trekkers
ANNUAL REPORT



2025/2026

trekkers

Dear Trekkers Friends,

For the past few years, we have talked a lot about transition at Trekkers—new leadership, new faces, and new ways of thinking about how we support our community. This year, the energy of that transition built into renewed momentum.

New staff and board members have brought fresh perspectives to an organization grounded in more than 30 years of experience, helping us strengthen what Trekkers has always done best while finding new ways to deepen our impact.

The best part of this work is still the time we spend with our students —at trip send-offs and arrivals, in parent and community meetings, out on expeditions, or just hanging out in the office. Watching them grow is a constant reminder of why Trekkers works: challenges become confidence, experiences become perspective, and relationships become a lasting support.

We also spent this year strengthening our ties across the community. Our partnership with Oceanside High School's alternative education program, NOVA, is growing stronger with an evaluation plan that connects our work to real outcomes to better understand and measure our impact on NOVA students. We partnered with the RSU 13 Youth Alliance to broaden our outreach to young people, and we showed up at more community events, like Rockland's Sunday Stroll, to connect with our neighbors and share our work.

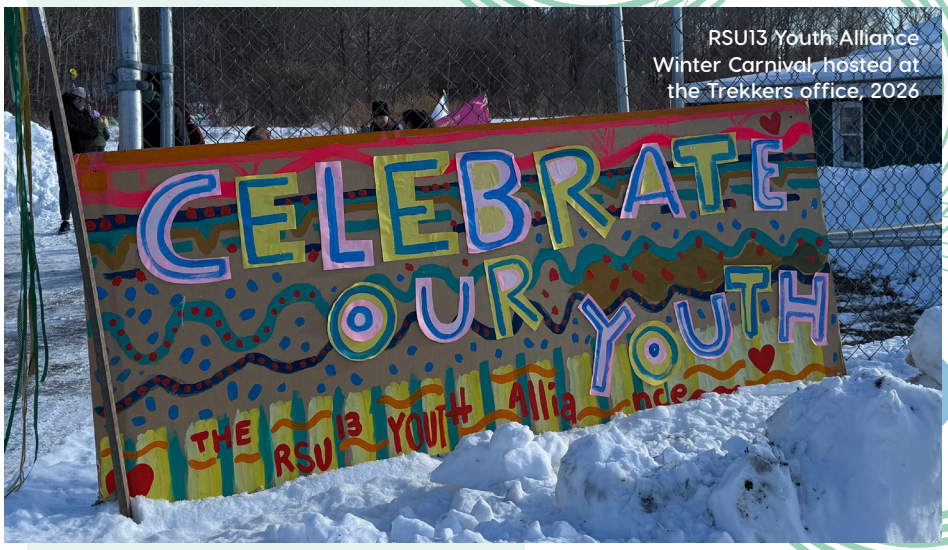
It's an exciting moment for Trekkers. We have moved through a period of change and emerged with new energy, stronger connections, and a clear sense of what we can build together.

Thank you for being part of it. We're excited for what comes next.

In Community,

Stephanie Welch
Executive Director

Jessie Davis
Board President



RSU13 Youth Alliance Winter Carnival, hosted at the Trekkers office, 2026

"Trekkers has widened my eyes to everything the world has to offer and how much good is in each and every person. I've met so many people that have made such a positive impact on me as a whole."

—Griffin Williamson, Trekkers Student Board Member, Class of 2028





2025-26 FLAGSHIP PROGRAM SNAPSHOTS

FLAGSHIP PROGRAM EDUCATIONAL COMPONENTS

- ADVENTURE
- WILDERNESS
- ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
- CULTURE
- COMMUNITY SERVICE





Team Zenith, Great Sand Dunes National Park | Summer 2026

ADDITIONAL OFFERINGS

- NOVA ALT ED PROGRAMMING AT OCEANSIDE HIGH SCHOOL
- STUDENT LEADERSHIP, OPEN TO 11TH–12TH GRADE STUDENTS
- RURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM, OPEN TO 10TH-12TH GRADE STUDENTS

Team Katmai, Notre Dame Basilica of Montreal | Winter 2026

ORGANIZATION UPDATES

NOVA

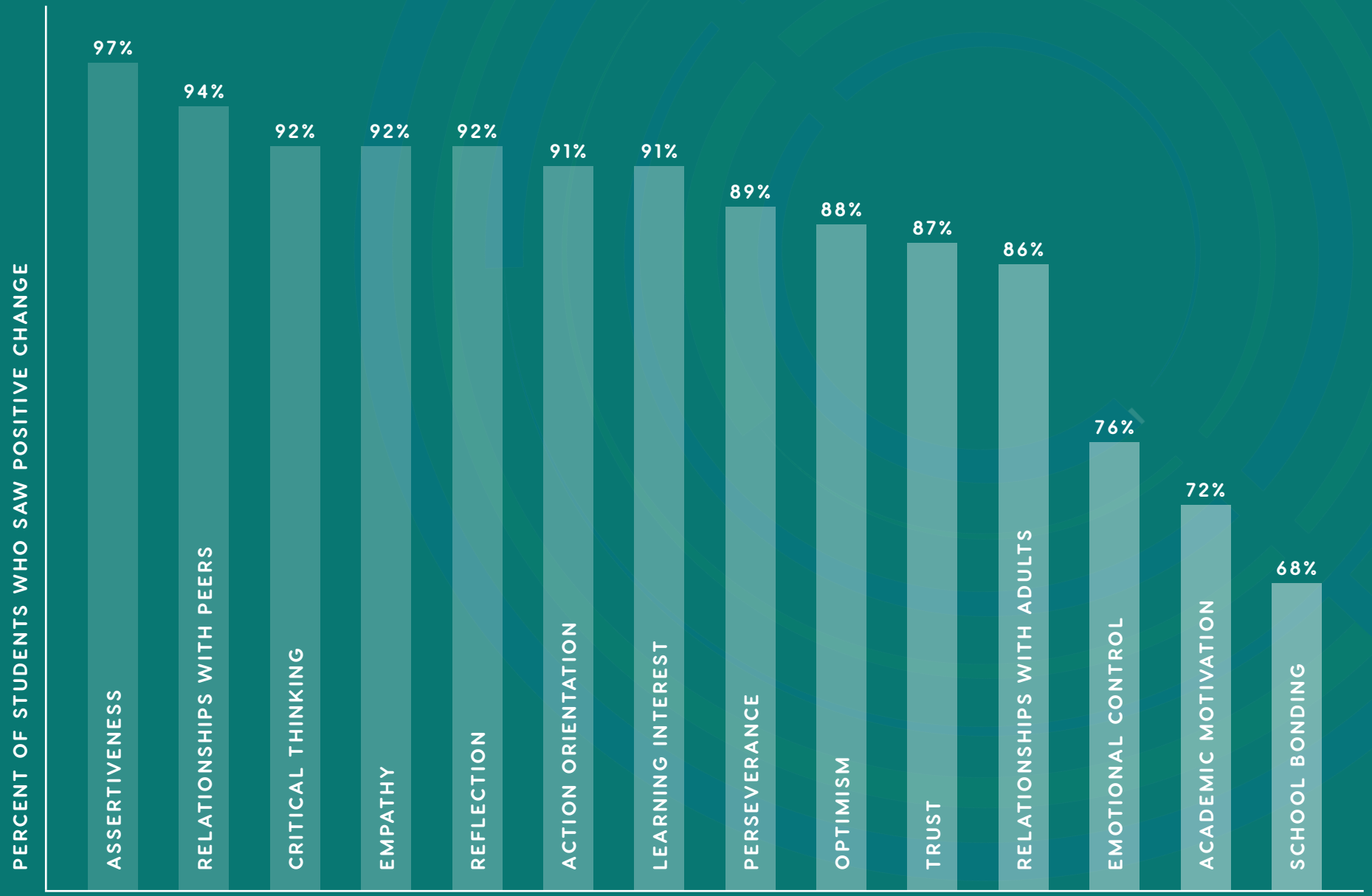
In its fourth year, Trekkers has partnered closely with Oceanside High School's alternative education program, NOVA, to provide mentoring and meaningful experiences for young people who are more likely to thrive in non-traditional classroom structures.

This year, the curriculum met outside of school to explore the outdoors, local culture, professions, and do community service, as part of intentional social-emotional learning. Trekkers also received a grant to continue offering this program to the community and establish a theory of change and logic model to help us evaluate Trekkers' impact in 2026-2027. We look forward to learning more about how Trekkers impacts these young people.



NOVA students harvesting potatoes at Erickson Fields in Rockport | Fall 2025

TREKKERS STUDENTS REPORT BIG POSITIVE IMPACT



Permission to use the Holistic Student Assessment (HSA) was obtained from Partnerships in Education and Resilience (PEAR).
Data from the 2025-2026 program year.

ORGANIZATION UPDATES

New Sliding Scale Fee Structure
For the first time, Trekkers offered sliding scale dues payment to participants. More than one third of our students requested scholarships, demonstrating the increasing demand in our community for accessible youth programming. We raised over $20,000 to support this need, and Trekkers will continue to offer this payment model in 2026-2027.

Staff Transitions
We've seen more transitions at Trekkers as we welcomed in new program managers, Ryker Weaver (Trekkers alum and student board member) in the fall and Neshamah Stearns in the spring. TJ Morris was promoted to program director. We also wished Diane Sternberg and Teresa Valdepeñas well as they moved on to new adventures.



Team Meridian paddles the Hudson River, Adirondacks, NY | Summer 2026



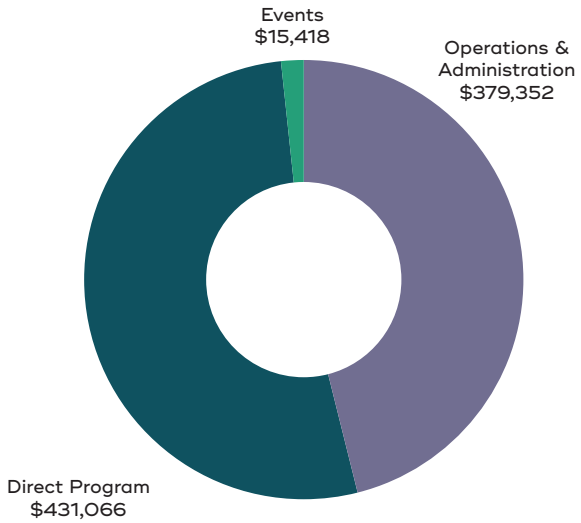
Trekkers Campus Construction Begins!

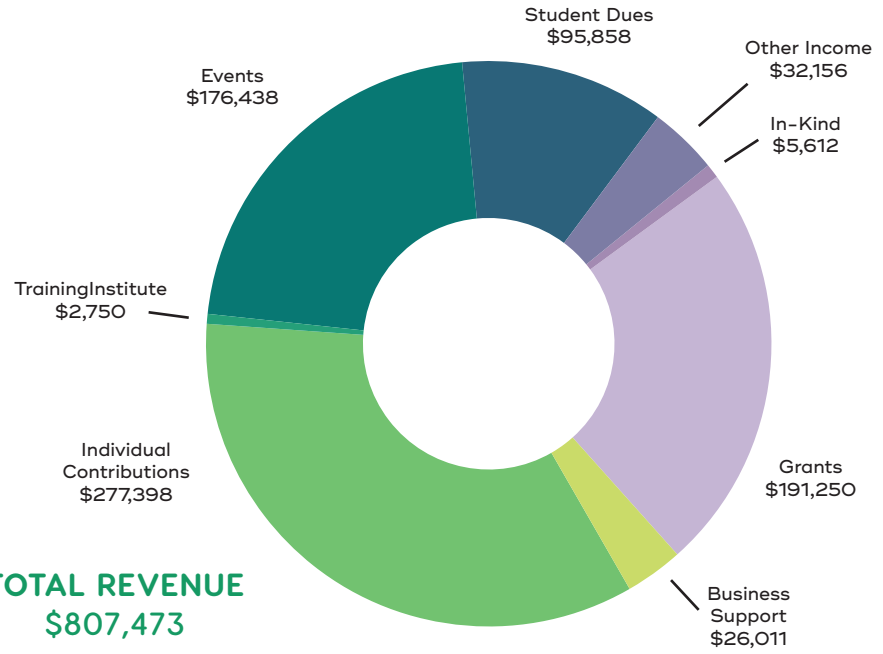
Capital Campaign Update
We're thrilled to share that construction on our campus is officially underway, a milestone years in the making and one made possible by the leadership and generosity of so many of you. Two Maine-based firms, Doten's Construction and Bowman Constructors, are leading the work: a new bus barn and site improvements alongside a full renovation of our building into a space that will better welcome students, families, and this community for decades to come. The project will take several months, and during construction our team will operate remotely, with help from community partners who are hosting our planning meetings and expedition send-offs in the meantime. We're planning a ribbon-cutting and grand opening next spring, and we hope you'll join us to see the transformation in person!

FY25/26 FINANCIAL REVIEW

Trekkers remains in a strong financial position. Careful fiscal management and diverse revenue streams allowed us to invest $825,836 in our mission this year, with the majority going to directly serve students. Though expenses modestly outpaced revenue this year, Trekkers' capable finance committee, engaged funders, and strong reserves position us for long-term stability and flexibility to meet the evolving needs of students, families, and our community.

TOTAL EXPENSES
$825,836





TOTAL REVENUE
$807,473

WAYS TO GIVE

Join Trekkers by investing in young people and the future of Maine!

Donate Today

Donate or learn more about gifts of stock at trekkers.org/donate

Monthly Gifts

Trekkers' Compass Club is a meaningful plan for helping local youth chart their future. An automatically deducted monthly gift in the amount of your choosing provides Trekkers with the consistent support we need so we can do the same for our students.

You can set up an automatic, recurring gift at trekkers.org/donate or by calling (207) 594-5095.

Carpenter Legacy Circle

Adding Trekkers to your IRA, will, or life insurance policy is a wonderful way to leave a legacy and impact the next generation. If you are interested in naming Trekkers as a beneficiary, please call us at (207) 594-5095.

For more information on ways to give, please call (207) 594-5095 or email Nicole Pomeroy at nicole@trekkers.org.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jessie Davis, President and Trekkers Parent
Pete Rand, Treasurer
Yvonne Thomas, Secretary
Melissa Carr
Zoe Hufnagel, Current Trekkers Student
Laura Miller, Trekkers Parent
Griffin Williamson, Current Trekkers Student
Amanda Swindler
Gavin Elliott

Jack Carpenter, Emeritus Founding Member
Stephanie Welch, Executive Director

Front Cover Photo: Team Kineo, Cadillac Mountain | Spring 2026
Back Cover Photo: Team Zenith, Great Sand Dunes National Park | Summer 2026

Scan the QR code to support Midcoast's youth

Platinum Transparency 2026

Candid.

trekkers

Cultivating the inherent strengths of young people
through the power of long-term
mentoring relationships



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