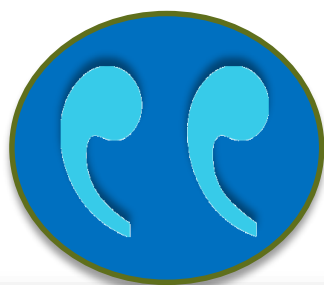




Urban Corps of San Diego County

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



The future belongs to those



who believe in the beauty
of their dreams



[www. UrbanCorpsSD.org](http://www.UrbanCorpsSD.org)

- Eleanor Roosevelt

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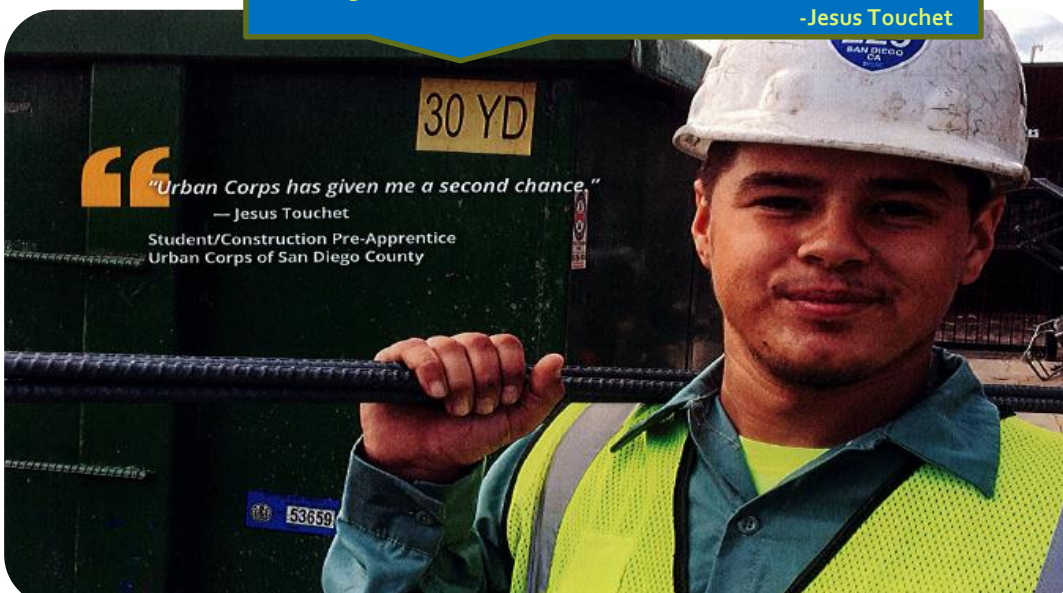
MISSION

Urban Corps of San Diego County is a certified local conservation corps and charter school whose mission is to provide young adults with the tools to expand their career opportunities through education, life skills training, and paid work experience on projects that benefit our communities.



"I was without a job and without a home when I decided I needed to turn my life around. I quit and returned to Urban Corps a few times, knowing that although it was hard, I needed to graduate...I was able to graduate and save enough money to get my own place. My future looks bright."

-Jesus Touchet



WHAT WE DO

Urban Corps has given thousands of underserved, low-income young adults ages 18-26 the opportunity to improve their lives while serving their own communities. The Urban Corps provides a second chance at a high school education and paid green job training such as tree planting, habitat restoration, graffiti removal, landscaping, green building construction and recycling.



Participants earn work to earn a high school diploma at the onsite WASC-accredited charter high school that offers an accelerated, technology-rich academic structure and a low teacher-to-student ratio. Additional services through the Corps-to-Career department include career counseling, life skills workshops, case management and counseling services, and one-on-one assistance with resumes, job and college applications, and job placement.

After completing the program, youth have the skills and confidence needed to succeed in the workforce, and understand importance of resource preservation and giving back to the community.

89 percent of graduates are either placed in jobs following commencement or are enrolled in higher education.

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Kyle Kennedy, Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Marie Brown-Mercadel, Chief Operating Officer
Dan Thomas, Dean of Education, Urban Corps Charter School



A MESSAGE FROM CEO KYLE KENNEDY



As I reflect on what will soon be my first year as Chief Executive Officer I feel privileged to write this message of thanks to our friends, supporters, grant funders, and donors. In October, we celebrated 30 years of service to the youth and communities of San Diego and because of your generosity and support we saw thousands of lives change and high school diplomas earned.

After five years in the role of Chief Financial Officer and Director of Operations, I was honored to be selected to step into the role of Chief Executive Officer and excited to continue the corps' mission of *Learning, Earning & Conserving*. One of the first things I did in this new role, along with Dan Thomas, the Executive Director of our

Charter School, was to plan a weekly lunch with a small group of students. Each week I meet with different Corpsmembers and after each meeting I am left in awe, and my commitment to their success is renewed. Their stories are often heartbreaking and run the gamut from homelessness to gangs, drugs, becoming a young parent, escaping wars in their native countries to aging out of the system. Every one of them has a different story and yet they have one thing in common: they all want a chance to succeed. At Urban Corps we give them that chance and I am proud to play a small part in their successes.

This has been a year of remarkable growth for Urban Corps. We have forged new partnership and developed new relationships, all of which give our students even more resources to build on. We recently purchased a facility in Escondido and in 2020 will be opening a North County Operations Center and bringing our services to the youth and communities of North County.

I am proud to share a snapshot of the stories of some of our Corpsmembers and the work we've been busy doing in the community this past year, and I'm excited to be on the threshold of a new year filled with new opportunities.

Most of all I am proud of our students and their resilience, and grateful to you for believing in them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Kennedy'.

Kyle Kennedy, CEO





“The Yosemite Tent Camp project was a very different and unique project to be involved in. I felt like the team I was a part of was like my family. I was also able to learn a lot of new skills and about different tools, including how to use a chainsaw.”

Jajju Manbal, Corpsmember

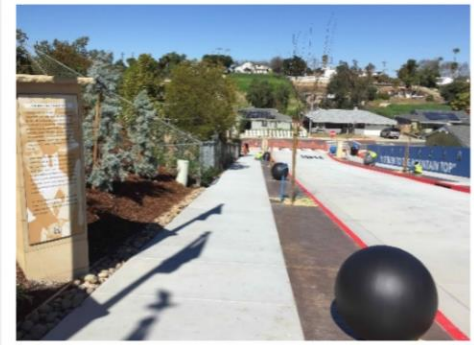
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: MC3 PROGRAM

For the past 3 years, Urban Corps has participated in a construction pre-apprenticeship program funded by Proposition 39, the California Clean Energy Jobs Act. Through this program 108 Corpsmembers completed the MC3 (Multi-Craft Core Curriculum) program and received their MC3 certification. Corpsmembers received training related to reading blueprints, green construction, and earned additional certifications including OSHA 10 and forklift training. Upon graduation, Corpsmembers were placed in Union sponsored jobs, State approved apprenticeship programs, and other construction related fields. The students learned hands on skills by participating in fee-for-service and City of San Diego Community Development Block Grant projects with the Urban Corps' Construction team. **This program also won National Project of the Year by the Corps Network!**



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Urban Corps worked with the City of San Diego and the Broadway Heights Community Council to provide complete landscape design-build services to implement the **Martin Luther King Way Streetscape Improvement Project** in the Broadway Heights Community (Southeast, San Diego). Urban Corps guided the project through next steps of outreach and planning, design and engineering, permitting, and construction installation.



Urban Corps completed bio-filtration and permeable paving landscape improvements for **Ron Roberts Boys and Girls Club**, giving Corpsmembers a chance to demolish an existing parking lot, clear existing landscaping, install new landscaping and drip irrigation, create grading and drainage with bioswales, and construct a concrete curb for the parking lot.

Urban Corps worked in partnership with the City Heights Community Development Corporation to design, permit and construct the **East African gathering space** in City Heights. The project beautifies this previously blighted space with planters, benches, picnic and shade structures, landscaping and a movie screen. This area is now a cultural space that the community can enjoy for leisure and recreational activities.



COOL NEWS TO BE THANKFUL FOR

- Urban Corps was awarded a \$1.253 million dollar **CAL FIRE Urban Forestry Expansion and Improvement grant** to plant 2,000 trees throughout San Diego County. Trees will be planted in Vista, Rancho Santa Fe, Encinitas, La Mesa, San Diego and Imperial Beach.
- GRID Alternatives was awarded the **Single Home Rehabilitation Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** to provide sustainability improvements on low income homeowners in the City of San Diego. Urban Corps was listed as a project partner providing all the sustainability repairs (outside of solar) on this grant!
- For the second year, **Guild Mortgage** listed Urban Corps as a recipient on their annual golf tournament. This year, that meant a donation of \$100,000!

CORPSMEMBERS IN ACTION



- ✓ 5.5 million CRV recyclables collected
- ✓ 424,290 linear feet of trails improved
- ✓ 16,499 drought tolerant trees planted
- ✓ 24.6 million sq. ft. of fire fuel cleared
- ✓ 550,918 sq. ft. graffiti removed
- ✓ 16 homes rehabilitated &/or weatherized
- ✓ 79,337 bags of litter removed
- ✓ 5.8 million sq. ft. of pressure washing
- ✓ 64 Corpsmembers are young parents



CHARTER SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT



- ✓ 90% graduation rate (among seniors)
- ✓ 99 earned a high school diploma
- ✓ 89% placed in employment and enrolled in college
- ✓ 286 certifications earned

CORPS-TO-CAREER SUPPORT SERVICES

Urban Corps strives to broaden the level of support services offered to Corpsmembers. In the past year students benefited from:

Case management and mentoring
Career guidance and school counseling
Mental health counseling
Job and college placement assistance
Life skills workshop series
Driver's training (classroom and behind the wheel)
Discounted monthly transportation passes
Assistance with transportation costs
Referrals and assistance with community resources
Free yearly Flu/Hepatitis B shots in partnership with North County Public Health Center
CalFresh (food assistance program) signup events
Medi-Cal signups with Family Health Centers
Conflict resolution training with the National Conflict Resolution Center
Sexual Health and healthy relationships workshop with Teen Health Centers
Smoking Cessation workshops through Say San Diego
Financial wellness and banking workshops with Mission Federal Credit Union
Free men's clothing at graduation through the Men's Wearhouse partnership



Before Urban Corps my life was a disaster. I became pregnant at age 15 and found myself having to choose between growing up or finishing school at such a young age.

Not only this but my family and I were living on the streets. I was addicted to drugs and in a toxic relationship. At one point in my life, I felt as though many doors were closed for me and now I feel as though Urban Corps has helped me open the doors to my future.

Urban Corps values were instilled in me from the moment I walked in the door at orientation, and I am proud to take them with me when I graduate. These values are, intense work, dedication, respect, perseverance, discipline, and patience. I have learned many new skills and gained work experience that I never thought I would ever reach nor had the potential to achieve.

-Monica Lopez, Class of 2018



"Before joining Urban Corps I made a lot of poor decisions. I'd been hanging out with the wrong crowd. With my daughter on the way, I thought, 'how could I let a beautiful soul down, because of my wrong decisions?'" My daughter has Downs Syndrome and Infantile Spasms. The whole reason I joined Urban Corps was to have a better opportunity for my fiancé and my daughter. They inspire me to get up every morning at 3:30 AM and commute for multiple hours on the trolley to and from school or work. I would like to thank Urban Corps for everything that they have done for me. Thank you for the second opportunity to be able to advance in life with education and a good work ethic. This is just the beginning of a bright future ahead of me.

Michael Paniagua, Class of 2019

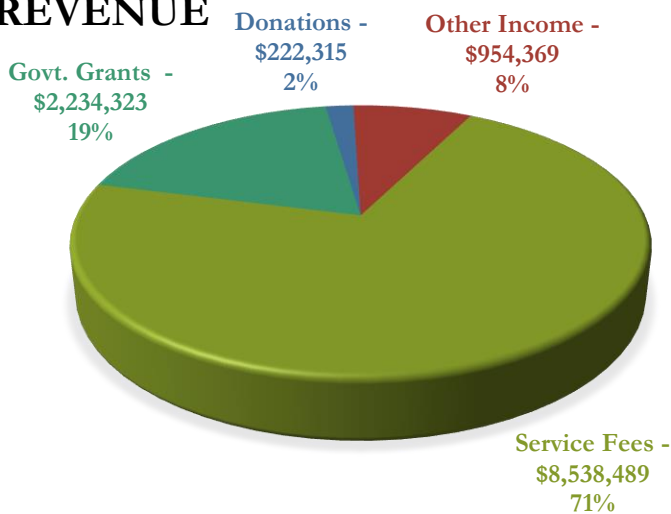
FINANCIALS

Urban Corps' overall revenues from both programmatic operations and Urban Corps Charter School represent a \$12.3 million dollar combined budget. **Charter School financials remain separate and are not represented in charts below.**

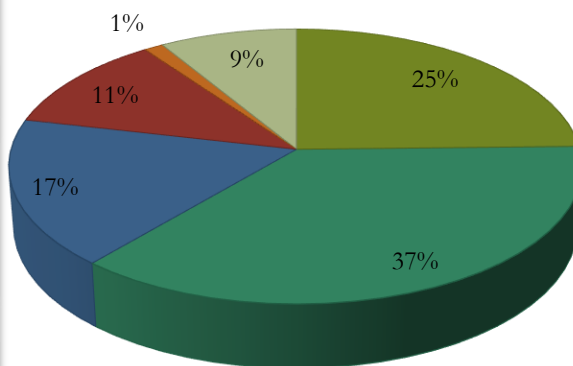
Audited Financial Highlights

- Total Contributions & Revenue: \$12,388,261
- Total Operating Expenses: \$12,774,458
- Ending Net Total Assets: \$8,657,309

2018-2019 REVENUE



2018-2019 EXPENSES



Programmatic Expenses

- Recycling - \$3,131,451
- Environmental Projects - \$4,643,808
- Community Improvement - \$2,203,954
- GreenBuild Construction - \$1,458,495

Administrative Expenses

- Management & Fundraising - \$1,174,000



87 cents of every dollar goes towards programs.

GRATITUDE TO OUR FUNDERS AND DONORS

\$5 - \$499

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