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# FRIENDS OF THE RAINFOREST

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## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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### OUR MISSION

Friends of the Rainforest is dedicated to promoting a sustainable world by educating and inspiring children and adults to take action to protect, support and expand the Rainforest in Costa Rica

### AND BEYOND!!

### IT ALL STARTED WITH...

A group of Swedish school children started a worldwide effort in 1987 by sending money to Monteverde, Costa Rica to purchase rainforest land in an effort to protect its priceless natural treasures forever. Today, children and adults from over 44 nations have continued this tradition by taking action to protect this precious land.

## IN 2014 OUR DONORS FUNDED THE FOLLOWING GRANTS



#### #5 Book Translation

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Funds to translate Monteverde: Ecology and Conservation of a Tropical Rainforest, a treasured 573 page book translated into the Spanish language, will allow for further expansion of conservation knowledge.

#### #7 Biological Station Upgrades

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Pocosol Biological Station in the Children's Eternal Rainforest installed necessary upgrades to both their electrical & water heating systems.

#### #9 Monteverde Institute Coordinator

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The new Monteverde Institute Coordinator is responsible for the organization and development of the new Monteverde Arenal Bioregion Initiative and conference. It's goal is to create a common mission for the actions and initiatives in the region.

#### #6 Environmental Education

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Purchasing a new vehicle will provide transportation of equipment and materials to schools allowing for the expansion of an education program offered by MCL

#### #8 High Speed Internet

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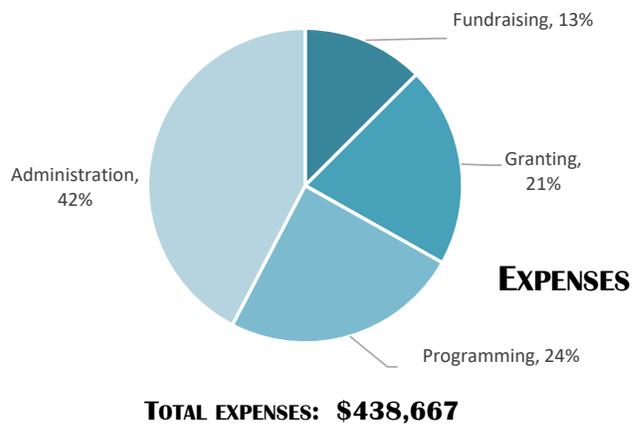
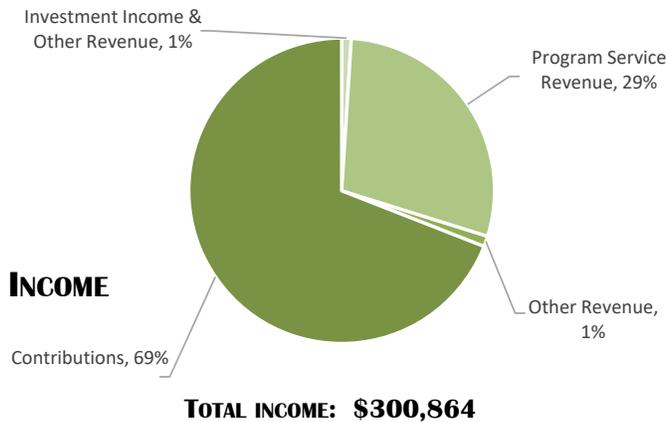
Installation of high speed internet access at the Pocosol Biological Station will grant access for groups of students, entrepreneurs and researchers that visit the Station.

#### #10 Pipe Cruz

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The Children's Eternal Rainforest was expanded by a total of 245 acres. The purchase of an abandoned pasture closed a gap reducing potential points of entry where poachers can gain access to the rainforest.

# 2014 BY THE NUMBERS



**TOTAL ASSETS: \$3,130,642**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES: \$29,652**

## We are grateful for our **FRIENDS**

In 2014 Friends of the Children's Eternal Rainforest worked to expand its mission to protect the rainforests of Costa Rica and beyond. With a new mission and a more inclusive name, we were able to educate locally through the visits with the Fenton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution as well as local schools. We were also able to support and participate in the MABI conference, a newly developed symposium focused on the unification of those dedicated to protecting the rainforests of the Monteverde-Arenal region. Our First Annual Trivia Night in St. Louis was an evening of awareness and those in attendance were generous in their support of FOTR.

Through our outreach programs in environmental education, land purchase and protection, our Board and Staff are dedicated to the preservation of unparalleled biodiversity found in the cloud forests of Costa Rica. **Because of your support of Friends of the Rainforest, we have strengthened our capacity and are now more efficient and effective in carrying out our mission.**

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# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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**Last year Friends of the Rainforest underwent some big changes.**

**With the departures of our President, Laurie Waller, and Development Director, Kate Danna, some felt unsure of the future of the organization. We are eternally grateful to Laurie and Kate for their years of service. They were able to bring Rachel and Dwight Crandell's vision of an ongoing source of protection for the rainforest to fruition.**

**I am happy to report that the Board of Directors and I intend to keep up their good work. In 2014, Friends of the Children's Eternal Rainforest became known as Friends of the Rainforest. While we continue to support the Monteverde Conservation League and the Children's Eternal Rainforest directly, this name change signals to the world that we are looking at the larger picture.**

**No one organization can hold responsibility for protecting the Earth's resources. We encourage organizations focused on protecting and preserving the rainforest to apply for funds and help share that burden. Friends of the Rainforest helped to support three separate organizations on 2014 in addition to continuing the education and awareness outreach in the U.S. The focus of our funding this year will make it easier for scientists, researchers, and school groups to have access to the resources they need to explore, connect, and discover the Forest.**

**We all have a responsibility to do what we can to protect the Forest. For some our contribution is monetary, for others it is a calling to research and shed light on the wonders of the forest, and some are able to help spread their passion for this beloved place. We thank you all for gifts in all of their forms.**

**For the Forest -**

*Chelsea Raiche*

**Chelsea Raiche  
Executive Director**

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# Our dedicated Board & Staff

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### CHAIRMAN

**Patrick Osborne**

### VICE-CHAIRMAN

**Gonzalo Fernandez**

### SECRETARY & SCIENCE/TRAVEL DIRECTOR

**Maggie Eisenberger**

### TREASURER

**Anne Fernandez**

### BOARD MEMBERS

**Charles Baudo**

**Jeremy Crandell**

**Teresa Crossland**

**Elizabeth Kayser**

**Dr. Thomas Lovejoy\***

**Steve Mahfood**

**Tom Newmark\***

**Dr. Patrick Osborne**

**Dr. Peter H. Raven**

**Kristofer Loynd**

**Steve Tomey**

**Michael Salsich**

**Carol Weisman**

## STAFF

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### INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Chelsea Raiche**



*\*Advisory Board Members*



**Friends of the Rainforest**

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