

# EPAK

EAST PALO ALTO KIDS FOUNDATION

[www.epak.org](http://www.epak.org)



SPRING 2012

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

## Executive Update



Tami Espinosa  
EPAK Board President

East Palo Alto Kids Foundation (EPAK) has crossed the finish line of our 18<sup>th</sup> successful year! Educator micro grants help to fill the gap in educational funding and bring classrooms to life with vital learning materials and special experiences like field trips. Here are a few highlights of our accomplishments this year. We raised \$195,000 for our micro grant program that reaches classrooms in 11 local schools. We received 177 grants requests from teachers and nearly all were funded. We raised our project funding level from \$500 to \$600 this year. A new holiday fundraiser with the Four Seasons Hotel Palo Alto added some more visibility and local support. We are extremely grateful to the corporations, families, foundations and hundreds of individual donors for their financial support. It is thanks to you – the dedicated teachers, donors and volunteers – that EPAK has once again made a difference!

## Micro Grant Update

The micro grants this year provided a wide variety of classroom learning materials, spanning all grade levels and schools, as well as regional field trips. We saw proposals come in from 85% of eligible local teachers.

**Reading and Literacy** was a primary focus area for many grant applications, with requests for learning centers and audio CD's (books on CD) being the most popular. Workbooks, guided reading books, dictionaries, novels and other materials were requested frequently.

**Math and Science** was the second largest area of need with requests for workbooks, calculators, math games, videos, manipulatives science units, documentary films on the Earth and materials from National Geographic.

**Art and Music** teachers purchased classroom instruments, and materials for art class such as inks, papers and easels.

**Technology** to enable learning was another vital grant area, with requests for projectors, document cameras, software games for learning, and Apple products. Frequently teachers of special needs students requested technology like the iPad to help with learning.

## Donors Update

Four types of donation streams funded EPAK again each year: corporate donations, community service organizations, family foundations, and many individual donations. A big shout out to our generous corporate donors this year: Yahoo Employee Fund, Rambus Foundation, SanDisk Corporation, Luther Burbank Savings, and the Kinder Morgan Foundation. We salute the generous and loyal readers of the

Los Altos Town Crier and the Palo Alto Weekly newspapers for their contributions to their Holiday Funds. Community organizations like the Palo Alto Community Foundation and Mid-Peninsula Junior League continue to support our work. Fifteen family or family foundation donors offered significant support this year. There were hundreds of individual donations as well. Donate here: [www.epak.org](http://www.epak.org)



## EPAK Day May 22 at Brentwood School—Join Us!

Come see EPAK donations in action! Don't miss our annual donor and supporter event on the morning of May 22, 2012. You will hear updates from the EPAK President, learn about the realities of today's education challenges, and enjoy a special tour of selected classrooms to see the impact that EPAK has made. Join us 8:30-10:00am at Brentwood School in East Palo Alto. Light continental breakfast served. Email Lee Dinneen at [lee@epak.org](mailto:lee@epak.org) if you plan to come, so we can plan appropriately. All are welcome.

## EPAK Receives Book Donations

The Los Altos United Methodist Church and the Children's Center preschool are collecting new and gently used children's books to be donated to EPAK. EPAK received over 1,500 books last year from this collection! In addition, Hoopoe Books Share Literacy donated 300 books again this year, focusing on themes of tolerance and understanding, and funded by a grant from Kaiser Permanente. Thank you!

## Fundraiser with Four Seasons Hotel

The Four Seasons Hotel Palo Alto generously hosted a Tree Lighting ceremony last November, with over 300 participants, which brought in over \$2,400 for EPAK. We thank them for their continued support.

## Volunteers Needed—Join the Team!

We are currently seeking volunteers for Marketing Communications, Webmaster and Event Marketing. Join a fun and dedicated team! Contact Lou Pelosi at [lpelosi@me.com](mailto:lpelosi@me.com) if interested.

## EPAK All Stars: Cindy Chin and Martha Hanks

Special commendations to Cindy Chin and Martha Hanks for their superb job at EPAK this year as Co-Chairs of the Allocations Committee. In this role, they are responsible for organizing volunteers to review and approve hundreds of micro grant requests, work with school liaisons to deliver checks to teachers at the various schools, review the final receipts from teachers, and ensure post-project reports are received.



Cindy Chin



Martha Hanks

Join us in improving the educational experience for hundreds of children. Donate online at [www.epak.org](http://www.epak.org) or send us a check or money order payable to "EPAK". Questions? [info@epak.org](mailto:info@epak.org) or phone **650.479.6716**.



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GRANTING OPPORTUNITY IN EVERY CLASSROOM

JOIN US FOR SPECIAL EVENT EPAK DAY ON MAY 22 AT BRENTWOOD ACADEMY. DETAILS WITHIN.