Dear Friend of NYC,

Thank you for your continued support of Northwest Youth Corps. In 2011, we ushered in a new era as Art Pope, our founder and longtime Executive Director, retired. It was a seamless transition with Jeff Parker, who had worked for NYC in several positions, taking the helm as the new Executive Director. We continued the tradition of service to youth with more than 1,100 participating in NYC programs throughout a five state region. These participants increased their ability to work as a team, learned how to overcome challenges, and gained vital experience that will help them become the leaders of tomorrow. We are proud of all our programs; Youth Corps, OutDoor School, OutDoor Oregon, and Youth Grow; and are happy to share many of their accomplishments in this Annual Report.

NYC is committed to helping youth and young adults learn, grow, and experience success. Each participant graduates better prepared to handle the challenges that life presents; high school or college graduation, entry into a competitive job market, or social challenges that affect our communities. They learn the meaning of hard work and the value of cooperation. They gain valuable friendships and experiences that will help shape their futures.

In 2012, we will continue our Growing to Serve initiative, which focuses on increasing our services to youth throughout the Northwest. This initiative has helped NYC transform its 55 year old main campus facility into a vibrant Center for Conservation Education, supported the development of new programs like OutDoor Oregon and Youth Grow, and helped the OutDoor High School develop a new curriculum model that better connects our students to real world opportunities. Growing to Serve is about community connections; land management agencies, foundations, corporations, and individual donors supporting Northwest Youth Corps so it can provide this unique experience to increasing numbers of youth each year.

As you read through this Annual Report, please consider supporting Northwest Youth Corps by sponsoring a work project, providing a donation, or helping us spread the word about these great kids doing great things.

Thank you,

Jane Kammerzelt
President of the Board
Growing to Serve

Center for Conservation Education

This year, generous contributions from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, the Meyer Memorial Trust, the Collins Foundation, and countless individual donors helped us realize a long term renovation to our facility’s entry and core office area. Not only does this remodel add ADA accessibility, energy efficiency, and needed community rental space, it helps transform the campus from a depreciating school to a vibrant crossroads of youth empowerment and education. The campus can now host conferences, generate rental income, and provide a venue for community meetings and events. The building will be officially dedicated this spring as the Center for Conservation Education.

Program Growth

OutDoor High School:

Working in partnership with 8 school districts, the OutDoor High school serves over 50 high potential students with an innovative academic model, integrating classroom and experiential instruction with service-learning opportunities. Independent learners looking for real-world education benefit from a favorable 5 to 1 student to instructor ratio offered at our school, as well as the support of our generous funders: the Life Technologies Foundation at The San Diego Foundation, Trust Management Services, LLC, and Herbert A. Templeton Foundation. With their help, the OutDoor High School has been able to add a Curriculum Director to further develop STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) curriculum to help ODS students meet the needs of the rapidly changing workplace.

Youth Grow:

Working in collaboration with the School Garden project, Farm to School, and our homegrown Laurel Valley Organic Farm, the Youth Grow program serves youngsters aged 7 to 11 years old in a day camp format focused on gardening, crafting, and fun in the outdoors. Participants are introduced to the basics of growing, harvesting, and cooking organic produce in a fun and supportive environment. Each week, a new cast of campers arrive on campus to participate in this educational and fun camp. Now, youth can participate in NYC programs from Elementary school all the way through high school and beyond, increasing the continuum of stewardship.

Youth Corps Programs:

Our original program format continues to grow in size and capacity. In 2011, Youth Corps crews worked throughout a five state region, leaving behind a legacy of high quality work on our public lands. During the past two years, Youth Corps crews have completed many projects funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). These projects helped restore and maintain hundreds of miles of trail, restore countless acres of wild lands, while generating paychecks for hundreds of northwest teens.

Partnerships:

Northwest Youth Corps continues to expand its committed group of partners in order to leverage greater impact. Participation in the annual Play in the Rain Day, an event coordinated with 17 community partners grew by 25%, setting an attendance record of 2,300. Our partnership with Cycle Oregon puts youth on the front lines of one of the premier cycling events in the nation, providing logistical support for 5,000 cyclists. Partnering with AmeriCorps and Oregon Volunteers expands the impact NYC has in schools throughout Lane County.
Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) is dedicated to providing opportunities for youth and young adults to learn, grow, and experience success. All NYC programs promote our Core Values of education, leadership, challenge, stewardship and community. Youth leave NYC knowing they can overcome obstacles, solve problems, make friends, and master the skills needed to attain their objectives in life.

Our Core Values

**Education**

OutDoor High School provides a hands-on educational experience that combines classroom instruction with field study and service learning. OutDoor High School is an accredited high school designed to help non-traditional students find academic success and become life-long learners. By opening the classroom to the outdoors, the ODS format prepares our high opportunity students for graduation and beyond.

**Leadership**

Each NYC program provides opportunities for participants to gain hands-on leadership skills. The Backcountry Leadership program (BLP), and Leadership Development program (LDP), help train tomorrow’s outdoor leaders with curriculum and exercises designed specifically to help participants develop the skills needed to safely lead groups in an outdoor setting.

**Community**

OutDoor Oregon works with 9 community coalitions throughout Oregon to serve youth with a non-residential corps experience based on our Youth Corps model. These day crews benefit from the support of local land managers, municipalities, utilities, and other partners working together to fund a five week program allowing youth to gain needed job skills and education while improving their local parks and watersheds.

**Empowerment**

AmeriCorps funding helps support youth empowerment. AmeriCorps members work as mentors, team leaders, and educators throughout NYC programs and partnering rural schools. For example, our Youth Grow program mentors are dedicated to teaching 7 to 11 year olds about organic gardening, nutrition, and outdoor skills in our on-site 2 acre organic farm, helping them recognize they possess the ability to make a difference.

**Challenge**

Youth Corps programs offer youth ages 14-19 a variety of spring, summer, and fall programs that combine the adventure of living and working as a team in the outdoors with challenging projects in remote locations. Youth Corps crews work throughout Oregon, Washington, and Idaho for 4 to 6 weeks at a time. Led by 2 staff, each crew of 10 youth returns with pride in their accomplishments, lasting friendships, confidence, and memories of a lifetime.

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**Revenues $4,351,575**

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**Expenditures $4,303,279**

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We couldn’t do it without you

Every year our generous donors make it possible for NYC to serve youth. We want to recognize—with our special thanks—the community members, alumni, parents, foundations, businesses, and agencies for the important role they play in NYCs growth and development. Thank you for helping us help youth achieve success.

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One thing I will always remember is the person I was before the program and who I became afterward.