

Teacher-centered and Student-focused



EPAK
FOUNDATION

EAST PALO ALTO KIDS FOUNDATION

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Since 1993, the East Palo Alto Kids Foundation (EPAK) has been a community-based, volunteer organization whose mission is to promote educational opportunities and academic success for students by awarding grants to teachers of East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park schools.



EPAK at a Glance

- EPAK is a non-profit founded in 1993 to improve the quality of education for students in economically disadvantaged East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park.
 - The organization supports district and charter schools, serving over 3,500 children in pre-K through twelfth grade.
 - Our model of granting to teachers has a direct, immediate impact and provides much-needed classroom tools and resources.
 - EPAK's all-volunteer board keeps administrative expenses at 11.7% of budget, ensuring an impressive 88% of funds raised goes directly to benefit students.
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President's Message



Karen Ross
EPAK Board President

Our reporting year was defined by what happened towards the end of it: the COVID-19 pandemic. As schools in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park closed and shelter in place orders were imposed, local organizations sprang into action, working in lock step to help students and teachers adjust to

the new reality. The result? The district made one of the swiftest pivots toward remote learning in the area – faster even than better-resourced districts nearby.

In collaboration with the Ravenswood City School District and Ravenswood Educational Foundation, EPAK responded immediately to help teachers meet the challenges of remote teaching. We awarded special grants for learning materials for students, including books, workbooks and art supplies; postage to send materials to students' homes; incentives for students to complete online assignments; and solutions for online teaching, such as document cameras, software and apps. Collectively, we awarded 204 grants of \$500, totaling nearly \$100,000.

We also permitted teachers to repurpose Spring 2020 grants of \$600 to meet COVID-19 restrictions. For example, funding for a field trip could be used instead to purchase remote learning equipment. Julia Gauci, a kindergarten teacher from Belle Haven School, was one of those who

benefitted. "Thanks for enabling me to get a document camera to teach from home," she said. "I can't wait to get started!"

Julia's gratitude was shared by Irene St. Roseman, co-founder and head of school at the Oxford Day Academy: "It's heartbreaking what some of our families are dealing with. My team and I are extremely grateful for the resources EPAK grants have afforded us during these uncertain times. The action of your team reflects just how much 'it takes a village to raise a child'. Thanks for all you do for others."

COVID-19 wasn't the only defining moment of the year. Having worked hard to restore morale and trust in the Ravenswood City School District, Interim Superintendent Gina Sudaria's role was made permanent. We're delighted for Gina, who shares our vision for creating a supportive environment for teachers and understands how important job satisfaction is in their retention.

Amidst these developments, we made significant progress as an organization. For 2019/2020, EPAK awarded a total of \$254,048 in \$600 micro grants for everything from art and music projects to math and technology initiatives, plus grants to set up new teachers for success in the classroom and to adjust to the realities of the pandemic.

Our heartfelt thanks to our donors for their ongoing generosity and commitment to equity during these extraordinary times. All students deserve engaging and enriching educational opportunities, regardless of where they live, or the circumstances surrounding them.

EPAK grants close the vital gap between what existing funding covers and what students need to thrive.



Our Impact 2019-20

197 Grants awarded Fall 2019: \$116,540

122 Grants awarded Spring 2020: \$119,340

204 Special Grants awarded: \$99,800

TOTAL AWARD OF \$335,680

Where does the grant money go?



Teacher-centered and
Student-focused

Special Grants for Special Times

\$99,800 awarded for Pandemic impact

EPAK offered a special round of funding for teachers to meet sudden new challenges of teaching remotely following school closures and shelter-in-place orders. Happily, EPAK was able to extend these additional grants in a short time frame.

- Teachers sent home sets of leveled books (appropriate for the child's reading level) with a gift card and a personalized note
- Art kits sent home, with a teacher teaching an art lesson over Zoom
- Headphones for a child to be able to use their school-issued Chromebook/tablet in a busy home environment
- Document cameras, whiteboards, camera mounts that allowed teachers to turn a space in their homes into a classroom for online teaching
- Family-centered educational games students played with their family members
- A drive-through celebration for kindergarten grads, student prizes, robot kits delivered to students' homes by their teacher and more!





"My teachers and families are truly grateful. Some of the grants allowed us to send care packages to all 100 of our students. We were amazed by how happy and grateful the students were for receiving the packages - with many of our students saying it was the highlight of their day (given Covid-19) to receive such a package. Again, many thanks to you and your team."

— Irene St. Roseman, co-founder and head of school at the Oxford Day Academy,

Financials

Our operating expenses were 11.7% of revenue for the 2019-20 fiscal year

Revenues

Donations	\$309,228
Other Income	\$ 0
Total Revenues	\$309,228

Expenses

Grants

Teacher Micro Grants	\$234,654
New Teacher Grants	\$ 12,900
Total Grant Expense	\$247,554

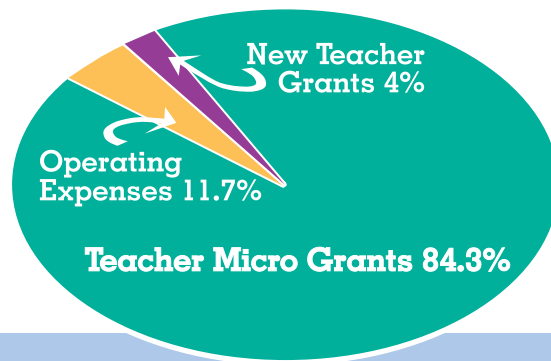
Operating Expense	\$ 36,408
Total Expenses	\$283,962

Assets & Liabilities

Cash*	\$488,092
Liabilities	\$ 0
Total Net Assets	\$488.092

Change in Net Assets \$ 25,266

**Cash Balance includes \$6,977 special project grant from Heising Simons and Packard Foundations.*



EPAK Supporters

It is through the generous and dedicated support of our donors that EPAK has been serving the children of East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park since 1993. Without our donors, teachers and students would not have the educational opportunities other communities take for granted. Our strong base of diverse contributors makes EPAK a stable and trusted partner for all schools in the area. **We appreciate your generous and continued support.**

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value all of our donors.

EPAK is a private, 501(c)(3) non-
profit Foundation; all donations are
tax deductible to the extent
allowable by the law.





"Our major philanthropic interest is to support the education of financially challenged students in the local area. EPAK is particularly attractive for two reasons: first, EPAK is an all-volunteer organization, so their overhead is extremely low – about 7%. That means that a dollar contributed is essentially a dollar that reaches the classroom.

Second, those dollars reach the classroom almost immediately, in the form of books, supplies, field trips, and other projects selected by individual teachers. We can literally see the effect of our donations by visiting any of the schools in the district. It is a wonderful non-profit: local, low overhead, and immediate results."

– Sue and Wilson Cooper, EPAK donors for eleven years

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THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELP TO MAKE EPAK THRIVE





EAST PALO ALTO KIDS FOUNDATION

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