



CONNOLLY RANCH EDUCATION CENTER 2014 Annual Report



*Connecting kids and families to nature
through farm-based education*

About Connolly Ranch

Connolly Ranch cultivates excitement about animals, ecology, gardening, nutrition, sustainability, and nature for kids and families. We provide hands-on, interactive farm-based environmental education to over 5,000 children and adults each year through public days, preschool programs, school field trips, and seasonal camps.



OUR VISION

- Children understand and appreciate the connection between food and nature
- Napa Valley's heritage of farming and ranching is appreciated
- Kids and their families eat healthier, and are healthier
- The ranch is preserved, sustained and utilized as a community asset

For 20 years, Connolly Ranch has served Napa Valley as a unique educational center providing hands-on experiences for children of all ages. In 2014, our goals were to become more sustainable, more accessible and more equitable.

How did we do? We have made significant progress in these areas by implementing **new programs**, adding **free days**, and offering **scholarships**.

What's New?

- Added **Walk-in Wednesdays** increasing free open hours from 8 hours a year to over 40 – a 500 percent increase!
- Added **Second Saturdays** to provide working families a chance to enjoy classes and day camps
- Added a new **Scholarship Fund** to remove barriers for kids and families to participate in our programs
- Added **affordable single and multi-day camps** to support parents during school holidays
- Served nearly **4,000 school children on field trips** at an 80 percent subsidized rate of just \$5 per child or free to those students from low-income households
- **Partnered with local nonprofits** to support community initiatives like decreasing childhood obesity rates and improving access to fresh produce with donations to the Food Bank

What's on the Horizon?

- Continue to **listen** to our community and expand current programs and initiatives
- Create a robust **volunteer and internship program** with service learning projects, junior counselors, short and long-term volunteer opportunities
- Enhance programming for pre-teens and teens with an **affordable afterschool program**
- **Enhance ranch facilities** and create new educational areas: heritage poultry barn, new outdoor classrooms, restore duck pond/wetland habitat, repair Peggy Connolly's house
- **Engage the public** in fun and dynamic ways around issues like sustainability, nature-based education, movement, food and more – imagine a speaker on sustainability followed by a film or music in the grove.

Connolly Ranch believes there is strength in numbers. By working together with other nonprofits and local groups, Connolly Ranch can further its mission while supporting other community efforts.

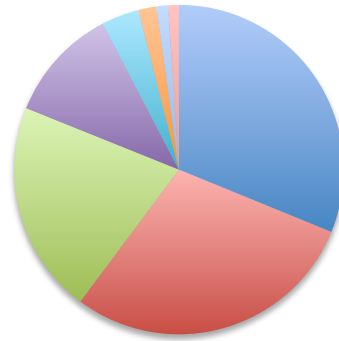
- Connolly Ranch **joined *Live Healthy Napa County*** as a collaborative community partner. We participated in the obesity prevention coalition group to help create an action plan focused on decreasing obesity rates in Napa, especially in children.
- Connolly Ranch **connected the Harvest Festival with local Food Day** to educate people on where our food comes from and show them how fun eating fresh healthy fruits and vegetables can be. Efforts included participating in Napa's downtown health fair at the Farmers' Market and hosting nonprofit booths at Connolly Ranch in the afternoon.
- Connolly Ranch supported Napa Valley CanDo's efforts to **provide fresh fruit and vegetables to the Napa Food Bank** by dedicating a garden plot to the project. Throughout the growing seasons, children visiting Connolly Ranch participated in educational garden projects to plant and harvest produce for families in need.
- We are proud to have partnered with the Napa Solano Audubon Society to host the **Inaugural Christmas Bird Count for Kids**. This **citizens science** event brings together all the elements of bird watching to introduce the next generation of stewards to the importance of birds in the ecosystem, the tradition of annual bird counts and the fun of getting families outside to exercise and engage with the natural world.

2014 Partnered with:

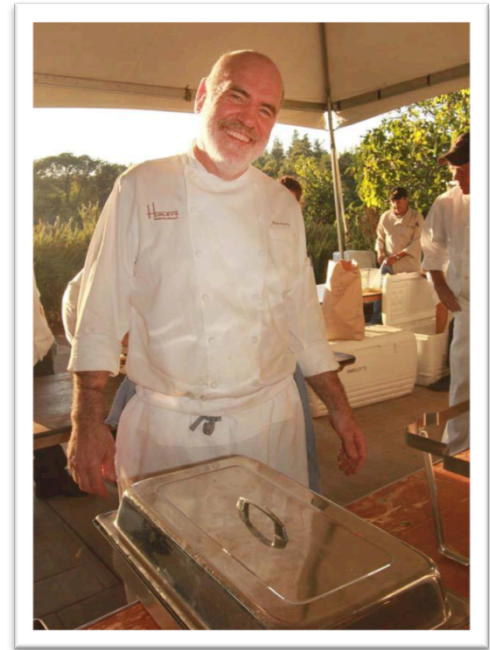
Audubon Society
Backcountry Horseman
Boy Scouts of America
Community Action Napa Valley
Edible Education
Girl Scouts of America
Healthy Cooking with Kids
Live healthy Napa County
Land Trust of Napa County
Loving Animals Providing Smiles
Napa County Bicycle Coalition
Napa County Open Space District
Napa County Farm Bureau
Napa County Health & Human Services
Napa County Local Food Advisory Council
Napa Valley CanDo
Napa Valley Coalition of Nonprofit Agencies
Napa Women's Emergency Services
Sonoma Birding
UC Master Gardeners

Where does the money come from?

Special Events	31%
Seasonal Camps	29%
Preschool Programs	21%
Contributions	11%
Partner Programs	4%
Field Trips	2%
Saturday Programs	1%
Afterschool programs	1%

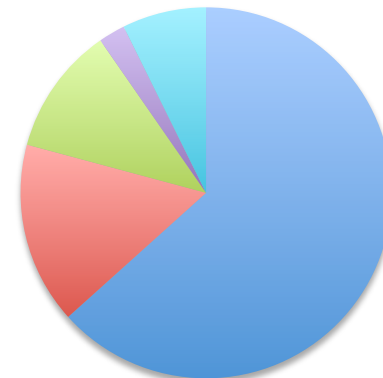


- Special Events
- Seasonal Camps
- Preschool Programs
- Contributions
- Partner Programs
- Field Trips



Where does the money go?

Program Services	63%
General and Admin	16%
Farm Expenses	11%
Fundraising	2%
Special Events	7%



- Program Services
- General & Admin
- Farm Expenses
- Fundraising
- Special Events

Thank You to our Donors

\$10,000 – \$30,000

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Denise and Oscar Renteria
PG&E Corporate Foundation
The Doctors Company

\$5,000 – 9,999

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Tulsa and Simone Fund

*"We are all reminded of the rich experiences of a life most of us will never lead, but can touch, smell and see that life at Connolly Ranch."
Christy Palmisano,
Connolly Ranch Supporter*

\$500 – \$999

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Thank You to our Donors

\$100 – \$499

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Thank You to our Donors

\$1 – \$99

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Four Cairn Wines
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Driver
Napa Valley Performing Arts
Center at Lincoln Theater
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Oxbow Cheese & Wine
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The Culinary Institute of
America
Tres Sabores Winery
Wes Siebern
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Whole Foods

How Can You Help?

Donations and Capital Improvements

All of our educational programs and field trips, as well as the upkeep of our farm and animals, are supported by private donors, corporate funds, foundations, guests and volunteers.

Scholarship Fund

With support from our donors, Connolly Ranch provides full and partial scholarships based on financial need for all its programs.

Legacy Fund

Members of the Legacy Fund are sustaining donors committed to ensuring that Connolly Ranch has a reliable source of funding by making an annual gift.

\$25 - Gives a scholarship for a parent and child program to a family in need

\$50 - Provides a day camp for a child in need

\$100 - Pays for teaching supplies for a farm-to-table field trip for 60 kids

\$250 – Supports free afternoon on Walk-in Wednesday

\$500 - Gives an interactive, hands-on educational field trip for 30 kids from low-income families

\$1,000 - Feeds our farm animals for an entire month

\$2,500 - Helps cover the day-to-day costs of maintaining an educational farm

\$5,000 Completes construction of an outdoor classroom!



Connolly Ranch is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and relies on grants and individual, foundation, and corporate donations as well as ongoing support through Connolly Ranch Legacy Fund.



CONNOLLY RANCH
CONNECTING KIDS AND FAMILIES WITH NATURE

“Lucas loves school so much and is developing such sweet friendships. Thank you so much for all you and the other teachers do educating these kids to be caring and globally-minded!” – preschool parent

Connolly Ranch is a 12-acre working farm located just a short drive from downtown Napa. Our mission is to connect kids and families with nature through farm-based education.

Core Programs:

- **Afterschool Program**
- **Birthday Parties**
- **Camps: Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer**
- **Field Trips**
- **Preschool Programs**
- **Parent & Child Classes**
- **Saturday Camps and Classes**
- **Special Events**
- **Volunteer Opportunities**
- **Walk-in Wednesdays: Fall, Spring**



“I learned...It’s therapeutic and healing, just as Kim taught me that working with children is refreshing and comforting. To watch something or someone grow and develop and know that you were a part of it is such a rewarding feeling that I didn’t even know I was missing it from my life until I had it at Connolly Ranch.” - Jayde, High School Intern

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Gene Kelly, **Chairman of the Board**
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Kristopher Cosca, ED. D., **Board Secretary**
Denise Renteria
Sarah Mitchell Hansen
Michele Truchard
Elizabeth Healy
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Jeff Dodd



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Emily Newman, **Farm Educator/Volunteer Coordinator**
Karen Kelly, **Preschool Teacher**
Natalie Knight, **Farm Educator/Preschool Teacher**
Julie Araiza, **Farm Educator**
Jonny Ehlers, **Field Trip Naturalist**



CONNOLLY RANCH EDUCATION CENTER THANK YOU



Connolly Ranch Education Center • connollyranch.org
3141 Browns Valley Rd • Napa, CA 94558 • (707) 224-1894