

Jayni Chase

Acting on the belief that positive environmental change must begin with the education of our children, Jayni founded the Center for Environmental Education in 1988. Originally in the Pacific Palisades, in 1996 The Center followed the Chase family's Eastward migration. It now operates at Unity College, Unity, Maine. Jayni created The Center in order to provide K-12 teachers and students with the resources and materials necessary to build environmental education programs and lessons in their schools. An extensive library of environmental information, children's literature and curricula is available to anyone with an interest. The Center has grown into one of the strongest and most vital on-line resources for educators world-wide (www.cceonline.org).

In 1995 Scholastic published *Blueprint for a Green School*, a compilation of over 7,500 sources of environmental information, resources and ideas for schools that want to 'Go Green.' From food service to cleaning materials, curricular references to accurate environmental information, the book empowers teachers and students, administrators, architects and maintenance crews to build healthy and conservation-minded schools. *The Blueprint* is available electronically on the website in updated form.

Jayni has served on numerous Boards, including, Friends of the Earth, the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the Antioch New England Institute, Mothers & Others for a Livable Planet, Global Green USA, Californians Against Waste and The Coalition for Clean Air. She served a two-year term 2002-2004 as the Chair of the Board of Directors of Friends of the Earth and in 2004 she was awarded an honorary degree in Environmental Studies from Antioch New England Graduate School for her work in the field of environmental education. Her awards include recognition from the NRDC, The Environmental Media Association (EMA), The Crittenton Center, Women For, the Rainforest Alliance, The U.S. Environmental Film Festival and she shared the Celebrity Fight Night Humanitarian Award of 2005 with her husband, Chevy Chase. In 2004 and 2005 Jayni received the Audubon Women in Conservation Award and the Thorne Ecological Institute Environmental Award, respectively. Most recently, Jayni participated in the Clinton Global Initiative in September of 2007 and, along with Earth Day Network (EDN), she is launching a new ambitious initiative, GREEN reModel. She joined the Board of Directors of EDN in February 2008.

Jayni credits her husband Chevy and their three daughters, Cydney, Caley and Emily, with providing the force behind her dedication to environmental health, safety and education.

"If children are indeed our most valuable hope for a positive future, we must help them make the connections with their everyday lives to stresses we are putting on our natural resources. What our children eat, what they wear, the energy they consume, the transportation they use, the lifestyle choices they make – virtually all of their decisions affect the world around them. There are consequences. And, most importantly, there are solutions. It is my mission to help educators become aware of the consequences, the solutions and all that comes in-between so that they can guide their students toward environmental literacy."

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