

EPAK

EAST PALO ALTO KIDS FOUNDATION

www.epak.org



SPRING 2015

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.



Message from Lee:

We have exciting news to share. In January, **EPAK awarded 195 Educator Micro Grants, putting \$115,000 of your donations to work in the classrooms this Spring.** The donations that make up these grants go directly to the children in the form of field trips, including the Chabot Space and Science Museum and the Lindsay Wildlife Museum; non-fiction high-interest books; and educational learning tools including fine and gross motor skill manipulatives, foam letters and numbers, and much more. We are proud to see those grants in action.

EPAK Day is just around the corner and we look forward to hosting our donors and volunteers. It's a great opportunity to take a tour of one of the East Palo Alto schools and see your contributions hard at work. This year East Palo Alto Charter School will host, and we hope to see you all on May 27th!

We have been changing our methods, meetings times, and committee structure at EPAK this year to increase volunteer engagement. We continue to look for new people and new ideas, and that's why we have listed opportunities below. Take a risk and learn new skills while helping EPAK make a real difference in the lives of students. Contact tami@epak.org to get started.

Thank you for supporting EPAK and investing in the students of Ravenswood School District's educational future.

Lee Dinneen
EPAK Board President

EPAK Helps Students Prepare For Higher Education

East Palo Alto Kids Foundation partners with the AVID program at Ronald McNair Middle School to give students the tools they need to envision success beyond high school.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a global nonprofit organization dedicated to closing the achievement gap by preparing all students for college and other postsecondary opportunities. The program provides educators with proven practices in order to prepare students for success in high school, college, and a career, especially students traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

At Ronald McNair, AVID is offered as an elective to seventh and eighth grade students who have the desire to go to college and a willingness to work hard.

"I absolutely love AVID and all it gives the students," says Amanda Kemp, AVID teacher at Ronald McNair Middle School in East Palo Alto. "Students in the AVID program at Ronald McNair enter high school as educated notetakers, goal setters, and confident students."

AVID requires students to visit two colleges per year so they have a visual goal.

"Our trip to San Jose State University was entirely funded by an EPAK grant," says Kemp. "Students were able to visit the university and then expand their minds at The Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose."

★ Silicon Valley Gives May 5 – New Donor Challenge! ★

A challenge to our current and past EPAK donors and volunteers – Share your EPAK story with everyone you know. Use Facebook, Twitter and email to let your friends and family know why you support EPAK. We have received a challenge grant from a generous donor that will generate an additional \$20 for each new-to-EPAK donor who gives through SVgives.org on May 5. Help us spread the word and engage new donors! Keep updated and continue to "like" us at facebook.com/EastPaloAltoKidsFoundation



EPAK Day Slated for May 27 at EPACS

The EPAK board invites all donors and volunteers to EPAK Day on May 27 at 8:30 a.m. at 1286 Runnymede Street, 94303.

Please join us for a light breakfast and a tour of the East Palo Alto Charter School where teachers and students will showcase how EPAK impacts students in the Ravenswood School District. **RSVP to www.eventbrite.com/e/epak-day-2015-tickets-16449445735**

EPAK Earns Top Badge at Great Non-Profits!



Review us on greatnonprofits.org and help us earn the badge each year.

Join EPAK Volunteers

EPAK is looking for new volunteers and board members with fresh ideas. Share your talents or hone new ones while serving with a committee that is passionate about education.

Volunteers and Board Members are currently needed for these roles:

- **Fundraising strategy expertise**
- **Communications expertise**- Help us share our great message
- **Grant making**
Join the Allocations committee who determine the micro-grants to educators twice a year.
- **Finance Committee**
Use your organizational and numbers skill to contribute to shepherding the financial success of EPAK.
- **Event Planning**
Help with a few small events throughout the year, or design a new one for us.

Please email Tami Espinosa (tami@epak.org) to learn more about each role.

Join us in improving the educational experience for thousands of children. Donate online at www.epak.org or send us a check or money order payable to EPAK. Questions? info@epak.org or phone (650)479-6716.

GRANTING OPPORTUNITY IN EVERY CLASSROOM
East Palo Alto Kids Foundation
P.O. Box 50542 Palo Alto, CA 94303
www.epak.org | info@epak.org

The logo for East Palo Alto Kids Foundation, featuring the word 'EPAK' in large, bold, blue letters. Below it, the text 'EAST PALO ALTO KIDS FOUNDATION' is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.