



**Environmental
Nature Center**

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ENVIRONMENTAL NATURE CENTER RECEIVES \$50,000 DONATION FROM YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Newport Beach, Calif., December 15, 2016 – The Environmental Nature Center (ENC) accepted a \$50,000 donation from Frank Randall, Trustee of the Youth Development Foundation today. The donation will fund the restoration of the Center’s stream and pond, the development of a new Butterfly Habitat Observation Deck, a desert tortoise enclosure and the restoration of two teaching stations within the Center.

“It was time to make some major repairs to our stream and pond, which have been flowing at the Center since 1972.” said ENC Executive Director Bo Glover. “Our restored stream and pond will no longer leak. Our new Butterfly Habitat Observation Deck will allow visitors to get a close-up view of wild butterflies laying eggs and nectaring in our meadow. The desert tortoise enclosure will give us the opportunity to add another teaching animal to our repertoire, and the restored teaching stations will be significantly more conducive to learning in nature. We are thrilled to accept this generous donation from the Youth Development Foundation.”

The ENC's core educational program, the School Tour Program, provides kindergarten – 12th grade students with high-quality, hands-on, environmentally based science, social science, and arts education not found in normal school settings. The School Tour Program utilizes the ENC’s unique campus to deliver its services, and the program has seen significant growth in recent years. Two teaching stations – in the Southern Oak Woodland and in the Redwood Forest – will soon feature benches in a semi-circle shape, so that students will all have a front row seat, and a view of each other and the Center’s Naturalists.

“The new seating is especially exciting to me,” said Corina Silva, ENC Education Coordinator. “The layout of the teaching space will encourage conversation and keep the students engaged and thinking critically. The improved seating will allow students and Naturalists to literally see each other – and not just the teacher – which leads to better problem solving and empathy for other points of view.”

The Butterfly Habitat Observation Deck will feature a raised path leading to and from a donut shaped seating area within the Center’s Valley Grassland plant community. The deck will be situated near an area where numerous butterfly nectar and host plants – including locally native milkweed – currently grow. The center of the deck will be removed and a puddling area installed. Puddling is a behavior in which male butterflies seek out certain moist substances such as rotting plant matter, mud and carrion, and then suck up the fluid. From the fluids they obtain nutrients such as salts and amino acids that play various roles in their physiology. The deck will also serve as an additional teaching station.

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About the ENC

Founded in 1972, the ENC is a fascinating combination of 15 California native plant communities, wildlife habitat, walking trails, and sustainably designed, LEED Platinum certified learning center. For over 40 years, the ENC has been shaped and caressed into a 3.5 acre landscape for learning, a sanctuary from life's pressures and a place of preservation and instruction. Serving over 28,000 students and thousands of visitors annually, the ENC is recognized as a leader in science and social science education providing opportunities for increasing our community's knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural world.

The ENC recently purchased property to develop a nature play area, and construct our community's first nature based preschool. With a mission of providing quality education through hands-on experience with nature, the ENC inspires all generations to protect the natural world by serving as our community's foremost authority on ecological responsibility, sustainable practices and environmental education. The ENC is a non-profit 501(c)-3 public benefit corporation. For more information call 949-645-8489, or visit www.ENCenter.org. The ENC is located at 1601 16th Street in Newport Beach.

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