

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



# A letter from our Executive Director

Dear Friends and Partners,

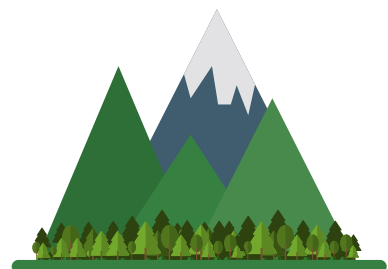
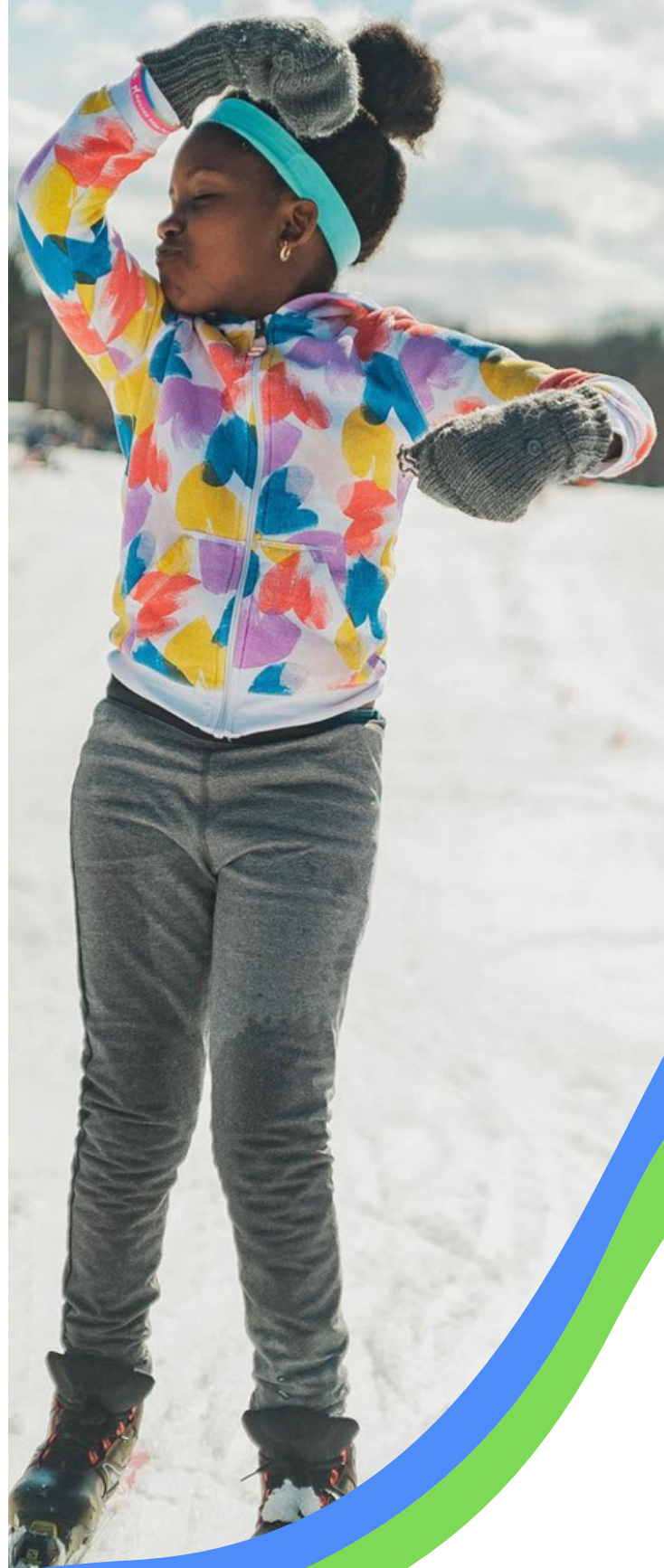
This has been a difficult year, to say the least. However, I believe that in times of adversity and hardship the strength of the community shines bright. Throughout 2020, I've had the privilege of realizing this truth almost every day through the actions of everyone in the Elevate Youth community. COVID-19 hit our communities the hardest, and nature's refuge became even more distant from our youth. To me, the importance of our work has never been more clear.

This year, we are grateful for the strength of our partnerships, our mission, and our community. We have created opportunities for safe exploration of outdoor spaces, provided refuge for self-expression, and instilled a sense of belonging to our youth during these difficult times.

Most importantly, we have discovered the evolving need for - and the critical importance of - our organization during these difficult times. As we heard from one of our parents: "We continue to be grateful for all that Elevate Youth does for youth and their families. "I hope you guys know the crucial difference you make in the lives of youth and all those connected to the EY family."

With gratitude,

Alec Griswold





# ABOUT ELEVATE YOUTH

## WHAT WE DO

Elevate Youth believes there are two primary drivers that facilitate positive transformation in the youth we serve. The first driver is the opportunity for ongoing outdoor experiences that are safe, fun, positive and challenging. The second is the relationships developed with supportive adult role models.

## MISSION

Our mission is to empower youth from underserved neighborhoods through regular outdoor experiences with the support of positive adult role models.

## VISION

Our vision for Elevate Youth is to break down barriers of access to nature for urban youth. We are not aiming to offer one-time help and get out; rather we intend to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards by providing consistent experiences in nature & sparking a lifelong love of the outdoors in the young people we serve.

## CORE VALUES

Sustainability  
Equity  
Diversity  
Inclusivity

# OUR IMPACT 2020

We consistently served 125 youth in our outdoor programs

92

## OUTING IN LOCAL PARKS AND GREEN SPACES

Providing a safe & consistent means for children to experience the outdoors close to home.

530

## HOLIDAY MEALS DELIVERED TO FAMILIES

Our foundation in underserved communities allowed us provide warm, holiday meals to families at risk of food insecurity.

350

## AT-HOME NATURE KITS

During the uncertain early days of the pandemic, we provided an innovative way for children to learn and explore nature, without leaving their homes.

380+

## HOURS OF OUTDOOR PROGRAMING

Spending time in nature is linked with countless health benefits, particularly for children. We are proud to have created these opportunities for our youth when they are needed most.



# PROGRAM PILLARS

Our programs take a four-pronged approach.



## DISCOVERING NATURE CLOSE TO HOME

**SPARKING A LOVE OF THE OUTDOORS.**

We facilitate a connection between youth and their natural surroundings.



## SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

**DEVELOP PERSONAL GROWTH.**

We build skills such as confidence, curiosity, leadership & empathy.

## TEAM BUILDING

**FOCUSING ON GROUP DYNAMICS**

We develop social skills, build friendships, and facilitate mentorship.



## PROJECT BASED LEARNING

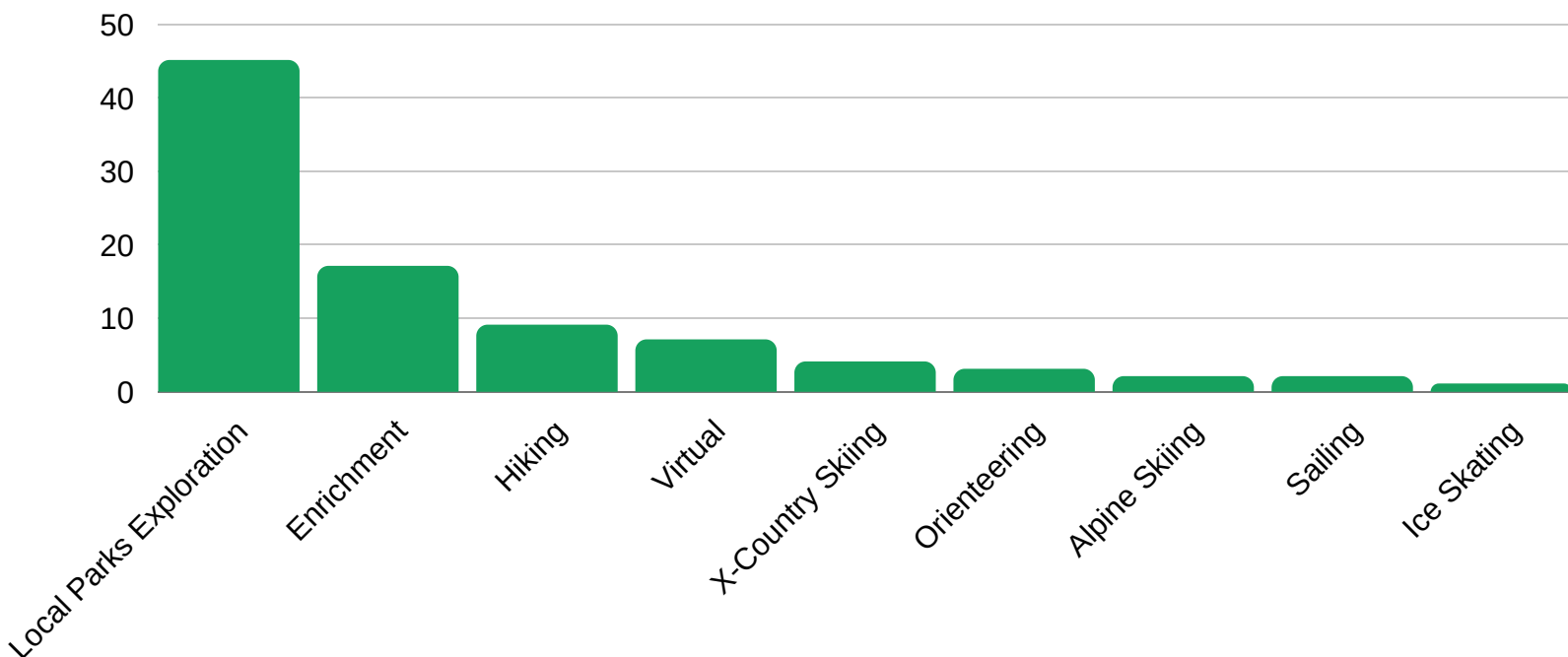
**CONSISTENT ENGAGEMENT**

We build upon our work to create progression and enhance personal growth.

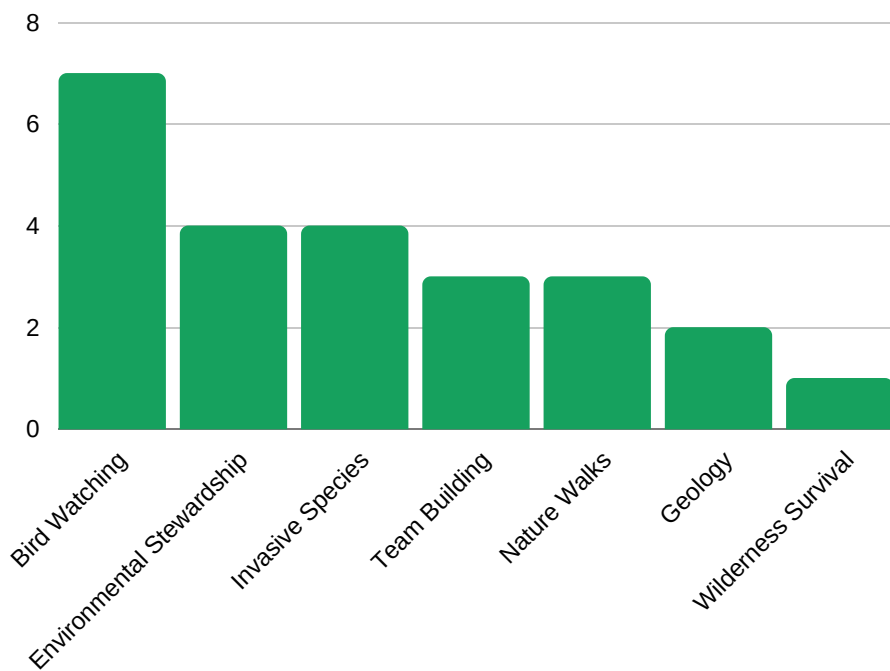


# OUTING INFORMATION

In 2020, we offered a diverse selection of outdoor activities, outings to local parks, virtual sessions & enrichment activities.



## LOCAL PARKS PROGRAM



During the pandemic summer of 2020, we launched this program to safely provide a means for our youth to explore nature close-to-home.

We regularly ran outdoor programs at five different parks closest to our youth's homes, serving over 125 youth. Examples of our most popular trips are highlighted here.

## Educate. Access. Thrive

This new initiative introduces health & wellness into our regular outdoor programming. Informed by the expertise of our E.A.T. committee, we empower our youth with the access and knowledge to make informed decisions about their health and draw a connection between nature and the food they eat.

Our E.A.T. Initiative takes many forms:

### "E.A.T. WELL" MEAL BOXES



### VIRTUAL COOKING CLASSES



### FOOD DRIVES



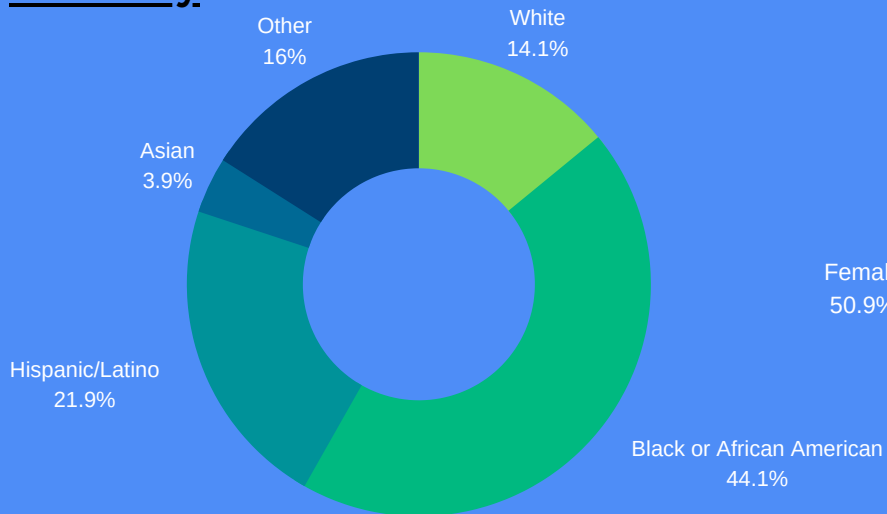
### FIELD TRIPS



# YOUTH DEMOGRAPHIC

Who are our youth? Where do they live?

## Ethnicity



## Gender





# YOUTH & FAMILY TESTIMONIALS

*"I felt like I was going camping and that I was going out in a place that no one went yet."*

*"I felt rejuvenated"*

*"Next class, I want to learn about trees, flowers, clouds, leaves, plants, bark, dirt, seeds"*

*"Thank you guys for everything. My son really loved the days he was able to meet up with all of you. Every Tuesday, for a couple of hours, things were close to normal!"*

*"I hope soon this pandemic will be over, and we can interact as we used to be. Until then it is great to have institutions like yours to connect people with precautions in place."*

# INDIVIDUAL DONORS

## **\$5,000 +**

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Gene & Gay Crowley  
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## **\$1,000 +**

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# FINANCIAL SUPPORT

## Foundations

Fancy Hill Foundation  
Amica Companies Foundation  
Charles Hayden Foundation  
Clif Bar Family Foundation  
RR Evans Foundation  
Rockland Trust-Blue Hills Charitable Foundation  
Boston After School & Beyond

## Corporations/Organizations

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care  
Pioneers Run Club  
Arc'teryx Boston  
Project Paulie  
GenCon Inc.  
Mass Mentoring Partnership  
Habitus Incorporated  
Save the Harbor/Save the Bay  
Stop & Shop  
Cabela's/Bass Pro Shops  
Patagonia Cambridge/ Boston  
T. Rowe Price Charitable

## In-Kind & Event Sponsorship

Atlantic Sportswear  
Arc'teryx  
Badfish  
Bass Pro Shops  
Cheeky Fly Fishing  
Cisco Brewers  
Costa Sunglasses  
Family Dinner  
Flood Tide Co  
Flatwing Fishing  
Joe Klementovich Photography  
Kendra Scott

Matt Jones Photography  
Patagonia Cambridge/Boston  
Parlor Skis  
Postfly  
Soul Fly Outfitters  
The Ski Monster  
The Wade Rod Co.  
Under Armour  
VAGRANTS  
Wingo Outdoors  
Weston Ski Track  
Wachusett Mountain

# FY20 FINANCIALS

## SUPPORT & REVENUE

January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020

Earned Income	\$8,370
Individual Donations	\$104,265
Special Events	\$17,018
Corporate Support	\$62,384
Foundation Support	\$25,050
Grants	\$74,500
Other Revenue	\$9,095
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$320,682</b>

## OPERATING EXPENSES

Program Expenses	\$22,530
Staff & Fringe Benefits	\$69,467
Overhead	\$52,587
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$144,584</b>

## GAIN / LOSS FROM OPERATIONS

<b>Net Margin</b>	<b>\$176,098</b>
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# THE ELEVATE YOUTH FAMILY

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TREASURER

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CLERK

Alec Griswold  
FOUNDER

Nicole Davis  
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Robin Bose  
BOARD CHAIR

## Program Partners

Boys & Girls Club Dorchester - Marr & Denney Center  
Boston Center for Youth & Families - Leahy Holloran Center  
Sibling Connections  
Harlem Lacrosse Boston  
West End House  
Thomas J. Kenny K-6 Elementary School  
The Hennigan School  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Massachusetts Bay  
The Work Force Program of Cambridge  
The Office of Mayor Siddiqui

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PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Nick Chertavian  
LEAD OUTDOOR INSTRUCTOR

Shea Gorman  
OUTDOOR INSTRUCTOR

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Lydia Zayas  
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CT Ransdell  
Sam Kornstein

## Community Partners

Pioneers Run Club  
Paddle Boston  
Weston Ski Track  
Backcountry Yoga  
Blazing Saddles Equestrian Center  
Wachusett Mountain  
Piers Park Sailing Center  
Rock Spot South Boston  
Eastern Mountain Sports  
Massachusetts DCR  
Commonwealth Kitchen  
Jamaica Mi Hungry  
Katsiroubas Produce  
Boston After School & beyond

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Karen Masterson  
Gay Crowley  
Paloma Suarez  
Siedric White  
Dulce Depina  
Meredith Smith  
Tuck Welch  
Jessica Torres



# FOLLOW ALONG!

## Contact Us

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Boston, MA 02111  
(P) 857.995.8050  
(E) [alec@elevate-youth.org](mailto:alec@elevate-youth.org)

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