

Mission:

We are the Friends of the Children's Eternal Rainforest, or FCER, a non-profit organization with a mission to promote a sustainable world by educating and inspiring children and adults to take action to protect, support and expand the Children's Eternal Rainforest in Monteverde, Costa Rica - a resource of unparalleled biodiversity worldwide.

photo credit - Lloyd Cripe



Mission

Letter from the President:

In 2002, conservation visionaries Rachel and Dwight Crandell founded the Monteverde Conservation League U.S., now known as Friends of the Children's Eternal Rainforest, or FCER. Over the next ten years, the Crandells - and then FCER's Board and staff - built an organization that is now sustaining the Crandell's vision of supporting, protecting, and conserving the Children's Eternal Rainforest.

As we now embark on our next decade of service to the Rainforest, we have much to be grateful for:

- We are governed by a dedicated Board of Directors that includes world-renowned scientists and conservationists, teachers, and nature lovers from many fields;
- We have one full-time and three part-time staff members who daily carry out our mission; and
- We have a generous and growing number of donors who support our work.

This year, we have already laid the foundation for our next decade of work. Highlights include:

- Advancing our **conservation work** - land purchase and protection;
- Piloting our **Youth Education and Engagement Program** in partnership with the Montessori Institute for the Science of Peace (read more on page 6);
- Partnering with other science and conservation nonprofits in the Monteverde region of Costa Rica to create the **Monteverde-Arenal Regional Initiative** to work together to study and conserve the entire region; and
- Planning a variety of **mission-centered eco-tourism trips** that will expand our outreach and bring additional funds to support our work.

I think Rachel and Dwight would be proud of all we have accomplished together and hope to achieve in the future. Thank you for helping us protect the Rainforest!



Laurie Waller

President

Friends of the Children's Eternal Rainforest



Leadership Message

Rainforest Facts:

World-renowned conservationist Dr. Peter Raven - Board Member of the Friends of the Children's Eternal Rainforest and named a "Hero of the Planet" by Time Magazine - has called on all of us to support the Children's Eternal Rainforest for these compelling reasons:

1. The problem with unchecked destruction of rainforest ecosystems is that "we don't even understand what we're losing"- many of the medicinal, planetary and other benefits of rainforests have yet to be discovered.
2. The Children's Eternal Rainforest is a trusted and time-tested conservation project. It has been established for more than 25 years and is located in a politically and economically stable country - Costa Rica.
3. This forest is unique among rainforests because it links two continents, bridges the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean, and straddles the Continental Divide - factors that create unparalleled biodiversity and provide protection to animals like the magnificent but endangered Jaguar and the beloved Red-eyed Tree Frog.
4. The Children's Eternal Rainforest is an important migratory corridor for 91 species of North American birds, such as the Baltimore Oriole that you might see in your backyard. If these birds cannot migrate, they will not survive.
5. This rainforest is an essential watershed, increasingly important for the world's fresh water supply. It creates the clouds that water our crops and keep our planet cool.



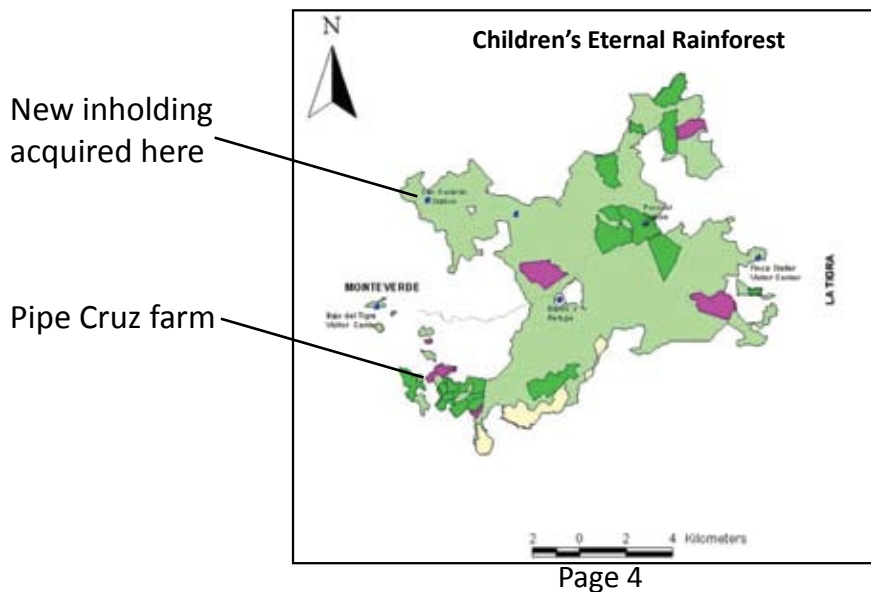
Land Purchase:

Friends of the Children's Eternal Rainforest supports the goal of the Monteverde Conservation League to purchase land to strategically increase the size of the Rainforest.

Priorities include purchasing land to preserve habitat for the many wondrous, varied species within the Children's Eternal Rainforest; creating biological corridors down the Pacific slope; and creating a defensible boundary on the Atlantic side.

In 2012, FCER contributed \$25,000 toward the purchase of a key strategic "inholding" that has been on our most wanted list for many years. This 15 acres of deforested farmland is located near our San Gerardo field station, and was previously vulnerable to development. It will now begin the process of regeneration and return to its natural state as part of the Children's Eternal Rainforest.

In 2010, FCER made a commitment to purchase the 252 acre Pipe Cruz farm. Last year, an additional payment of \$57,500 was made on this property that is a critical habitat for the endangered Three-wattled Bellbird.



Land Purchase

Land Protection:

Friends of the Children's Eternal Rainforest supports the goal of the Monteverde Conservation League to protect the Rainforest and its inhabitants.

Guards are employed to protect against the constant pressures of hunting, poaching, and illegal lumbering. Their duties include rescuing injured wildlife; securing the surrender of wildlife being held in inappropriate conditions; detaining and participating in the prosecution of those hunting, poaching or conducting other illegal activity in the Forest; coordinating with local land owners; monitoring wildlife activity; and holding workshops and training activities that provide education about wildlife and the Forest.

In 2012, Children's Eternal Rainforest guards collaborated with Costa Rica's environmental ministry to win a major victory against poachers. Together they discovered and interrupted a major logging operation in Arenal National Park, an adjoining reserve that is part of the 165,000 acre contiguous rainforest network.

The importance of this land protection is evident today with the return of the Jaguar. Last February, for the first time in 27 years, the Jaguar returned to the Forest. This endangered top predator depends on large swaths of uninterrupted habitat to hunt, mate and roam.



Land Protection

Education & Outreach:

Friends of the Children's Eternal Rainforest supports the goal of the Monteverde Conservation League to provide environmental education programs to gain the support of local communities, and to increase the use of the Children's Eternal Rainforest as a global educational resource. FCER also works to raise conservation awareness here in the U.S.

Education is a priority in and around the Children's Eternal Rainforest for several reasons. First, it is an unparalleled educational resource; second, the long-term protection of this rainforest depends in part on the understanding and support of local communities; and third, fees paid by tourists and many of the student groups are an important source of income that is fundamental to its long-term financial sustainability.

In 2012, the Children's Eternal Rainforest received a \$100,000 grant to fund an environmental educator for local schools in the La Tigra region. Over the next five years this educator will offer programs on a range of environmental topics, including: recycling, biodiversity, animal welfare and abuse, water resources and the importance of wetlands, Costa Rica's ecosystems and National Parks, as well as other environmental issues.

FCER also worked to raise conservation awareness in the U.S. through our first annual **Wild About Conservation Event** that was held at the Saint Louis Zoo and featured a keynote address by Dr. Peter Raven, FCER Board Member and President Emeritus of the Missouri Botanical Garden. The event was highly successful with over 350 attendees donating more than \$20,000 to support the Rainforest.

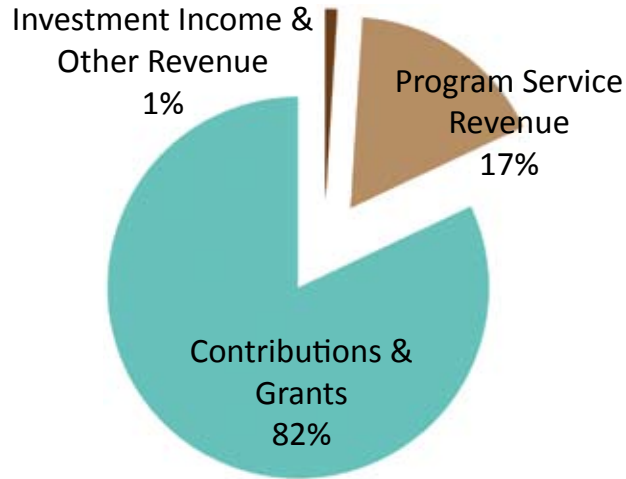
In 2012, FCER also initiated our **Youth Education and Engagement Program**. This innovative educational program will engage students by using the Rainforest as an experiential learning classroom where students will explore and learn about critical issues relating to tropical ecology, global conservation, and resource inter-dependency.



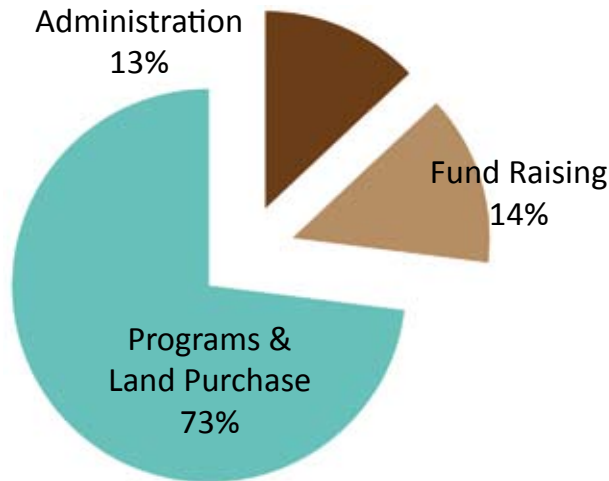
2012 Financials:

Friends of the Children's Eternal Rainforest

Income



Expenses



Total Assets = \$3,234,855 (includes 148 acres of land in Costa Rica)

Total Liabilities = \$57,550



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