

# 2018

## Coastal Steward Long Island Annual Report

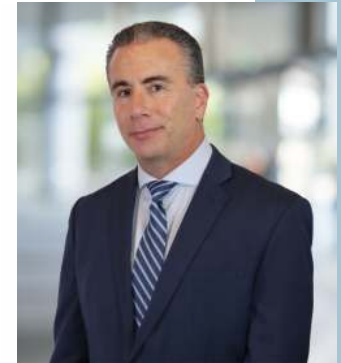


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## Letter from the President of the Board of Directors



The former Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the late Tip O'Neill reportedly said, "all politics is local." The same could be said for environmental awareness and stewardship.

In a time when one can feel overwhelmed and maybe even frustrated with the big environmental issues facing our world, including climate change, plastics in the ocean, and deforestation—thinking "what can one person do?" – that is time to think local. Do what you can to make you own little corner of the world a better, safer and healthier place to live. Not only will you feel better by doing your part, you will leave the world a better place for future generations.

Coastal Steward Long Island (CSLI) provides the platform and support for local environmental awareness and action. In our own small way, I'm proud to say that with your help and support, 2018 was a great year for promoting our mission of preserving and protecting the coasts of this jewel of an island.

Our accomplishments in 2018 included Marine Education Programs for 650 Long Island students, including attendance at the 2018 Youth Ocean Conservation Summit. With the help of enthusiastic volunteers we removed 12 tons of debris from the coast. Lastly, with the help of volunteers, our Shellfish Hatchery Program produced 30,000 healthy oysters that we planted in the north shore harbors of Mount Sinai and Port Jefferson. Oysters are natural filter-feeders and can greatly increase the clarity and quality of the water simply by their feeding.

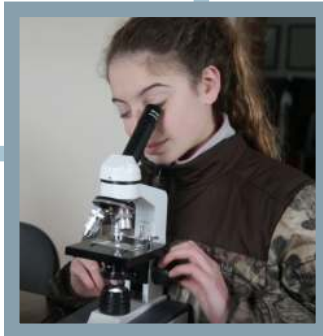
Looking forward to 2019, we see challenges we will face, such as the increasing effects of climate change on our coasts through stronger storms and rising sea levels, and increased amounts of plastic debris washing ashore. But we at CSLI are proud of what we accomplished, and can accomplish, with the help of our generous donors and volunteers. This will also be our first full year with an Executive Director, a role that is crucial for a growing organization. As we teach students about the importance of our coastal marine environment, and see the enthusiasm in their faces, I am encouraged that together with your help we can maintain our beautiful Long Island home for future generations. I am looking forward to working with you to make 2019 a banner year for CSLI.

Thank you again for your continued support of Coastal Steward Long Island.

**Nathan Epler**  
Vice President  
CSLI Board of Directors

# 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.



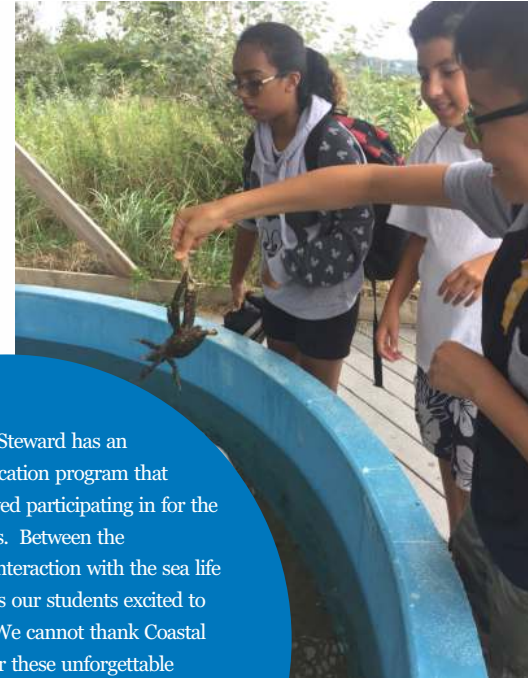
We offer field trips to the **Marine Environmental Stewardship Center (MESC)** in cooperation with the Town of Brookhaven, where students can learn about Long Island ecology through hands-on study. The center is home to touch-screen technology along with outdoor touch tanks, allowing students to gain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



Our field trip programs, outlined on page 8, 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.

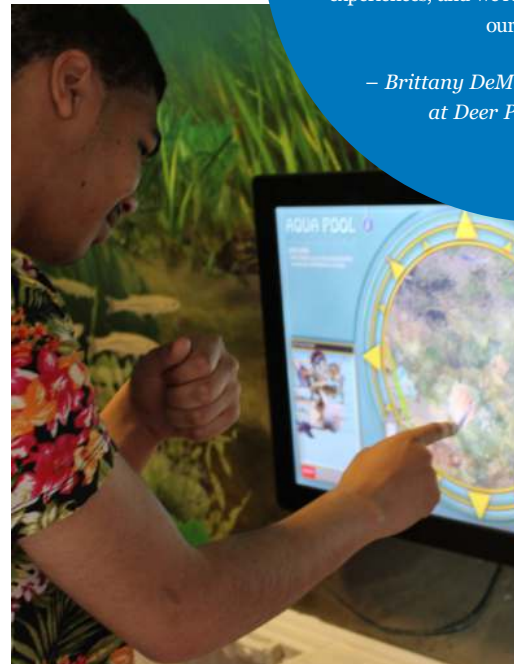


CSLI also hosts the **Long Island Youth Ocean Conservation Summit** each year in the fall. The Summit is a day full of opportunities for attendees to meet representatives from ocean conservation organizations, listen to presentations, and develop their own conservation action plans.



“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 PROGRAM

A Unique Educational Experience

## PreK – 6th Grade:

### Harbor Seining and Marsh Exploration

A hands-on experience for everyone! The harbor and benthic habitat is explored with a seine net, hand shovel, and waders!

### Water Testing Station

Students compare the characteristics of water collected from the harbor and the Long Island Sound.

### Microscopic Marine Life

A closer look is taken into the microscopic marine organisms that live in the very water we call home!

### Vegetation Exploration

A stroll on the Nature Walk to explore the native plants found along coastal habitats.

### Shellfish Hatchery Tour and Oyster Anatomy

A visit to the Town of Brookhaven's Shellfish Facility to learn the life cycle, anatomy, and important role shellfish play in water quality.

### History of the Harbor

Students journey through Mt. Sinai Harbor from early 1600s to modern day.

### Virtual Interactive Tour

Long Island's diverse marine life is discovered through indoor exhibits and interactive touch screens.

### Scavenger Hunt and Plastic Pollution

Students search Cedar Beach to find both natural resources and examples of marine debris.

## 7th – 12th Grade:

- *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\*

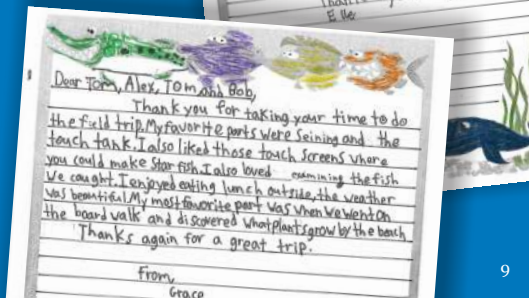
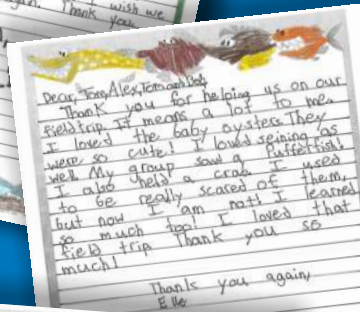
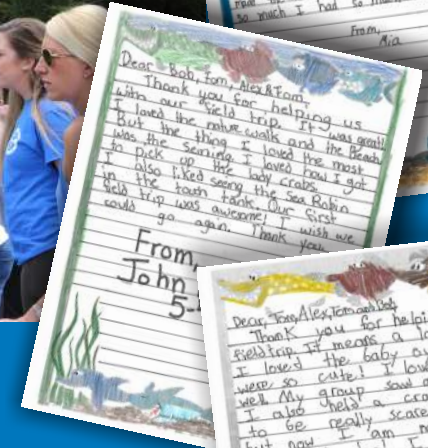
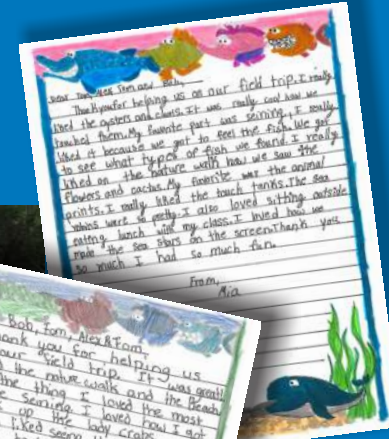
\*Prior knowledge of microscope use is essential for plankton identification.

Each of these programs are offered at the Marine Environmental Stewardship Center in Mount Sinai. All programs comply with NYS Science Learning Standards. Please contact us at [education@coastalsteward.org](mailto:education@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



“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

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.



# Preservation



“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 Councilwoman, 1st District

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 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 Mount 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 one 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.

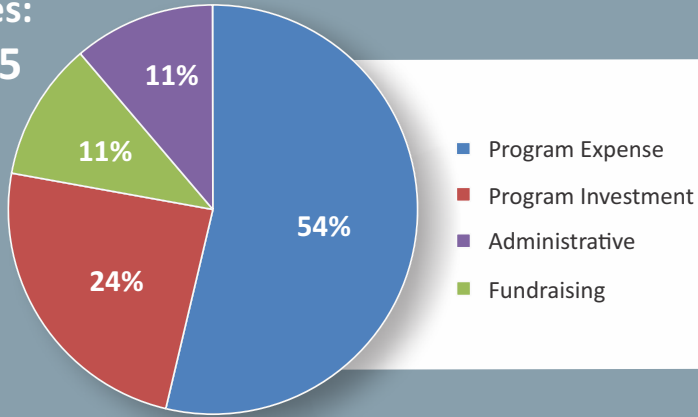


**We meet at Cedar Beach in Mount Sinai every other Saturday from May to October to grow shellfish, as specified on our website's News & Events page.**

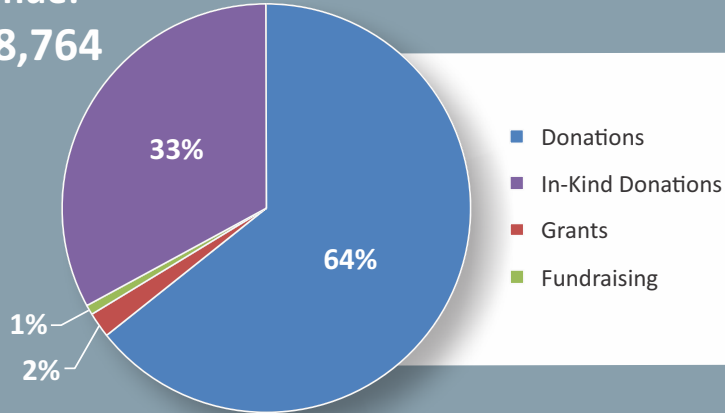


# Financials & Statistics

Expenses:  
\$79,475



Revenue:  
\$108,764



# Impact REPORT

**7**

miles of coastline cleaned

**26,300**

pounds of trash cleaned off the beach

**48%**

of items found are plastic

**650**

students taught by our educators

**90%**

from low-income districts

**200**

volunteers

**30,000**

oysters planted in the harbors

**1.5 million**

gallons of water cleaned each day  
(approximately)

# Donors



## Individual Donors

B. A. Kasa  
Stanley Gregory  
Edward Considine  
Bill and Mary Negra  
Martha DePersia  
Brian McCaffrey  
Mike Wyncarczuk  
Benjamin Robertson  
Leo Alves  
Patricia Grove  
Oleg and Tatiana Tchoubar  
David Shamoon  
Paul and Barbara Roux  
David and Carmela Cohn  
Judith Elkin  
Stephen Borghardt  
Cindy Courtier  
Marcia Bystryn  
Margaret and T Cibulka  
Christopher Alessi  
Noelle Clarke  
Anna Fris  
Charles McGuckin  
David Bligh  
Maria Caruso  
Leslie Bishop  
Tiffany Lubold  
Gary Schreiber  
Robert Nichols  
Thomas and Claire Campo  
Christopher and Linda Campo  
Stephen and Judy Campo  
Thomas and Francine Campo III  
Peter Campo

## Foundations, Corporations, and Organizations

Disc Graphics  
The Dive Club International  
Stony Brook Surf Castors  
NBBJ Corporation  
MOTE Marine Laboratory  
Rotary Club of Stony Brook  
Rotary Club of Smithtown  
Morrison Foundation  
Fabien Cousteau Ocean Learning Center  
Incorporated Village of Port Jefferson  
Village of Belle Terre  
The Dooner-Rockwell Charitable Trust  
East End Shirt Co.  
Lutheran High School  
The Educational Projects Foundation  
Bernie's Family Pizzeria  
Tidal Tees

## Sponsors

Roux  
MB Surf Club  
Albrecht, Viggiano, Zureck, and Company  
Stifel Financial Corp  
Lazer, Aptheker, Rosella, and Yedid

*Thank you!*

“My Council District is one of the most environmentally sensitive regions on Long Island, and I have come to rely on 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





## **Coastal Steward Long Island**

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