



CURRENTS

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: HONORING THE PAST BY LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

In my time at SFWA, and especially the last couple years, we have talked so much about how to carry our legacy forward as we continue to adapt to changing conditions and the needs in our community. Our new mission statement in many ways feels like the culmination of a lot of these efforts, undertaken with care and dedication by our amazing staff and board of directors:

To build a thriving, resilient Santa Fe River Watershed through collaboration, stewardship, and education that inspires us all to care for our land, water, and each other.

— SFWA's new Mission Statement

We started small and inward, updating our email server, budget categories, file folders, data tracking, and employee manual. Slowly, our updates have become more externally focused: education curricula, volunteer outreach and communications, our Watershedders e-newsletter, social media, website, and more. And just this month we completed our first strategic plan since 2010!

The process included the outward-facing, big-picture language of SFWA. Staff and board shared stories and insights during a full-day retreat and identified goals, words, and values we felt both celebrated the past and pushed us into the future. We all left the retreat feeling inspired and deeply grateful to be in such a special community together.

That's really how I feel every single day: completely in awe of the special people I get to work with, who care so much and all have something unique and essential to give to our watershed. I feel

honored to get to constantly learn and grow as part of such an incredible team, and to be able to give back to the land, water, and people that raised me.



Mori and Kami Vorenberg Hensley

SFWA's history gives me hope about how much we can accomplish together in the present and future even as we face new challenges. Though our work ahead is daunting, there is a stubborn, everyday hope that propels us forward as we look back at how far we've come.

It's more important than ever to keep the legacy of SFWA alive, and what better way to do that than continually breathing new life into it? Step by step, trash bag by trash bag, meeting by meeting, we are building a thriving, resilient watershed; just like we've been doing for the last 27 years.

Thank you for being on this journey with us!

— Morika Vorenberg Hensley
SFWA Executive Director



WHAT WE'RE DOING

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE WATERSHED?

JOIN US FOR WATERSHED FEST 2024!

CELEBRATE WITH US THIS FALL

SFWA LEGACY WALK AND TALK

FRIDAY, SEPT. 20, 4P AT SAN ISIDRO PARK
A tour and discussion about SFWA's early work with founder Paige Grant and other partners

DAY OF AWESOME

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21, 9:30A-1P AT LA FARGE LIBRARY
Recycled Art Party • Elm Thinning Workshop
Litter Auditing • Arroyo Cleanup

FILM NIGHT AND DISCUSSION

MONDAY, SEPT. 23, 5:30-7:30P AT CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS
A curated selection of local films featuring hopeful stories and examples of conservation

WATERSHEDDERS HAPPY HOUR

THURSDAY, SEPT 26, 4:30-7P AT TUMBLERROOT
A toast to our amazing watershed

Schedule subject to change.
For the latest details, scan the QR code or visit:
santafewatershed.org/watershed-fest-2024

SFWA is thrilled to be hosting our second-annual Watershed Fest, September 20-26! Join us for a week-long, family-friendly series that honors the health and vibrancy of our local watershed.

You'll get to meet your neighbors through stewardship efforts, creative explorations, and educational opportunities. There's something for everyone!

Want to get involved as a volunteer, sponsor, or partner? Get in touch with us or scan the QR code to learn more about all that we have planned!



Julie, center, at a Getting Little Feet Wet workshop at Mandela International Magnet School.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

This past year was an exciting one for all things education! While continuing our in-school education programs such as My Water, My Watershed and Mi Arroyo, Mi Tierra, I was excited to expand our teacher training opportunities using Project WET curriculum. Educators experience the activities, just like their students back in the classroom, during a day of exploring different water topics.

The most exciting opportunity was bringing Getting Little Feet Wet lessons to Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers so they can bring fun science education to their littles in the classroom!

I am looking forward to the coming school year as we add more teacher professional development opportunities.

— Julie Hasty
SFWA Director of Education



WHAT YOU CAN DO

SUPPORT
SFWA'S WORK



Amara, third from right, with volunteers after a river cleanup along De Vargas Park.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF STEWARDSHIP AND OUTREACH

Wonderful watershed community, we so appreciate you! Without our amazing steward teams, education chaperones, and event support, none of this great work could happen.

Would YOU like to get involved, too? We have ongoing opportunities for volunteer engagement including cleanup efforts in and around our waterways, accompanying 5th grade fieldtrips into the Upper Watershed, and helping support our workshops and events. We are happy to discuss what might be the best fit for you and your special skills and interests. Each person makes a distinct and important impact in keeping our watershed healthy and vibrant.

Another great way to support watershed efforts is through generous financial support. You can adopt a reach of the river, sponsor a special event or activity, or make a general donation. In fact, starting October 1 through December 31, every dollar you donate will be doubled by a generous match from Liberty Ranch. What a great and easy way to maximize your impact!

Visit our website for more info or reach out to us directly at info@santafewatershed.org or (505) 820-1696.

— Amara May
SFWA Director of Stewardship and Outreach

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

There are many ways to support our work:

- Education programs like My Water, My Watershed
- Volunteering and tabling at Love Your Watershed Day in May and Watershed Fest 2024 in September
- Trash pickup and vegetation management along the river and arroyos
- Serving on our Board of Directors or on a Board Committee



Bee expert Dr. Olivia Carril and Santa Fe Girls' School students shared their research at SFWA's second annual Love Your Watershed Day in May. More than 250 attendees and dozens of tabling and community partners joined us at De Vargas Park to celebrate our watershed.

SFWA BY THE NUMBERS



OUR IMPACT



6
SFWA STAFF

That's the largest staff since our founding 27 years ago!

1,035
STUDENTS



participated in education programming in 2023/2024 school year



1M+
GALLONS

of stormwater captured in rain gardens*

1,481
HOURS



contributed by our outstanding Adopt Your Watershed and Education program volunteers

10.3
TONS



of trash removed from our waterways*

\$50K



value of our volunteers' contributions across Adopt Your Watershed and Education programs**

*in FY 2023/2024

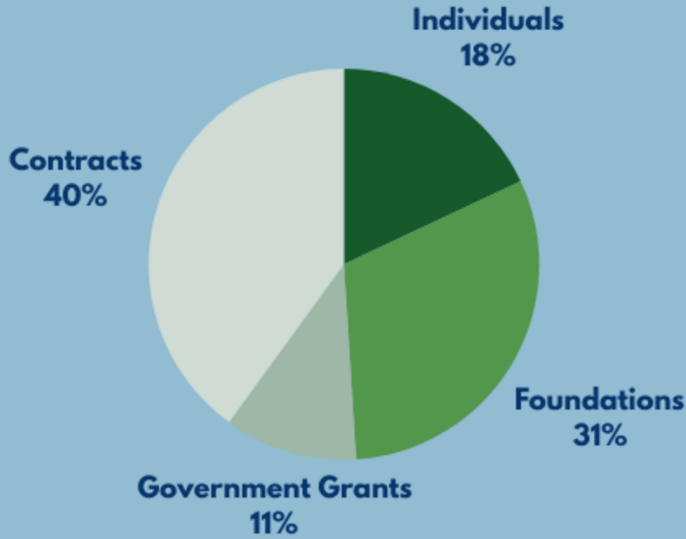
**current estimate for the value of a volunteer hour is \$33.49; see independentsector.org

A DEEPER DIVE INTO OUR WORK AND PROGRESS



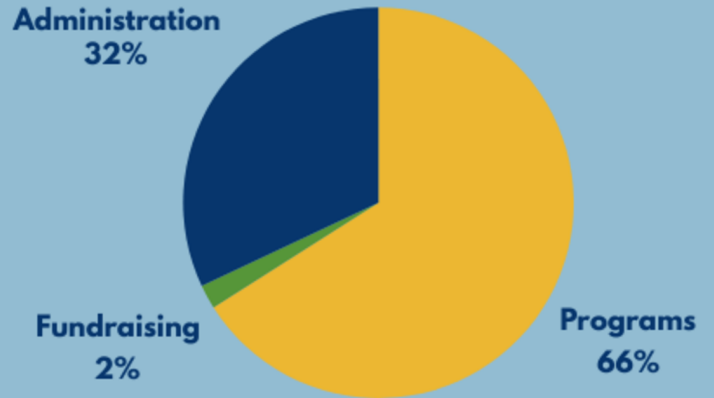
2023 REVENUE

SFWA had a total revenue of \$412,814

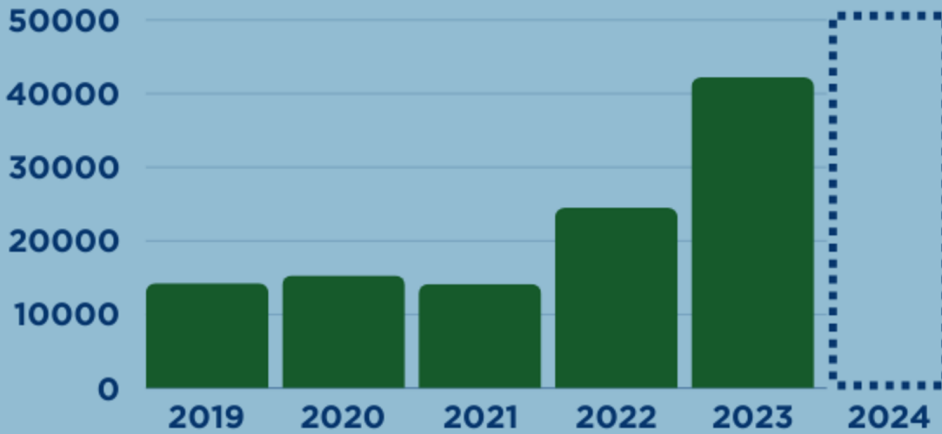


2023 SPENDING

SFWA spent a total of \$331,956, primarily on our programs such as Adopt Your Watershed and My Water, My Watershed



YEAR-END FUNDRAISING



Year-end contributions go to SFWA's general fund, which provides essential support to all aspects of the organization from programming to rent. All donations are tax-deductible.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

Between October 1 and December 31, your donations to SFWA will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$20,000 thanks to a challenge grant from Liberty Ranch! Help make 2024 our best fundraising year ever!

SCAN TO DONATE OR VISIT:
santafewatershed.org/support-us





WATERSHED VOICES

"Water is a gift. Water is necessary for life as we know it. If I enjoy water and depend on it, I believe I also need to care for the health of the ecosystem that provides it. That is the intention of the Santa Fe Watershed Association, and I am privileged to be involved in that important work."

— Fred Schott
SFWA Board President

"Thank you for letting us spend one of our days in Spring Break with you! Cleaning the creek was fun for many volunteers! We got many comments saying it was their fav site. Thank you for the work you do for New Mexico, and for helping find the meaning of service to our volunteers!

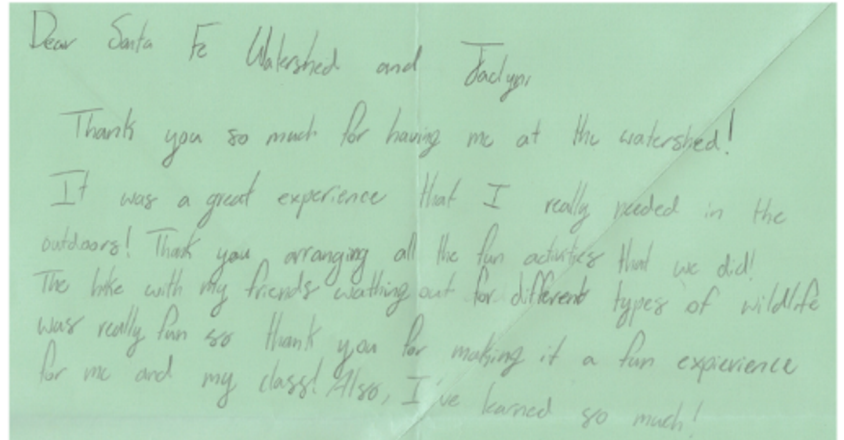
— Jorge Pineda &
the Austin College Service Station board

"My wife, Hebin Lin, and I are recent additions to the Santa Fe community. We have had the good fortune to have lived and worked in various parts of the world. The red soils of New Mexico are highly reminiscent of southern and eastern Africa, where lakes are artificial and rivers generally intermittent! The Santa Fe Watershed Association has returned me to my roots, so to speak, and the role of groups like the Watershed Association is increasingly important to maintaining and preserving human life and our supporting ecosystems."

— Jeffrey A. Thornton
SFWA Board member

"I cannot begin to express my appreciation for all I learned and the generosity of those who shared their knowledge. I'm deeply grateful, and when I feel helpless because of the magnitude of the problems we face, I will be inspired by thinking of those good people we met, and their many good ideas, and it will help me keep trying."

— Climate Masters 2024 Student



A thank-you note from a My Water, My Watershed student. Our students study and explore their watershed, learning about the complex relationships between living things and their environment.



Volunteers from Austin College's Service Station spent part of their Spring Break removing more than 25 bags of trash from Arroyo Mascaras.



SFWA partner Reese Baker of The Raincatcher, Inc. gives a tour of his Aspen Drive office rain garden to our Climate Masters students.

CARING FOR OUR LAND, WATER, AND EACH OTHER



Lindsay with her family at the Santa Fe River.

"The work of the Santa Fe Watershed Association is the heart of our community. Without a healthy and vibrant watershed, we cannot thrive, or even survive, as a community. Our water, our land, and our watershed are what connect us all."

*– Lindsay Archuleta
SFWA Board member*

"If making a direct impact on children's lives and how they view the natural world interests you, then (volunteering on a My Water, My Watershed field trip) is a great way to experience that."

*– Tim B.
My Water, My Watershed volunteer*



"I love that my Southside kids get the chance to go into nature and see mountains and water and trees and animals. The science is awesome, but for these kids, a day like yesterday is one that they will never forget. Thank you!!"

– SFPS Teacher

"The Santa Fe River Watershed is an important source of our local drinking water and our wellbeing. It deserves careful stewardship. If we take care of it, it will take care of us."

*– Peter Gowen
SFWA Board member*

"SFWA represents part of the most fundamental, core expression of our area – water. Where rock, the geology, forms the structure of our planet, water forms its life. SFWA embodies that life and ensures that this living part of Santa Fe stays vibrant, pure, fluid."

*– Janet McVickar
SFWA Board Vice President*

"There is a certain flair to the moving water as I'm reminded the river is home." – SFWA Board member Steven Hamp



Santa Fe
WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION

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SANTA FE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

a 501(c)(3) organization

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Coordinator*

OUR MISSION

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GET IN TOUCH

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