ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

Courage to Care



REDWOODCITY
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Mission

RCEF's mission is to cultivate community resources to promote equitable education, reduce barriers to engagement, and support the success of underserved TK–8 public school students in Redwood City.

Approach

We believe every student deserves access to quality education and the academic, social, emotional, and cultural supports they need to succeed, regardless of background or circumstance.

Across Redwood City, student needs and resources are not equally distributed. We are committed to prioritizing support for schools that serve a disproportionate number of students experiencing homelessness, foster care, language barriers, and economic hardship and have limited parent fundraising capacity.

Guided by the voices of families, educators, and community members, we bring together resources, partnerships, and advocacy to address unmet needs and expand educational opportunities across the district.

42 YEARS
service since the Redwood City Education Foundation's inception

16 VOLUNTEERS
board members





1600+ STUDENTS
benefited from RCEF-supported programs

95% STUDENTS
served face socioeconomic barriers

3 FOCUS SCHOOLS
Hoover, Garfield, and Taft

$860K+
raised in 2024–25

315 DONORS
supporting our work in 2024–25

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP


Alana Ballon


Florence Ortiz

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This year reminded us that care requires courage. It asks us to stand beside our neighbors in moments of uncertainty, speak up when others feel unheard, and ensure that every child feels safe, supported, and able to fully participate in their education.

Throughout the 2024–25 school year, one thing remained constant: RCEF's commitment to educational equity. Our city's strength lies in the diversity of its people, cultures, and experiences. We continued investing where needs were greatest, championing safe and inclusive learning environments, and providing resources to help families navigate difficult circumstances.

We also saw courage through our students' eyes. At Hoover School, students organized peaceful demonstrations, spoke up for their families, and created reassuring messages for younger classmates. One student's poster simply read, "The community loves you." Their actions reminded us that when young people feel supported and empowered, they can become advocates and sources of strength for others.

Our supporters demonstrated that same spirit of care. Together, we celebrated one of RCEF's most successful fundraising years, reaching a new milestone in annual giving. This extraordinary generosity allowed us to sustain critical investments in academic enrichment, student wellbeing, and family engagement, and to secure the resources needed to expand our support to a fourth school in 2025–26, bringing additional mental health services to students at McKinley Institute of Technology.

RCEF's work has never been ours alone. It is made possible by educators, families, donors, and partners who recognize that the success of our public schools is a responsibility we all share. Thank you for your generosity and conviction, and for all you make possible for Redwood City's students.

With Gratitude,

Alana Ballon, ***Board President***
Florence Ortiz, ***Executive Director***

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Message from Leadership	1
Academic Support & Enrichment	2
Student Wellbeing & Integrated Supports	3
Family & Community Engagement	4
Financials	6
Giving Partners	7
Donor Recognition	9
Board of Directors	11

ACADEMIC SUPPORT & ENRICHMENT

Our investments strengthen instruction, address learning gaps, expand opportunities to for students to succeed.

STEAM Education

At Taft School, RCEF funds a full-time STEAM teacher who provides every K–5 student with biweekly STEAM instruction and biweekly art lessons. Through hands-on projects and real-world applications, students strengthen their math foundations, creativity, and problem-solving skills. Teachers report greater collaboration among students, while family STEAM events give parents opportunities to experience their children's learning firsthand. The program also gives classroom teachers dedicated time to prepare and collaborate, strengthening instruction across subjects.

Teacher Collaboration & Planning

At Hoover School, RCEF funds dedicated time for teachers to step away from daily classroom responsibilities, collaborate with colleagues and instructional coaches, analyze student learning data, and develop teaching strategies. This time allows educators to share effective practices, strengthen reading and language instruction, and better respond to students' individual learning needs.

"It's wonderful to see the strategies in action; it's much more effective than watching a video of someone teaching."

- Fifth-Grade Teacher, Hoover School

36 TEACHERS
supported

24 HOURS
additional planning time per Teacher



English Language & Math Academies

At Garfield Community School, RCEF supports expanded after-school academic interventions in partnership with RCSD and College Advising Prep (CAP). Through small-group math tutoring, Air Reading, and additional teacher-led instruction, students receive targeted support to strengthen foundational skills and address learning gaps. RCEF's investment provides additional staffing to help these programs run effectively, giving students more individualized attention and consistent opportunities to practice and build confidence.

"I really like Math. CAP helped me understand it better, and I really grew."

- 4th grade student, Garfield School

63 STUDENTS
received targeted academic support

68% STUDENTS
in CAP tutoring met their i-Ready target growth

STUDENT WELLBEING & INTEGRATED SUPPORTS

By addressing barriers that extend beyond academics, we help schools respond to students' social, emotional, and everyday needs.

Bilingual Mental Health Counseling

At Garfield Community School, RCEF supports expanded after-school academic interventions in partnership with RCSD and College Advising Prep (CAP). Through small-group math tutoring, Air Reading, and additional teacher-led instruction, students receive targeted support to strengthen foundational skills and address learning gaps. RCEF's investment provides additional staffing to help these programs run effectively, giving students more individualized attention and consistent opportunities to practice and build confidence.

"When classroom activities became difficult, one third-grade student would often shut down rather than ask for help. Through sessions with her counselor, she learned to recognize when she felt overwhelmed and practiced ways to seek support. One day, her teacher noticed something new: the student raised her hand and asked for help—something she had never done before. A seemingly small moment marked meaningful progress in her confidence and ability to participate in the classroom.

- Kindergarten Teacher, Hoover School

3 COUNSELORS
contracted through One Life Counseling

28 HOURS
of counseling provided per week per counselor

30+
social-emotional lessons conducted in the classrooms

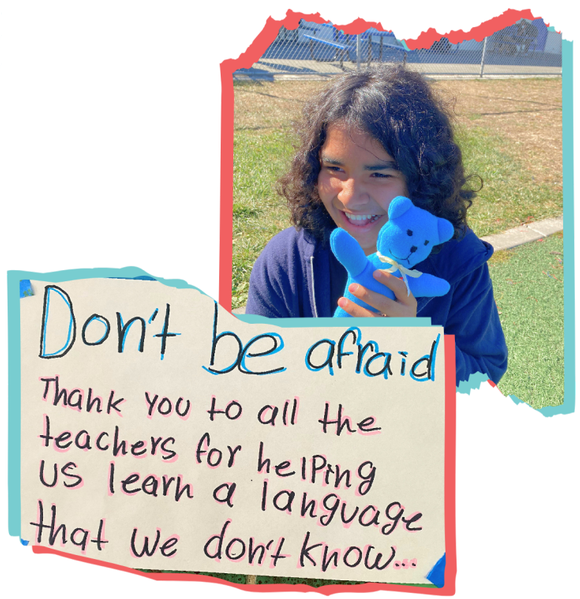
823
individual therapy sessions

Positive School Culture

At Hoover Community School, RCEF supports a schoolwide approach to building positive relationships and addressing student behavior through prevention rather than punishment. Through social-emotional learning, positive behavior recognition, classroom calming spaces, and the Husky Chill Zone, students practice managing emotions, resolving conflicts, and making responsible choices. Teachers report fewer classroom disruptions and greater student engagement, allowing more time for learning. Peace Talks were taught as a conflict-resolution strategy that helps children communicate their feelings and work through disagreements.

"They are now starting to have their own peace talks without needing me to mediate for them."

- Kindergarten Teacher, Hoover School



FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

RCEF connects parents with resources and school leaders, ensuring their voices help shape decisions affecting their communities. We also bring school communities and local organizations together to address common challenges, and support public education.

Family Partnership Activities

PARENT UNIVERSITY

Families play an essential role in shaping their children's education. At Garfield School, Parent University brings families together to explore topics that affect their children's learning and wellbeing. Sessions cover mental health, nutrition, physical activity, bullying, technology, and communication, offering parents practical strategies they can use at home.

3
Parent University Events

146
Average participants per event



LIVED EXPERIENCE PARENT GROUP

RCEF supported an RCSD-led parent group bringing together parents experiencing housing insecurity from various schools. Through monthly gatherings, parents built relationships, shared their experiences, and began developing the confidence and leadership skills to identify common challenges, navigate district resources, and help shape solutions affecting their families.

Collective Action for Education

We are building a culture of shared responsibility for all Redwood City students. Community support takes many forms. PlayThrive After School continued its annual donation of hygiene kits for students and families, while Emerald Lake contributed an auction item in support of RCEF. We also introduced a Redwood City sweater initiative during the winter and spring seasons. Community members could purchase an RWC sweater for themselves and choose to donate an additional sweater to a student—turning a simple purchase into an opportunity to share warmth and community pride.



CROSS SCHOOLS ALLIANCE

Special thanks to the PTOs at Adelante-Selby, Clifford, North Star Academy, Orion, and Roy Cloud for extending their support beyond their campuses. Their generosity reflects a shared commitment to ensuring educational opportunity isn't determined by a school's fundraising capacity.

$21,164
raised through school partnerships



RCEF Equity Summit

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN OUR STUDENTS

More than 115 students, family members, and community leaders gathered to explore resilience, belonging, and mutual support. Through interactive activities led by educators and mental health professionals, participants learned practical ways to navigate challenges, manage stress, and strengthen relationships.

Families also received take-home resources to continue these conversations and support one another beyond the event.



Wine Walk

In partnership with the Rotary Club of Redwood City, RCEF brought the community together for its 2nd Annual Wine Walk in downtown Redwood City. Local businesses, volunteers, and supporters helped make the evening a celebration of community connection and generosity in support of Redwood City students.

320 ATTENDEES

21 PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

36 VOLUNTEERS

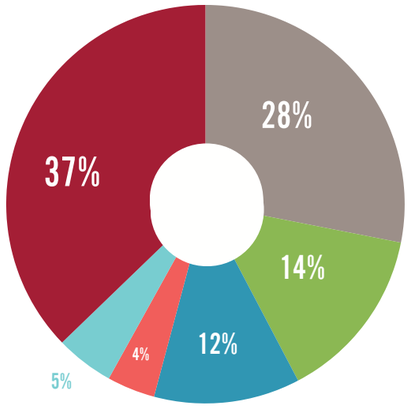
$11,600+
raised in ticket sales & sponsorships

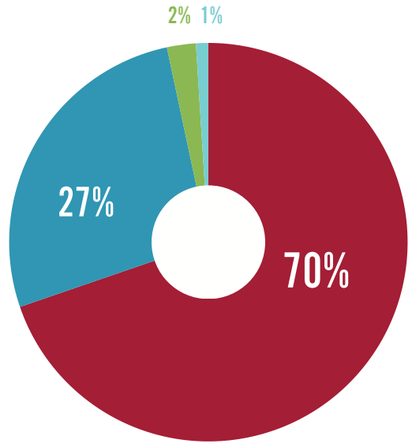


FINANCIALS

RCEF operates on a forward-funding model, raising resources during the current fiscal year to support school programs in the following year. This approach lets us make funding commitments in advance, giving schools and partners greater stability and time to plan.

Programs include school-based investments, direct services, community engagement activities, and associated program delivery costs.





REVENUE	
Foundations	$385,064
Individuals	$194,722
Giving Partners	$162,580
Board Contributions	$53,438
Other Income	$64,791
Restricted Fund Balance*	$510,072
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING	**$1,370,666**

OPERATING EXPENSES	
Programs	$510,072
Staff & Professional Services	$196,903
Administrative	$17,164
Development	$7,306
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$731,445**
Restricted Reserves for 2025–26**	$639,221
TOTAL FUNDING ACCOUNTED FOR	**$1,370,666**

** Previously raised funding designated for 2024–25 program expenses*

*** Funding carried forward to support programs in the 2025–26 school year.*

GIVING PARTNERS

Our Giving Partners reflect a meaningful commitment to educational equity and help sustain critical investments. We are grateful for their generosity and shared conviction.

$50,000 +

Skyline Foundation

Skyline Foundation believes equitable access to education is a fundamental right. Its continued partnership with RCEF helps direct critical resources to schools facing the greatest disparities, expanding educational opportunities for students who have historically been underserved.

Sobrato Philanthropies

Through its Thriving Communities strategy and commitment to educational equity, Sobrato Philanthropies invests in opportunities for families and students furthest from opportunity. Its continued partnership with RCEF helps sustain essential school-based supports and advance equitable education in Redwood City and North Fair Oaks.

Chan Zuckerberg Initiative

The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) creates a fair and just future by accelerating progress in science, education, community, justice, and opportunity. Their invaluable support empowers RCEF to make significant strides towards building a more inclusive and promising tomorrow for our community.

Google.org

The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) creates a fair and just future by accelerating progress in science, education, community, justice, and opportunity. Their invaluable support empowers RCEF to make significant strides towards building a more inclusive and promising tomorrow for our community.

Google.org

We are grateful to welcome the John & Marcia Goldman Foundation as a Giving Partner. With a shared commitment to addressing critical service gaps for underserved youth, the Foundation's generous grant helped RCEF lay the groundwork to expand to McKinley Institute of Technology, with additional mental health counseling and social-emotional learning planned for 2025–26.

$25,000 +

Oracle

For more than 15 years, Oracle has supported RCEF. Reflecting its broader commitment to education and community impact, Oracle's longstanding partnership has helped RCEF address educational disparities, expand student opportunities, and sustain critical programs in our local public schools.

Quest Foundation

Google.org's generous grant enables RCEF to expand its reach, implement impactful programs in local schools, provide students with essential resources, and promote educational equity, youth development, and community engagement.

Scandling Family Foundation

With a shared interest in STEAM education, the Scandling Family Foundation supports RCEF's efforts to expand access to enriching learning experiences. Its generosity helps create opportunities for students to explore science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics through hands-on learning.

$5,000 +

DONORS

Your generosity reflects a deep commitment to students and families beyond our own. Together, we turn compassion into opportunity so more Redwood City students can access the resources and support they deserve. Thank you.

$50,000+

Chan Zuckerberg Initiative
Google Community Grants
John & Marcia Goldman Foundation
Skyline Foundation
Sobrato Philanthropies

$25,000+

Oracle
Scandling Family Foundation

$10,000+

Ballon Family
Goshen Smith Family
Airfield Supply
Ben Packer & Aviva Weinberg
David & Rebecca Weekly
Embarc Redwood City
EventBrite Ticket Sales
Heather & Adam Hopkins
Katie Goetz & Daniel Weaver
MMD Redwood City

$5,000+

Atkinson Foundation
Donna & Darwin Poulos
Lizzy Craze
Lucile Spurlock
Leslie Family
Lim Phadke Family
Mabry Family
Netflix Matching Fund
Unidos Y Adelante

$2,500+

Cahill Family
Fienberg Vargas Family
Fung Family
Gaggar Tamayo Family
Koleckar Family
Loew Family
Alison Chubb
City of Redwood City
Harris Family Giving
Jessica Osaki & Houston Howell
Kaiser Permanente
Pati Ortiz
Richard & Naomi Hunter
Sean Van der Wal

$1,000+

Anderson Ruminski Family
Blankenburg Lieske Family
Bolander Cushere Family
Cohen Family
Costello Family
Coudrillier Chen Family
Crabtree Family
Crowell Martell Family
Ferrante Family
Gilley Hogberg Family
Hanemann Wang Family
Harrison Family
McClure Hunton Family
Munoz-Torres Berkowitz Family
Adobe Matching Funds
Alison & Evan Oldford
Alistair & Joanna Jeffs
Amy & Eric Sahn
Ann & Bryan Hynecek
Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund
Brandon Matthews
Catharine Eastman
Cheryl Bates
Clifford School Parents Club
Daniel & Katherine Machemer
Edmond & Blythe Yee
Erin & Christopher Levins
Florence Ortiz
Anonymous Donor
George-Shaw Family Trust
Good City Company
Google Employee 'Via Benenvity'
Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation
Huyen Tran
Jacqueline & David Olson
Janet Lawson
Jason & Lisa Webb
Jeremy Lawrence
John R Baker
Kerry & Kirk McGuire Stewart
Kristal Morey
Laura Tomas
Lilli & Colby Milton Peterson
LinkedIn Matching Funds
Lisa & Scott Tyndall
Michael & Courtney Wasserman
Michael & Jodie Horn Antypas
Michael Wells & Patricia Seith
Paypal Giving Fund
Peter Sterling
Port of Redwood City
Wachtel Pronovost Family Monterra
Sarah & Eric Weissman
The Sports Basement
Touchpoint Foundation
Vince Kapral

$500+

Asher Dobson Family
Bailenson Zacharia Family
Cheng Sun Family
Comstock Wong Family
Crofts Family
Douglas Family
Emery Pearson Family
Ezrati Family
Flegel Family
Forker Family
Foy Family
Freborg Family
Garcia Gontcharova Family
Glockner Black Family
Gunn Wiese Family
Love Family
Poskin Cunningham Family
Raigoza Spillane Family
Turner Family
Aaron Oro
Adam Durity
Allene Sieling
Apple Employees
Apple Matching Funds
Bay View Lodge No. 109, Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Caryl & James Holloway
Elizabeth & Ajay Le Dharia
Emily Dunn
Esther Selk and Andrew Conroy
Frank & Lisa Wasilewski
Hiep & Hana Ma
Hilary Klopp
HKIT Architects
Hoon & Anjali Kim Bhargava
Intuitive Foundation Matching Funds
Jen & Todd Parsons
Jennifer Ng Kwing King
Julie & Richard Prillinger
Katie Cheng
Keith & Christina Jade Simmons Lee
Kyle Rawls
Linda & Allen Secrest
Matt and Peggy Klein
Meg Fienberg
Meghan & Ken Pirozzoli
Michael and Gail O'Connor
Neighborhood Kids Corner
Nicholas & Emily Rose
Nicholas Miyake & Zena Kharsa
Nicole Yamada & Kareem Mawad
Ophelia Skiver
Pamela & Ethan Swint
Redwood City Together
River & Emma Snively
Ronald Crates
Sean True & Anjileen Singh
Seed to Harvest Fund
Starship Orion
Susanna Ricco
Tara Perkins
Vesta

$250+

Jonas Barbour
Spencer Brooks
Lawrence Castillo
Steven Chirieleison
Robert Duncan
Tracy Rubin
Alexander Kolar
Christopher Meunier
Alysa & Frederick Zyda
Andrew & Nina Wemmer
Ashley Rios
Clara Jaeckel
David & Lydia Pearce Snape
David Grady
Davies Appliance
Elizabeth & Thomas Vargas Mylod
Elizabeth Gomez
Emily Jensen Lowe
Fang & Yachu Xu Hsieh
Glendy & Martin Martin
Google Matching Gifts Program
Jessica & Peter Shade Cowan
Jill & Nicholas Melosh
JPCC, LLC
Keri & Darren Ng
Laura Chiang-Lind
Linda J Morton
Mahoney Fitzgerald
Marianne Jones
Marilee & Andreas Schultz
Meghan & John Justin Workman
Michelle Smith
Miriam & Jonathan Sondag
Nedda Figueroa
Nelson Capital Management
Patricia Smilovitz
Take Two Software Matching Funds
Talia Perlman

UP TO $250

Alba Family
Bartfield Family
Bryski Young Family
Chalmer Family
Comfort Family
Conrad Family
Creedon Family
Davydov Family
Ezrin Family
Felong Family
Feng Hanrigou Family
Hansen Family
Hartnett Family
Kays Family
Oh-Perez Family
Sincoff Family
Abbott Laboratories
Adam Elman
Alejandro Hubert
Alex Chriss
Alisa & Neil MacAvoy
Amanda Payne
Amreen and Alya Madhani
Anastacia Stamates
Andrea & Steven Jeuck
Andrea Wang
Ann Myers
Anne-Marie & Dave Knokey
Beatriz Mendoza
Becky Dalrymple
Bernadette Blanchfield
Beth Snedegar & Robert Covey
Birju & Kristy Shah
BMO Financial Group Employee Matching
Brannon Naito
Bruce Kadden
Caitlin Wallace
Caroline Co
Carolyn Trifilo
Carrie Gann & Doug Keely
Schweidenback-Henderson Family
Celia Tang
Christianne Missad
Christina & Jo Lansdown
Christina & Ricardo Munguia
Christina McClure
Christine & Gaetan Lorho
Christine & Nick Schneider
Cindy Merritt
Dakarai Aarons
Dara & William Kallop
Woodland
David and Linda Leeb Goldman
David Fribush
Dennis & Lori McBride
Donna Becht
Elizabeth Silva
Emily Strichartz
Eric Takaha
Fred Genter
Genentech
Gerardo Ortiz
Gilead Matching Fund
Han Jun Kim
Heather Goodfried
HPI Matching Funds
Iliana Jaatmaa & Martin Harrisson
Intel Foundation Matching Funds
Jami Lieberman
Jamie Arshakuni
Jan & Chris Stupl Terry
Jane E Shannahan
Jennifer Knopf
Jennifer Martinez
Jessica & Greg Notte
Jocelyn Lau
Jonathan Cantu
Judi Lachenmyer
Karen Arimoto-Peterson
Karen Canty
Kenneth Arai
Rick Nordensten & Kit Fung
Kristen & Kenny McMullen
Leah & Edgardo Rivera
Lisa Kellman
Lori & Vito Longo
Lupe Flores Robles
Lydia Hernandez Ramirez
Maegan & Tony Leslie Torres
Manou & Beth Serres
Marcia Diederich
Maria Reiling & Jamei Reza
Mario Calderon
Martha Beetley
Martyn Langley
Mayra Lombera
Meera & Robert Mair Sheffrin
Megan Kilman
Melinda & Greg Moye
Melinda Denton
Mercedes & Dave Kwiatkowski
Michele van Zuiden
Mona & Walter Johnson
Natalia Vinnik
Peter Louras
Phyllis Highman
Prentice & Janet Wongvibulsin
Prudence & Ethan Wais Hallarman
Randall F Wilburn
Robert & Judith Higday Cooper
Rod & Jeanne Panos
Ruth Rothman

IN KIND

Play Thrive
Alhambras
Angelicas
Blacksmith
Broadway Masala
Cru Wine Bar
DasBierhauz Biergarten
Donatos
Ghostwood Main
Gourmet Haus Staudt
HELLA
Hidden Tap & Barrel
Humphry Slocombe
LV Mar
Milagros
Nighthawk
Pizzeria Cardamomo
Quinto Sol
Sandwich Spot
Sound Union
SF Gelateria
Vino Santo Bistro
Emerald Lake County Club
WL Butler



BOARD & STAFF

RCEF is led by an all-volunteer board of parents and community members supported by a small staff. Thank you to these dedicated individuals who led the organization in the 2024–2025 school year.



Florence Ortiz
Executive Director



Breanna Rivera
Community Impact Intern



Gianina Luna
Bookkeeper



Alana Ballon
RCEF President
Sprout Social



Lilli Milton
RCEF Vice President - Homeless Prenatal Programs



Mimi Turner
RCEF Secretary
Institute for Corporate Productivity



Mike Bolander
RCEF Treasurer
County of San Mateo



Dr. John Baker
RCSD Superintendent



Wei-ting Chen
Stanford University School of Medicine



Katie Cheng
Meta



Laura Chiang-Lind
Stanford University



Rachel Cohen
RCSD Parent



Ann Hynecek
the HELLO Studio



Pati Ortiz Keme
CAPSES



Ben Packer
Recidiviz



Chelsea Vargas
WelbeHealth





REDWOODCITY
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

TAX ID: 94-2903141
PO Box 3046 Redwood City, CA 94064
info@rcef.org

www.rcef.org