

# VAMOS OUTDOORS PROJECT



ANNUAL REPORT 2020





# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

2020 was a year of opportunity and transition for Vamos Outdoors Project, responding to the emergent needs and inequities facing the Latinx/ELL/Migrant communities in Whatcom and Skagit County. Vamos began 2020 with one part-time employee, running programs with the support of volunteers. Our swimming lessons and indoor rock climbing programs ran January through March. We finished just as COVID began to adjust the way of life all across the globe. With programming canceled for the foreseeable future, Vamos had to think creatively to continue to meet the needs of the communities served.

Vamos created new partnerships with Bellingham Public Schools, Burlington-Edison School District, hired another permanent employee, hired 11 temporary employees to support programming, and developed new relationships with other outdoors organizations, all with the goals of building community and outdoors access for Latinx, ELL, and Migrant youth and families in Whatcom and Skagit Counties.

Vamos recognizes the strife and inequality that was brought front and center into the mainstream dialogue in America after the murder of George Floyd and other black people by police officers. The same systems of oppression that violence black people also violence Latinx and migrant communities. Black Lives Matter. Sí Se Puede.

**ANDY BASABE**  
Director



## Community Partners





# 2020

## TIMELINE



### JANUARY-MARCH

Swimming and Indoor Rock Climbing



### MAY/JUNE

Online Auction, \$6,168 raised



### JUNE/JULY

Migrant Summer Childcare at Kulshan



### AUGUST

Meriel Kaminsky hired as Director

### OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

Skagit County Park outings with BESD



### OCTOBER-DECEMBER

Connections Program at Bellingham Schools





# Stories from 2020

## Meriel Kaminsky joins Vamos!



In August 2020, Meriel became Vamos' second year round employee, joining Andy as a director.

I am excited to have joined Vamos this year. After graduating from Western in June, I was eager to work at the intersection of my studies and interests—Latin American studies, Food Systems, Social Justice Education, Spanish, and Environmental Science. I am committed to lifelong learning and work in order to leave a more just and fruitful world to future generations. Thank you to Vamos staff, participants and families, board members, and partner organizations for your warm welcomes. I already feel the beginnings of the beautiful ties of Vamos' far-reaching community.

## Representational Mentors!



Vamos and Bellingham Public Schools partnered to run a summer migrant childcare program, with funding from OSPI. Through this program, and the funding involved, Vamos was able to switch from depending on volunteers to hiring people representative of the communities that Vamos serves. This practice continued during the fall Connections program and the Skagit County program. Vamos brings opportunities to the participants as well as the staff we hire. Thanks to all of our amazing staff from 2020!

## Skagit County Programming!



Vamos began providing programming at Northern State Recreation Area, our first time working in Skagit County. Vamos partnered with Burlington-Edison School District's Gear-Up program to provide outdoor activities for middle school youth. Program goals were to increase outdoor social interactions, increase healthy habits, and connect youth to the land.



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

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Vamos Outdoors Project greatly increased our programming capacity through increases in revenue in 2020. Vamos' 2019 revenue was \$18,000. In 2020 Vamos brought in \$137,000 through grants, contracts, and donations. Thanks to all of you who supported Vamos Outdoors Project. Your contributions are appreciated, and we hope you continue to support our work.

Vamos spent \$81,000 in 2020. Many of our grants and contributions were provided or re-allocated as general operating dollars to build organizational capacity. We are excited to use this funding as we can more safely interact with community members and staff.

We also want to recognize all of our volunteers and community supports. Thanks to you for donating your time and efforts. To the teachers from BPS who supported our programs to the bikers and swimmers and climbers that shared joy in activities, we thank you. To the parents and families that helped their children succeed in this difficult year, thank you!

