

# RIVER RISING

## PASITO A PASITO



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

## River Rising, Pasito a Pasito

At the close of 2017, we created a remake of the Latino pop-music sensation, "Despacito," sharing our message of restoring our desert rivers, *pasito a pasito*, bit by bit. We hope this message resonates with you, because we can't accomplish this goal overnight, but we can make real change if each of us does our part over time.

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We launched our We Are One Watershed campaign in January 2017 as a lens to focus our work in this divisive political climate. Through this campaign, we committed to: doubling our services for low-income communities, empowering women, increasing diversity within our organization, and building bridges across political divides to restore our rivers. Just like our river restoration work, this work is accomplished *pasito a pasito*, step by step. So while we're celebrating what we've accomplished in the last year, by no means are we done with our campaign.

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We've implemented a grant and loan program to enable limited-income families to install rain gardens and rain tanks thanks to a partnership with Tucson Water. Our new Women's Build series provides special tool trainings and Co-op workshops exclusively for women participants. Our Living Lab is now a bilingual campus, featuring interpretive signs in English and Spanish along with adding Spanish-language classes and tours. We've also established Latino Engagement interns as an annual position to expand our community outreach.

Of special note is our partnership with the New Hope/Nueva Esperanza Church, in southern Tucson, where we partnered with Sonoran Institute to completely transform their property with rain gardens and green infrastructure. This church is in a dangerous flooding zone, but is now accepting rainwater to create a beautiful campus and build an environmental ethic among the congregation (see page 12).

Thank you for supporting WMG as we build on all the great progress of 2017!

Sincerely,

Lisa Shipek  
Executive Director

### Annual Report Credits

Writing & Editing: Lisa Shipek, Jamie Manser  
Photos: WMG & Julius Schlosburg  
Graphic Design: Cero Wood Graphic Design, Inc.

*Watershed Management Group develops and implements community-based solutions to ensure the long-term prosperity of people and health of the environment. We provide people with the knowledge, skills, and resources for sustainable livelihoods.*

*Cover: New members of the River Run Network enjoy WMG's 3rd annual Tanque Verde Flow and Feast at Isabella Lee Natural Preserve.*

**In 2017 we made one large step in our river restoration efforts by being a principle organizer for the Santa Cruz River Watershed Forums. We now have commitments from over 15 organizations and agencies to work together on a Santa Cruz River Watershed Collaborative. This is a crucial phase in our 50 year vision to restore flow to Tucson's rivers in coordination with our River Run Network.**



*Participants in the first Santa Cruz River Watershed Forum set a vision to restore flow to Tucson's rivers.*

# River Rising: THE TALE OF TWO STREAMSHEDS



Over 100 people explored the river bed and lush riparian forest at WMG's Tanque Verde Flow and Feast event in May 2017.

Cottonwood, walnut, and mesquite trees are dying as groundwater levels continue to decline along Tucson's Tanque Verde Creek and upper Rillito River. This continuing groundwater decline, documented in Tucson Water's groundwater trends study, is deeply concerning. While our groundwater is declining in some areas, the people in the Santa Cruz River Watershed are rising up to meet these challenges! WMG is galvanizing action through our River Run Network, Santa Cruz River Watershed forums, and restoration projects on both private and public lands.

The majority of our restoration activities are in people's yards, but we relish the opportunity to tackle larger projects on public lands. **Last year, we implemented two large-scale projects adjacent to our waterways – one was Midvale, in the historic floodplain along the Santa Cruz River and the other was at Pima County's Isabella Lee Natural Preserve, in the floodplain where Agua Caliente Creek converges with Tanque Verde Creek.**

While the two sites are very different, stormwater is the key to restoration at both. At Isabella Lee, we converted two

large earthen basins (about five acres) to accept stormwater flows from Agua Caliente, to slow the flow and recharge the aquifer. This is critical in the Middle Tanque Verde streamshed, helping to reverse the declining groundwater levels. This project was co-designed with Pima County Regional Flood Control District and WMG's River Restoration Biologist Trevor Hare.

Trevor led six volunteer workshops to implement the plan's finer details, including installing rock erosion control structures, reducing the footprint of the trail system, and improving soils and wildlife habitat. Isabella Lee is open to the public to visit, and WMG invites the community to enjoy the riparian open space at our annual spring event, Tanque Verde Flow & Feast.

Midvale was in a sad state when Pima County Regional Flood Control District approached WMG to create a restoration project and engage the surrounding neighborhood. Located in the Santa Cruz River's historic floodplain, it was a dusty, desolate portion of a larger development degraded by decades of agriculture, off-road

vehicles, and invasive plants. Midvale is in southern Tucson's Paseo de las Iglesias streamshed and is a flood nuisance to the neighborhood during the monsoon season.

WMG's Stormwater Solutions Director, Kieran Sikdar, was the project manager for this project and partnered with Stantec, an engineering firm, on the hydrologic analysis. WMG implemented large-scale green infrastructures, earthen basins and swales, with the help of our Design Build crew and neighborhood volunteers in the summer of 2017. The site now harvests stormwater coming from the neighborhood, slows and spreads it across the landscape to irrigate a mix of newly planted native habitat species, including: bunch grasses, wildflowers, velvet mesquite, desert willow, and desert hackberry. **The stormwater capacity is impressive – the site**

**can harvest 1.5 million gallons in a 100 year storm (2.5 inches of rainfall), and almost 4 million gallons annually.**

We're continuing to care for and monitor the progress of these projects with the help of neighbors and our Flow365 citizen scientists (see [Watershedmg.org/Flow365](http://Watershedmg.org/Flow365)). Flow365 is an ambitious, long-term monitoring effort of flow and groundwater levels, designed to establish baseline data that is both essential to WMG and Pima County in assessing riparian habitat changes throughout the Tucson basin. We're using the data from Flow365 monitors to track: the number of dry days versus wet days in our creeks and rivers; changing groundwater levels; and changes in vegetation morphology from repeat photos.



**Join our river rising effort by signing up for the River Run Network today at [Watershedmg.org/RRN](http://Watershedmg.org/RRN). This free, community program empowers you and your neighbors to conserve water, recharge or aquifers, and restore our most precious creeks and rivers.**

Massive basins collect monsoon rains to irrigate newly planted native velvet mesquite and desert willow trees near the Santa Cruz River.



Volunteers build check dams to slow the flow of stormwater and recharge groundwater at Isabella Lee Natural Preserve along the Tanque Verde Creek.



# TEACHERS INNOVATE RAINWATER HARVESTING CURRICULUM AS ADAPTATION TO EXTREME WEATHER



Teachers participating in the NOAA program enjoy a day of professional development at WMG's Living Lab & Learning Center.

WMG's seven-day Water Harvesting Design Certification Course is being adapted to train teachers thanks to a partnership with Arizona Project Wet (APW). We've embarked on a four-year program, called "Recharge the Rain," to provide professional development to a cohort of middle and high school teachers. But here's the icing on the cake – along with receiving professional development, the teachers are creating their own custom curriculum to use at each of their schools. As the teachers pilot their curriculum, students design and install rain gardens in collaboration with WMG.

The program launched in January 2017, and in the first year, we trained 17 teachers from 10 different schools through 14 days of professional development. The sessions were led by our interdisciplinary team: Kerry Schwartz and Betsy Wilkening from APW and Catlow Shipik and Joaquin Murrieta from WMG. The sessions focused on both climate literacy and the multi-faceted aspects of water harvesting as an adaptation to drought, flooding, and extreme temperatures experienced in urban Tucson.

We're impressed with the quality and commitment of the teachers participating, who are committing substantial time on top of their demanding teaching schedules. Ariane Mohr-Felsen, a middle school teacher at Paulo Freire

Freedom School, said her students are excited to see their water harvesting designs come to fruition. Students will be working alongside their teachers and WMG staff to design their rain gardens. Two of the schools will be breaking ground on their rain gardens this spring.

This unique training is made possible by a government grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) with a focus on preparing communities for extreme weather. Arizona Project Wet approached WMG to partner on this grant, and we were thrilled to receive close to half a million dollars in funding through this very competitive grant process.

In the second year of the program, WMG will be creating hands-on learning modules to enhance interactive education at Living Lab and Learning Center by students and adults alike. The modules are centered around six topics including: 1) how to reduce urban heat island, 2) identifying waste to turn into resources, 3) planning for extremes by understanding weather patterns, 4) building healthy soils, 5) creating a local water budget, and 6) taking action to restore flowing rivers.

Thanks to this collaborative efforts with teachers, students, and APW, we are creating community resilience to extreme weather conditions in the Old Pueblo.

## "Recharge the Rain"

### *A Collaboration between Arizona Project Wet & WMG*

WMG and Arizona Project WET (APW) are teamed up to teach educators how to "Recharge the Rain" – a program that gives teachers and students hands-on tools to fight climate change through practices such as water conservation and rainwater harvesting. The four-year program – which commenced in January 2017 and is runs through 2020 – is funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

APW's Director Kerry Swartz and Betsy Wilkening, APW's Tucson Water Education Coordinator, said APW approached WMG to partner on the NOAA grant because, "WMG has worked for over a decade training and assisting communities in water harvesting practices for sustainable living and healthy watersheds. We wanted to bring together both of our organizations since we believe we are both leaders in our fields: rainwater harvesting, sustainable practices, and education."

"What's been exciting for us (at APW, through this program) is we're learning a lot from Catlow and Joaquin," Wilkening said. "My understanding of rain water harvesting and sustainability practices has increased. This is a good give and take between APW and WMG. We're learning a lot from each other and appreciate each other's skills."

"What's also awesome about this program is we're able to make the learning real," Wilkening continued, "giving the teachers and students the tools to make real environmental change; and they know they have the power and ability to do so!"

APW is housed under the University of Arizona's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and works with students statewide – with its Tucson programs providing direct instruction to over 11,600 students annually in grades 3 through 12. Learn more at [ArizonaWet.arizona.edu](http://ArizonaWet.arizona.edu)



WMG and Arizona Project Wet staff love collaborating to train teachers! From left to right: Arizona Project WET's Director Kerry Swartz, WMG's Cultural Ecologist Joaquin Murrieta Saldivar, APW's Tucson Water Education Coordinator Betsy Wilkening, and APW Program Coordinator Holly Thomas-Hillburn collaborating on a project at Esperero Canyon Middle School.

# DOCENTS ARE THE HEART OF THE LIVING LAB



Docents share their expertise staffing WMG's Welcome Center, completed in the summer of 2017 at the Living Lab and Learning Center.

Many people have helped create the Living Lab and Learning Center, but no group has played so essential a role as our Docents. When we inherited our Tucson property six years ago, we envisioned the many resources the Living Lab could offer the community, including highly trained volunteers that could extend our educational programming to reach thousands more people annually.

This vision came to life when we launched the Living Lab Docent program in the fall of 2015, and the Docent program was growing at the same time the Living Lab was built. Ultimately, the Docents would staff our "Welcome Center" and be the face of the organization to visitors.

Our goal was to have the Living Lab open to the public Monday through Friday and on Saturdays. We've almost fully realized this goal, with regular hours 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, as well as special events on the weekends. This would not be possible without WMG's Docents, who regularly staff the Welcome Center, give Saturday morning tours, and care for and monitor the Living Lab grounds.

**WMG trains the Docents side by side with University of Arizona WaterWRLD interns each fall, creating a unique intergenerational program.** With about eight interns and eight docents participating each year, they learn together in a small classroom setting, taught by a wide variety of WMG staff. The Living Lab serves as the primary hands-on classroom setting, but interns and docents also participate in field trips and community events together.

Since launching the Docent program in 2015, we have trained three cohorts of docents, and now have 17 docents actively serving our mission. Docents are also a part of our robust outreach team that helps with events like Edible Shade, the Homescape Harvest Tour, and Rainwater on Tap. A sub team of docents collects all the data of our Living Lab monitoring program, including information on water use, plant phenology, wildlife observed, and food produced.

The Docents have been such a fantastic resource to our community, we decided to launch a Docent program in the Phoenix Valley, to expand our educational reach. While we don't have a Living Lab in metro Phoenix, we do have seven public demonstration sites that can be used as hubs for our education, monitoring, and hands-on workshops.

## What role is the Living Lab playing in the community?

**Katherine Waser:** The Living Lab is a central, friendly location where Tucsonans can learn about how to create their own abundant water harvesting landscapes. Even more important, it's a location where new ideas and techniques are being developed and tested and where accurate data are being gathered to help our community become more efficient at using every drop of water as effectively as we can, for the benefit and health of all living beings and our local environment.

## What is the most fulfilling aspect of being a WMG Docent?

**Kathy Marron:** For me, I enjoy listening to people's stories, projects, and plans to collect and conserve water. Most people who attend social events and stop at tabling events also share their interests in protecting water resources in Tucson.

**Brenda Hughey:** I feel like an important part of WMG, and I'm providing valuable, appreciated service.

## Why are you a WMG Docent?

**Ceanne Alvine:** I believe in the mission and values of the organization and enjoy teaching people how they can use rainwater efficiently at their home.

**Bill Wilkening:** I enjoy meeting new people and helping them learn how to build a better community.

**Sally Sherman:** Looking ahead toward potential water shortages, I want to be a part of the goal of restoring a healthy desert community here by educating the public, helping them to think and act in a different way about water-our most valuable natural resource.

**If you are interested in becoming part of our dynamic team as a WMG Docent, please visit [Watershedmg.org/Learn/Docent](http://Watershedmg.org/Learn/Docent); we will be offering our 4th annual Tucson training in fall 2018 and 2nd annual Phoenix training in spring 2019.**



Docent Ceanne Alvine leads a Living Lab tour for students from Salpointe Catholic High School.



After

Before

## Tie Your Legacy to WMG

Legacy giving is a deeply generous and beautiful way to ensure the continuation of your charitable wishes and values. This type of giving can include bequests, IRAs, charitable trusts, life insurance gifts, retirement account gifts, and stocks and bonds. Create a legacy by investing in WMG's long-term vision and commitment to healthy communities and watersheds. Please contact our Executive Director, Lisa Shipek, to explore your planned gift options for WMG.

# PLANNED GIFT PROPELS WMG'S MISSION FORWARD

## Reflections on the Living Lab after 5 Years

Just five years ago, if you were meeting with WMG staff, we were meeting at St. Mark's church. Our growing organization was bursting at the seams. Without resources to rent or purchase our own space, one of our donors stepped in to propel us forward with a property gift.

**Marguerite Fisher was a visionary donor, willing WMG her residential property at 1137 N Dodge Blvd. Her passions were education and sustainability, and we're honored to carry on her legacy by transforming her property into the Living Lab and Learning Center.**

After inheriting the property in March 2012, we started our development plan and launched a capital campaign to fund the zoning, planning, and construction. Since then, we acquired a zoning exception, purchased the neighboring property, made several revisions to our development plan,

and completed a string of construction projects. The Living Lab is reaching its envisioned potential.

You can see the drastic changes from 2012 to today with these before and after photos. During this time, WMG's annual budget grew from \$650,000 to \$1.4 million; we grew from 11 to 20 staff members; and we've launched several new programs including our river restoration work. **The Living Lab and Learning Center is now WMG's largest educational program, teaching more than 3,000 visitors a year through over one hundred free classes, tours, and events annually!**

Thanks to all of our supporters who donated to our capital campaign or volunteered time to help install one of our many construction projects. We could not have come this far without you!



After

Before



After

Before

# THE POWER OF PEOPLE & RAIN GARDENS IN THE OLD PUEBLO



Volunteers help construct a rain garden at New Hope/Nueva Esperanza Church.

“We were afraid of the rain,” said Agustin Jimenez, pastor of the New Hope/Nueva Esperanza United Methodist Church on Tucson’s south side. As he spoke to his mostly Latino congregation, he showed pictures of the church’s parking lot, property, and the surrounding streets – choked with water and dangerously flooded during the summer’s monsoon rains. “We want to enjoy the rain again!”

Pastor Agustin was speaking at the church’s Feb. 4, 2018 open house and celebration that unveiled a year’s worth of work to transform the church’s property from an impassable flood zone to a water-harvesting oasis. The three-phase project was designed and implemented by Watershed Management Group through community workshops between February 2017 and 2018 thanks to a partnership with the Sonoran Institute (SI).

The project’s history goes back to 2015, when WMG received a Water Infrastructure Finance Authority grant to study the impact and potential of green infrastructure to mitigate flooding (see our fall 2015 newsletter). At that time, WMG identified water-harvesting opportunities for streets, homes, businesses, schools and churches in the Airport Wash area. Fast forward to December 2016 when the Sonoran Institute applied for, and won, a \$55,000 Blue Water Leadership grant from The Royal Bank of Canada.

“SI brought funding and a vision for a suite of demonstration projects in one area that might have a significant impact on flooding in the neighborhood,” said Sonoran Institute’s Senior Director of Programs John Shepard. “Both organizations see this and other projects as critical to making the case for a city-wide stormwater green infrastructure fund. WMG had done the study and brought technical and community outreach expertise to the project.”

WMG’s Cultural Ecologist Joaquin Murrieta points out the church congregation was essential to installing the garden and now caring for it. “The church can now serve as a demonstration and outreach site for connecting with the Elvira Neighborhood,” he said.

This fulfills several of WMG’s We Are One Watershed resolutions, including our efforts to connect with limited-income communities to implement affordable rain harvesting features that establish lush rain gardens, create shade, and reduce flooding. We also relied heavily on our Latino Engagement interns – Anahí Herrera and Bree Rodriguez – as community outreach leads who worked with the church to sign up neighborhood volunteers to complete this large-scale project!



Anahi Herrera, WMG’s Latino Engagement intern, digs in to create rain gardens.



From left to right: John Shepard with the Sonoran Institute, Pastor Agustin Jimenez, and Joaquin Murrieta with WMG, transform New Hope/Nueva Esperanza church into a rain garden oasis.

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Beverly Olson  
Sharon Olson  
Ruth Omick  
Deborah Oslik  
James Ostrem  
Barbara Sue Ottinger  
Thomas Owen  
Linda Palumbo  
Detlev Pansch  
Carol Parker  
Jenifer Partch  
Frances Peake & Louise Powell  
Lee Pello  
Lincoln Perino  
Michael Pesanti  
Katya Peterson & Pierre Landau  
Joy Phoenix  
Bruce Plenk & Patti Hartmann  
Steven Sherman Poe  
Wanda Poindexter  
Michael Poling  
Lisa Polito  
Christopher Porter  
Karen Porter  
Tom Porter  
Pamela Posten  
Frank G Postillion  
Quinn Powers  
Patricia Procaccio  
Joan Psillas  
Jennifer L Psillas  
Enid Quintana Torres  
Lauren & David Rabb  
Shawn Rader  
Joseph Ramirez  
Gene & Jean Ramsay  
Michael Stephen Ray  
Shipherd Reed  
Dan Reese  
Mark Reid  
Carol Ann Reinhart  
Mary Reynolds  
Laurie & Fraser Richards  
Tom & Barbara Richardson  
Janice Rickert-Mueller  
Emily Ricketts  
Daniel Ridlinghafer  
Jamie Roach  
Richard Roati & Susan Silverman  
Ezra Roati  
Tahnee Robertson  
Emily Rockey & Christopher Byrne  
Don & Nan Rollings  
Angelo & Veronica Romeo  
Elizabeth & William Ronstadt  
Jane Ruggill

Brandon Ruiz  
Daphne Russell  
Shay Salomon-Leonard & Nigel Valdez  
Amy Salvato & Eric Rudd  
Sue Sanders  
Eric Santacruz  
Marilyn B Saul  
Joanie Sawyer & Robert Kulakofsky  
Diane & Steven Sayre  
Merrith Sayre  
Kenneth Allen Schachter  
Daniel Jason Schmidt  
Ivy Schwartz & Kathy Altman  
Jan Schwartz & Judith McDaniel  
Nina Sevilla  
Judith A Shappee  
John Shepard & Carol Evans  
Robin Sheridan & Dirk Beasley  
David Shipek & Melissa Defoor  
Kristin Sigford  
Kieran Sikdar  
Joseph D Silins  
Marilyn K Simmons  
Lisa Sims  
Nancy & Mark Siner  
Meredith & Perry Skeath  
Susan Skirvin  
Michele & Tim Smith  
Julia & Garrett Smith  
Kristina Sigrid Solheim  
Rachel Soltis  
Evren Sonmez  
Jennifer D Spademan  
Kate Spaulding  
Michele Spiller  
Emma Stahl-Wert  
Donna Steinfeldt  
James Stevenson  
Catherine Stewart  
Arlene Stigen  
Dan & Jana Stormont  
Tory & Jason Syracuse  
Susan Syracuse  
Walter Tannert  
Jeremiah & Cinthia Teague  
Stephen Thomas  
Josephine E Thompson  
Craig Thomsen  
Jennifer & Shannon Thorn  
Teri Thorpe  
Cindy & Dan Tolleson  
Joanne Elizabeth Toms  
Mary Topmiller & Tim Fagan  
Emanuel Torres  
Alex Tovar

Maya Townsend  
Gay W Townsend  
Carol Townsend & Charles Cole  
John Treeful  
Valerie Trouet  
Danica Tuxbury  
Anna Tyler & Cara Slutter  
Paul Tynan  
Mark & Elizabeth Valentine-Day  
Anne J Veague  
Chris Vemich  
John E Villinski  
Tekla Vines  
Jennifer L Wadsworth  
Michael Walker  
Nancy B Wall  
Cynthia Wallace  
Kirsten & John Wallace  
Judith & David Walseth  
Richard & Carole Walter  
Troy Neiman & Kylie Walzak  
Charlie & Ronika Ware  
Debbie & Rick Waring  
Nancy Warshawer & Bob Mellon  
Meg & Nick Webb  
Charles Edward Weber II  
David Louis Wegner  
Joshua Weiner & Dorothy Motheral  
Michael Weingarten  
Emily Weirich  
Jessica West  
Linda F West  
Patricia & Richard West  
Jesse Westad  
Katherine Whitacre  
Gerry & Liz Whitaker  
Linda White & Mike Day  
Margaret Wilch  
Erin Williams  
Susan K Willis  
Greg Wingert  
Natasha Winnik  
Gail M Winterkorn  
David Wojtowicz  
Ryan Wood & Ericka Cero Wood  
Judith P Wood  
Beth Woodin  
Louis Woofenden  
Gordon Yarrington  
Loraine Zagula  
Janet Zampieri & Patrick Stirling  
Ross Zimmerman & Pamela Golden  
Jessie J Zugeran  
Linda Zveitel





Volunteers from Glendale and throughout the Valley pitched in to help create a rain garden that will provide shade, beauty, and habitat for wildlife at the Glendale Community Center North.

## HYDRATE QUENCHES GLENDALE'S THIRST FOR COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

One of the primary ways WMG reaches new people in the Phoenix Valley is through our Hydrate program, a five-part series on rain gardens, native plants, rain tanks, soil stewardship, and greywater harvesting. Hydrate rotates between four different Valley cities – Mesa, Phoenix, Glendale and Tempe.

**In 2017, we had a fantastic partnership with the city of Glendale that included building a demonstration rain garden.** The classes were held at Glendale Main Library, and the library helped promote the program – enabling us to teach more than 50 people through the series! WMG's Program Manager Ryan Wood was the primary instructor sharing his depth of knowledge on all of the topics covered.

The Hydrate Glendale series also included a hands-on opportunity for folks to learn how to create a rain garden at their homes by getting out and volunteering at a project. City of Glendale staff helped us select the Glendale Community Center North as our project site. This highly visible site receives many visitors attending STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) programs both for youth and adults.

Joanne Toms, Environmental Program Manager with the City of Glendale said, "From site selection to installation, WMG has the vision and skills to create a successful rain garden. Their emphasis on community collaboration results in regenerative landscapes that can be enjoyed by all. We're looking forward to installing more Glendale rain gardens with WMG in the future!"

The Glendale Community Center project was made possible thanks to funding from the Central Arizona Project as well as donated equipment and funding from the City of Glendale. Thirty volunteers came out for the November workshop and planted seven trees and 88 understory plants in the new rain garden – transforming the almost barren site. **Each time it rains, the garden has the potential to capture over 5,500 gallons of rainwater from the building and landscape to irrigate the plants.**

We'll continue to offer the Hydrate series two to three times a year. Keep an eye on [Watershedmg.org/hydrate](http://Watershedmg.org/hydrate) for the upcoming 2018 classes in Phoenix and Mesa!



## WMG Volunteer of the Year: *Wayne Pudney*

At our November 2017 Rain Garden Soiree, we honored Wayne Pudney as WMG's Phoenix branch Volunteer of the Year. Wayne first became involved in WMG through his interest in reducing his personal household water use, while at the same time growing an eco-friendly landscape that would support bird, bee, and butterfly habitat.

Wayne volunteered at seven Co-op workshops and two community workshops in 2017. Wayne shared his reasons for volunteering, "to meet people with similar goals; to learn handy tips to use at my house, to demonstrate to first-timers that there is a growing community that shares WMG's goals, and to be part of a group whose mission is to improve the Valley's health through wiser water use and ecosystem improvement.

"Co-op workshops are great," he said, "because after working hard on the project, one is able to see the finished product and appreciate the mechanics of rainwater harvesting and how rainwater supplies the water needs for a landscape."

On the importance of WMG's mission, Wayne stated, "Water supply and use in the desert is a long-term survival/quality-of-life issue for the Phoenix Valley. WMG strives to work towards solutions that promote a sustainable environment and a richer quality of life for the community."

Wayne is participating in our inaugural Valley Docent program this spring. We are so grateful for his passion to help teach others about water resources and water harvesting in the Valley!



# Grant & Foundation Funding

Agnese Haury Foundation  
Alcoa Foundation  
American Rivers  
Arizona Community Foundation  
Arizona State Forestry Division  
Border Environment Cooperation Commission

Central Arizona Project  
Desert Diamond Casino & Entertainment  
Gulf Coast Community Foundation  
Jeff & Connie Woodman Foundation  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Sonoran Institute  
Tucson Water  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Walton Family Foundation  
Community Foundation for Southern Arizona

# Business Sponsors

5 Points Market and Restaurant  
Antigone Books  
Bruce's Lock Shop  
Cheri's Desert Harvest  
Conserve2Enhance Tucson  
Desert Diamond Casinos & Entertainment  
Dragoon Brewing  
Epic Café  
Exo Roast Co  
Fangamer, LLC  
Food Conspiracy Co-op

Freeport-McMoRan, Inc.  
Golden Rule Dairy  
Julius Schlosburg Photography  
KXCI Community Radio  
Lil' John's Excavating  
LP&G Marketing  
Luminext Incorporated  
Native Seeds/SEARCH  
Natural Grocers  
Originate Natural Building Materials  
Peddler on the Path Mobile Cafe

Queen Creek Olive Mill  
Solaz Designs LLC  
Spectrum Printing Company  
Sprouts Farmers Market  
Storyteller Public Relations  
Tank's Green Stuff  
Technicians for Sustainability  
Time Market  
Tucson Craft Beer Crawl  
Tucson Electric Power  
Zócalo Magazine

# Partners

## Tucson Region Partners

ACE Charter High School  
American Rivers  
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality  
Arizona Master Naturalist Association  
Arizona Project WET  
Arizona State Forestry  
Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum  
Basis Tucson North  
Billy Lane Lauffer Middle School  
Booth-Fickett Math-Science K-8 Magnet School  
Borderlands Brewing Co  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Changemaker High School  
Cienega Watershed Partnership  
City of Tucson Mayor's Office  
City of Tucson Parks and Recreation  
City of Tucson, Tucson Water  
City of Tucson, Ward 1 Council Office  
City of Tucson, Ward 2 Council Office  
City of Tucson, Ward 3 Council Office  
City of Tucson, Ward 6 Council Office  
Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection  
Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona  
Community Water Coalition

Conserve2Enhance Tucson  
Drachman Montessori  
Esperero Canyon Middle School  
The Fairfax Companies  
Flowing Wells High School  
Friends of SC-River  
Freeport-McMoRan Inc.  
Hidden Valley HOA  
International Rescue Committee  
Lil' John Excavating  
Living Streets Alliance  
Manzo Elementary School  
Meow Media  
National Phenology Network  
New Hope Church  
Palo Verde Neighborhood Association  
Paulo Freire Freedom School - University  
Peter Howell Elementary  
Pima Association of Governments  
Pima County  
Pima County Community Development  
Pima County Dept of Environmental Quality  
Pima County Regional Flood Control District  
Santa Rita High School  
Sierra 2-8  
Sierra Club - Rincon Group

Sky Island Alliance  
The Sonoran Institute  
Southwest Decision Resources  
Stantec  
Tanque Verde Valley Association  
The Garden Kitchen  
The Nature Conservancy  
Tierra y Libertad Organization  
Tucson Association of Realtors  
Tucson Audubon Society  
Tucson High Magnet School  
Tucson High School  
Tucson Mountains Association  
Tucson Water  
University of Arizona, School of Natural Resources  
University of Arizona Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology  
University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center  
University of Arizona Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy  
US-Fish and Wildlife Service  
US Forest Service International Programs  
Mission Garden - Friends of Tucson's Birthplace

## Phoenix Region Partners

Arizona State Forestry  
Arizona State University School School of Sustainability - Decision Center for a Desert City  
City of Avondale  
City of Glendale  
City of Mesa  
City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department

City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation  
City of Phoenix Water Services Department  
City of Phoenix Office of Environmental Programs  
City of Tempe  
Desert Botanical Garden  
Flood Control District of Maricopa County  
Human Services Campus  
International Rescue Committee Phoenix

Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability  
Mesa Urban Garden  
Primera Iglesia Metodista Unida  
Sustainable Cities Network Arizona State University Global Institute of Sustainability  
The Nature Conservancy - Phoenix  
Trees Matter  
Wilson School District

# Financial Report

## Revenue and Support

Grants	\$ 259,023
Donations	\$ 266,292
Program income	\$ 894,511
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,419,826</b>

## Expenses

<b>Program services</b>	
Living Lab & Learning Center	\$ 85,565
Phoenix Program (Co-op, Demonstration Sites, Hydrate, Outreach)	\$ 93,620
River Run Network (50 year program)	\$ 79,672
Tucson Green Living Co-op	\$ 131,665
Tucson Design Build	\$ 394,611
Watershed Education (Schoolyard, Monsoon Squad, Outreach)	\$ 163,714
Watershed Policy, Planning, and Training	\$ 217,278
<b>Total Program services</b>	<b>\$ 1,166,126</b>

## Supporting services

Administrative	\$ 122,866
Development	\$ 38,630
<b>Total supporting services</b>	<b>\$ 161,495</b>

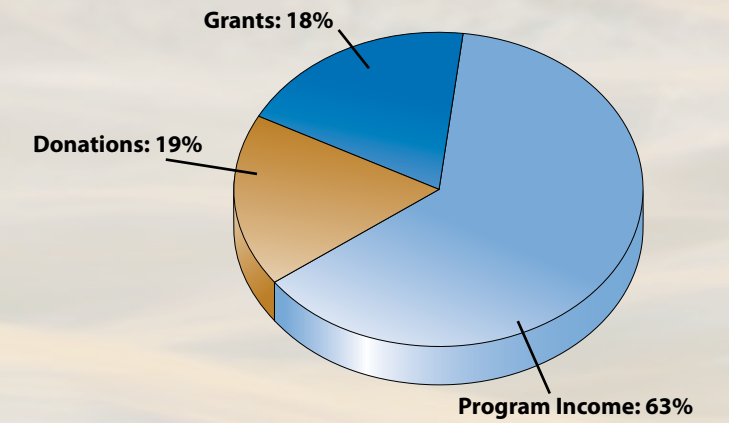
**Total Expenses \$ 1,327,622**

*\*Report for Fiscal Year of Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2017*

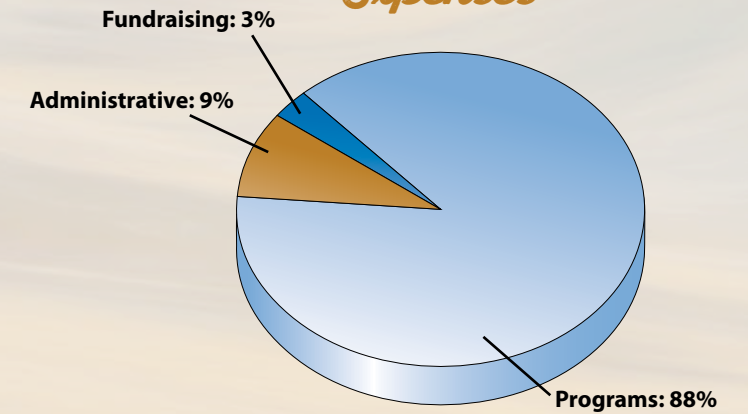
## Financial Summary

WMG is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a diverse portfolio of funding sources, creating a stable and growing organization that is serving more people every year. We are so grateful for our donors whose gifts allow WMG to provide the majority of our educational classes and workshops for free. Donations and grants provide funding for new programs, like the River Run Network; for new demonstration sites, like at the Glendale Community Center North; and for innovative partnerships, like our teacher training with AZ Project Wet and Santa Cruz River Watershed collaborative work. In 2017, WMG's fee based work (program income) experienced healthy growth through our Consultation and Design Build services.

## Revenue & Support



## Expenses



Board Member Andrea Finger and Finance Manager Russell Lowes accept a \$10,000 bonus prize from Arizona Gives Day 2017.

## Other Western Partners

City of Las Cruces  
City of Flagstaff  
City of Sierra Vista, Arizona  
Arizona Floodplain Management Association

## International Partners

US-Forest Service International  
University of Arizona - College of Education  
Fondo Mexicano para la Conservacion de la Naturaleza - FMCN  
Salvemos al Río Laja, A.C.  
Fundacion Manantlan para la Biodiversidad de Occidente - MABIO

Comisión de Cuenca del Río Ayuquila-Armería  
Center for Latin American Studies - University of Arizona  
IMIP-Nogales, Sonora. Mexico  
CEDES-Hermosillo, Sonora. Mexico



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**YOU HELP THE RIVERS RISE—ONE YARD AT A TIME!**

