linne Doran, of helping to build the cob oven and the Malalo woodshed. I built shelters covered with ferns and slept in them overnight. I took incredible community school trips to Zion and the sand dunes, and I remember the profound impact Fire and Water Quest had on me. WAS was a safe haven for me, a place I connected to myself and to my indigeneity.

As soon as I was able to, I started volunteering at WAS summer camps and later became an instructor. It was also a place that I slowly started challenging; the connection and strength of self that WAS inspired in me helped me find my voice when I noticed injustices.

After being heard and acknowledged by staff, I started to speak out about my experiences and the inequity I faced at WAS. They responded with care by creating an Equity Council, starting diversity training at summer camps, requiring a level of knowledge around equity for staff, and hiring more diverse people. **Through speaking up, I became more confident and my desire to take on injustice in nature connection deepened.**

I became as fierce a protector of justice as I was of nature, all while working with young children to share the beauty of this world.

CONTINUE TO PG 2

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Going Barefoot.....page 1 - 2

Notes From the Eagle's Nest.....page 2

2019/2020 Annual Report..... page 3

Fostering Respect..... page 4

***"The connection and strength of self that Wilderness Awareness School inspired in me helped me find my voice"***



Thanks to your generosity, Davis has gone on to start **Barefoot Nature Explorers**, a preschool in North Seattle.

## Notes From the Eagle's Nest

by Warren Moon, Executive Director

This has been a tough year. My heart goes out to all of you who have suffered hardship and loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the father of two teen girls, I know how hard this crisis has been on our kids and families. It has been a year where hope has been critical but also elusive at times.

Through it all, you have been there for our students and community. You have been our beacon of hope, as your generous support has been a lifeline to many kids and families.

Without you, hundreds of students would not have had the opportunity to experience nourishing adventures in nature with peers and skilled mentors during the pandemic. These experiences have been critical in helping them stay healthy and giving them hope for a brighter future. Thank you!

As we continue to forge ahead through this pandemic, your partnership will remain critical in making sure our students can continue to have access to life-sustaining programs.

With such a caring and compassionate community, I know we can meet the upcoming challenges together. Thanks to you, I have hope for brighter days ahead.

With gratitude,

Warren  
Moon



***“I would never have had the knowledge, experience, strength, or confidence to start a preschool if it hadn’t been for my years at Wilderness Awareness School”***

After graduating college this spring with an Environmental Science degree, I had one major hope in mind: to spread love, justice, and connection to the natural world. During this time of pandemic and lockdown, I realized that so many children were stuck indoors without the ability to engage with the world, have adventures, or play with other children. Children who live in the city have even less access to outdoor experiences. **So I created my own preschool in North Seattle, Barefoot Nature Explorers, with a fellow WAS alum.**

Being with these kids reminds me to continue to prioritize play, connection, and curiosity. I’ve started my school with a scholarship fund for students of color and based it in North Seattle for marginalized students to have access to nature. We start every day with gratitude about the Indigenous people who tend the land, and tell the students stories that center women and people of color. I can say with certainty that I would never have had the knowledge, experience, strength, or confidence to start a preschool if it hadn’t been for my years at Wilderness Awareness School.



Davis is continuing to foster nature-connection in today’s young people thanks to your generous gifts!

# WILDERNESS AWARENESS SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

September 2019 - August 2020

## Accomplishments

**\$14,950**

toward Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training, development, and initiatives.

**\$131,531**

for capital expenses. Including the Coho Development Project, new website and database, and COVID-19 land improvements.

**\$6,020**

toward initiatives to help grow the nature connection movement.

**1,365**

kids enjoyed fun adventures in nature throughout the year, including **1,027** in summer day camps.

Your support provided **\$65,831**

in scholarship, to allow **117** students the ability to attend our programs.

**183**

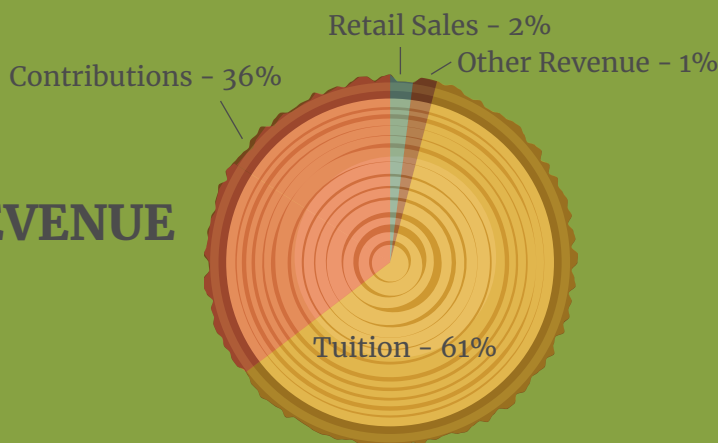
adults participated in a variety of programs, from our 9-month Anake Outdoor School, to weekend and weeklong programs, to Kamana Naturalist Training.

**146**

volunteers gave **7,835** hours of invaluable time and energy, playing essential roles in our programs. Thank you!

## Financial Report

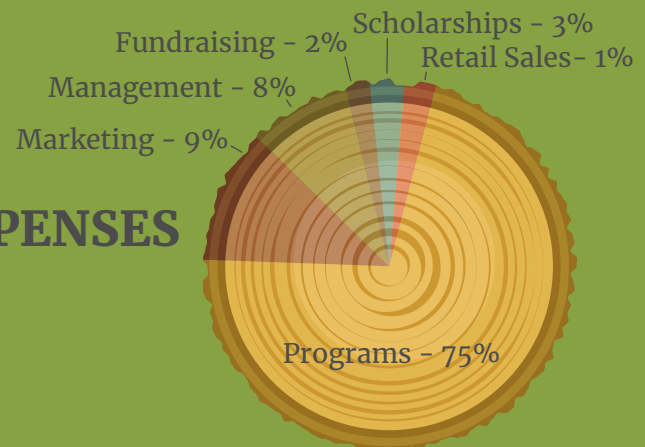
### REVENUE



Tuition	\$1,243,760
Contributions	\$729,983
Retail Sales	\$45,814
Other Revenue	\$30,246

**TOTAL \$2,049,803**

### EXPENSES



Programs	\$1,532,516
Management & General	\$169,601
Marketing	\$188,841
Scholarships	\$65,831
Fundraising	\$57,575
Retail Sales	\$23,712

**TOTAL \$2,038,076**