



AchieveKids



Learning For Life

Annual Report 2013

ACHIEVEKIDS MISSION

AchieveKids schools provide individualized and multi-disciplinary programs that deliver special education, mental health, and family support services for students ages 5 to 22 who have complex and often severe developmental, emotional, and behavioral challenges.

ACHIEVEKIDS VISION

AchieveKids students will achieve the maximum possible self-reliance and quality of life, and look to the future with confidence.

ACHIEVEKIDS VALUES

We meet our kids where they are
 We take our kids where they need to go
 We treat everyone with respect and dignity



AchieveKids is a great place for our daughter Connie. It gives her a warm and welcoming place where she can grow and thrive. She spent 5 years in her early teens at AchieveKids before transitioning to a local public high school, only to be rejected by that high school within the same academic year. We are very grateful that AchieveKids was able to take her back and she has grown into a young adult there. She participates in the Vocational Education Program at AchieveKids and loves earning a paycheck. This is invaluable training and preparation for Connie which will help her actively participate in our community when she graduates.

AchieveKids works collaboratively with students, parents, and school districts to promote students education so they can be positive contributors to society and become self-reliant and independent as much as possible.

~ Charlene Liao



Connie with her mom, Charlene Liao

Student Profile

Primary Disability	%
Autism	45
Emotional Disability	19
Mental Disability	4
Intellectual Disability	21
Other Health Impairment	8
Specific Learning Disability	3

Ethnicity	%
Asian	11
Black or African American	11
Hispanic	29
White	46
Other	3

Gender	%
Female	17
Male	83

Programs

Special Education

We offer a range of educational programs from graded core-curriculum to life skills and other functionally-based academics.

Community Integration

We teach students to interact in community environments, from following safety signs, taking public transit and buying groceries, to eating in restaurants.

Speech Therapy

We focus on improving communication skills through one-on-one, in the classroom, on the job, and in the community training.

Behavioral Program

We conduct student assessments, develop and implement behavior intervention plans, and do comprehensive data collection in all our school programs.

Mental Health

We focus on replacing abusive and aggressive behaviors with appropriate social skills while increasing self-awareness and self-esteem.

Vocational Education

We teach both job skills and work-related social skills to students 14 and over.

Transition Services

We work with students and their families to identify, choose and transition into other programs such as public schools and adult service programs.

Message from the Executive Director - Learning for Life

Looking back over the past two decades of working with adults with development disorders, I have seen that many of them lacked the skills to meet the challenges and take advantage of opportunities that would allow them to live and work in the community. This is why I am so pleased that our focus at AchieveKids is "**Learning for Life.**" Vocational and community living skills are best taught outside the classroom, so much of our time is spent in the community where students will spend the vast majority of their lives.

Along with the rest of the world, our students will be living and working in a world of social apps, smart phones, GPS enabled tablet computers and a host of other enabling technology that will enhance their living, learning, and employment opportunities in the future. To ensure they are able to participate, AchieveKids has invested significant resources in technology for our students.

This year we launched two digital curricula which promise continuous individualized assessment, targeted instruction, and immediate feedback.

These digital curricula move students along at their own pace and alert the teacher when a student needs additional attention. They will be interwoven with standard text material, group instruction, and community activities. The digital material provides immediate visual and auditory feedback which many of our students find highly engaging.

AchieveKids has just opened our 20th and last new classroom and we anticipate being at full capacity in the near future. We have redoubled our efforts in seeking a third school campus in San Mateo County. We look forward to a very productive 2014.

Thank you all for your support.



Michael Gennette, PhD
Executive Director



Peninsula Children's Auxiliary

We wish to express our deepest gratitude to the Peninsula Children's Auxiliary. PCA has donated over 2 million dollars to AchieveKids in the past 47 years, not to mention countless volunteer hours. We salute the incredible spirit of giving that the PCA embodies.



Michael Gennette, Sandy Arton, Yvonne Olivero, Carol Pliner and Jennifer Tegnerud

*"At AchieveKids,
I like learning to
cook and bake
and going on
outings."*



Learning for Life Goal Areas

At AchieveKids, we think of our schools as unique and special places. Why?

Among the growing number of non-public schools in the area, what makes AchieveKids different?

For starters, our schools work with an extremely wide variety of students ranging in age from 5 -22. Our students come in all shapes, sizes, diagnoses, challenges, abilities, backgrounds and preferences. They usually come to us in crisis. The diversity of our student body requires a wide range of approaches, curricula, teaching styles and student goal setting. While exciting, rewarding and never boring, AchieveKids is a challenging place to work - it depends on the passion, creativity and focus of our program staff.

What holds it all together? In the heart of the Silicon Valley, what is our “special sauce”? How do we conceptualize and structure our services to meet the needs of such a diverse group of students?

We believe it is our commitment to four “**Learning for Life**” goal areas (see chart below). The educational program for all of our students targets these four areas: Advocacy, Awareness, Ability, and Agility. Each student's individualized educational plan addresses how that student will develop effective self-advocacy and self-awareness, as well as develop the practical and academic abilities needed to become progressively self-reliant, and the agility needed to adapt when necessary. Together, these “**Learning for Life**” goals create a foundation for our students to build toward a happy and confident adult life – and this is what is most important!

Jean Spurr
Associate Director



Message from our Board President

The past year has seen many changes and additions at AchieveKids. The major facility remodel at our San Jose school has been completed. New classrooms were added at both the Palo Alto and San Jose campuses. Upgraded curriculum programs have been, and continue to be rolled out. New programs including AKPlus @Home continue to thrive. All of these are key to ensuring that AchieveKids can meet the community's needs for many years to come while continuing to focus our efforts on **Learning for Life.**

With all these changes it is critical that we don't lose sight of our day to day business, helping the kids we serve to achieve their maximum possible self-reliance and quality of life, and to

look to their future with confidence. That day to day work is being dutifully carried out by the remarkable, hard-working team of teachers, aids, support staff, administrators, and community volunteers at AchieveKids.

To those who carry out the AchieveKids mission day in and day out, it is with deep appreciation and recognition of your hard work that we say thank you and bravo!

Frederick Huebner
Board President



Reach for the Stars BBQ

Second Annual STAR Award Honors Rick Van Mell and Jan Paul Frey

In June, we held our second annual "Reach for the Stars" BBQ and recognized Jan Paul Frey/Tisys Construction and Rick Van Mell with the STAR award for their outstanding work on our year-long remodeling project at both our school campuses.

When asked why he supports AchieveKids, Jan Paul says, "I am grateful for the opportunity to provide something meaningful for autistic children." Rick echoes that thought, adding, "the day-to-day effort of the staff to help each individual child become better, even when they have huge challenges, is absolutely inspiring." They both value being able to see the impact of their work at AchieveKids.

Over 150 community members attended the event that included classroom demonstrations, a silent auction, mouth-watering BBQ and a Fund-a-Need auction for classroom wish lists. Over \$42,000 was raised for AchieveKids!



Rick Van Mell and Jan Paul Frey

AchieveKids Celebrates Autism Awareness Month



Miss Lauren, Skye Cary, School Director, San Jose, Salvador and mom, Bonita Townsend

In April, over 70 community members attended a reception at San Francisco 49er Vernon Davis' Gallery 85 featuring artwork by AchieveKids' students.

"I like AchieveKids because the teachers help me read better."

AchieveKids Endowment Fund – Learning for Life

AchieveKids Endowment Fund is a wonderful way to ensure that AchieveKids not only continues to grow but will also be able to serve the always changing and ever increasing needs of our community well into the future. Our growing circle of legacy donors should be extremely proud to know that their gifts will enable our important work to continue for generations to come by providing a permanent source of funding so our students and their families can: **Learn for Life!**

AchieveKids' endowment funds are invested in the Long-Term Growth Pool of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, allowing us to utilize the oversight expertise of the members of the SVCF's investment committee as well as the expertise of the various portfolio investment managers which that committee selects.

AchieveKids' primary focus for growing our Endowment Fund is to educate our donors on the lasting effects of "end of life" gifts, and to help them make informed decisions about planned giving to support the sustainability of AchieveKids. There is no question that a planned gift demonstrates clearly and effectively the donor's contribution in a meaningful way to improving the health of the community, thereby becoming a full and lasting community supporter. "End of life" gifts do not compete with a donor's accustomed style of living or annual giving desires.

There are many choices and methods of making an "end of life" gift, but one potentially simple, easy and tax advantaged method is to make a gift to our Endowment Fund and to designate AchieveKids as the remainder beneficiary under your retirement plan.

For more information please contact:

Karin Klarreich, Director of Development, kklarreich@achievekids.org, 650.213.5286

Endowment Fund and Fund for the Future

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*Deceased

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Wish List

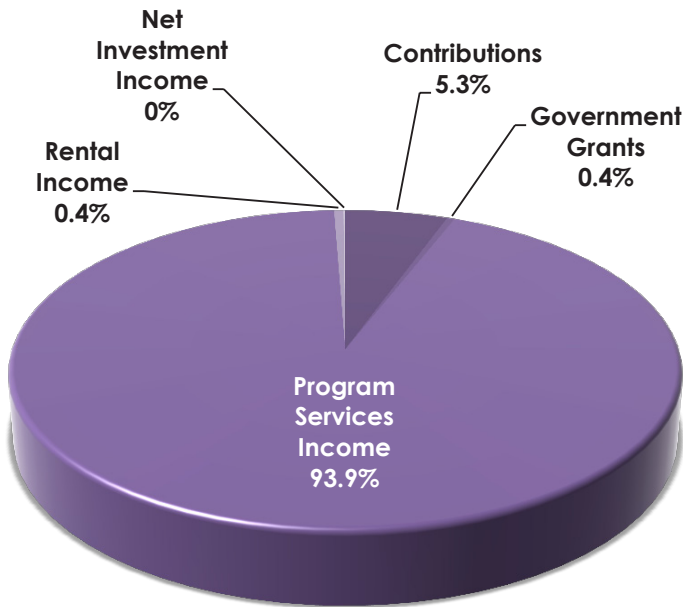
Want to make a difference in one of our classrooms?

- ☆ **Art Supplies** – construction paper, art canvases, tempura and acrylic paints, colored pencils, markers
- ☆ **Sports Equipment** – football, soccer ball, four square balls
- ☆ **Classroom Supplies** – dry and wet-erase markers, pencils, glue sticks, lined paper
- ☆ **Educational Items** – picture books, beginning readers, chapter books, headphones (over ear), puzzles (20 – 100 pieces)
- ☆ **Gift Certificates** in small amounts for classroom outings to Safeway, Target, Subway, etc.

To view the entire list please visit: www.achievekids.org

Financial Statements

Statement of activities for Fiscal Year July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013



Revenue

Contributions	\$549,387
Government Grants	\$40,354
Total Support	\$589,741

Program Services Fees	\$9,171,050
Rental Income	\$50,474
Net Investment Income (loss)	\$9,615
Total Revenue	\$9,231,139

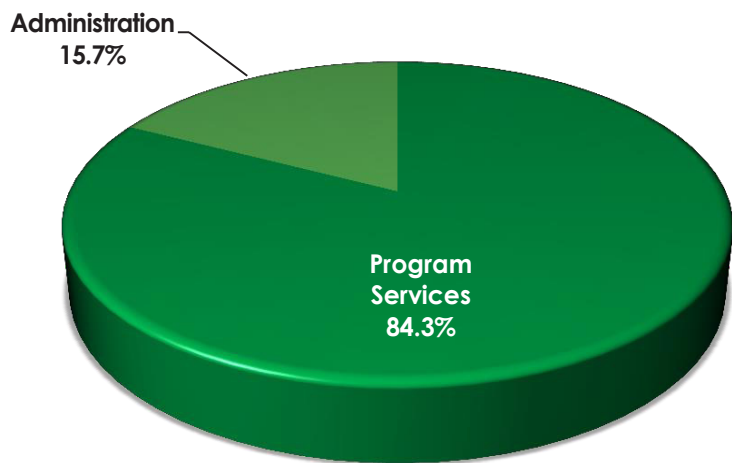
Total Support & Revenue **\$9,820,880**

Expenses

Total Program Services	\$8,150,791
Total Administration	\$1,731,506

Total Expenses **\$9,882,297**

Changes in Net Assets	-\$61,417
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$7,026,803
Net Assets at End of Year	\$6,965,386



"The teachers help me calm down when I get mad."



Thank You To Our Donors

Support from our donor community provides the funds we need to enable our students to continue “**Learning for Life**”.

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First prize winner
at Lytton Gardens Festival of Trees, 2013

100 Hats and Beanies!

AchieveKids was the lucky beneficiary of 100 hand-made hats and beanies for our students from the Knitting Circle at Lytton Gardens in Palo Alto. These ladies are always looking for a way to give back to the community in a way that is accessible for them. Every other Tuesday for an hour these women come together to drink tea, knit, and talk about their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. The majority of the residents at Lytton Gardens are immigrants and the stories from their backgrounds are as varied as the hats and beanies they created for our students. The hats and beanies were then used to decorate a Christmas tree that won FIRST prize in their annual Festival of Trees contest. We are so grateful to the ladies of the Knitting Circle at Lytton Gardens. Thanks for sharing your amazing talents with our students.



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www.achievekids.org

Executive Staff

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SAVE THE DATE

Friday, April 18
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Annual Spring Play by AchieveKids students celebrating Autism Awareness Month

Saturday, June 21
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Third Annual AchieveKids Reach For the Stars BBQ at our Palo Alto Campus
STAR Award Honoree: Peninsula Children's Auxiliary

Wednesday, July 9
5:30 - 8:00

Family Fun Night at our San Jose School Campus

More details to follow