

# Annual Report

2014



# HARBOR WILDWATCH



## Mission

To inspire stewardship of the Puget Sound by providing learning opportunities about the environment to the people of our local communities.

## Vision

To be a catalyst for environmental education contributing significantly to our community's understanding of the environment in which we live and our impact on the Puget Sound.

## Motto

Learn. Have Fun.

# Inspiring **stewardship** for Puget Sound...



## Public Programs

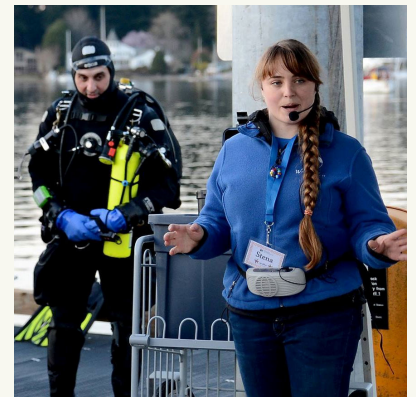
Harbor Wildwatch delivers four unique environmental education programs to the general public in Key Peninsula—Gig Harbor—Islands (KGI) Watershed. Our longest running program is the **Get Your Feet Wet** experience. This summertime event introduces beachgoers to the unique animals that live in the intertidal zone at our local city, county and state parks. Visitors interact directly with live marine animals through guided beach walks and “touch-tanks” led by our experienced staff and trained volunteers. 2014 brought the 11th season of *Get Your Feet Wet* with 64 programs delivered to 8,216 people.

**Pier Into the Night** gives visitors get a glimpse into what is life is like at night in Gig Harbor Bay through a virtual SCUBA diving experience. A video camera is attached to our volunteer divers as they explore the waters below Jerisich Dock. With a live audio feed from the diver to the surface as well, anyone can

experience what it’s like to dive in Gig Harbor Bay without getting wet! In 2014, we delivered 17 *Pier Into the Night* events to 5,814 individuals.

The **Citizen Science Experience** trains citizens to collect meaningful data to help protect and preserve our natural resources. From biodiversity monitoring at local beaches to counting spawning salmon returning to local creeks, this program hosted 17 training events for 205 volunteers in 2014.

In 2014, we moved into our first office space open to the public at the Skansie Brother’s House in Downtown Gig Harbor. This unique partnership with the City of Gig Harbor gave us the opportunity to offer a variety of **educational experiences at the Skansie House** including a interactive exhibits and guided walking tours. In 2014, over 2,000 residents and visitors of the greater Gig Harbor community visited us at our new location at the Skansie House.



## Youth Programs

Harbor Wildwatch is committed to delivering unique educational programs for our local youth that focus on science, technology, engineering and math (S.T.E.M). The **Harbor Outreach Program** consists of 20 interactive workshops that explore various topics including glaciers, wetlands and salmon. In 2014, we delivered 453 classroom workshops to 11,136 students.

The **Explore the Beach/Estuary** program immerses students in the outdoor classroom to learn about the unique beach and estuary environments. Students are challenged to put their classroom knowledge to work as they see zonation, predation and adaptation demonstrated first-hand. 69 *Explore the Beach/Estuary* programs were delivered to 1,699 students in 2014.

The **seaStars & Beyond** program is Harbor WildWatch’s most intensive program for young nature enthusiasts. Over 10 months, students ages 8-

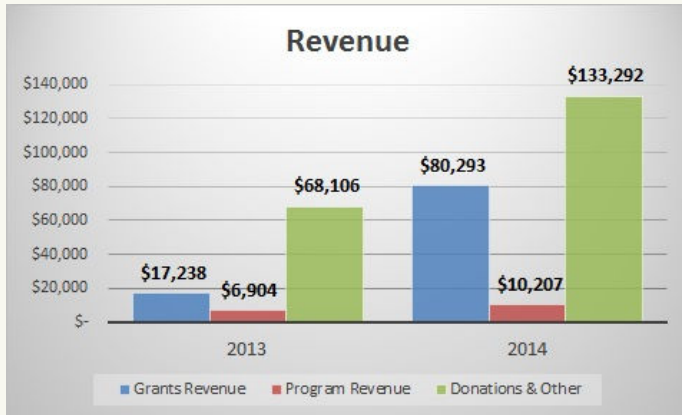
12 explore a variety of environmental topics through monthly workshops—from marine mammal anatomy to ocean acidification. Students also learn to interpret scientific information to the public by volunteering and completing a self-guided service project to benefit the local environment. In 2014, 41 students and their parents and/or guardians participated in the *seastars & Beyond* program.

We also developed the Harbor WildWatch **Internship** program in 2014 to assist students pursue higher education and careers in environmental sciences. Two interns participated in the first year — a recent college graduate and community college student. Shortly after the internship ended, the graduate was offered a position with the *Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife* and the student was accepted to *Western Washington University* to pursue a degree in Environmental Studies in the fall of 2015.



...through educational experiences since 2004.

## Financial Stability



The Board of Directors is dedicated to carrying out the mission and vision of Harbor WildWatch through careful management of the resources of the organization. In 2014, Harbor WildWatch received **\$223,792** in total revenue and expended **\$184,153**. In addition, a total of **70 volunteers** contributed over **1,000 hours** in 2014, amounting to **\$15,000** through in-kind services.

## Generous Funders

American Family Insurance—Tim Lopez  
Awesome Foundation  
Babare Family Foundation  
Chambers-Clover Creek Watershed Council  
Charlotte Martin Foundation  
Dan & Pat Nelson Family Foundation  
Glein Family Foundation  
Greater Tacoma Community Foundation  
KGI Watershed Council

Meacham Family Foundation  
MJF Foundation  
Pierce Conservation District  
Puyallup Tribe of Indians  
The Russell Family Foundation  
The Seattle Aquarium  
U.S. Bank—Gig Harbor/Stinson  
Washington State Parks Foundation  
And more than 50 Individual Donors



## Partners & Supporters

Citizens for a Healthy Bay  
City of Gig Harbor  
Downtown Waterfront Alliance  
Foss Waterway Seaport  
Gig Harbor Boat Shop  
Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team  
Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce  
Gig Harbor Farmer's Market Association  
Gig Harbor Life

Gig Harbor Living Magazine  
Greater Gig Harbor Foundation  
Harbor History Museum  
Java & Clay Café  
Key Pen Parks  
Kitsap County BeachWatchers  
PenMet Parks  
Peninsula Gateway  
Peninsula School District

Pierce County ECO Network  
Pierce County Public Works & Utilities  
Pierce County Stream Team  
Pierce County Surface Water Management  
Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium  
Tacoma School District  
Tom Taylor Family YMCA  
Washington Sea Grant  
Washington State Parks

## Visit Us



Harbor WildWatch has opened the new *Gig Harbor Visitor Information Center at Skansie House*—a dynamic destination for residents, visitors and boaters to learn about everything Gig Harbor has to offer. Visit us Wednesday through Sunday (April-September) and Wednesday through Saturday (October-March) from 10:00–4:00 PM.

## Staff Members



Lindsey Johnson  
*Executive Director*



Rachel Easton  
*Program Coordinator*



Steph McCaffery  
*Development Associate*



Stena Troyer  
*Science Specialist*

## Board of Directors

Join us in thanking our dedicated volunteer Board members for their commitment to environmental education.

Joyce Murray, *President*

Tom Larson, *Vice President*

Howard Svigals, *Treasurer*

Jason Legener, *Secretary*

Jack Conway, PhD, *Director*

Cheri Patch, *Director*

Erin Ewald, *Director*

Brett Marlo DeSantis, *Director*

Moriah Rees, *Director*



**HARBOR  
WILDWATCH**

Mailing Address:  
3110 Judson Street, PMB #99  
Gig Harbor, WA 98335  
Physical Address:  
3207 Harborview Drive  
Gig Harbor, WA 98335  
Phone: (253) 514-0187



Connect with us online today.  
[www.harborwildwatch.org](http://www.harborwildwatch.org)