



For Immediate Release

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Tampa Bay Watch Announces Grant From The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay

Tierra Verde, FL (October 19, 2020) – Tampa Bay Watch is pleased to announce a \$25,000 grant from the [Community Foundation of Tampa Bay](#), an organization focused on making a positive impact on the Tampa Bay region.

The generous \$25,000 grant will support Bay Grasses in Classes (BGIC) which provides middle and high school students with an educational resource to learn about ecological practices while enhancing science-based curriculums at their schools and building environmental stewardship. The program involves approximately 1,000 students on an annual basis and targets academically at-risk schools to participate. BGIC allows students to grow and maintain native wetland grasses at their school in a Tampa Bay Watch sponsored nursery. Students are responsible for checking salinity, pH, and monitoring the overall health of the plants. When the plants are ready to be transplanted, students harvest their school nursery and work side by side with local restoration practitioners to transplant their nursery-raised grasses at coastal restoration sites throughout Tampa Bay.

Peter A. Clark, President and Founder of Tampa Bay Watch, states, "Tampa Bay Watch is grateful to have received this generous grant from The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay. We are appreciative that they have chosen to invest in Bay Grasses in Classes, one of our founding programs which has helped to restore more than 170 acres of habitat around Tampa Bay and provided over 385,000 plugs of school-grown wetland grasses over the last 24 years."

Incorporated in 1993, Tampa Bay Watch performs habitat restoration and protection activities throughout the year, relying heavily on the efforts of community volunteers. These programs seek to build citizen awareness, concern and participation through environmental outreach. Tampa Bay Watch recently opened its second facility, Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center, at the new St. Pete Pier™. The Discovery Center offers an interactive visitor experience showcasing the economic, ecological and recreational value of the Tampa Bay estuary to residents and visitors as well as an academic component that expands environmental and educational outreach programs to Tampa Bay area schools, residents, and visitors.

The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay has been growing philanthropy in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando and Citrus counties since 1990. The Foundation's donors have made possible more than \$210 million in grants to nonprofit organizations.

Tampa Bay Watch is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) stewardship program dedicated exclusively to the charitable and scientific purpose of protecting and restoring the marine and wetland environments of the Tampa Bay estuary encompassing over 400 square miles of open water and 2,300 square miles of highly-developed watershed. Tampa Bay Watch involves more than 10,000 youth and adult volunteers each year in hands on habitat restoration projects. For more information on upcoming events, or to become a volunteer or member, visit www.tampabaywatch.org, or call 727-867-8166.

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About Community Foundation of Tampa Bay: Founded in 1990, the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay is a nonprofit organization that connects people and resources to inspire charitable giving and create a meaningful, lasting impact on our region. The Foundation serves Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando and Citrus counties. The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay connects donors, nonprofits, community and business leaders, professional advisors, volunteers and residents to make the maximum positive impact in the Tampa Bay region. For more than 28 years, the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay has been dedicated to making giving easy and meaningful for donors as a way to strengthen nonprofit organizations and build a better, more vibrant community. Since its inception, its donors have enabled the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay to award more than \$210 million in grants to nonprofit organizations across the country.

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