

Coastal Steward Long Island Annual Report 2017





EDUCATION



PRESERVATION



RESTORATION

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Letter from the President of the Board of Directors



The year 2017 was a year of transition for Coastal Steward Long Island (CSLI). We added new members to our Board of Directors and developed an ambitious set of goals for growth in 2018 and beyond. Thanks to our many community-based volunteers, and the generous support of our donors, we are confident that we will reach our goals. In 2018 we hired our first Executive Director, Ashly Carabetta, who is tasked with helping CSLI grow so that we can reach more Long Island students with our excellent hands-on

marine environmental classes, cleanup more beaches, and continue to implement our shellfish restoration program.

Long Island is the largest and longest island in the continental United States. We have over 1,600 miles of coastline containing some of the most beautiful beaches on the eastern seaboard. However, Long Island's coasts and unique near-coastal marine environments are increasingly under stress. The stress comes from many sources, including sea level rise, erosion from increasing powerful tides and storms, urban and agricultural runoff, garbage, plastic waste, and nitrate pollution.

We at CSLI are proud of the efforts of our volunteers and supporters in 2017 who recognized that this unique jewel of an island that we call home needs all of our efforts and more to remain beautiful and fruitful for generations to come. The year 2018 was an ambitious year of growth for CSLI, and with the continued support of our donors, schools, and community-based organizations, we will achieve all of our goals and more.

On behalf of the CSLI Board of Directors, we thank you for your continued support, and look forward to many more accomplishments in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Denis Mellett

Our Mission

Coastal Steward Long Island (CSLI) is dedicated to restoring and preserving Long Island's coastline through education, raising public awareness, and community action. CSLI programs educate our youth and local community groups in coastal environmental awareness through beach cleanups, shellfish population restoration, and citizen science. By engaging with our local youth and communities, we foster a caring connection between Long Island residents and their shoreline, and create future generations of coastal stewards.



Marine Education



Our goal is to educate the public about critical marine issues, so we can develop a local community of stewards of all ages who will protect our waterways and ocean on Long Island for years to come. By engaging with our local youth, we foster a caring connection between children and their coastal environment, creating future generations of coastal stewards.

We offer field trips to the **Marine Environmental Stewardship Center (MESC)** in cooperation with the Town of Brookhaven, where students can learn about Long Island ecology through hands-on study. The center is home to touch-screen technology along with outdoor touch tanks, allowing students to gain first-hand comprehensive experience for learning about the marine environment.



Our field trip programs, outlined on the next page, can be modified to accommodate various age groups from elementary to high school students. The programs include discovering and identifying organisms in the salt marsh, a nature walk and tour of the MESC, a tour of the Shellfish Hatchery, and identification of plankton using microscopes.

CSLI also hosts the **Long Island Youth Ocean Conservation Summit** each year in the fall. The Summit is a day full of opportunities for attendees to meet representatives from ocean conservation organizations, listen to presentations, and develop their own conservation action plans.





“Coastal Steward has an amazing education program that our class has enjoyed participating in for the last two years. Between the hands-on learning and interaction with the sea life and nature, CSLI keeps our students excited to learn year after year. We cannot thank Coastal Steward enough for these unforgettable experiences, and we're looking forward to planning our next trip.”

– Brittany DeMaio, Teaching Assistant at Deer Park High School



Marine Education Programs

The following programs are available for school groups:

- *Discovering and Identifying Organisms in the Salt Marsh* – By using the seine net, cast net, and dip net, marine organisms will be collected by students and identified. We will catch and release. Waders will also be available.
- *Nature Walk and Tour of the Marine Environmental Stewardship Center* – Discover Long Island marine life through indoor exhibits, such as interactive touch screens, simulated touch screen submarines, salt water aquariums with live native marine life, and more. Explore outdoor exhibits, walk the boardwalk, and view native plants. Experience touch tanks. Visit the shellfish facility and learn how the shellfish are raised from seed, protected, and in turn protect the marine environment.
- *The “Home Run”* – Four different sites are set up. Depending on the age group and the objectives of the teacher, choose from one to all four of the following:
 - Collecting and Identifying Marine Organisms, Including Water Analyses
 - Tour of the Marine Environmental Stewardship Center
 - Shellfish Hatchery and Discussion of Clam and Oyster Mariculture
 - Identification of Microscopic Plankton*

*Prior knowledge of the use of the microscope is essential for plankton identification.

Each of these programs are offered at the Marine Environmental Stewardship Center in Mount Sinai. **Pre-K to 6th Grade programs are also available.** Please contact us at info@coastalsteward.org for more information and details!



“I am pleased to support Coastal Steward in their work protecting and preserving Long Island's beaches, and particularly their very impressive Marine Education programs, which help to develop a deeper connection between Long Island children and their unique coastal environment.”

– Paul Roux, Founder and Chairman of Roux Associates, Inc.



“Coastal Steward Long Island and their volunteers at the Marine Environmental Stewardship Center at Mount Sinai Harbor provided our students with an entertaining and informative learning experience. It's obvious to see that CSLI and their volunteers are devoted to what they do and they helped the students develop a better understanding and respect for the marine environment that surrounds us here on Long Island.”

– Chris Theodorellis, Teacher at Long Island Lutheran High School



Preservation

Since 1989, when CSLI's founder Dave Johnson became a Site Captain for Annual Coastal Cleanup Day, we have been directing and organizing beach cleanups around Long Island. In 2005 we formally became a non-profit organization and began working with towns such as the **Village of Port Jefferson**, **Village of Belle Terre**, and **Town of Brookhaven**, to attain permits and create regular beach cleanup schedules year-round. Since then, we have cleaned hundreds of miles of beach and removed over 200 tons of trash from our shores, preserving the beauty of Long Island's beaches and the safety of our local marine life both on shore and underwater.



“CSLI and its members have been dedicated to cleaning and protecting our beaches for over a decade. Their work to prepare the youth of our communities to continue in this effort is vital for the healthy future of our waterways. As a non-profit, CSLI benefits from volunteers and relies heavily on donations. Having access to funding opportunities is necessary for CSLI to implement these programs and continue with their commitment to Education, Preservation, and Restoration of Long Island's marine environment.”

– Valerie M. Cartwright, Town of Brookhaven

At our cleanups, we provide bags, gloves, snacks, and water for our volunteers. Our organization has a truck to pick up large items off the beach and haul them away, and a boat to pick up floating debris. We also document the type of trash we collect during each cleanup according to categories, compiling our data at the end of each year. Each spring, we update our cleanup schedule under News & Events on our website.

We also take part in the **Sponsor-A-Beach Program**, which is based on monetary donations from individuals, businesses, organizations, or government agencies. The sponsor picks a beach and CSLI organizes everything from recruiting and training volunteers, to getting permits and directing the cleanup.



Restoration



The **Shellfish Restoration Program** is a hands-on project. Volunteers assist in the growing of the shellfish seed and placing them into protected sanctuaries. Coastal Steward Long Island has been restoring shellfish since the year 2000. To date, more than 500,000 adult shellfish have been released into Port Jefferson and Mt. Sinai Harbors. Our goal is to establish a self-sustaining population of oysters in our harbors.

What else is there to know?

- When we first get the shellfish, they are only an eighth to a quarter inch in size!
- The American oysters that we use are from a disease resistant strain, which is genetically marked by the black stripes on their shell.
- The results of our efforts throughout the years have shown success. 95% of the oysters found at low tide have black stripes.
- Continuing the shellfish restoration project is critical to establishing a self-sustaining population of disease resistant oysters.

We meet at Cedar Beach in Mt. Sinai every other Saturday from May to October to grow shellfish, as specified on our website's News & Events page.

“My Council District is one of the most environmentally sensitive regions on Long Island, and I have come to rely on the Coastal Steward to help protect it for future generations to enjoy. I applaud their commitment to education, preservation, and restoration of our waterways, which helps to make Long Island a better place to live for everyone. Keep up the good work, Coastal Steward!”

– Jane Bonner (left), Town of Brookhaven Councilwoman

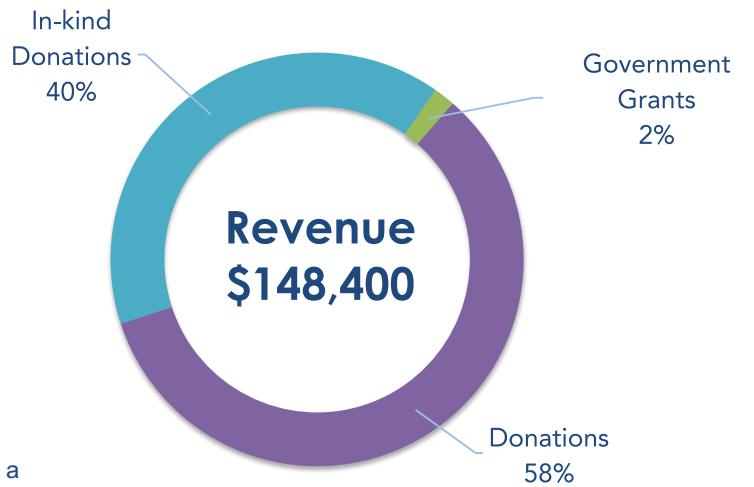
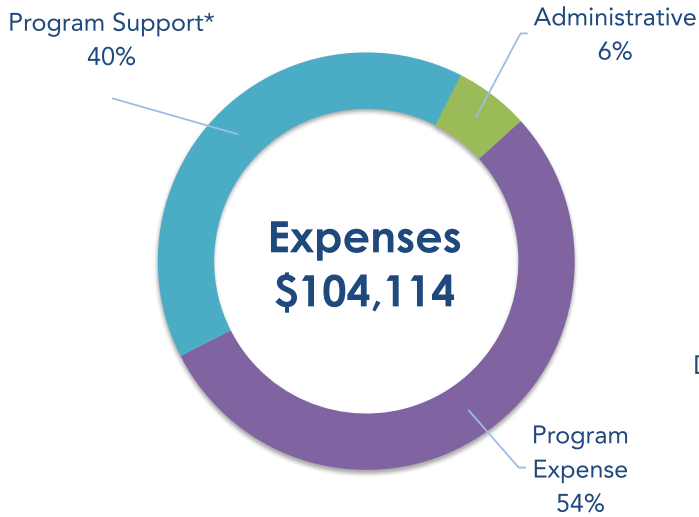


May 20, 2017 The Great Brookhaven Cleanup

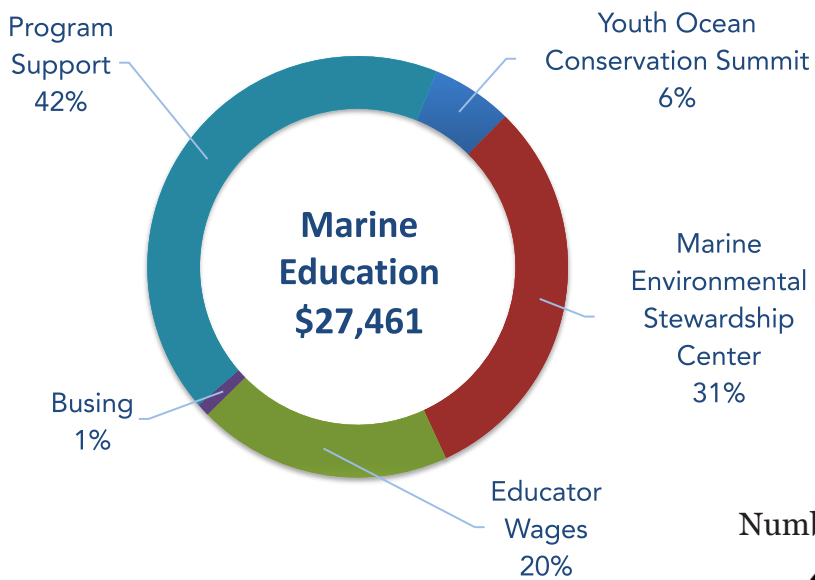
“Marine education is exactly what we need in today's world to engage local communities and get young people to do much better than what we've been able to do, and with that said I am so proud of what you guys are doing. I really look forward to being part of some of the programs in the future, developing pilot projects for marine education over at the MESC. At the end of the day, we need to keep our oceans clean—this our aquatic backyard, this is our life support system, and I can't commend you enough for amount of work that you all have done tirelessly with your volunteers and with your staff. ”

– Fabien Cousteau (right), Aquanaut, Ocean Conservationist, & Documentarian

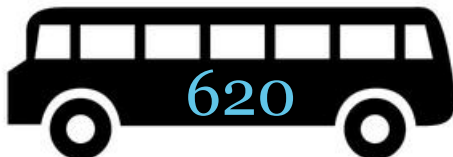
Financials & Statistics



*Program support in each of these charts are the fees paid to a consultant and for the development of our website.



Number of students we've reached



760

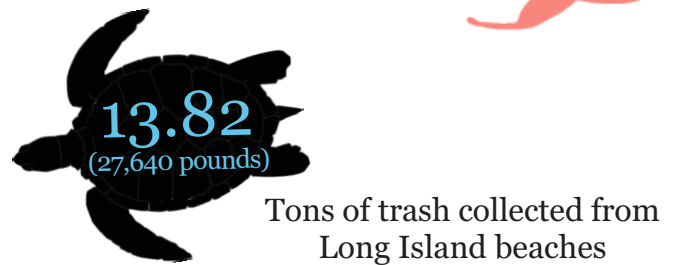
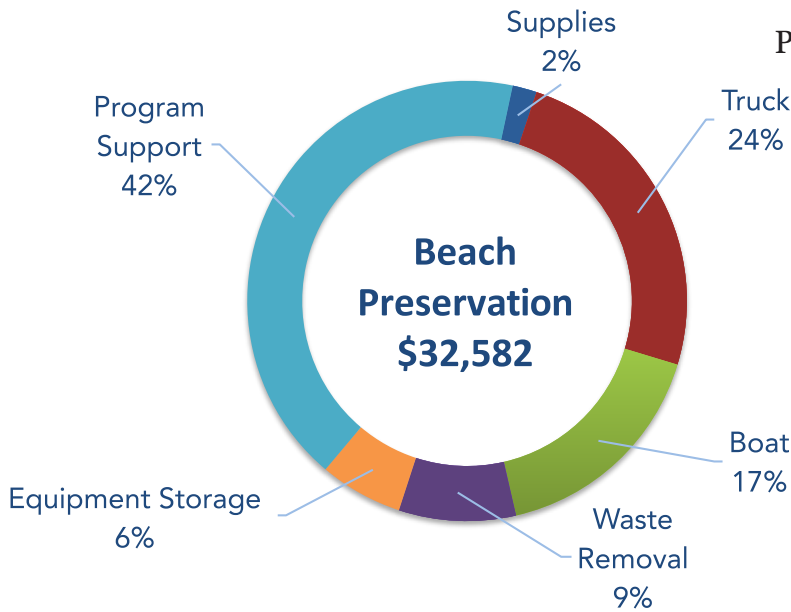
Number of potential volunteers gained



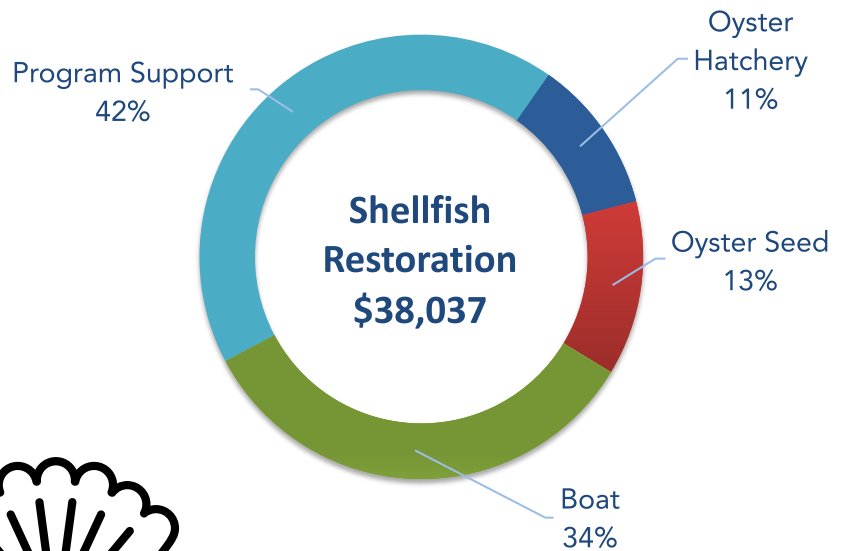
Number of adults reached



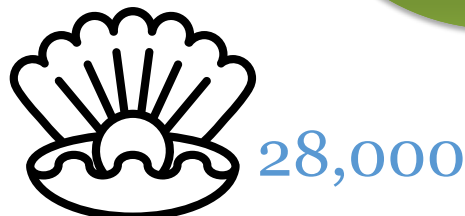
Financials & Statistics



Number of volunteers



Oyster seed provided by the Town of Brookhaven



Number of oysters planted in the harbor

Our Donors

Individual Donors

Elizabeth Alexander

Leo Alves

Anthony Ambrosio

Casey Barron

Thomas and Claire Campo

Peter Campo

Stephen and Judy Campo

Christopher and Linda Campo

Thomas and Francine Campo III

Jonathan Cannella

David and Carmela Cohn

Edward M. And Christine Considine

Martha DePersia

Judith Elkin

Stanley Gregory

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Brian McCaffrey

William R. and Mary Negra

Bettina Palazzo-Grunke

Ben Roberstson

Paul and Barbara Roux

David Shamoon

Vicky Tay

Oleg and Tatiana Tchoubar

Michael Wynarczuk

Foundations, Corporations, & Organizations

Disc Graphics

Fabien Cousteau Ocean Learning
Center

Morrison Foundation

MOTE Marine Laboratory

Dooner-Rockwell Family Charitable
Trust

Rotary Club of Stony Brook

Roux Associates, Inc.

The Dive Club International, Inc.

Village of Belle Terre

Village of Port Jefferson



Thank you!

Coastal Steward Long Island

544 Jefferson Plaza #48

Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776

www.coastalsteward.org