

2007-2008 – Our Best Year Ever!



For the first time EPAK :

- Awarded 500 educator micro grants totalling more than \$250,000
- Raised over \$220,000
- Gave each new teacher \$200 for curriculum and materials

2007-2008 was a year to celebrate! EPAK awarded a record number of grants to deserving classroom teachers. We launched a **Sponsored Projects Grant Program** (see below) and successfully completed two projects to increase literacy -- a middle school library and an elementary school leveled reading book room. All this was possible due to the generosity of our donors.

EPAK Sponsored Projects Program – Building Momentum

In addition to EPAK's core educator micro grant program, EPAK has been busy this year with a number of sponsored projects that significantly impact the learning environment for more than just one classroom of students. **The Sponsored Projects Grant Program** launched in 2007, and continues to build momentum. EPAK may play different and multiple roles for each sponsored project – but its goal remains constant – improving the quality of education in the Ravenswood school district.

The Castano Library Literacy Program has a **\$20,000 challenge grant** from **Temple BethAm!** To donate to this, or another EPAK Sponsored Project, please contact **Tasha Castañeda** at 650-218-9914 or email epakidsfd@yahoo.com.



Library Rejuvenation & Literacy Program for Costano Elementary

Excitement and the joy of reading are back at the Costano library and for its young students! In partnership with EPAK, **Temple BethAm** and the **Jewish Coalition for Literacy** delivered custom built bookcases filled with books to the homes of all 2nd

grade students this summer. Hundreds of the books were donated from neighboring community book drives and we purchased over a thousand new books! This fall, we plan for the library to receive new furniture, bookshelves, carpet and paint.

Parent Participation Program for the Ravenswood Child Development Center (RCDC)

The RCDC's new facility was dedicated in July '08. With a **Christiansen Foundation** grant, EPAK supports various child and parent advocacy programs to help parents play an essential role in their children's education starting in preschool. RCDC offers family math nights and pre-reading activities so parents learn to become active partners in their child's education.

Leveled Book Program for East-Palo Alto Stanford Elementary

Kindergarten through 2nd grade students now have books that are appropriate for their individual reading needs. Over 150 students will benefit from this program in the first year! EPAK will lead program implementation with a donation from the **Christiansen Foundation**.

Math Manipulatives Program for Willow Oaks

Grades K-4 now have a creative process to learn math. EPAK will fund teacher training and program roll-out, thanks to a grant raised from the **Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto**.

Family Literature Program for Belle Haven

EPAK will offer \$1K to five teachers with a plan to get parents into the classroom. Funding was provided by the **Palo Alto Rotary**.

EPAK Volunteer All Stars - Mary Jane Hammon

EPAK has outstanding volunteers who lead, manage, organize, build, and encourage others. With gratitude to all, we would like to introduce you to a few special people in our newsletters.

Mary Jane Hammon has served the needs of children in the Ravenswood school district for more than 40 years, first as a teacher, then as a volunteer

for EPAK and a number of other organizations. Mary Jane has read thousands of applications for EPAK grants, sorted, labeled and delivered books, carried checks, counseled applicants, and sorted through teacher receipts. No request has ever gone unanswered.

Thank you Mary Jane, and Happy 80th birthday!



Los Altos Family Gives EPAK a Warm Reception

This past March, Los Altos donors and volunteers were invited to the home of **Felicity and Howard Kuo**. Attendees were welcomed by EPAK board members **Julie Mahowald, Tasha Castañeda, Laura Roberts, Mary Noonan** and **Tami Espinosa**. The crowd was treated to a short program which included a slide show, acknowledgements of community members who have sparked initiatives resulting in significant donations, and concluded with Ravenswood teachers talking about the benefits their students received from EPAK grants. Everyone was very thankful for appetizers and desserts donated by **Chef Chu's, DeMartini's Produce** and Los Altos resident, **Donna Veraitis**, who is locally renowned for her baking.



East Palo Alto Kids Foundation
P.O. Box 50542
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*To donate, please send check or money order to the above address,
or donate online: www.epak.org Questions? info@epak.org or (650) 852-9398
www.epak.org*