# YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE

Donor Impact Report 2015







# **A Success Story**

Our son, Max, has been attending AchieveKids since he was 12. He just turned 22 in January. AchieveKids has been an enormous blessing in our lives and, to be quite honest, our hearts ache that Max will be leaving in June. AchieveKids has provided Max a sense of well-being and independence through a lot of love and constant support. From the very beginning, we have always felt that the staff has Max's best interest at heart. They raised the bar for him and have never given up on him, even when he had difficult days. AchieveKids has taught Max that anything is possible with hard work and effort. He is constantly challenged to be the best he can be. AchieveKids changed our family's life in so many ways as well. We went from being called daily to pick him up from school to no phone calls at all. This helped our family achieve a sense of normalcy and consistent routine. We will be forever grateful for all that AchieveKids has done for our family!

Thank you so much, Tricia M

# **Making Big Strides**

Anna\* has been attending AchieveKids since November, 2015. She is a typical 13-year-old girl who loves the color pink, make-up, nail polish, and strawberry frappuccinos. Some of the social activities she loves are a little more challenging for her. She works hard to deal with unexpected changes to her routine, and to communicate her frustrations using appropriate words rather than shouting or touching other people. Anna has a wonderful memory for dates, and has a lively sense of humor. She has learned a lot about personal boundaries in her short time here at AchieveKids. This will help her in achieving her goal of graduating from AchieveKids and returning to public school.

\*Name changed



# Message from the Executive Director and Board President

Dear Friends and Supporters:

This past year AchieveKids continued to focus on expanding and improving our programs and curricula to meet the diverse needs of our students. These efforts included both new on-line curriculum for the classrooms as well as staff training and education.

We are particularly excited to have established a relationship with Florida Institute of Technology's (FIT) Hybrid Master of Arts in Professional Behavior Analysis Program. This allows qualified staff to earn a master's degree in 24 to 36 months while working full-time at AchieveKids through a combination of on-line coursework, exams, practicum/internship and capstone/thesis. AchieveKids is now a Designated Practicum site which means candidates can continue to work with our students while completing their supervised practicum/internship. We currently have five staff enrolled in the Hybrid Master's program.

In October, AchieveKids was visited by the Western Association of School and Colleges team as part of our application for accreditation. Students, staff, board members and parents met with the accreditation team in small group interviews and led tours of both campuses. Accreditation is an opportunity for AchieveKids to continuously improve and to demonstrate our success in helping students meet their goals. We just

received notice that we are now fully accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Kudos to everyone who helped us get to this level.

As we reflect on our accomplishments this past year, it is important to acknowledge and thank our hardworking teachers, aides, support staff, administrators, donors and community volunteers. It is with deep appreciation that we say thank you and bravo.

Michael Gennette, PhD Executive Director

Ginny Marans

Ginny Marans President, Board of Directors



AchieveKids is fully
Accredited by
the Accrediting
Commission for Schools,
Western Association of
Schools and Colleges



#### **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 Disability 51 **Emotional Disability** 13 Intellectual Disability Mental Disability Other Health Impairment Specific Learning Disability Unassigned **Ethnicity** Asian Black or African American Hispanic Native American Pacific Islander White Other Gender Female Male 86

# **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.



# Did you Know?



Our Palo Alto school has a new athletic field for PE and recess thanks to an anonymous donor. The students are really enjoying having a brand new leveled field to play on.

A new government survey suggests that 1 in 45 children have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. "Two percent of children in the U.S. are living with autism. The earlier they have access to care, services and treatment, the more likely they are to progress."

Michael Rosanoff, Epidemiologist Autism Speaks

We held our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual major donor appreciation reception at the Vi in Palo Alto. We always enjoy the opportunity to recognize and thank our donors for their support.





Our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Reach for the Stars BBQ raised over \$50,000 for our classroom wish lists! Anna Eshoo presented our STAR award to Tom Kelley and everyone enjoyed Ric' Righteous Ribs BBQ.

There is no medical detection or cure for Autism.

**Autism Speaks** 



#### Seize the Day

I'd much rather seize the day Than seize the nighttime

So I can hold onto the light As long as I want, forever

I'd much rather seize the day Then seize the nighttime

So I don't hold my focus
On the dark

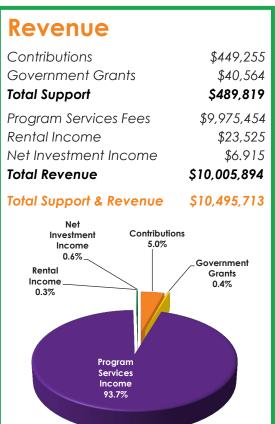
By Thayle
AchieveKids Student

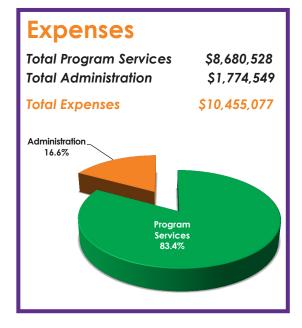


The 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Festival of Trees kicked off the holiday season in early December. Our guests enjoyed an original poetry reading by one of our students and a very informative presentation on packing efficiently by Edwards Everything Travel. A good time was had by all!



#### **Financial Statements**





### **Net Assets**

Changes in Net Assets \$40,636

Net Assets at Beginning of Year \$7,082,790

Net Assets at End of Year \$7,123,426

# **Our Community of Supporters**

You make it possible for us to continue providing programs that will enrich the lives of our students and their families and help them to achieve the maximum possible self-reliance and look to their future with confidence. (Donor list from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015)



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Palo Alto, CA 94303 Tel: 650.494.1200

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www.achievekids.ora

#### SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, April 19 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 22 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 18 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 13 5:30 - 8:00 More details to follow

Major Donor Appreciation Reception at the Vi in Palo Alto

Annual Spring Play by AchieveKids students celebrating Autism Awareness Month at our Palo Alto Campus

Fifth Annual AchieveKids Reach For the Stars BBQ at our Palo Alto Campus STAR Award Honoree: Michael Gennette

Family Fun Night at our San Jose Campus