I really appreciate that you guys let me come on the boat, even though I’m labeled a criminal in society. I would never have thought that a boat would make me so calm and happy. It’s more than that, it’s the people and the water.

— Student Sailor

Remember these children by your actions. They watch you warily before the sails, wondering what you will say versus what you will do. Later, you see the transformation. You have not just remembered that they exist, you have taken them to a place they never thought existed and no one paid you to do it. You did it because you wanted to share the adventure of sailing with them. It is not just nature that transforms them — it is having people care enough about them to want to bring them to a new world. That is why I am giving.

— Donor and volunteer

Blue Water Foundation provides positive experiences through sailing, helping to shape and enrich the lives of at-risk children and teens.
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Blue Water Foundation STORY

To achieve its mission, Blue Water Foundation works with the Alameda County Probation Department, San Francisco Police Department, Alameda County Probation Department, San Francisco Recreation and Parks, San Francisco County Probation, El Dorado County Probation, numerous charter schools, and community groups.

Founded in 1990 with the simple goal of sharing the joys of sailing with at-risk youth and providing children with an alternative to drugs, alcohol, and gangs. He and a group of volunteers used their love to take middle and high school students out on the water, teaching them sailing basics, opening their eyes to a world of undiscovered opportunities.

Since its founding, more than 40,000 young people have discovered the art of sailing, experienced success through teamwork, and have had fun while exploring a healthy alternative to drugs, alcohol, and gangs.

Blue Water Foundation owns and maintains two boats. The organization received Boating Magazine’s 20177 Thanks of Hope award, which recognizes volunteers who selflessly give their time to help others, improving the fabric of East Bay communities.

Since 1990, our mission has evolved to include more than three times as many opportunities, but our guiding principle remains the same: opportunities to learn, inspire, and grow.

Blue Water Foundation helps at-risk youth in their ability to become positive members of society by providing them with the opportunity to sail. Our sailing programs give young people the experience of teaching, leadership, and working together toward a common goal. This helps build their self-confidence, and gives them a new perspective on their capabilities, and what is possible for them.

How Our Programs BENEFIT AT-RISK YOUTH

AT-RISK CHILDREN ARE THOSE WHO are less likely to transition successfully into adulthood, whether it be in academics, job readiness, or the ability to become financially independent.

Many children have either been through a family breakup or are in a family unit where young people are the beneficiaries. This is all wrapped in the positive relationships and inspiring conversations offered by Blue Water Foundation mentors. This is truly something special where young people are the beneficiaries.

~ Allen Nance, Chief Probation Officer, City and County of San Francisco

Ways YOU CAN HELP

YOUR SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL to our mission. Blue Water Foundation relies on the generosity of donors to maintain our programs. Our organization operates solely through volunteers; 100% of donations go entirely for our operating costs, which are primarily the maintenance of our two sailboats. Your generous support will enable us to continue providing positive experiences that shape and enrich the lives of children.

Individual Giving

Donate
Blue Water Foundation is a tax exempt 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Donations may be made through PayPal on our website or on the Amazon website or via an envelope.

Include us in your estate planning
Deferred gifts can help support your charitable interests and possibly achieve tax benefits. A planned gift such as a bequest in your will or trust, life insurance designation, or a donation, ensures your support for the children we serve well into the future.

Corporate Giving
Golf tournaments involved in our mission. An employee giving campaign is a great way to raise funds and can include allowing employees to make donations directly through payroll deductions or turning unused vacation hours into a donation. Ask your employer about the potential of corporate matching.

Volunteer
Blue Water Foundation welcomes anyone with an interest in sailing and who demonstrates the commitment and skills as sailors and mentors to the students. We offer a full-scale certification program from crew through first captain.

Youth in the juvenile justice system need opportunities to discover new and different horizons. Sailing with the volunteers of Blue Water Foundation provides them with experiences that they would likely never pursue on their own, and afford them the chance to see beyond their current circumstances. This is all wrapped in the positive relationships and inspiring conversations offered by Blue Water Foundation mentors. This is truly something special where young people are the beneficiaries.

~ Student Sailor