



## The Kids Ecology Corps

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### Local children's eco-action group welcomes diverse new staff!

Fort Lauderdale, Florida (14 June 2007) - The Kids Ecology Corps welcomes four new members to its staff. Joining the local children's environmental action group are Lee Gottlieb, Toby Lopez, Cristina Virsida and Maria Marchegiani. From planting mangroves that strengthen our coasts, to "Trashy Art" programs that create works of art out of recycled items, Kids Ecology Corp shows children that they can have an impact on their environment and the future of their World today!

**Lee Gottlieb** joins The Kids Ecology Corps as Eco-Action Program Manager. Lee brings his experience with The Department of Environmental Regulation, his activity as an environmental activist and over twenty-four years in management and consulting to his new position. Last year, Lee organized and coordinated his neighbors to re-plant native sea oats on a quarter mile stretch of Hollywood Beach. In the process he educated the public about the importance of native plant life in slowing down beach erosion. Lee can be reached at [leeg@kidsecologycorps.org](mailto:leeg@kidsecologycorps.org)

**Toby K. Lopez** joins The Kids Ecology Corps as Volunteer and Community Coordinator. Toby brings over seventeen years of experience as a preschool teacher to her new position. Toby will also be sharing her love of animals and her experience as a foster parent with Pets in Distress, helping to rehabilitate and re-home abused and abandoned animals. In addition, The Kids Ecology Corps hopes to partner more closely through her relationship with The Wildlife Research Team. Toby can be reached at [tobyl@kidsecologycorps.org](mailto:tobyl@kidsecologycorps.org).

**Maria Marchegiani** joins The Kids Ecology Corps as Program Manager of "Kids Care About Trees". As a National Wildlife Federation Habitat Steward, a Broward County Master Gardener, and a Group Leader for the "Roots and Shoots" Program, Maria brings extensive expertise and passion to her new role with The Kids Ecology Corps. Maria is also the Broward Group Coordinator and Congressional Lobbying Delegation Leader for Amnesty International USA and Global Warming Ambassador for the National Wildlife Federation. Maria brings her extensive background in environmental and political action to her new position. Maria can be reached at [mariam@kidsecologycorps.org](mailto:mariam@kidsecologycorps.org)

**Cristina Virsida** joins The Kids Ecology Corps as Development and Media Coordinator. Cristina brings her experience as a development coordinator and fundraiser for several non-profit educational and professional organizations and eighteen years as an administrator to her new position. Cristina has worked with the Humane Society and is currently the Fundraising Committee Chairperson for the Southeast Florida Association for Psychoanalytic Psychology. Cristina can be reached at [cristina@kidsecologycorps.org](mailto:cristina@kidsecologycorps.org)

Regarding the newest additions to her team, the Executive Director, Emily Lagerquist said “I am thrilled that we were able to find individuals with such diverse talent and capabilities. Each brings a unique perspective to our organization. We look forward to them contributing to help The Kids Ecology Corps reach even more young people to become aware and knowledgeable of environmental issues and develop their leadership skills to become activists in caring for our world, starting in their own communities.” Lagerquist recently was one of 35 women in the world to receive a 2007 *Women of the Earth* Award for environmental excellence by Yves Rocher Foundation, a French botanical cosmetic company.

The Kids Ecology Corps is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization whose mission is to inspire young people to make environmental action part of their everyday lives and in the lives of those around them. KEC has reached over 55,000 young people from pre-k through high school, offering unique hands-on presentations and eco-action programs that educate children and youth about: keeping our oceans clean; the importance of trees; the role re-planting our coastal wetlands play in beach conservation; water conservation; pollution prevention; global warming and energy conservation; and, protecting local natural habitats for native wildlife. Visit them at [www.kidsecologycorps.org](http://www.kidsecologycorps.org) or contact The Kids Ecology Corps at [kec@kidsecologycorps.org](mailto:kec@kidsecologycorps.org) . Emily Nell Lagerquist, Executive Director and her team can be reached at Tel.: 954-524-0366 to volunteer or to schedule an education or eco-action presentation at your school.

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**Recognize the Condition. Determine the Solution. Take Action Now! Enroll others.**  
**The Kids Ecology Corps is a program of Partners in Action, Inc. a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization**

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