



# Together We Can Achieve

Donor Impact Report 2016





## Learning for Life Goal Areas

### Ability

- Maximize independence
- Make effective use of leisure time
- Possess academic and technology skills to align with state standards and real-life application

### Advocacy

- Advocate and negotiate for needs and wishes in an appropriate manner
- Take responsibility for actions
- Make decisions

### Agility

- Adapt to changes in environment and schedule
- Continue to try after encountering road-blocks
- Apply skills to a wide variety of environments

### Awareness

- Self-regulate frustration and anger through effective problem-solving and coping skills
- Accept and offer feedback in a respectful manner
- Exhibit social awareness through collaboration and cooperation

# A Success Story

Jack started at AchieveKids in August, 2014. He is a very outgoing 8-year old who greets friends with a big smile at the beginning of each day. He is complimentary to others and encourages peers when they are having a hard time. For fun Jack enjoys doing art projects for staff and playing soccer with his classmates. These activities were not ones Jack could do easily when he arrived at AchieveKids. Initially, Jack struggled with peer interactions, simple greetings, and completing work in class. He worked very hard on practicing social skills and role-playing appropriate peer interactions. Jack benefitted from being able to practice these in a safe environment. He has shown tremendous progress in mastering social skills and has made many new friends. Jack is a very happy child and we love seeing his face light up as he continues to make improvements. Jack is gaining skills and tools that will help him be successful in a variety of different environments and we are excited to see him progress towards eventual return to public school.



# Message from the Executive Director and Board President

Dear Friends and Supporters:

AchieveKids' theme for the past year has been transition. It began with the retirement of our long-term Executive Director, Michael Gennette, and continued as we transitioned to new leadership. It was also the focus of a very successful fund-raising effort aimed at improving AchieveKids' transition-oriented programs and services. As a result, we have established a transition committee comprised of AchieveKids staff, board members, community volunteers, parents and adult service organizations to investigate how best to drive our services to meet the varying demand of students.

The public school system was founded on the idea of creating citizens, individuals who live and contribute to their communities. The central focus of education is to create opportunity for the young people it serves. At AchieveKids our goal is no different. We are driven to create a **Path to a Brighter Future**. AchieveKids believes that transition begins the day we meet a student and their family.

Preparing students for successful transition is a driving value that informs our instruction. To accomplish this we look towards our Learning for Life goals. We work to create **Awareness**, to nurture one's **Ability** to learn, to develop a sense of **Advocacy**, and to enhance an individual's **Agility**. This shared value system helps us create alignment for students and gives us a basis for discussion, analysis, and problem solving. Therefore as professionals we can best meet the needs of our students, creating the pathway for future success.

As we reflect on our accomplishments this year, we are excited to see our community's enthusiasm. Our staff has embraced our direction of growth, which models a sense of ongoing learning for our students.

We would like to acknowledge the commitment of our educational professionals, donors, and community volunteers. Thank you. It is your support that enables our success.

**Together we can Achieve!**



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RCE'.

Ryan C. Eisenberg, Ed.D.  
Executive Director



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read '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	50
Emotional Disability	17
Intellectual Disability	14
Mental Disability	6
Other Health Impairment	13

Ethnicity	%
Asian	18
Black or African American	8
Hispanic	30
Native American	1
Pacific Islander	4
White	38
Other	1

Gender	%
Female	14
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 Health

We focus on replacing aggressive behaviors with appropriate social skills while increasing self-awareness and self-esteem. We conduct student assessments, develop and implement behavior intervention plans and do comprehensive data collection in all our school programs.

## Vocational Education

We teach both job skills and work-related social skills to students ages 14 and above. We partner with employers in the community to match students 16 and older with jobs that reflect individual interests.

## Transition Services

Transition starts the day we meet a student. We work with students and their families to identify, choose and transition into other programs such as public schools and adult service programs.



# Events

Our fifth annual Reach for the Stars BBQ raised over \$42,000! Pat Burt, the mayor of Palo Alto, welcomed everyone. Le Levy presented our STAR award to retiring Executive Director, Michael Gennette, in recognition of his 15 years of service to AchieveKids. Everyone enjoyed Ric' Righteous Ribs BBQ!



We held our 4th annual major donor appreciation reception at the Vi in Palo Alto. We always look forward to the opportunity to recognize and thank our donors for their support.



The 33rd annual Festival of Trees kicked off the holiday season in early December. Our guests enjoyed a presentation of "The Continent Rap" by three of our students and a holiday dessert cooking demonstration by Chef Sharon Barkoff of Children's Culinary Creations. A good time was had by all!





# Making A Difference

A year ago AchieveKids took a chance on my son, Trevor, when many wouldn't. They saw him. They saw more than the autism and the related behaviors. They focused on what he could do and expanded on that. They gave him purpose and expectations.

It is every parent's hope that their child is happy and safe. At AchieveKids, they do so much more. They show respect not only for Trevor, but for our entire family. They listen to our concerns and fears and guide us toward a path that takes us to a level of hope and shows us more possibilities than we ever imagined.

Trevor works. He laughs. He goes on outings and learns how to behave in the community. He follows a schedule. He loves to shred papers. He hates malls, but he now loves broccoli. In the last year Trevor has managed to lose 50 lbs. without any deliberate effort other than morning walks, school made lunches and a notable decrease in stress. He asks each night and every morning "School? AchieveKids? Yellow bus?" and misses them on weekends and breaks.

The AchieveKids staff has made a huge difference in our lives. From our first tour of the school, it just didn't feel different, it felt right. Early on Trevor's teacher told us that our son had so much potential. She and her team continue to show us that. We now have hope and look forward to all our son will ACHIEVE!

Thank you,  
Lisa Sarsfield (Trevor's mother)

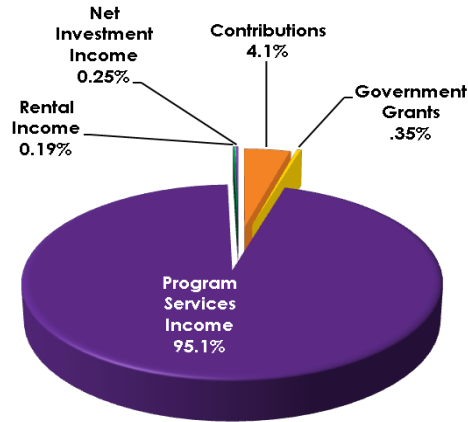




# Financial Statements

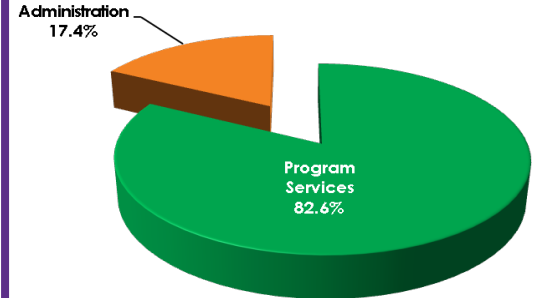
## Revenue

Contributions	\$472,444
Government Grants	\$40,564
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>\$513,008</b>
Program Services Fees	\$10,899,510
Rental Income	\$21,618
Net Investment Income	\$28,158
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$10,949,286</b>
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$11,462,294</b>



## Expenses

Total Program Services	\$9,255,825
Total Administration	\$1,948,548
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$11,204,373</b>



## Net Assets

Change in Net Assets	\$257,921
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$7,123,426
Net Assets at End of Year	\$7,381,347

# 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, 2016 through December 31, 2016)



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Marco Zecchin  
Susan and Gary Zweig

\* Deceased

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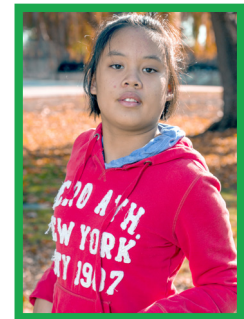
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We were thrilled to be featured in the San Jose Mercury News Wish Book this holiday season for our Healthy Meals Program. AchieveKids students learn valuable lessons from grocery shopping and preparing their lunches.

# Endowment and Legacy League

## Endowment & Fund for the Future Contributors

Malcolm Bagshaw\*  
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[www.achievekids.org](http://www.achievekids.org)

## SAVE THE DATE

### **Friday, April 21**

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

### **Tuesday, April 25**

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

### **Saturday, June 17**

5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

### **Wednesday, July 12**

5:30 - 8:00

*More details to follow*

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

Major Donor Appreciation Reception at the Vi in Palo Alto

Sixth Annual AchieveKids Reach For the Stars BBQ at our Palo Alto Campus  
STAR Award Honoree: Leland D. Levy

Family Fun Night at our San Jose Campus

