



EVOLUTION  
**THE LEAP FORWARD**  
ANNUAL REPORT 2015

CORAL  
RESTORATION  
FOUNDATION



## A WORD FROM THE FOUNDER

As the Founder of Coral Restoration Foundation, I have had the privilege of watching this organization grow from a grassroots nonprofit to an international, conservation organization. Without the help of our dedicated team of supporters, we would not have been able to accomplish our great achievements — such as outplanting over 22,000 corals onto reefs in 2015!

As our organization evolves, we are prepared to face the challenge — to save our coral reefs — head on and know that we can accomplish this with the kind generosity of our donors, our committed volunteers, and our hardworking staff.

I look forward to what we can accomplish in 2016. Thank you to all of our supporters who strengthen our efforts to make a difference for our oceans.

Ken Nedimyer,  
**Founder and President**

### THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ken Nedimyer, <b>President</b>	Patti Gross
Scott Winters, <b>CEO</b>	Margo McKnight
Mike Echevarria, <b>Chairman</b>	Steven Miller
David Splitt, <b>Secretary</b>	Amy Slate
David Wing, <b>Treasurer</b>	Adam Spector
James Boilini	Jeffery Turner
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Kevin Gaines	



# THE **EVOLUTION** OF PURPOSE

*“Saving the planet by saving the reefs.”* This is our purpose statement. While it is ambitious, we are up to the task. We have made a promise to ourselves, to our supporters, and to the world and we are determined to save our reefs. It is a responsibility to our collective future to take action and make a change. Our work is making a difference for the betterment of our ocean.

The Coral Restoration Foundation is committed to accomplishing our purpose statement and empowering our team — from researchers and scientists to educators and community leaders—to furthering our mission. Everyone knows intrinsically what success looks like. And the employees we hire, the people we inspire, and the volunteers we engage, understand the importance of our mission: to restore and preserve coral, while inspiring others to take action.



Optimistic. **Innovative.** Driven.

At the Coral Restoration Foundation, we believe that actions speak louder than words.

It is why our efforts to cultivate coral nurseries have fostered some of the world’s most successful outplanting efforts, while leading in the preservation of genetic diversity of critical endangered species of coral.

It is why we continue to develop new and innovative techniques that improve the success of nurtured and outplanted corals throughout the Caribbean and around the globe.

It is why our education program reaches thousands of students of all ages informing them about the state of our oceans and inspiring them to take action in their own communities.

It is why our collaborations bridge researchers and institutions, to constantly develop better methodologies and add to a richer understanding of coral reef ecosystems.

*"The sea, the great unifier, is man's only hope.  
Now, as never before, the old phrase has a  
literal meaning: we are all in the same boat."  
Jacques Cousteau*

# THE EVOLUTION OF INCLUSION

Talent. Passion. Volunteerism.

**Building a solid constituency is a matter of giving people a clear sense of the desired outcome** so that everyone is aligned around a common goal.

Our guiding principal is one of inclusion: to inspire people from around the globe to join us, to learn with us, and to take action along side of us.

This "task force" model draws people from different areas—students, scientists, volunteers, collaborators, politicians, and foundations—to spark change and spread the message about coral reefs.

In today's complex and collaborative world, we accept the challenge of managing the collective workload, communicating priorities, sharing information, soliciting ideas, and improving productivity. We see our role as both setting the strategic vision and accelerating innovation to ensure success in restoring and conserving the world's coral reefs.





# THE EVOLUTION OF RESTORATION

**The goal of Coral Restoration Foundation's Reef Restoration Program is** to restore populations of previously dominant, reef-building, hard corals. Through this work, we hope to rejuvenate coral reef ecosystems through self-recovery, ultimately returning them to the condition that existed prior to recent, widespread degradation.

It is why we had the foresight to preserve diverse genetic strains – genotypes – of important coral species in our nurseries; some of these genotypes are now extinct in the wild.

It is why we outplant ecologically relevant species of hard corals to reefs to help restore populations.

With nearly 300 coral genotypes of staghorn, elkhorn, blade fire coral, and boulder corals in our care, Coral Restoration Foundation is at the forefront of non-profit organizations worldwide seeking to maintain the genetic diversity of these species and restore these populations, promoting a path of natural recovery.

Conservation. Stewardship. Recovery.

21,500 staghorn and 1,500 elkhorn corals outplanted in 2015.



## DID YOU KNOW? OUR REEF RESTORATION PROGRAM

- 🌊 Serves to educate and engage people
- 🌊 Provides a positive message and effective solutions to reef restoration efforts
- 🌊 Supports science and monitoring efforts both in-house and as a resource to outside groups
- 🌊 Finds opportunities for innovation, to not only work with new and different species, but to also evolve methods for growing, propagating, and outplanting various coral species
- 🌊 All the while, being affordable and effective.

## A WORD FROM THE CEO

It is an exciting time for the Coral Restoration Foundation. We are poised to reach further in 2016 than ever before, accelerated by the vision and leadership of our founder and board. We are at the edge of a new era for our work; we are evolving.

In a world saturated with background noise of environmental loss, Coral Restoration Foundation inspires hope. That is why we exist. To be an example, through our work, that any individual - each of us in fact - can make a difference in the world. And, that those individual differences build upon one another to preserve a species, rebuild a reef, catalyze the healing of an ecosystem, and thus change our world. As an organization evolving from the humblest of origins, a global impact can be felt.

As we grow, we remain true to our purpose and to our roots. Academic researchers and volunteers; institutional partners and locals, learning methods for alternative livelihood; foundation support and grade-school collections: an experiential engagement that transcends boundaries for our common good. Focused on evidence-based outcomes that restore coral reef biotas.

With this in mind, we are excited to share some of our successes and, most importantly, our vision for the coming year.

Scott Winters,  
CEO



Curriculum. Knowledge. Inspiration.

THE EVOLUTION OF

# EDUCATION



*“There’s something missing about how we’re informing the youngsters coming along about what matters in the world. We teach them the numbers and the letters, but we fail to communicate the importance of our connection to the living world.” - Sylvia Earle*

By expanding our active-learning program, volunteers and students will have an opportunity to directly participate in our work, for different periods of time. This will advance our passive-learning programs that raise awareness for our mission and tell the story of our work. Combined, we are creating a path of learning that is experiential, motivational, and educational.

#### **EDUCATION THROUGH EXPERIENCE.**

As we evolve, we are sharing our knowledge and experience of restoring and preserving coral reefs with the rest of the world.

Our Internship and Volunteer Programs are an integral part of our evolution—encouraging students to participate in activities while providing them with solid educational experiences to augment their studies in conservation, biology, and business management.

By providing structured experiences for high school and college students and by urging volunteers, support-

ers, and foundations to be part of the Coral Restoration Foundation team, we can leverage our leadership as a positive non-profit resource for the global community in the development of innovative national and international educational programs for coral reef restoration.

In 2016, the Coral Restoration Foundation is taking a leap forward by amplifying our educational efforts, reaching a new generation and a larger population of constituents.





# VOLUNTEERISM:

## How a High School Student Found His Passion

Before I started working with Coral Restoration Foundation, I was definitely a little apprehensive about how my experience would be. I knew that CRF had done tremendous work throughout the Keys and was a great organization, but I was dubious about the impact I could have alone as a high school intern. However, once I started volunteering, all prior thoughts of doubt completely faded away. Everyone was so invested in the effort and shared the same passion that I did for preserving this fragile ecosystem and maintaining the beauty of the reefs of the Florida Keys. At the Visitor Center, I was able to express this passion by educating curious guests about the problems we faced and our efforts to combat these issues. It gave me great satisfaction to know that while maybe I was not out in the water planting coral daily, I was still contributing to the effort by spreading our message and informing people of a problem that is not very widely recognized. In addition to my time at the Visitor Center, I worked in the warehouse as well, building the trees that would be used to hang coral in the nurseries. While there, I worked alongside the boat captain, appropriately named Sonny, who has an enthusiasm for drilling holes in pipes that

I have never seen before. All kidding aside, making these PVC trees was actually a lot of fun, not only because I was able to use power tools (which is always a plus), but because I was able to see my hard work manifested into a physical product that I knew was helping a larger issue that I was deeply impassioned about. These physical results also were why I enjoyed actually diving and planting coral on my last day with CRF. While educating visitors and constructing PVC trees were both extremely rewarding in their own right, there was something especially profound about seeing first hand coral being planted as a result of my hard work. It was so satisfying because I was finally giving something back to this underwater world, which had provided me with so many memories and experiences, and now I had become not only just a taker but a giver as well.

Richard Mortenson,  
**Friends Seminary**  
**New York, NY**



## A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

When I became dive certified in 1973, the wonders of the ocean were vast and full of life. Over the years, I watched the third largest barrier reef in the world slowly slip away. It is my passion and love for the ocean that sparked my interest in Coral Restoration Foundation. I saw firsthand the difference they are making for coral reefs and knew I wanted to be apart of it.

Working with others who have found a solution to saving our coral reefs and who are educating

the world on how to protect the heart of our planet brings great joy to me. At Coral Restoration Foundation, we not only want to restore the reefs, but we want to protect, inspire, and conserve for future generations.

Mike Echevarria,  
**Chairman**



# THE EVOLUTION OF SCIENCE

Research. Discover. Monitor.

Our Science Program focuses on supporting our restoration work and methodologies using science-based approaches. With these evidence-based outcomes, we facilitate collaborative studies on coral reefs and their conservation.

**Evidence-based outcomes and collaborations are more important than ever.** Collaborations and relationships between Coral Restoration Foundation and research institutes formed in earlier years have helped pave the way for the advancement of our Science Program today and has evolved our evidence-based outcomes.

Using a two-tiered program, we have effectively increased the capability of tracking and monitoring of outplanted corals. With the help of our volunteers and through our Citizen Scientist Program, anyone can participate in our monitoring efforts on a global scale.

By working with current and new research partners via facilitated collaboration, presentations, and publications, the Coral Restoration Foundation is developing new techniques to improve coral growth in nurseries. We're also improving the survivorship of outplanted corals, evolving into a cost-effective leader in restoration techniques. This, coupled with the increased management and quality of our collaborations, continues to help us evolve new methods for reducing our ecological footprint.

The Science Program includes conducting research experiments to better understand issues surrounding Acroporid growth and propagation, outplanting strategies, disease, spawning, and genetics. While we look forward to establishing new partners in 2016, some of our current partners include:

- 🌐 Boston University
- 🌐 Penn State
- 🌐 The Florida Aquarium
- 🌐 University of Florida
- 🌐 University of Miami
- 🌐 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- 🌐 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- 🌐 George Mason University
- 🌐 Georgia Aquarium
- 🌐 Florida International University
- 🌐 Nova Southeastern University
- 🌐 NASA

## Did you know?

Staghorn and elkhorn coral can grow and reproduce through fragmentation: if a branch falls off on the reef and conditions are favorable, it can reattach to the rock and begin to grow a new colony. We take advantage of this naturally occurring process by growing corals in our offshore, underwater nurseries until they are large enough to be outplanted onto the reef. Monitoring of staghorn and elkhorn restoration sites continues years after the coral is outplanted.



# THE LEAP FORWARD

The need to protect and restore coral reefs is global. Our vision and work must be as well. As Coral Restoration Foundation establishes itself as an international conservation organization, we work in areas where reef degradation and chances of success are both high, allowing us to make the largest impact possible for our oceans.

Because of our Reef Restoration, Education, and Science programs, we are global leaders for coral restoration and conservation.

### The Future

We have strengthened our international network and have contributed our methodology to develop coral nurseries in multiple international countries, including Bonaire, Curacao, and Colombia. As we expand our internship program and collaborative

projects over the next few years, we aim towards extensively growing our international presence to scale our efforts and prove Coral Restoration Foundation is at the forefront for coral restoration and conservation.

# 2015 FINANCIALS

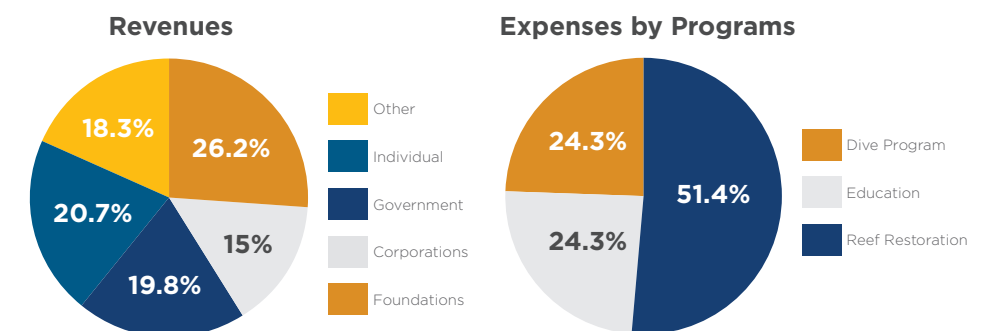
**Coral Restoration Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization** working to restore coral reefs, educating others on the importance of our oceans, and using science to further research and monitoring techniques.

Help leave a lasting legacy for our reefs. To make a gift, including those of stock or a bequest, please contact Martha Roesler at [martha@coralrestoration.org](mailto:martha@coralrestoration.org).

“There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved..”

- Charles Darwin

Revenue	
Foundations	\$384,700.00
Corporations	\$219,900.00
Government	\$291,300.00
Individuals	\$304,400.00
Other	\$85,500.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,469,300.00</b>
Expenses	
Program Expenses	\$567,300.00
General & Administrative	\$283,800.00
Fundraising	\$201,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,052,100.00</b>
<b>Gains/Losses</b>	<b>\$417,200.00</b>





**CORAL**  
**RESTORATION**  
FOUNDATION

[coralrestoration.org](http://coralrestoration.org) | (305) 453-7030 | 5 Seagate Boulevard, Key Largo, FL 33037



Email for more information: [info@coralrestoration.org](mailto:info@coralrestoration.org)