

Expressing our Gratitude: Patti Bressman



"I am deeply grateful to Patti for her years of energy, creativity, commitment and tenacious service to CELF. She is certainly a ripple that led to waves of great things and is appreciated by all who have had the opportunity to work with her."

-CELf Executive Director, Katie Ginsberg

As a founding Board Member, Patti was instrumental to shaping the programs, operations, character and success of CELF. Tireless in her efforts to see the organization spread its mission, Patti used her myriad talents as a gifted graphic designer, financial planner, event planner, and people-connector to help build the impactful, successful organization CELF is today.

Patti spent countless hours designing professional program materials, strategizing fundraising platforms, and using her creative ideas to inspire and launch several flagship programs such as the Students for a Sustainable Future EXPO (held at Pace University), the LifeStraw 100 Schools Campaign and the Student Ambassador Program for high school students. She forged several important partnerships for CELF with Pace School of Law, Pace University, Vestergaard Frandsen, Whole Foods and many others.



ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

CEL F has benefitted from Patti's commitment in so many ways large and small. Board President, Nick Gutfreund, explains, "From my earliest encounters with CEL F, to time we spent working together on the Board, it has been clear that Patti's energy and positivity make so many things happen for us.

Whether nurturing the Student Ambassador program, doing community outreach, or handling many aspects of our operations, she has carried the torch with amazing passion and energy. She is an integral part of the organization's foundation."



As much as she was committed to the organization, Patti's deepest commitment was - and always will be - to students and their future; the children who she knows from firsthand experience benefit from Education for Sustainability. Former Student Ambassador, Sarah Gourevitch, recalls, "I remember nervously walking into the CEL F ambassador training and was immediately put at ease by Patti's kindness and enthusiasm. I would have never had the opportunity to learn so much about integrating sustainability into school curriculums (something I still think about often as I am studying education policy!) if it weren't for Patti."



Patti has made a lasting imprint on so many young people whose lives she has touched. "Patti's enthusiasm, passion, and guidance has had the most meaningful impact on me both personally and professionally," says Daniel Metzger, CEL F Intern and later the School Eco Footprint Program Analyst. "Thanks to her, I have met incredible people and just last month completed my Masters degree in Sustainability Management through Columbia University's The Earth Institute, a leading research institute she introduced me

to a few years ago. Her unyielding support and earnest encouragement have already been invaluable to my career and I can only aspire to put as much positivity and enthusiasm into my own work and professional relationships."

Patti continues to be a strong voice for CEL F's mission, sharing the importance of our field of work and its ability to offer solutions to the unprecedented complex issues the next generation will face. As she always says, sustainability education is one of the greatest ways to build an exciting and hopeful future.

###