



December 2025

Dear Friend,

Thanks to three-year-old Artie, I'm feeling hopeful.



It had been a long day at work, filled with challenges I couldn't solve easily. But then **DING** there it was, an unexpected gift, delivered in a text with a video – one of my favorite Wonder Keepers playing his ukulele and singing a song he wrote about colors in the sky.



Once upon a time there was dancing and colors in the sky.
They could be anywhere!
But one day the mist came in the sky...
And in a couple of days, the colors were gone.



Oh no, I thought, please nothing sad today! But Artie's song wasn't finished yet, and when I listened through to the end, my gray day brightened.

But the colors came back!



This is why I love my work at Nearby Nature. **Between words of hope shared by a beloved preschooler, and the cycles of nature I witness year-round, I am constantly reminded that the mist *does* clear, and the colors *do* come back, even after the darkest of days.**

Three mornings a week, our Wonder Keeper preschoolers arrive at the Learnscape, dressed in rainbow-colored coats and boots. *The colors come back.*

Year-round, our volunteer park caretakers paint over graffiti on the Frohnmayer Footbridge with green, blue, and brown plant and animal stencils. *The colors come back.*

This fall, our land steward interns cleared tangles of blackberry from the meadow, making space for bulbs of purple-blue camas to burst into bloom in spring. *The colors come back.*



At Nearby Nature, we believe the colors *do* come back, but we also must work hard to make this true.

I'm sharing these thoughts with *you* because you're part of our Nearby Nature family – a recent donor, volunteer, or program participant. Or maybe our relationship goes back further, and I'm reaching out to reconnect. Regardless, **I hope you'll help us keep the colors coming back by supporting our work with youth and in Alton Baker Park.**

Your generous donation will help our staff and volunteers get kids outside for 30,000+ hours a year through everything from Summer Daycamps and our Wonder Keepers

Preschool to school field trips and Network Charter School classes. **It will also fund training for volunteers and interns** who spend 1,500+ hours every year removing invasive species, planting natives, working on community science projects, gardening, doing litter patrol, and abating graffiti. All these programs and projects keep the colors coming back every single day.

Thanks so much to those of you who have already contributed this year. **Your gifts make our work possible. If you haven't donated recently, we invite you to contribute today.** By renewing or increasing your membership donation, making a general contribution, purchasing a Community Friends membership, or donating to our Every Child Outside Fund, you'll help us keep the colors coming back today and for years to come.

Sincerely,

Beth Stein

Beth Stein, Executive Director



P.S. Use our QR code or the link below to donate online or print out and mail a donation with the card below.

My Membership Donation: New ☐ Renew ☐

Get program discounts throughout the year!

- ☐ \$70 Supporter ☐ \$500 Builder
☐ \$100 Sponsor ☐ \$1,000 Sustainer
☐ \$150 Collaborator

Every Child Outside (ECO) Fund Donation:

Provide scholarship aid for families & schools.

\$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$500 ☐ ___ Other ☐

My General Donation: \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐
\$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ ___ Other ☐

My Ongoing Monthly Donation:

☐ I've set up an ongoing gift of \$___/month
at nearbynature.org/contribute/ (click "I would like
this donation to automatically repeat each month")

My Community Friends Donation:

☐ \$70 membership for a family in need.

Please send info on:

- ☐ Volunteering
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☐ Family Programs
☐ Restoration
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☐ Network Charter School

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**Mail to: Nearby Nature, P.O. Box 3678, Eugene,
OR 97403**

☐ Paid online at nearbynature.org/contribute