

## WILD GIFT



building leaders  
integrating nature  
creating change today

# The First Five Years 2002-07



## Highlights

**2002-03:** Eight young leaders participate in three pilot wilderness treks in Alaska. Evaluation leads to addition of a year-long individual project component to the Wild Gift Program. Program expands from 20 days to 17 months.

**2004-05:** First class of Wild Gift leaders to engage project component of Program. Leader class limited to 5 individuals to provide qualitative assessment of all projects and enhance leader bonding.

**2006-07:** The 2006/07 class finished their project contracts and the 2007/08 class began work. We do not project working with more than two classes in any one year to keep quality in the primary mission.

**2007-08:** The secondary mission of Wild Gift is to build a network of activist leaders. Wild Gift recipients, alumni and applicants will be the core of the network. Wild Gift will become the leaders organization, a better world think-tank, where leaders synergize about collaborative projects, rejuvenate their spirit, and return to the wild to mentor the next class of Wild Gift leaders. That mission is now underway. Three Wild Gift alumni are members of the Wild Gift Board. Jenna Ringelheim and Pete Land, class of 2002 & 03, will assume its directorship in November 2007, spearheading the development of the leader network.

## Wild Gift Leader Projects & Results

### 2004-05 Class:

- 1) Established a creative nature-writing program/consultancy that targets middle and high school students (EcoExpressions - [www.ecoexpressions.org](http://www.ecoexpressions.org));
- 2) Supported the creation of a for-profit solar company in Ladakh, India (Shesyon Solar Earthworks);
- 3) Established a community and campus farm consultancy, which is helping develop plans for a campus farm for James Madison University in Virginia. (PEAS Consulting);
- 4) Started a sustainable community school operation in the rural village of Abraham, Haiti. (The Abraham Project)
- 5) Created a field curricula in the program of a nonprofit organization that works with K-5 children residing in Friendship Court, a federally subsidized housing project in Charlottesville, Virginia. The curricula includes wilderness, sustainability and citizenship. (Enabling Citizens)

### 2006-07 Class:

- 1) Developed an energy audit program and established a consultancy that advises owners and managers of affordable housing projects on retrofitting their buildings to be as resource efficient as possible. (Lighten the Load – also [www.newecology.org](http://www.newecology.org))
- 2) Established a consultancy that integrates biological research, community capacity-building and conservation to inspire communities to protect biodiversity and promote sustainability. Successfully completed first mission, located in Chile, establishing the Contulmo Landowners Network in the Nahuelbuta Range and forming a cluster of private protected areas. (Conservation Initiatives Consulting – also [www.patrimonionaturalcontulmo.cl](http://www.patrimonionaturalcontulmo.cl)) and [www.wwf.cl/nahuelbuta\\_contulmo\\_english.htm](http://www.wwf.cl/nahuelbuta_contulmo_english.htm))
- 3) Designed and implementing a local watershed curriculum for 5th grade students in Utah. (The River Institute)
- 4) Wrote and published a book which raises public awareness on the nature and effects of urban sprawl as well as the perspectives of the issue's many stakeholders. (Grow – [www.atownnearyou.com](http://www.atownnearyou.com))
- 5) Supported the work of a campaigner and lobbyist who organized and provided trainings for environmental and social change in San Francisco's east bay region. Campaigned for the Oakland City Council's creation of a Food Security Office and writing a resolution to derive 20% of the city's energy from renewable sources by 2020. (Earth Justice Network)

### 2007-08 Class:

- 1) Establishing a profitable, environmentally-friendly demonstration farm in the Ozarks of Arkansas, which promotes a local food system that produces nutrient rich foods, works in harmony with nature, and reinvigorates the local economy. (The Ozarks Agricultural Revival Project at Falling Sky Farm – [www.fallingskyfarm.com](http://www.fallingskyfarm.com))
- 2) Establish a marketing/motivational speaker organization that acts as a catalyst within popular culture to get the public excited about 'going green' and choosing the actions of a sustainable lifestyle. (The Go Green Organization & The Green Girl's Guide)
- 3) Create a profitable real estate development and investment firm in Boston, Mass that is dedicated to partnership in community development, sustainable design, and environmental stewardship (Entegra Development & Investment, LLC – [www.entegra-re.com](http://www.entegra-re.com))
- 4) Identify and popularize appropriate fuel wood efficient cookstove technology within rainforest communities in Cross River State, Nigeria, Africa with a goal of reducing the rural woman's energy burden, the impacts of deforestation, indoor air pollution and climate change. (Fuel for Life)
- 5) Establish an international eco-training center and curriculum in the state of Tamil Nadu, India that will create a network of people and organizations that work toward equalizing global access to basic needs while re-establishing the ecological integrity of Earth. (The EverGreen Community)

## Major Investors

Bob Jonas founded Wild Gift in 2002 with a personal investment of \$25,000. The organization has been sustained during its formative years through the contributions of Bob's friends who have helped him develop the Wild Gift mission and program.

Return on investment began in 2004 with the first entrepreneurial projects of Wild Gift's young leaders, ages 21-30. Project results show an immediate and positive impact in the communities where the leaders work, an impact that is making a difference today and will multiply tomorrow.

The leaders and their projects are launched through participation in the Wild Gift Program at a total cost of \$15,000 per leader. The 15 K grant covers the trek and project components of the 17-month Program.

A huge 'Thank You' to our donors:

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