



VAMOS OUTDOORS PROJECT

2022

ANNUAL REPORT





2022 PROGRAMS

PARTICIPANTS SERVED

Vamos **served over 534 participants in 2022** via: backpacking, boating, mountain biking, community bike day, book parties, snowboarding, swimming, climbing, GEAR UP, and summer migrant programs in partnership with Bellingham, Lynden, Mount Vernon, and Burlington Edison school districts. New programs are coming in 2023 and we are excited to expand Vamos' reach and supports.

NEW PROGRAM PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: COMMUNITY BOATING CENTER

Our partnership with the CBC began in the spring of 2022 with a small cohort of High School students. These participants spent time learning about marine life, getting comfortable paddle boarding and kayaking, and learning the basics of sailing. One of our first participants even went on to complete the CBC's junior internship program. Participants have enjoyed exploring new places via watercraft and feeling more secure around water. This program has been a great stepping stone for our participants who have tested out of the swim program and are ready for the next step. We are very appreciative of the Community Boating Center and their amazing staff, and we look forward to continuing this partnership in 2023 and beyond!



**COMMUNITY
BOATING CENTER**
BELLINGHAM BAY

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: FIESTA DE LIBROS

Vamos Outdoors Project's **Fiesta de Libros** is a bilingual literacy program with the goal of empowering life-long readers of books in Spanish and English. This program cultivates joy and is centered around stories that affirm Latine identity. Reading is followed by craft lessons and activities that build engagement with reading. This program is open to Latine, Migrant, and Multilingual students.

Fiesta de Libros began in 2020, reaching approximately 30 students at three community sites: Sterling Meadows, Villa Santa Fe, and Eliza Estates. In 2022, with support from a grant from the OSPI focused on Academic and Student Wellbeing, Vamos was able to grow the program and drastically increase the number of Latine youth served. In addition to holding Fiesta de Libros at the original three community sites, Vamos worked directly with the Bellingham School District to bring Fiesta de Libros to three Title I Elementary Schools: Alderwood, Birchwood, and Cordata. Vamos staff supported the school district with outreach and enrollment, ensuring program success. Our program was provided during the whole school year, serving nearly 150 students!

We look forward to continuing this impactful program in 2023.

Rebeca
Fiesta de Libros Lead Staff



NEW FACES OF VAMOS



SUZY



ELISA



REBECA

Suzy was born in San Diego, CA 4 hours north of where her parents were raised in a small town in Baja California. Although her parents hoped to stay close to family in Mexico, work opportunities moved them to Snohomish, WA where Suzy was raised and spent most of her life. Much of her family including her grandmother still reside in the same small town in Baja California, and her other grandmother now resides in a small town in Chihuahua, Mexico. She loves to visit her distant family when she can. In 2019 she moved to Bellingham, WA to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Spanish. She plans to further her studies and pursue a Master's in teaching to fulfill her goal of becoming a high school Spanish teacher that can relate to heritage learners and MLL students. Since moving to Bellingham Suzy has grown a passion for snowboarding, mountain biking and hiking which have helped her build lifelong relationships. She is excited to join the Vamos team and help others build similar connections.

Elisa was born and raised in the capital of Venezuela, Caracas. She migrated to the United States in 2017 and landed in Bellingham in 2018. She graduated from Western Washington University in 2022 with a Communication Studies and Journalism degree. Elisa's love for the outdoors started in her home country, where she often traveled with her family to different national parks to explore Caribbean beaches, deserts, rivers, and Andean mountains. Elisa was very excited to learn about the active outdoor community in Bellingham and quickly started hiking, camping, and backpacking to connect with her new home. Throughout her journey as an immigrant, Elisa noticed the barriers that exist for those with diverse identities in the education system and the outdoors community. This motivated her to join the Vamos team and make a difference in the Hispanic community, encouraging people like her to become actively involved in the outdoors.

Rebeca is from Tlaxcala, Mexico and immigrated at the age of nine. She grew up in Manson, WA until she moved to Bellingham. As a first-generation migrant student in the United States, she is the first and only individual in her immediate family to earn a bachelor's degree. "I understand the struggles most youth of color face and continue to face. I understand how difficult it is to break cultural diversity, language barriers, and social injustices." She grew up with a single mother who has worked in agriculture since their arrival in the US. The most important lesson she learned from her migrant family is the meaning of hard work. Rebeca has always been fascinated by the outdoors and being in Bellingham has allowed her to embrace her passion for exploring. She hopes to serve as a bridge between children and the unlimited possibilities and resources Bellingham has to offer.

THANK YOU TO OUR

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Nosotros te apreciamos

Bellingham School District
Mount Vernon School District
Lynden School District
Burlington Edison School District
Wild Whatcom
Whatcom County YMCA
Skagit County YMCA
Community Boating Center

Vital Climbing Gym
Riverstone Climbing Gym
The Opportunity Council
Catholic Community Services
Mercy Housing
The Mountaineers
Northwest ESD #189
Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition

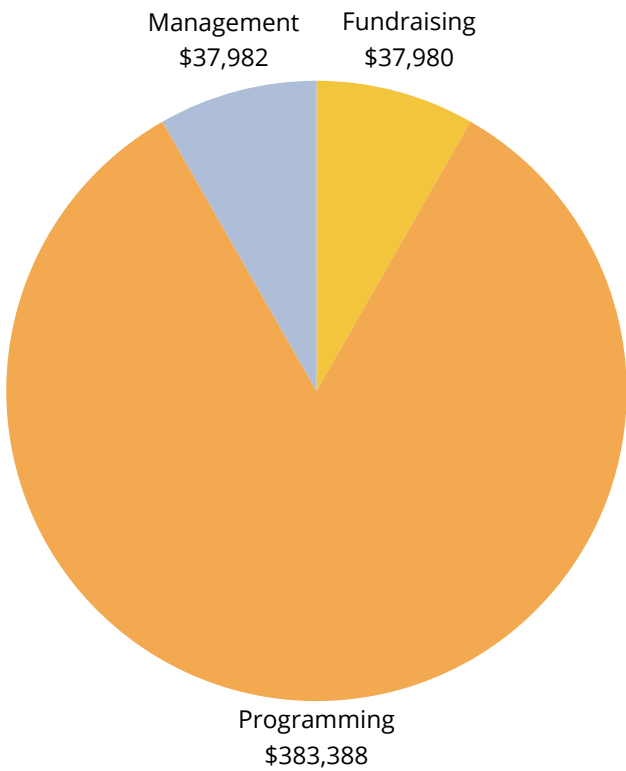


2022 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

2022 FINANCIALS

EXPENDITURES

■ Fundraising ■ Programming ■ Management



INCOME

■ Grants ■ Program Service Revenue
■ Fundraising ■ Other Contributions

