



The Power of Teamwork

Donor Impact Report 2021

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ACHIEVEKIDS MISSION

AchieveKids creates greater opportunity in the lives of students in special education through exceptional schools and collaborative educational services that enable students with special needs to thrive.

ACHIEVEKIDS VISION

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

ACHIEVEKIDS VALUES

Treat everyone with respect and dignity
Meet students where they are and for who they are
Empower students to where they need to go
Engage in a life of learning

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

Leadership Team

Ryan C. Eisenberg, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Stephen Crook, MA
School Director, San Jose

Tom Drechsler, MA
Director of Educational Services

Karin Klarreich
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Julie Ngov
Director of Human Resources

Jean Spurr, MSW
Associate Director

Message from Executive Director and Board Chair

The Power of Teamwork

Community is at the heart of our schools. Our ability to welcome those entering our schools by finding a place of belonging is central to our success. This past year has brought much to celebrate within the pursuit of strong community. However we also encountered continued disruptions and stress in all of our lives, at times seemingly outside of our control. Those disruptions, and the inability we often felt to build and cultivate the consistencies we all rely on, had the potential to divide us and tear away at the fabric that make us collectively strong. AchieveKids stands proud and despite continued disruptions, we have seen our community grow, and through teamwork, thrive.

Partnership takes many forms, from the organization within our Academy structure, to our newly opened library in Palo Alto. Although very different, each relies on partnership, communication, and coming together in order to build success. Our Academies have centralized our systems of support, enhanced our direct conversations about students, and strengthened the outcomes we see at a school level. The library has become a central place of community on our Palo Alto campus. It took the donation of wonderful supporters such as the Kalkbrenner family, as well as teacher and student engagement to make it the space we wanted it to be.

As we live in times of uncertainty, teamwork has never been more important. At AchieveKids, we value the community we have built, the engagement of our families, supporters, external partnerships, and our workforce. Working together we fulfill our mission of creating greater opportunity in the lives of our students. **The Power of Teamwork** makes us stronger, and enables us to be a place of continued growth and support.

Stronger Together,



Ryan C. Eisenberg, Ed.D.
Executive Director



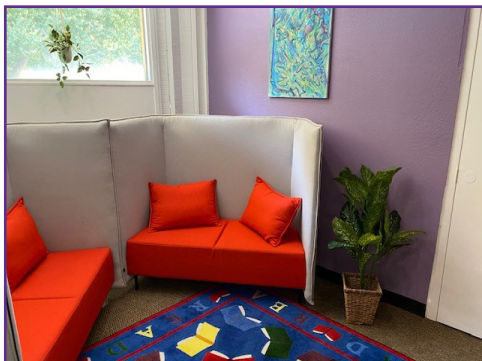
Luke Farley
Board Chair

Palo Alto's New Library!

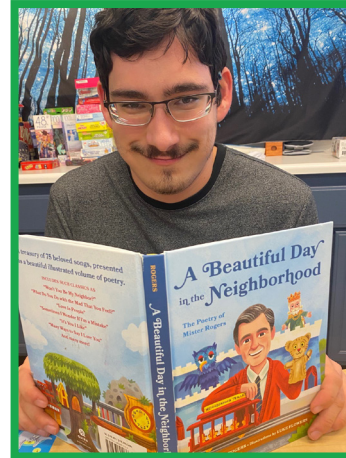
We have a new library on our Palo Alto Campus. This was made possible by a generous donation from David Kalkbrenner and his children Jennifer and Eric, to honor their mother, Nancy Kalkbrenner, who passed away in January, 2020. "Our mom's legacy lives on because of the new library built at the school that she had a true passion for and loved being a part of."

The library is 'staffed' by our students who perform different jobs to make sure it runs smoothly, books are checked in and out, and the library is kept neat and clean. What a great way to incorporate our Student Career Pathways program into our own campus.

The Power of Teamwork shines through again.



The Power of Teamwork



Nick started at AchieveKids when he was seven. He used to get sent home from school daily for his aggressive behaviors and his inability to interact with other students in a socially appropriate way. He was extremely frustrated and had very low self-esteem. Now he is a mature eighteen-year-old who is very well liked and is a role model for many of our younger students.

AchieveKids has given Nick a safe environment in which to thrive. He now looks forward to going to school where our trained staff focus on his strengths.

"AchieveKids provides a structure and consistency that Nick desperately needed. The partnership between staff and therapists and family is huge. For the first time Nick was finding his ground," said his mother Alicia.

Throughout his time at AchieveKids Nick has worked with a behaviorist, a speech therapist and an occupational therapist and has learned how to communicate his wants and needs to others. He is able to joke with students and staff and is very helpful in the classroom. He continues to make progress academically, improving his reading fluency and comprehension and learning new vocabulary.

Nick is very friendly and empathetic and enjoys sharing his strategies to help peers deal with behavioral challenges. He is really interested in movies and knows all the details of his favorites and loves sharing them with anyone who will listen. He loves music and musicals and singing and dancing to his favorites. His heroes include Mr. Rogers, Martin Luther King Jr. and Dolly Parton.

As part of our Student Career Pathways Program Nick is currently working in our new Palo Alto Library twice a week shelving and returning books and tidying up before the next class comes in.

"AchieveKids has the resources to teach Nick in a very special way. He wouldn't be where he is today without this school. We feel the love and feel part of a school and a community which is so very important," said his mom. Nick is just one example of how the students at AchieveKids benefit from **The Power of Teamwork**.

We are so proud of Nick's journey here and how far he has come and look forward to his future with confidence.



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.



Student Career Pathway

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

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

Financial Statements

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Revenue

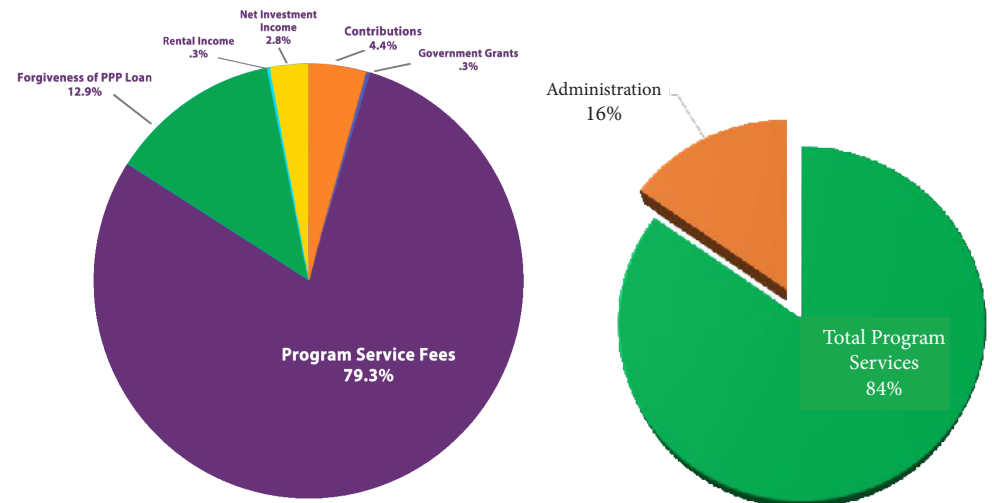
Contributions.....	\$543,570
Government Grants.....	\$40,695
Total Support.....	\$584,265
Program Services Fees.....	\$9,893,176
Forgiveness of PPP Loan.....	\$1,607,200
Rental Income.....	\$30,295
Net Investment Income.....	\$359,871
Total Revenue.....	\$11,890,542

Total Support & Revenue.....\$12,474,807

Expenses

Total Program Services	\$9,536,249
Total Support Services.....	\$1,844,322

Total Expenses.....\$11,380,571



Net Assets

Change in Net Assets.....	\$1,094,236
Net Assets at Beginning of Year.....	\$7,355,929
Net Assets at End of Year.....	\$8,450,165

Ready, Set, Achieve!

In June we held our first annual Ready, Set, Achieve event. We raised over \$70,000! What a milestone for our first virtual physical activity event.

We held an organized walk at the beginning and end of the week and it was great to see families, students, staff, board and community members sporting their Ready, Set, Achieve t-shirts with big smiles on their faces.



Special thanks to our generous sponsors:

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What an amazing tribute to The Power of Teamwork!

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, 2021 through December 31, 2021)

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We want to honor and celebrate the longevity of our staff. This is truly outstanding and we are grateful for their continued contribution to our mission, vision and core values.

Six of our staff have been with us for more than 25 years and one will be celebrating her 40th year at AchieveKids this April. In their words:

20+ Years

Deborah Cardenas: Program Counselor 20 years

Rayleen Chavira: Operations Associate 20 years

Shraddha Dal: Speech and Language Pathologist 20 years

Carl Hooper: Special Education Teacher 20 years

Han Lee: Director of Finance 20 years

Daniel Martinez: Program Counselor 21 years

Deborah Bradford Thomas: Program Counselor 21 years

Blanca Nava: Training Associate 24 years

25+ Years

Rod Hatch: Program Counselor 25 years

Tom Drechsler: Director of Educational Services 27 years

Stephen Lima: Intake Coordinator 27 years

Glenna Howe: Transition Associate 32 years

Scott Johnson: Operations Associate 32 years

Jean Spurr: Associate Director 40 years

I never thought I would work at place for 25 years. AchieveKids is a place where strangers become co-workers, co-workers become friends and some even become like family. The best part of my job is when a student finally gets a concept that they have been struggling with, when that light bulb clicks and they get it, it makes my day and makes me want to continue.

- Rod Hatch, Program Counselor with AK for 25 years

It's been an interesting journey since I originally started at AchieveKids as a teacher and remember one of the teachers commenting "They get younger all the time" when they were first introduced to me. Now, AchieveKids seems like a second home to me and I am constantly amazed when I realize how long I have been here. The students continue to bring a smile to my face and are a constant reminder that relationships are really the most important part of one's life and at the end of the day I would like to think that what we do matters.

Additionally, as one can see by the lengthy tenures of many of our staff, it is a highly dedicated group of individuals whom I've had the privilege to work with. Our dependence upon each other, service to our students, and ability to maintain a sense of humor continues to get me out of bed each morning.

-Tom Drechsler, Director of Educational Services with AK for 27 years

Parents see the different teaching strategies that they have not seen in other programs. When they notice the positivity of the staff and consistency of the class this can allow them to take a deep breath knowing that their child will be safe here.

- Stephen Lima, Intake Coordinator with AK for 27 years

The work I do at AchieveKids is my passion but what has made it possible for me to stay all these years, and impossible to leave, is the caring, support and laughs I share with my coworkers.

- Glenna Howe, Transition Associate with AK for 32 years

Working in a diverse community dedicated to helping special needs students improve the quality of their lives has been a meaningful experience these past 32 years.

- Scott Johnson, Operations Associate with AK for 32 years

Initially, in 1982, it was an amazing opportunity to create a new residential program from the ground up to prevent institutionalization of kids with challenging/complex needs. Since then, I've spent my life time career in many roles with AK. What still holds me is our heart and deep commitment to students, the wisdom and intelligence of our staff, and our resilience. We are an agile and creative bunch at AK, and I am proud to play a part in our evolution and growth.

- Jean Spurr, Associate Director with AK for 40 years

Congratulations to all of you!

This goes a long way in showcasing **The Power of Teamwork!**





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Save the Date!

Wednesday, April 20th: 4:00 – 6:00 pm Mitchell Park
Community Center (next door to AchieveKids)

Community celebration to honor our supporters and Get to
Know AchieveKids featuring a student art show and an update
on AchieveKids by Ryan Eisenberg, Executive Director

Saturday, June 4th Ready, Set, Achieve
Our second annual walk-a-thon

More info on both of these will be available shortly!