



bluewater foundation



# Introduction

- ▶ Scott Barnes
- ▶ Blue Water Foundation Volunteer for the last nine years
- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> Captain on all three foundation boats
- ▶ Bosun for Aleta
- ▶ Retired Battalion Chief for Mill Valley Fire Department/Southern Marin Fire Protection District



# Who is Blue Water Foundation?

- ▶ We are an all-volunteer nonprofit 501 © 3 dedicated to sharing the joys and challenges of sailing to San Francisco Bay area at-risk/under-served youth.
- ▶ Founded in 1992
- ▶ Work with Bay Area Youth programs, school districts, law enforcement and probation departments

# Volunteers of Blue Water Foundation

- ▶ We are community members from all walks of life. We are educators, engineers, lawyers, public servants, airline pilots, medical research professionals, students and retired individuals who all have a love of sailing. We also recognize a real need to support at-risk and underserved youth in the bay area.
- ▶ 100 plus volunteer strong



# Volunteers of Blue Water Foundation

- ▶ All volunteers are trained and certified before they can sign up to be crew
- ▶ Skills check off sheets for Crew and Second Captain
- ▶ First Captain status is earned upon nomination from another First Captain and a unanimous yes vote among the remaining First Captains
- ▶ All volunteers are CPR certified
- ▶ All three boats have their own sign off sheets



# Benjamin Walters

Hans Christian 43' cutter owned by our founder Lee Stimmel

First boat used by the foundation

Used for Gleaming Ocean Program, live man overboard drills and fundraising needs as a charter boat

Docked at Berkeley Marina



# Aleta

Peterson custom 46' former racing sloop that would participate in races up and down the coast

Used for school sails, Gleaming Ocean Program, various at-risk/under-served youth groups, crew certification and live man overboard training

Docked at the Berkeley Marina



# Golden Bear

Frers designed 46' former racing sloop.

Used for Tuesday and Thursday SFUSD student sails, various at-risk/under-served youth groups, crew certification and live man overboard training

Won TransPac race to Hawaii in 1983 (7 days, 23 hrs)

Docked at San Francisco Municipal Marina



# Our Mission

Our mission is to provide at-risk and under-served youth and an opportunity to sail.

We offer young people the experiences of:

- ▶ Learning a new sport
- ▶ Leadership
- ▶ Trying unfamiliar, challenging activities
- ▶ Experience life through a different lens



# Our Vision

- ▶ All young people in the San Francisco Bay Area should be able to experience the joy, the wonder, and the collaboration of sailing. Departing from the dock on a sailboat and seeing their city from the water as they help to sail on the Bay, aids the young person's learning a sense of place and sense of self while engaging in the active work of sailing. The Blue Water Foundation seeks to create a legacy of volunteering for one's community through the love of sailing. Our captains and certified crew are role models who shape and enrich young people's lives. In turn, the Blue Water Foundation encourages young people to give back to their community as an investment in the future.

# History Of Blue Water Foundation

- 1990 – SFPD Wilderness Program
- Day hike, Kayaking, Sierra backpacking to establish friendly relations with at-risk youth and the police patrolling the neighborhoods
- Sailing was an obvious addition to their activities



# History Of Bluewater Foundation

- SFPD and Lee partnered to have youth from Hunter's Point be the first to sail on Benjamin Walters
- Blue Water Foundation became a nonprofit corporation in 1992
- SFUSD expressed a desire to begin their own program with BWF



# History Of Blue Water Foundation

- ▶ Over time, more and more schools asked to participate. Eventually, every public middle school and high school in San Francisco was given a day on the by with a BWF boat, often, but not always with a police officer on board.



# Who are At-Risk Youth?

At its core, “at-risk” youth are young people facing challenges like poverty, unstable home environments, limited access to education or exposure to violence. With the right support, they can be redirected into resilience and opportunity.



# Bay Area Statistics

- 2024-2025: In San Francisco, 4,434 youth experienced homelessness
- Across the nine-county bay area, roughly 4% of youth were “disconnected”, meaning they were neither working or attending school
- 2024-Present: 60.3% of OUSD students are considered economically disadvantaged
- 36% of Oakland HS students reported witnessing seeing someone in their neighborhood being shot, stabbed or beaten

# Why At-Risk Youth Support Matters

- ▶ It CAN change life trajectories early
- ▶ It CAN build resilience and confidence
- ▶ It CAN reduce long-term social costs
- ▶ It CAN create safer, stronger communities
- ▶ It CAN promote equity and opportunity
- ▶ It CAN unlock untapped potential
- ▶ It CAN strengthen intergenerational outcomes
- ▶ Sategna Foundation

# Why Sailing is Powerful

- Builds confidence through real responsibility
- Encourages teamwork and communication
- Teaches resilience and problem solving
- Connects youth to nature and a bigger perspective



# Why Sailing is Powerful

- Creates access to new opportunities
- Promotes a discipline and accountability
- Fosters a sense of belonging
- Inspires goal-setting and achievement



# Blue Water Foundation Program



# Partnerships

- ▶ SFUSD – Over 560 students from various high schools and middle schools annually
- ▶ Hanna Center for Boys – A residential treatment center
- ▶ LGBTQ Student Services Group at SFUSD
- ▶ PACT – Adoption agency which provides lifelong support, education and community for adoptees of color
- ▶ Sailing with the blind
- ▶ SF CASA – Works with foster kids who have been abused or neglected



# Partnerships

- ▶ Epilepsy Foundation Northern California
- ▶ International Rescue Committee Youth Connections – Supports refugee youth across the bay area trying to adapt to their new environment
- ▶ RAMS Foundation – Non-profit mental health organization supporting Asian and Pacific Islander American and Russian speaking populations
- ▶ Larkin Street Youth Services – Youth services empowering young people to move beyond homelessness
- ▶ Since inception, Bluewater Foundation has had over 55,000 youth sailors participate in our program





# Juvenile Probation Departments

- ▶ Contra Costa County Youth Rehab Facility
- ▶ Alameda County Probation – Camp Sweeney
- ▶ Alameda County Juvenile Hall – Ocean's Gate
- ▶ Alameda County Probation – all female

# Camp Sweeney

- ▶ Minimum-security, residential rehabilitation program for adolescent males (ages 15-21) operated by the Alameda County Probation Department
- ▶ Unlocked, “camp-style” environment focused on personal growth and community reintegration rather than just detention
- ▶ Serves as a local sanction for the Juvenile Court, typically housing youths for six to nine months
- ▶ Services provided include education, treatment and support services



# Camp Sweeney



# Camp Sweeney



# Camp Sweeney



# Future Goals

- ▶ 4-5 more probation departments
- ▶ Blind sailors
- ▶ Continue to expand our sails to other groups
- ▶ Increase our volunteer numbers
- ▶ Continue to look for other funding opportunities

# How to Get Involved

- ▶ Volunteer with Us!

We are interested in experienced sailors of course, but one unique aspect of our organization is that we certify all of our own volunteers to sail with us

# How to Get Involved

- ▶ Blue Water Foundation relies on the generosity of foundations and donors to maintain our program
- We are proud to say our program is 100% volunteer, and donations go entirely to our operating costs – primarily the maintenance of our boats.