



Ocean Blue  
PROJECT



Nonprofit Organization

# Ocean Blue Project

Multi-year Report 2023-2025

# Table of Contents



3	<b>Founder / Director Letter</b>
4	<b>Mission &amp; Vision</b>
5	<b>Core Values</b>
7	<b>Impact Snapshot</b>
8	<b>Financials</b>
12	<b>Patagonia Partnership Proves Pivotal</b>
15	<b>Create a Cleanup Crew Leaders</b>
16	<b>OBP Blue Schools</b>
19	<b>Plastic Disaster Relief + Fungi Research</b>
20	<b>Supporter Recognition</b>
22	<b>Year Look Ahead</b>

# Founder / Director Letter



## Dear Ocean Blue Project Supporters,

Reflecting on our journey from 2023 to 2025, we are deeply grateful for your steadfast support. In these transformative years, Ocean Blue Project solidified its role as a national leader in plastic disaster relief, championing cleaner waterways and a healthier ocean for all.

Thanks to your dedication, our Plastic Disaster Relief Program reached unprecedented milestones. **Since 2023, we've more than doubled our cleanup impact, with over 3.2 million pounds of plastic and debris removed,** helping us surpass our annual goals and add value to our communities and wildlife. Every pound removed and every pledge fulfilled shows the powerful impact of our collective action.

Looking ahead, our vision grows brighter. The upcoming Education Station at our East Coast Regional Headquarters in Lottsburg, Virginia, will be a launchpad for youth leadership, innovation, and hands-on environmental learning. As we set our sights on **removing an additional 1.7 million pounds in the coming year,** we invite you to continue making waves with us.

With deep gratitude and hope,

*Richard & Karisa Arterbury*

# Mission & Vision

## Mission

As a grassroots, environmental 501c3 nonprofit, our mission is to rehabilitate and conserve the world's Ocean, beaches, and rivers through recovery of plastics from ocean, beach and river clean ups, solutions to keep pollutants from entering ecosystems, collaborative community-driven service learning projects, and youth education.

## Vision

To see our One World Ocean, beaches, and rivers be once again healthy and naturally beautiful ecosystems where wildlife, plants, and humans can thrive alongside one another.



# Core Values

**Ocean Blue Project Board of Directors, staff, and lead volunteers follow our passion to care for our one world ocean and live by these core values:**



## **Optimism**

Stay positive and solution-oriented in all we say and do.



## **Collaboration**

Work with people from all walks of life to fulfill a vision that unites us all: to protect and to restore our waterways and our One World Ocean.



## **Equality**

Address the needs of all animals and human beings equally, without bias, in pursuit of a common good.



## **Action**

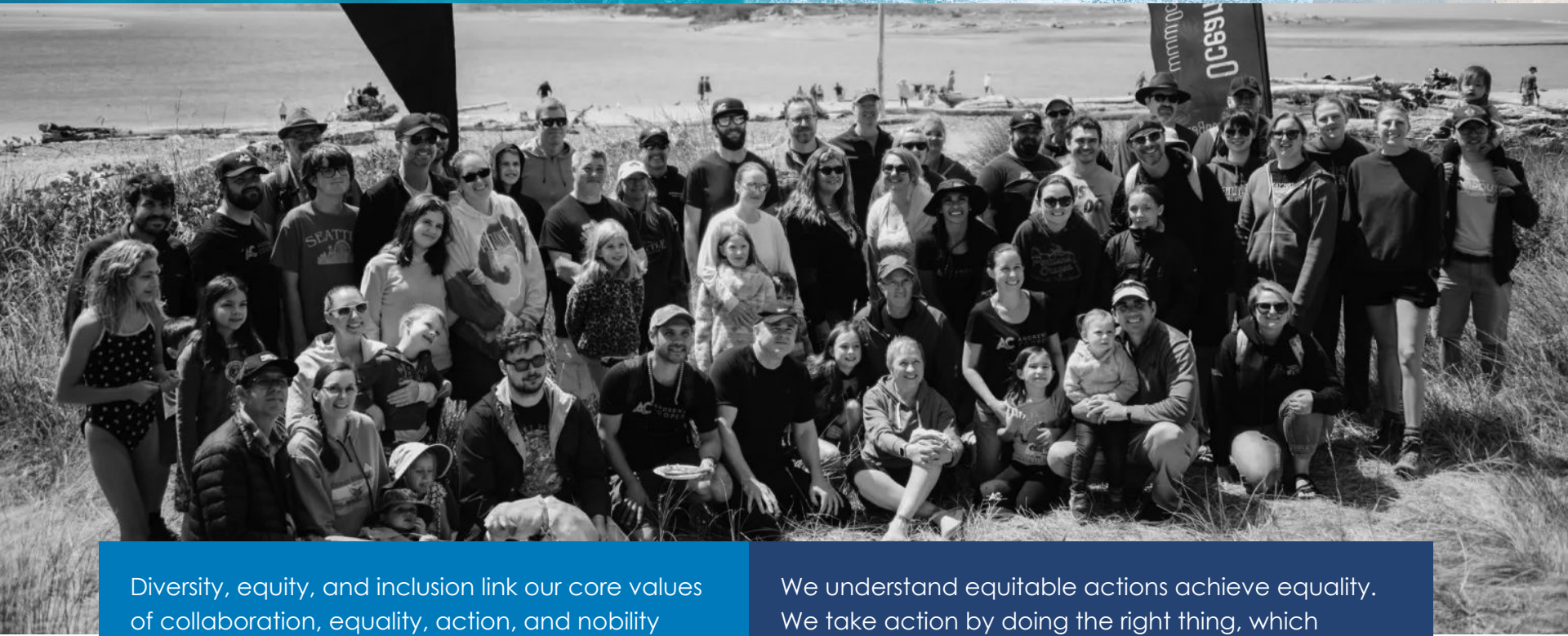
Put impact at the center of everything and limit salaries to best serve the evolving needs of people and wildlife.



## **Nobility**

Let our mission, vision and Code of Ethics guide our every action, and continually seek to do the right thing.

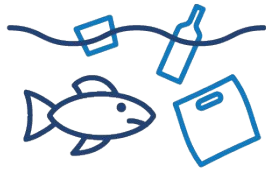
# Core Values



Diversity, equity, and inclusion link our core values of collaboration, equality, action, and nobility together. Ocean Blue Project strives to collaborate with agencies, organizations, and individuals from diverse backgrounds as we uplift others who share our vision. In other words, we provide the tools and resources necessary for anyone wanting to achieve a common goal, and our staff mentors those who may not otherwise have the experience, knowledge, or opportunity to do so.

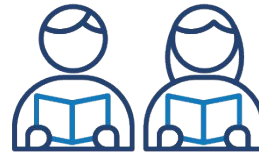
We understand equitable actions achieve equality. We take action by doing the right thing, which means meeting the needs of marginalized communities. We also strive to be the voice for those who cannot speak. The waterways, the world's ocean that connect all people, the plants and creatures of all corners of the Earth who depend on the water for health and survival have voices that need to be heard, and it is our duty as stewards to include them in our conversations.

# Impact Snapshot



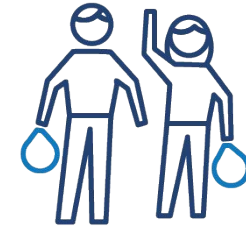
**3,293,344 pounds**

Plastic and Debris recovered from beaches and waterways that flow to our one world ocean in **2024-25: 2, 125,717 pounds**



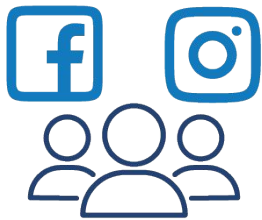
**1,497 Students**

Developed OBP Schools curriculum 2020. Students Reached through Blue Schools in **2024-25: 309**



**3,283 Volunteers**

And 18 dedicated professional volunteers via Catchafire in 2025. **87 Total Cleanups 62,619 lbs**



**19.9 million**

2025 Meta Views.  
Content Interactions: 562.8K  
Follows up by 302.1%



**27.8 million**

Website impressions in 2025

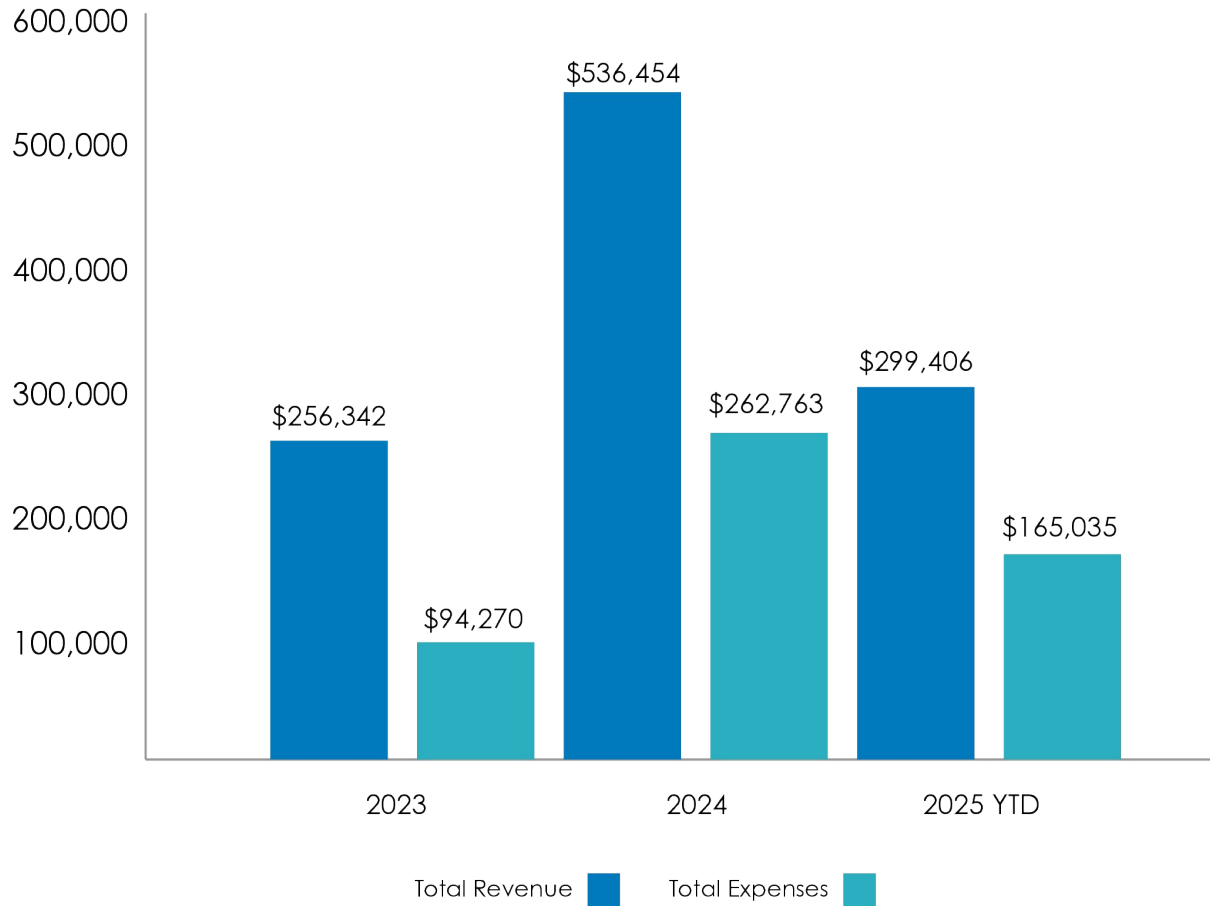


**141,000 clicks**

Website Clicks in 2025

# Financials

## Revenue v Expenses Trend (2023-2025)



2025 figures reflect year-to-date activity through December 2, 2025.

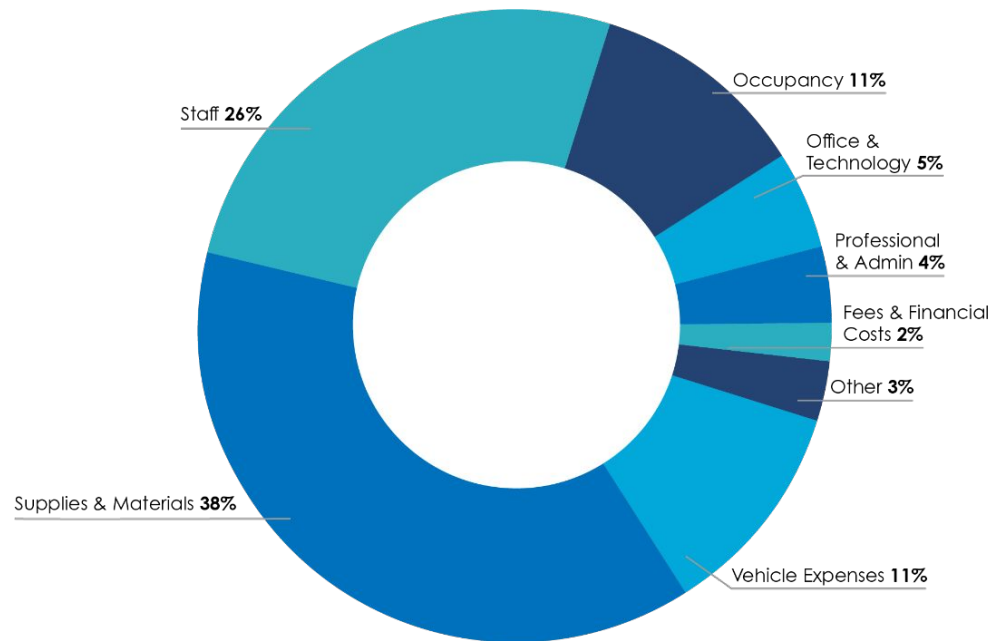
2024 includes one-time and/or large restricted gifts. In all three years, total revenue exceeded total expenses, allowing Ocean Blue Project to reinvest in future cleanup and education initiatives.

The largest growth occurred in 2024, with revenue reaching over half a million dollars.

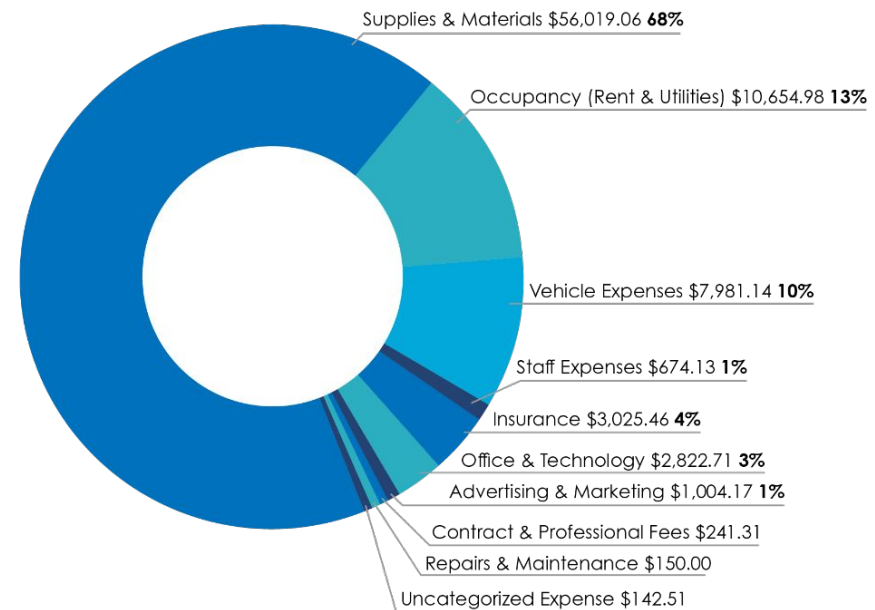
From 2023 to 2024, total revenue more than doubled, reflecting significant donor and grant growth. Expenses also rose as the organization expanded its programs. In 2025, revenue decreased due to timing of grants, but expenses remained stable, ensuring continuity of impact.

# Financials

## Expense Category Distribution (2025 YTD)



## Plastic Disaster Relief - Expense Summary (2025 YTD)



# Patagonia Partnership Proves Pivotal

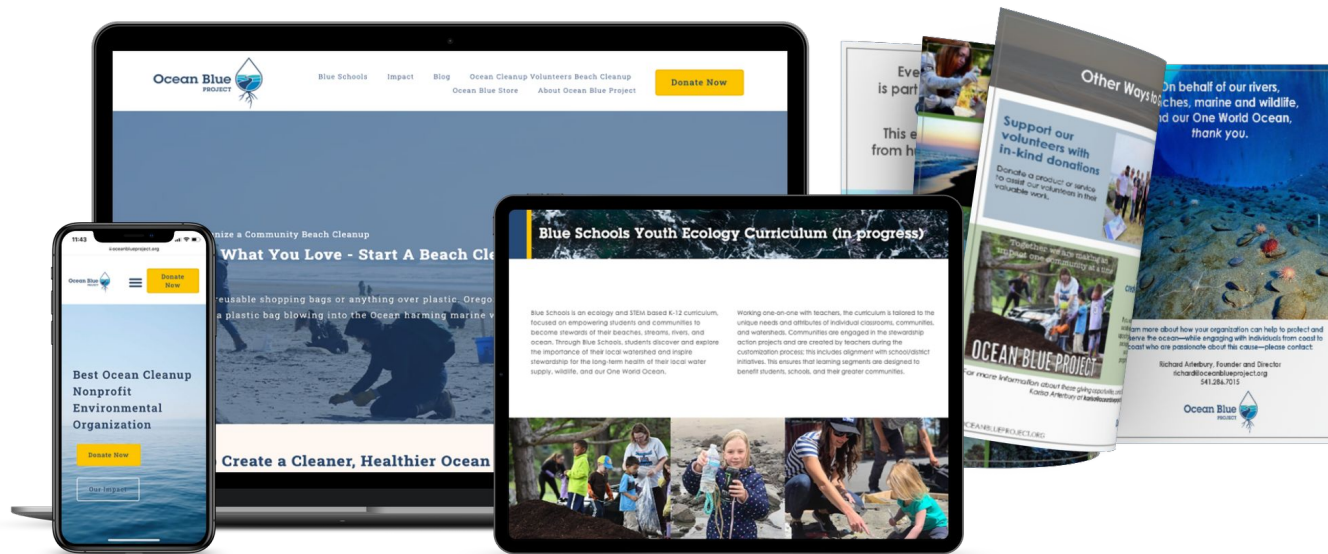
Ocean Blue Project's five-year long partnership with Patagonia started with Patagonia's World Trout Initiative funds organizations offering oriented solutions for endangered solutions. Patagonia generously provided Ocean Blue Project with thousands of dollars to plant native trees along the streams of the Willamette River, Oregon.



It was through this initiative that sparked the beginning of Patagonia's support for Ocean Blue Project. Along with the funding for this project, Patagonia provided access to two pivotal platforms for Ocean Blue Project - Patagonia Action Works and Catchafire.



Catchafire is a New York-based company making skill-based connections between professional volunteers and non-profit organizations. This online platform is mobilizing the world's talent for good. This enables individuals to use their talents and skills developed throughout life towards meaningful projects that strive to make the world a better place.



Ocean Blue Project has received Catchafire's Most Active Organization awards for two years running for completing the most Catchafire projects. Our leadership team has worked with over 350 Catchafire volunteers - researchers, writers, designers, strategists, and marketing professionals from the United States, Austria, China, India, Japan, Nigeria, New Zealand, and many other places around the world - all connected through our one world ocean and all motivated by a passion for the ocean.

Together, we were able to build the Ocean Blue Project website and Environmental News Blog, run multiple fundraising and awareness campaigns, establish and build relationships with our supporters, and build curriculum for OBP Blue Schools, a K-12 watershed education program. Ocean Blue Project's many inspiring volunteers include college students who are looking to practice their skills and gain experience and working or retired folks who have a little bit or a lot of time to give back and feel compelled by their appreciation of nature, water, and the ocean to apply their skills and expertise to our ocean cleanup mission.



# Patagonia Action Works

Patagonia Action Works is a gateway to connect committed individuals to organizations working on environmental issues in the same community. It's goal is to make it easier for anyone to get involved in environmental actions including events, petitions, donations; and volunteering opportunities. Ocean Blue Project has posted campaigns, beach cleanup events and we look forward to posting the most current cleanup events and happenings in 2026.



# Ocean Blue Project's Cornerstone Program: Create a CleanUp

Everyone deserves a connection to their ocean. Our partnership with **Girl Scouts Heart of Central California** involved **323 girls**. They **raised funds that removed 1,500+ pounds of plastic from the ocean**. They volunteered for a cause they care about and paved the way for a better future.

We also prioritized outreach with organizations like Upward Bound, a federally funded program serving high school students from disadvantaged backgrounds. **Our 2025 collaboration with one TRIO group enabled 50 students to remove 530 pounds of debris in Newport, OR and we are doing it again in 2026.** Additional cleanups from Oregon to Florida involved college and university student clubs and civic engagement organizations.

May of 2025 also brought **our youngest Crew Leader, six-year-old Victor C, who referred to the cleanup as an "Easter egg hunt for trash,"** making conservation fun and accessible to all ages.



***"Girls are able to earn a reward that gives back not only locally, but on a more global level."***

**Ilse Luna, Manager Product Program of the Girl Scouts of Central California**

girl scouts   
heart of central  
california

 **UPWARD**  
**BOUND**  
PROGRAM **TRIO**

# OBP Blue Schools Youth Curriculum

Building a foundation means growing diverse connections to the ocean, especially with younger generations. OBP Blue Schools is an ecology and STEM based K-12 curriculum, focused on empowering students and communities to become stewards of their beaches, streams, rivers, and ocean. Through **OBP Blue Schools, students discover and explore the importance of their local watershed and inspire stewardship for the long-term** health of their local water supply, wildlife, and our One World Ocean.

Working 1-on-1 with teachers, curriculum is tailored to the unique needs and attributes of individual classrooms, communities, and watersheds. Communities are engaged in the stewardship action projects and are created by teachers during the customization process; this includes alignment with school/district initiatives. This ensures that learning segments are designed to benefit students, schools, and communities.



**A centerpiece program of Ocean Blue Project, OBP Blue Schools, was developed in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA).**

Additional support is given to Title 1 schools being described as economically disadvantaged. Not every student has access to the materials needed to replace single use plastic products. Ocean Blue gives historically marginalized students the tools and materials required to make individual choices and provides a locus of control for these students to make an impact in their environment.

***"The 6th graders felt your passion (they were right there with you!!!) and learned a lot from you so they could teach our youngest students about being environmental stewards for our One World Ocean!"***

*From Steph, Sherman, and the Rashi School.*



**The Ocean Blue Project Team is working diligently to engage students from every classroom across the United States. This dream is within reach as OBP Blue Schools has been recognized by UNESCO since 2022, highlighted by their Green Citizens Initiative.**

# Growing the roots of long-term ocean health



Ocean Blue Project's **Create a Cleanup** program empowers individuals, schools, and businesses to lead local cleanup events around the U.S. By mobilizing local communities, we address people's plastic problem.

Taking lessons learned during the pandemic, we've adapted into a higher state of efficiency and sustainability. We've successfully scaled our ability to remotely train local cleanup leaders and run cleanups at reduced operating costs.

While cleanups are crucial to accomplishing our goal of removing 5 million pounds of plastic, they are also a key investment in future generations' connection with our oceans and waterways. We are not only removing trash, but building a foundation.

# Plastic Disaster Relief and Plastic-eating Fungi Research

Thanks to your commitment, the Plastic Disaster Relief Program made outstanding strides from 2023 to 2025. Since the start of 2023, following the devastation of Hurricane Ian in one of Ocean Blue Project's most active areas, Fort Myers Beach, **our teams have removed over 2.1 million pounds of debris, 43% of our 5 million pound goal**, including **792,700 pounds from Chesapeake Bay in 2024**. **We are currently at over 3.2 million pounds, with only 1.7 million pounds to go to reach our overarching goal.**

2024 also marked an **exciting advancement in our science-driven solutions**, thanks to research funded by Ekō and carried out in collaboration with retired NASA scientist Dr. Ken Cullings. Our team **explored the potential for specific fungi species to break down plastic pollution** in affected environments, providing nature-based strategies that could revolutionize post-disaster plastic cleanup. The early results, as seen in our [collaborative study](#) demonstrate promising fungal biodegradation of plastics, offering new hope for tackling the global plastic crisis with the power of nature.

The Ocean Blue Project Team is excited to open our new East Coast Headquarters and Education Station in Lottsburg, VA, to expand youth education, community-led cleanups, sort debris for upcycling, and empower youth through our UNESCO-recognized OBP Blue Schools program.

**Key next steps:** secure funding for a cleanup vessel, complete our Lottsburg facility, continue research, scale programs, and grow grant support for lasting impact.

Your ongoing support, as volunteers, donors, and advocates, is crucial to a cleaner, healthier One World Ocean.

# Supporter Recognition - Foundations + Corporations

## Foundations and Organizations

Adam R. Scripps Foundation  
Baird Foundation  
Benevity  
Blumstein Foundation  
Charities Aid Foundation  
Girl Scouts Heart of Central California  
Green Matters, Kathy Lynch  
Helen S. and John J. McKetta Jr. Charitable  
Moss Adams Foundation  
Network for Good  
The Reser Family Foundation  
Sandcastle Foundation  
The Tides Foundation  
Tillie and William Blumstein Family  
Top Jewish Foundation  
UNESCO  
United Way  
Walkhill Reformed Church

## Businesses and Corporations

1% for the Planet  
Amazon Global  
BeerDieGuys  
BeeSure USA  
Block15 Brewing Company  
Broadley Vineyards  
CanalPath Creative  
Capital Group  
CarStickers  
Colas USA  
Cortech USA  
Duolingo  
Earth Breeze  
Ekō  
Garden First  
GlobalGiving  
Good Tide and Wyld Works  
Hampton Water  
Herbal Skin Solutions  
Mountain Rose Herbs  
Next Level Burger  
Ocean Network Express  
Patagonia Action Works  
PayPal Giving Fund  
PathoSans  
Real Oyster Cult  
SEI Marine Products  
Solmate Socks  
Spirit Airlines  
Thibaut  
Secret Hideout Co  
ShoppingGives  
Smith  
Spirit Airlines  
Swag Bar  
UpWest  
Vista Tec House  
Woolly Made

# Supporter Recognition - Individuals

## Individual Donor Members

Adam Brundage	Bonnie Reed	Devon Meidl	Jacob Chirlin
Addison Bergstrom	Brian Trautman	Dustin Rice	Jacob Goldberg
Addy Bengner	Bruce Wheatley	Edward C Osiecki	Jaime Poole
AJ Lipka	Caitlin Elder	Elaine Wallace	James Perina
Alexandra Meyer	Caleb Munholand	Elizabeth Dankworth	Janet Barile
Alexandra Phan	Cameron Stearns	Elizabeth Potter	Jason Mondares
Alexandria Buchanan	Carisa Boyce	Emily Facey	Jeana Kats
Alison Mitchell	Carla Leveratt	Emily Lieb	Jeff Gardner
Alyssa Parmer	Carrie Tilton-Jones	EMILY STECHER	Jeff Heil
Amanda Riley	Cary Lin	Eric Iorillo	Jeffrey Gardsner
Andrea Harrison	Carys, Eleanor and Layla	Eric Krawetz	Jenn Jeck
Anne Bougel	Changan Huang	Eric Tafolla	Jennifer Brummett
Anthony Mangiola	Christina Hudson	Evan Meyer	Jenny Hutchison
Ariana Rintz	Christopher Khashan	Gaven Pate	Jenny Kehler & Emilce Sanchez
Arlyne Wayner	Cindy Cho	Gianna Macri	Jessica Broadley
Asher Perkins	Colin Smith	Gregory Hatswell	Jessica Morris
Ashley Cate	Collin Eder	Guanrong Fu	Jessica Qussar
Ava Ploszay	Connor McManus	Hallie Trias	Jill Robinson
Avi Ofelia	Connor Riedl	Heidi Cian	Jill Tomandl
Barb Morris	Crystal Corman	Hema Padhu	Jim Nunn
Ben Waters	Dailyn Davis	Ilene Novack	Jody Mooney
Benjamin Leuschner	Daniel Neal	Iva Hicks	Jolon Bankey
Birgit Lechner	Devin Carroll	Jack McCann	Joo Lee

# Supporter Recognition - Individuals

## Individual Donor Members

Joshua Bergstrom  
Joshua Martindale  
Judith O'Bannon  
Judy Dumbauld  
Justin & Sabrina Ali  
Justin Bledsoe  
Karl Bakeman  
Katie Sanders  
Kayla Guadagnolo  
Keith Olsen  
Keith Wight  
Kelly Carlson  
Kelly Gratz  
Kendra K. Beighle  
Kimberly Mounts  
Kristen Kolstad  
Kristin Baillie  
L-da Wild  
Laura A Stolte  
Laura Tomas Mora  
Lauren Brown  
Leslie Parpart  
Linda Blackaby  
Lindsay Chapman

Lisa Gomez  
Liz Edwards  
Lucas Parry  
M E ORourke  
Madison Guay  
Maggie Brady  
Malissa Ferrone  
Mallory Rome  
Margaret Runyon  
Mark Wickham  
MaryEllen Ladd  
May Heshiki  
Meghan Storck  
Melissa Mao  
Michele Elliott  
Michelle Evans  
Michelle Paradise  
Mikayla Zagrocki  
Mike Sap  
Minna Yoo  
Monica Jackman  
Nancy Barnes  
Nasya Amaya  
Nikita Telang

Nina Hoskins  
Niranjan Bendre  
Patrick Cole  
Phillip Melnick  
Rachel Hill  
Ragnhild Skalstad  
Rebecca Choudhury  
Rick & Wendy Fuller  
Rick Fuller  
Rita & William  
Nehmzow  
Rod Yeomans  
Ryan Lewis  
Sarah Wetjen  
Scott Dineen  
Scott Freeman  
Sean Bingham  
Shane Maletta  
Shanelle Kostenbader  
Shea Hurst  
Sherrie Paregian  
Siena Paolino  
Sims McCormick  
Stefanie Boerger

Stephanie Brudwick  
Stephen Fife-Adams  
Steven Gooding  
Steven Mrozek  
Stuart Gaston  
Suzie Rossman  
Tanner Gillespie  
Tennessee Toth  
Terri Rottman  
Thomas Candiloro  
Tiffany Jazelle  
Tracy Ward  
Trent Jones  
Trevor Wood  
Véronique Billemon  
Vince Vonada  
Volker Löscher  
Wendy Ng-Lee  
Whitaker Fanestil  
William Chichester  
William Rainey  
William Tainer & Denise Demaray



The past few years have strengthened several important collaborations. **Herbal Skin Solutions has been an integral participant in our Create a Cleanup program**, sponsoring the Long Beach cleanup during National CleanUp Month and pledging to clean up 12,500 pounds of debris.

Herbal Skin Solutions also featured Ocean Blue Project in their 10th anniversary annual magazine. We are incredibly thankful for this partnership and are excited to continue working together to care for our oceans.

Similarly, **Earth Breeze** continues to be an impactful partner, sponsoring beach cleanups in Florida and **pledging to support cleanup of over 1.55 million pounds of plastic and debris** from U.S. coastlines to date.

2024 brought an important milestone in our collaboration with **Good Tide and Wyld Works**. They pledged to continue their wave of support to remove **100,000 annually for three consecutive years**, bringing the company's total pledge of support to cleanup 450,000 total pounds through 2026, while staff led a few of their own yearly local cleanup efforts from coast to coast.

# Ocean Blue Project's Goals and Year Look Ahead

**As we close another transformative year at Ocean Blue Project, our vision expands with renewed energy and ambition.**

Looking ahead, we are set to significantly grow our youth education program, **bringing hands-on environmental learning and stewardship to more schools and communities through our OBP Blue Schools initiative.** New garden expansions and the creation of dynamic learning spaces, including greenhouses, a schoolhouse, and a community kitchen will provide young people across the country with environmental science experiences that not only educate, but also inspire action for our blue planet.

Simultaneously, we are **forging deeper connections with small businesses nationwide.** By partnering with businesses, both local and national, we will amplify our impact, engaging communities, raising awareness, and driving collective action against plastic pollution. These collaborations will accelerate progress, provide valuable resources, and foster a shared responsibility for clean waterways and thriving habitats.

Most importantly, our commitment to tangible environmental restoration remains unwavering. With **1.7 million pounds left to reach our goal of 5 million pounds of plastic and debris recovered,** we know the challenge ahead requires all hands on deck. From **beach cleanups along the East Coast to improved recycling infrastructure,** every project in our upcoming budget fuels this mission.

Together, with youth, businesses, and supporters like you, we are building momentum for an even greater impact in the coming year.

**Thank you for being an essential part of the Ocean Blue Project family. The future is bright, it's blue, and it includes you too.**

