

AchieveKids

Annual Report 2014



Building
a Strong
Foundation
for Students



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

Student Profile

Primary Disability	%
Autism	45
Emotional Disability	20
Mental Disability	6
Intellectual Disability	18
Other Health Impairment	7
Specific Learning Disability	3
Visual Impairment	1
Ethnicity	%
Asian	11
Black or African American	7
Hispanic	32
Pacific Islander	3
Caucasian	43
Other	4
Gender	%
Female	13
Male	87

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 ages 14 and above.

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.

AchieveKids Vocational Partners

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Beverly's Fabrics | Mountain Mike's Pizza |
| City of Palo Alto Community Center | Our Daily Bread Food Bank |
| College Hunks Hauling Junk | Pet Food Express |
| CVS Pharmacy | Resource Area For Teachers |
| El Tulense | Safeway |
| Friends of the Palo Alto Library | Surplus Service |
| Larkspur Hotel | The Car & Truck Clinic |
| McKinsey and Company | The National Center For Equine
Facilitated Therapy |
| Merry Maids | Trial Pay |
| Mi Rancho Market | Wash America |
| MKO Auto Service Inc. | |



Message from the Executive Director Transition-Focused Education

As AchieveKids approaches our initial WASC review, we are focusing on **Learning for Life Goals** by asking the question "What do our students really need to be successful in adult life?" Local and national indicators of success for students with disabilities are not encouraging. Often the skills needed to move forward in adult life are either not addressed until late in the transition process, or not addressed at all. At AchieveKids, we will be taking a more comprehensive approach to "**Transition-Focused Education**" guided by the excellent work of the National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center and the CDE California Technical Assistance and Training (CalSTAT). We will be expanding our curricula and providing life experience to develop students' skills in: community living, employment training, leisure and recreation activities. We are also exploring using "Person Centered Planning" as a collaborative process between families, school, students and support services to identify and plan students' optimal adult lives. It truly does "take a village."

We need to remember that the "Person" in Person Centered Planning is the student. Often our students lack the communication or self-advocacy skills necessary to express their needs and wishes. This is why advocacy is one of the pillars of our Learning for Life goal areas.

To fully realize the potential of Transition-Focused Education, AchieveKids will build new relationships with adult service providers and agencies, and deepen our engagement with our students' families. We are committed to: **Building a Strong Foundation for Students.**

Thank you all for your support.



Michael Gennette, PhD
Executive Director



Festival of Trees

The 31st annual Festival of Trees was held at The University Club in Palo Alto on December 8th. The event featured a holiday boutique, silent auction, lunch and a floral demonstration by Miss Scarlett's Flowers. The highlight of the day was a resounding standing ovation performance by one of AchieveKids former students, Maddie, who sang "Let it Go". What a treat for all of us!



Vickie Warden and Judy Bragg

Message from the Associate Director Investing in Quality

Agility. Advocacy. Ability. Awareness. AchieveKids' Learning for Life goal areas guide how we focus our resources and what we think is important to learn. If we are doing it right, our students develop self-awareness, practical and academic abilities to become self-reliant, the ability to advocate for themselves, and the agility to adapt to life's challenges. These are the skills we think are critical to building happy, meaningful lives and while inspirational, these are not "lofty" goals. They are practical pursuits requiring resources, organizational structure and alignment, and planning. To this end, AchieveKids has chosen to adopt the Focus on Learning framework offered by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). We are seeking accreditation from WASC to support a unified process of maximizing the quality of our services. Our first visit from the WASC Accrediting Commission for Schools will take place in October 2015. Before they arrive at our schools, the WASC Accrediting Commission asks that we provide them with answers to the following questions:

What? So What? Now What?

What?

- Who are our students?
- What are their current and future learning needs?
- How do we ensure that they are college and career-ready?

So What?

- What currently exists?
- How effective is it?

Now What?

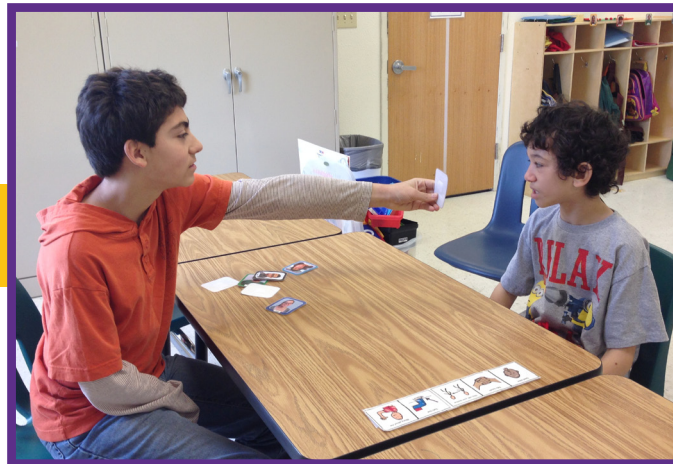
- What are we doing and how do we need to modify it?
- How do we evaluate the impact made on student learning?
- What should be in a school-wide action plan for the near future?



We have researched and launched new curricula for students working on academics and functional life/community skills. More curricula will be rolled out in 2015. We are developing new, agency-wide systems to evaluate our impact on student learning and to better measure the effectiveness of our services. Information gathered from this on-going assessment and benchmarking will help teachers' better tailor instruction, and will help AchieveKids evaluate how to modify, improve, and resource our programs. Because increasing assessment and curricula places new demands on our teachers, we are expanding our professional development offerings for teachers, specialists and classroom staff. To ensure that our students have meaningful options in the future, we are refining and expanding our transition planning procedures and curriculum.

We are excited to step further along the path towards accreditation from WASC as we continue to **Build a Strong Foundation for Students.**

Jean Spurr
Associate Director



Message from AchieveKids Board President

Over the past year, AchieveKids has been focused on important updates to our program and curricula as we continue to strive to meet the needs of our students. Many of these have been focused on identifying and developing skills that will lead to the students' long-term success. In conjunction with the new Common Core state standards and our own objective of securing Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation, we have researched, tested and launched new curricula for reading, science, math and functional skills. While not as visible as the remodeling and renovations over the past few years, these changes are vital to ensuring that AchieveKids continues **Building a Strong Foundation for Students.**

As we reflect on our accomplishments over the past year, it is important to acknowledge the hours of training and prep time this process adds to the

very full days put in by our teachers and staff. Our remarkable, hard-working team of teachers, aides, support staff, administrators, and community volunteers give their all to help our students achieve their maximum possible self-reliance and quality of life, and to look to their future with confidence. 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!



Fred Huebner
Board President



Reach for the Stars BBQ

Our third annual Reach for the Stars BBQ raised over \$50,000. A huge thank you to over 185 community supporters who helped make our dream a reality.

Everyone enjoyed mouthwatering BBQ by Ric's Righteous Ribs, and had an opportunity to learn more about a variety of the programs we offer: Community Integration, Vocational Education Training, AKPlus @Home, and our Communication Program. Supervisor Joe Simitian welcomed everyone and served as our Live Auctioneer. He was a huge hit with our lively bidding crowd. Peninsula Children's Auxiliary was honored with our STAR award for 47 years of dedication and service resulting in over 2 million dollars being raised for AchieveKids.

Many thanks to all of our supporters, donors, volunteers, and staff for a very successful event.



Judi Beisler, Jane Yates and Michael Gennette



AchieveKids Endowment Fund

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 we can **Build a Strong Foundation for Students.**

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

Malcolm Bagshaw*
Lois and Phil Bookman
Sheila and David A. Brown
Lorraine E. Cantor Revocable Trust
Maureen Collins
Margaret Conner
Estate of Marion Fricke
Florine Galen
Mary and David Goodman
Guzik Foundation
Estate of Warren Jensen
Kartchner Living Trust

Gloria* and Herbert Leiderman
Helen and George Leong
Judy and James Lipman
Mary Ann Norfleet
Peninsula Children's Auxiliary
Carol and Michael Pliner
Michael Rose
Estate of Alice Rowland
Nancy Spangler
Estate of Ruth Stearns
Jennifer Westerlind*
Betsy and Dan White

*Deceased

Legacy League

Anonymous
Diane and Howard Bloom
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Lorraine E. Cantor Revocable Trust
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Estate of Marion Fricke
Deborah and Michael Gennette
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Carol Korzow and Karl Kadie

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David Katz
Delyse Nash and John Kusendorf
Judy Huey and Leland Levy
Leonor and Renato Piombi
Carol and Michael Pliner
Estate of Alice Rowland
Jean Spurr
Estate of Ruth Stearns
Jennifer Vessels

How Does Your Garden Grow?

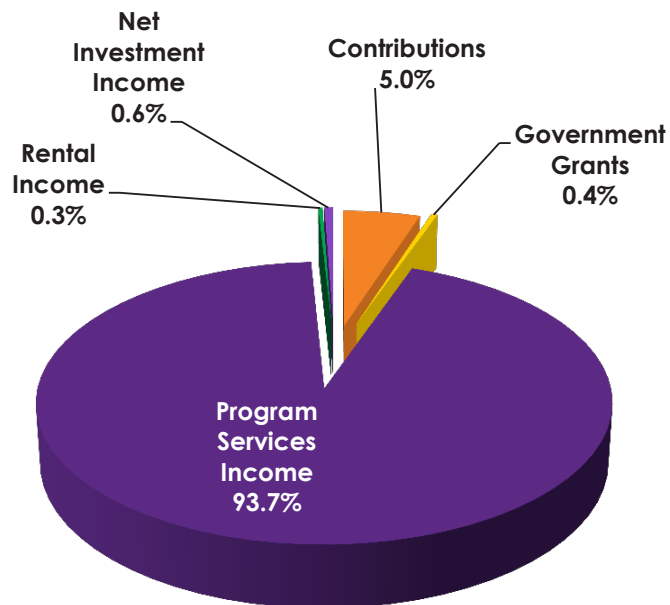


AchieveKids students are involved in their very own participation garden program generously funded by our donors. Classrooms are responsible for their own planter box and our kids are learning what it means to take care of something and follow it through from beginning to fruition, whether it is flowers or vegetables.



Financial Statements

Statement of activities for Fiscal Year July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014



Revenue

Contributions	\$510,047
Government Grants	\$42,024
Total Support	\$552,071

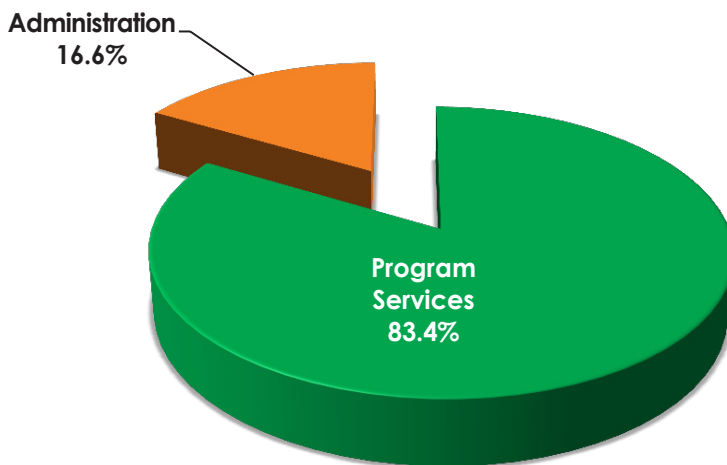
Program Services Fees	\$9,588,315
Rental Income	\$28,966
Net Investment Income	\$59,169
Total Revenue	\$9,676,450

Total Support & Revenue **\$10,228,521**

Expenses

Total Program Services	\$8,432,138
Total Administration	\$1,678,979
Total Expenses	\$10,111,117

Changes in Net Assets	\$117,404
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$6,965,386
Net Assets at End of Year	\$7,082,790



Donor Appreciation Reception

AchieveKids celebrated Autism Awareness Month with a Donor Appreciation Reception at Pro Football Player Vernon Davis' Gallery 85 featuring artwork by AchieveKids students. We truly appreciate our donor community!



Luke Sanders, Chris, Justin Anderson, Penny Anderson and Skye Cary



Chris and Patrick Powell

Thank You To Our Donors

AchieveKids would like to acknowledge our generous donors from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. The continued support of our donor community provides us with the funds we need for **“Building a Strong Foundation for Students”**.

A
Dianne Appleton and David Ach
Erika and Amir Ameri
Janice and William Anderson
Anonymous
Susan and David Apfelberg
Sandy Arton

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Norma C. and John David Baer
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Ferdo Ivanek

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Ann Wright

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Antony Yu

Z
Susan and Gary Zweig

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Amazon Smile Foundation
American Endowment Foundation
Amgen Foundation
AT&T Foundation
Autism Speaks
Avant! Foundation
Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund
Brush Family Foundation
CBIZ Benefits & Insurances Services
Columbian Foundation for People with
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County
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First Clearing, LLC
Genentech Employee Giving Program
Global Impact
Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund
Guzik Foundation
IBM Employee Services Center
Intero Foundation

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Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley
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Mastercard
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Moffett Janitorial Supply
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Maureen Collins
- Mother of Dr. Jon Cress**
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Mara Segal
Anita and Gerald Steinacher
Elizabeth Steinberg
Muriel Steinberg
Karin Klarreich and Walter Wilson
- Jacob Steinberg**
Karin Klarreich and Walter Wilson

In Honor of

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- Skye Cary**
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Kathleen Conner
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William Conner
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Marianne Strassman
- Chaz Tuggle**
Margaret and Charles Tuggle
- Jennifer Vessels**
Susan Brown

Wish List

Want to make a difference in our classrooms?

Art Supplies

Construction Paper, Acrylic Paints, Colored Pencils, Magic Markers, Stickers, Glitter, Glue Sticks

Sports Equipment

Football, Soccer ball, Four Square balls, Exercise balls, Razor scooters, Hula Hoops

Educational Items

Picture Books, Beginning Readers, Chapter Books, Over the Ear Headphones, Puzzles (20–100 pieces)

Auction and In-Kind Donors

Abbott, Stringham & Lynch
Age Defy Dermatology & Wellness, Inc.
Alfaro Family Vineyards
Amadeus Creative
Amici's
Barbara and George Andreini
Anonymous
Ginger Trumbour and Philip Berkowitz
Birk's Restaurant
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Cascal Restaurant
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Katherine and Jan Paul Frey
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Mary Ann and Russell L. Hobbs
Hobee's California Restaurants
Kathy Kriese and Tad Hogg
Home Project Services, Inc.
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IKB Design & Construction
Iron Gate
Marilou Isola
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Barbara Shapiro and Mark Lewis
Judy and James Lipman
MacArthur Park Restaurant
Madhuban Indian Cuisine
Ginny and Todd Marans
Mary Anna and Franklin M. Matsumoto
Mary McCann
Stephenny McGraw
Kimberly Wiefeling and Doug McIntyre
Menlo Grill
Richard Merry
Mistral Restaurant
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Next Step
Oshman Family Jewish Community Center
Jennifer Oxe
Paper Pizzazz!
Smita and Kaushik Patel
Carol and Michael Pliner
Portobello Grill
Portola Valley Hardware
PRP Wine International
Barbara Radmacher
Redwood City Elks Lodge #1991
Renegade Theatre
Rosewood Sand Hill
San Jose SaberCats
Safeway Store
Sam's Chowder House
Scratch
Sea Glass Fine Art
Second Harvest Food Bank
Kelly Shannon
SkinSpirit
Sports Gallery Authenticated
St. Elizabeth High School
Maryann and Grover Steele
Sundance The Steakhouse
Theatre Works Silicon Valley
Thomas Fallon Photography
Susan Thomas
Patti and Jim Thompson
Beverly J Travlos
United Studios of Self Defense
The Van's Restaurant
Jennifer Vessels
Vickie and Carl Warden
Cathy and Leon Wentz
Steve Werney
Karin Klarreich and Walter Wilson
Wine Bridge Imports
Winter Lodge
Jane and Don Yates

Highlights



During this current year 12 students transitioned from AchieveKids to less restrictive programs.



Purchased new curricula for science, math, reading, and life skills that is on-line, interactive, and flexible to meet the needs of a diverse student-body, and aligned with the Common Core State Standards.



Seven classrooms launched a new reading program, Reading Horizons. Teachers completed a 2-day training on teaching reading to students with special needs.



Scheduled our first accreditation visit with Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) for October 2015.



Expanded the use of technology in our classrooms; experimented with the use of interactive whiteboard technologies.



Please accept our sincere apologies if we misspelled your name or omitted you from our donor list.
Please contact us at: development@achievekids.org to report any errors.



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Executive Director

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Facility Maintenance Manager

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School Director - San Jose

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Director of Human Resources

Tom Drechsler, MA
Director of Educational Services

Karin Klarreich
Director of Development

Han Lee, MA, CPA
Director of Finance

Christian Quesada
Director of Information Systems

Jean Spurr, MSW
Associate Director

Joe Taddeo, LCSW
Director of Behavioral Health

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Archana Rao
Secretary
Scott Watters
Treasurer

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, April 2
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Annual Spring Play by AchieveKids students celebrating Autism Awareness Month

Tuesday, April 21
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Donor Appreciation Reception at the Vi in Palo Alto

Saturday, June 20
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Fourth Annual AchieveKids Reach For the Stars BBQ at our Palo Alto Campus
STAR Award Honoree: Tom Kelley

Wednesday, July 8
5:30 - 8:00

Family Fun Night at our San Jose School Campus

More details to follow