

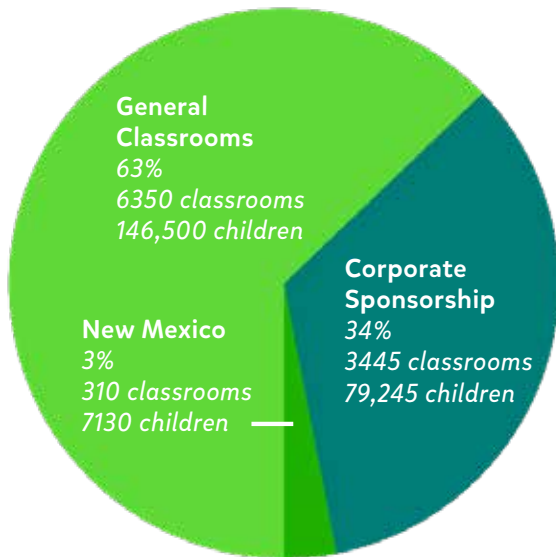


Annual Report 2025-2026

**“If we want children to flourish, to become truly empowered,
then let us allow them to love the earth before we ask them to save it.”
– David Sobel**

This is incredible!!! Our students loved being able to see and plan when the pupation would happen. We tied this to SEL, ELA, Science, Social Studies and Math!!!

– Montessori Academy, Minnesota



IMPACT 2025-2026

10,105
Total Classrooms
232,415
Total Children

Our students love the butterfly and sunflower projects. Students will carry the lessons they learned from these projects as they grow to become stewards of our planet!

– Elementary School, South Carolina





The children's programs at The Mountain Center benefitted from nurturing butterflies and ladybugs this summer.

Cultivating Change with Painted Lady Butterflies

This year, our Mountain Center recovery groups and children's programs shared an unlikely teacher: the Painted Lady Butterfly.

We began by planting hollyhocks, the butterflies' host plant, with our recovery participants – a small, grounding act of caretaking that would soon mirror the work many of them were doing in their own lives. As caterpillars hatched and grew, we used the butterfly life cycle as a living metaphor for the stages of recovery: precontemplation, contemplation, preparation, action, maintenance, and relapse. The chrysalis stage resonated especially deeply. For participants used to measuring recovery in visible wins and setbacks, the idea of a stage that looks like stillness from the outside – but is actually essential transformation – offered a new and more compassionate way to understand their own process. When we released each set of butterflies together, it became more than a program milestone; it was tangible proof that something fragile, tended carefully through an unseen stage, can emerge and take flight. The experience opened conversation about each person's own "ecosystem of support" – the people, structures, and conditions that make change possible.

Our youngest participants took the same cycle and ran further with it than we expected. Alongside story-time readings about butterflies, children began discovering ladybugs in every stage of development around Tesuque – many looking nothing like the ladybugs in their picture books, which sparked genuine scientific curiosity. They built their own "zoos" to house and observe caterpillars, ladybug larvae, and other insects they found, checking in on them throughout the day with real ownership and care. Their culminating celebration – releasing the Painted Ladies together in large groups – gave dozens of children a shared, joyful memory of watching something they had nurtured take flight.

Across both programs, the butterflies gave us a common language for growth: **one that makes room for dormant, invisible stages, honors community and care as part of transformation, and ends, again and again, in flight.**

Gratitude to our Partners in Education and Stewardship

To Our Educational Partners: Your unwavering dedication provides the essential environment for students to transition from observers to active stewards of the natural world. By bridging literacy with environmental science, your partnership transforms curiosity into a lifelong commitment to the planet.

To Our Valued Supporters: We extend our deepest gratitude to the private donors, corporations, and foundations whose investment sustains our mission. Your generosity is the catalyst that allows us to provide transformative, hands-on outdoor experiences for children in the United States. Because of you, we are cultivating a generation with the values and knowledge necessary to safeguard our shared environment.

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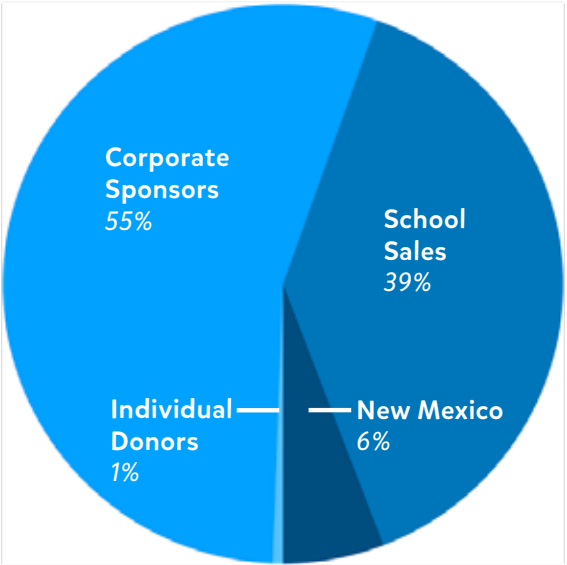


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FINANCIALS

INCOME 2025-2026



EXPENSES 2025-2026

