TO STRIVE

annual report 2015

PHILADELPHIA
OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL

A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

In August of 2015, I had the great privilege to return to "the field" as a co-instructor for a seven-day canoe expedition for nine (amazing) teenagers. This opportunity to serve as an instructor for students was one that I could not pass up – it gave me the chance to reconnect directly with the educational and life-changing experience that touches each of the more than 5,000 students served by the Philadelphia Outward Bound School each year.

I came away from those magical seven days with a renewed commitment to the mission of POBS – we do change lives through challenge and discovery. And, I came away with a deeper understanding of the relevance of today's Outward Bound experience for the youth (and adults) that we serve. In particular, these nine young people had a single common thread – each of them had lost a father or a brother who served in the United States Armed Forces. Like the vast majority of our students, each of them arrived at POBS with uncertainty about what they were about to experience, some with fear, some with trepidation and most with a degree of acceptance that someone else thought this expedition would be "good for them."

As we do at the end of every Insight Program day and every course-end expedition graduation, my co-instructor (Erica Morey Montemayor) and I sent these nine young people "Outward Bound" into the world with newly discovered self-confidence, respect for themselves and their crewmates, and a better understanding of the circumstances and opportunities that life affords them - along with a few new tools to accomplish more than they ever thought possible.

With your help in 2015, the Philadelphia Outward Bound School sent more than 5,000 individuals – from 4th and 5th graders to teenagers to adults who work with youth to corporate professionals – Outward Bound on the path to greater personal achievement. We provided over $400,000 in program scholarships to deserving students from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh and from Newark, NJ to Newark, DE. The full time staff of 11 and seasonal staff of more than 30 – along with 21 business, civic and community leaders who volunteer their time to serve on the school's Board of Trustees – form a solid foundation for the delivery of Outward Bound's time tested Educational Framework across this region.

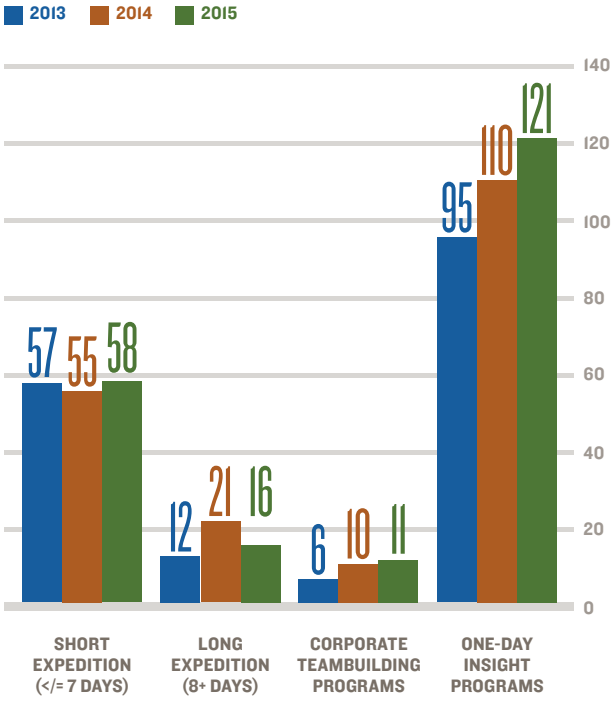
In late 2015, POBS was honored to be recognized with a Barra Award for organizational leadership, performance and adaptability! Support from individual, corporate, foundation and civic philanthropists makes it possible for us to change lives every day. We thank you and look forward to the next two years as we prepare for our 25th Anniversary in 2017, the grand opening of our permanent home at The Discovery Center in 2018, and all of the new and returning students who are Outward Bound!

Peace, love and chow!

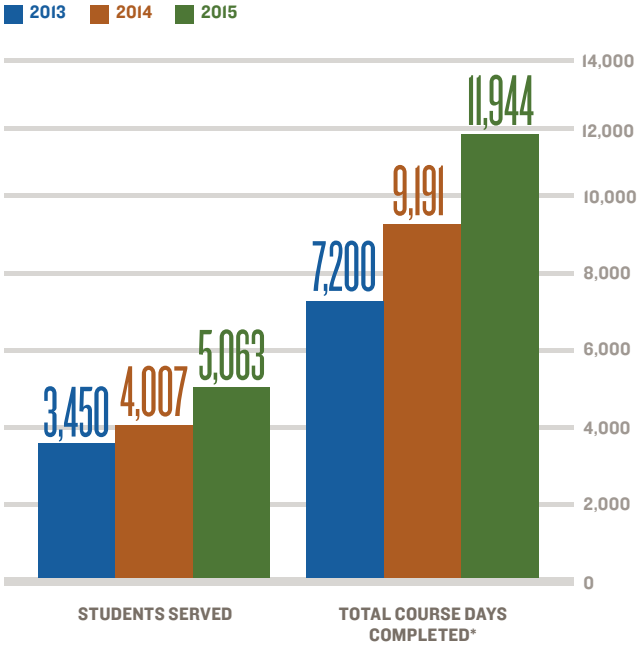
Katie Newsom Pastuszek, Executive Director

POBS RESULTS IN 2015

SINGLE- AND MULTI-DAY COURSE OFFERINGS



STUDENTS SERVED & PROGRAM DAYS COMPLETED

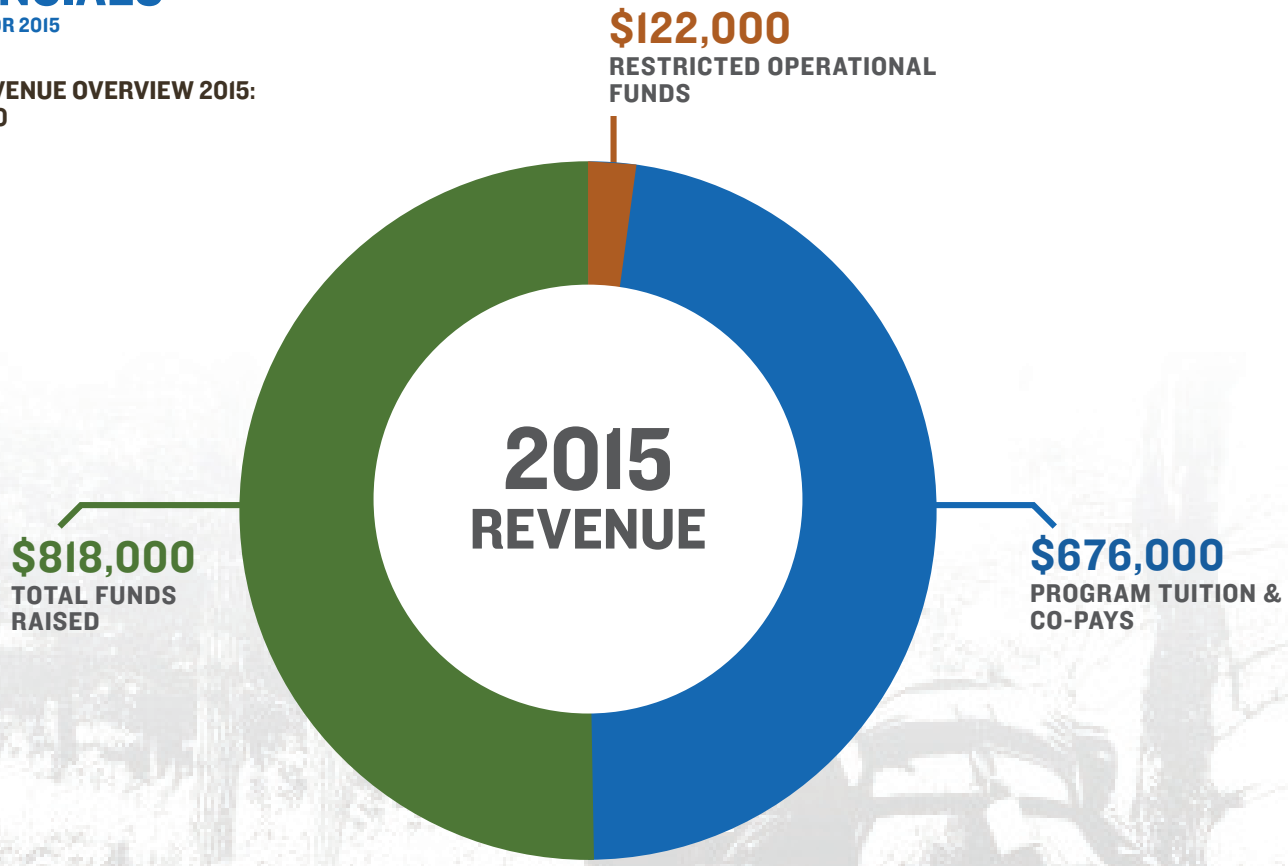


* Many POBS students participate in multi-day courses. EX. One student who goes on a 5-day course counts as five total program days served.

FINANCIALS

AUDITED FOR 2015

POBS REVENUE OVERVIEW 2015: $1,616,000



	2015	2014	2013
REVENUE			
Restricted operational funds	$122,000	$180,000	$74,000
Restricted scholarship revenue	$525,000	$431,000	$446,000
Unrestricted program	$666,000	$627,000	$616,000
Unrestricted development	$293,000	$230,000	$227,000
Other revenue	$10,000	$17,000	$1,000
Total revenue	**$1,616,000**	**$1,485,000**	**$1,364,000**
EXPENSES			
Direct human resources	$591,000	$497,000	$447,000
Operations	$275,000	$231,000	$209,000
Total direct expenses	**$866,000**	**$728,000**	**$656,000**
Administrative	$255,000	$255,000	$219,000
General	$136,000	$141,000	$119,000
Marketing and sales	$255,000	$265,000	$287,000
Total indirect expenses	**$646,000**	**$661,000**	**$625,000**
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$1,512,000**	**$1,389,000**	**$1,281,000**
NET INCOME	**$104,000**	**$96,000**	**$83,000**

WE DROP IT, WE DRINK IT

Emilia and her students followed the path of the watershed from their homes to the Schuylkill River. They talked about the little things they often do without thinking and the impact those little things have on the watershed we all live in. And they watched the trash boat floating down the Schuylkill and pledged never to drop a candy wrapper on the ground again.

> *"This really sticks with students, when they see the trash boat. They realize how they can change their behavior and even their friends' behavior to make a positive impact on the environment."*

Emilia Rastrick is a health and physical education teacher at Lingelbach Elementary School. She led an urban expedition that used a new watershed education curriculum Outward Bound developed and piloted with seed money from The William Penn Foundation. It's a natural evolution of Outward Bound's work: instructors are already passionate about the environment and Outward Bound already immerses city students in the natural world. The watershed curriculum helps instructors weave in lessons about the watershed, why it's important, and how we can all improve it.

Forty-five Outward Bound instructors are now trained to integrate watershed lessons into their work and during the program year, they piloted curriculum lessons with four expedition crews. Emilia - and other partner school teachers - are bringing the lessons from their expeditions into their classrooms, and, as a result, thousands more students understand the importance of We Drop it, We Drink It.

OUR 2015 PROGRAM PARTNERS

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West Deptford Jr. Police Academy

Wissahickon Charter School

Wissahickon Environmental Center

Young Scholars Charter

*List Incomplete

PROGRAM RELATED STATISTICS

38	Public/charter schools served
16	Private schools served
26	Community partner organizations served
48	Teachers on Expeditions
68	Outward Bound Staff that Instructed Expeditions and/or Insight Programs

PROGRAM IMPACT

SEEING EACH OTHER'S STRENGTH ON THE TRAIL AND IN THE CLASSROOM

Masterman High School's Peer Counseling Club student members help 7th and 8th graders manage their difficult middle school years - an especially pivotal time in a student's education - and make the smoothest possible transition into the 9th grade at high school. The Peer Counseling Club has been participating in Outward Bound's Peer Leadership Expedition program since 2011. The experiences they've had on their challenging expeditions help them learn different ways to support each other, which makes them stronger peer counselors with their 7th and 8th graders.

AnnMarie, the faculty lead of the Peer Counseling Club, says that her first Outward Bound experience was a powerful one. She still doesn't love the outdoors, but she did love seeing her students have tough, honest conversations about how hard their school is. They cried together, they pushed themselves to do things that scared them, and each student showed how strong they really are. "You hiked 10 miles," they now say to each other on challenging days, "You can do anything." One student, who had gone on that same expedition, hugged AnnMarie every day for the rest of the school year and said "I climbed that wall!"

Outward Bound showed AnnMarie and her students a different side of themselves and others:

"I was terrified. And so were many of my students! But we learned together the limits of our abilities and how far we can stretch ourselves. That's what Outward Bound does: it tests your limits, so you learn just how much you can handle."

BUILDING ADVENTURE

Our annual fundraising event

122

Participants

233K

Funds Raised

51K

Feet rappelled

417M

Media impressions

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