AT THE HEART of CHANGE

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020







Building a stronger and more equitable community is at the heart of what RCEF works towards. If we start early and provide children an equitable and engaging education, we are strengthening their future and our community.

"Until we get equality in education, we won't have an equal society."

-JUSTICE SONIA SOTOMAYOR



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"As a product of the Redwood City School District, I have a personal connection to our mission and the desire to make the opportunities I had available to each and every student. My goal for RCEF is to be evermore thoughtful, strategic, and impactful in delivering change for our schools and kids."

- JASON GALISATUS, Executive Director

RCEF BY THE NUMBERS

37
YEARS OF SERVICE

5
BOARD COMMITTEES

17
VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS

\$823,034



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN
JOINING RCEF OR VOLUNTEERING
WITH THE FOUNDATION PLEASE
CONTACT US AT INFO@RCEF.ORG

Dear Communty,

Without a doubt, 2020 has presented Redwood City schools and kids with unprecedented challenges. From coping with a global pandemic and struggling to learn from home, to a long overdue national reckoning on racial justice, our kids are living through times unlike anything we adults have ever experienced.

Yet we have also seen the very best of our community, which is digging deeper than ever to lift up our District families to ensure no child falls through the cracks. Here at the Redwood City Education Foundation (RCEF), we have witnessed a tremendous surge in generosity. Following a shift in our funding model to direct our resources towards underserved District students, the 2019-2020 fiscal year has been our strongest fundraising year to date, which has allowed RCEF to deepen and broaden our impact.

RCEF has a new mission to "improve the academic performance of underserved students."

This transition has been a long time in the making, and the challenges of 2020 have only accelerated and strengthened our commitment to the core principle of equity. What has been made all too clear is that we can no longer leave unaddressed the needs of our vulnerable students.

We knew that emphasizing equity was the right thing to do, and we are fortunate that our community has been with us every step of the way. Very notably, over 62% of RCEF's revenue came from individual donors and corporate donation matching programs in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Community fundraising is the lifeblood of our work, and supporters like you make it all possible.

Of all the changes 2020 has brought, this is one we hope will stick. RCEF, along with our community at large, is committing anew to serving those students with the greatest needs. As we look ahead to an uncertain future, our goal at RCEF is to ensure that our students are surrounded by the resources and support systems they need to be well-prepared for high school and beyond.

We are thrilled to share the results of our work in this annual report.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US ON THIS JOURNEY TO SUPPORT REDWOOD CITY SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS DURING THESE CHALLENGING TIMES.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Ezrin and Jason Galisatus

in collaboration with our amazing board, I am proud of how RCEF was able to alter course at the beginning of the pandemic and help provide much needed assistance to our most at risk students

"Serving the children

and the community

of Redwood City has

been my passion for

the last 6 years. Under

Jason's leadership and

- MARILYN EZRIN, President

and families."

"2020 has been a year of Change - a year where Equity has made it to the forefront of what many of us are trying to achieve. This is one of the many reasons that I enjoy being on the Board of RCEF. We have changed our mission to focus on our students who need support the most in the Community."

- CONNIE GUERRERO

At the Heart of Change

Last summer The Redwood City Education Foundation, (RCEF) engaged in a process to redefine our mission and refocus our goals. RCEF was able to work closely with Venture Leadership Partners to begin creating a theory of change. Along with their leadership, the input of select board members, and pivotal community leaders, RCEF was able to respond to our community's changing needs. As a result, we have made a shift in our thinking and in the way we disperse our resources. Our newly redefined, sharpened mission is

TO INCREASE THE EARLY ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF UNDERSERVED STUDENTS.

While in the long-term we still intend to provide services and increase resources for all schools in Redwood City School District (RCSD), in the short-term we are intentionally shifting our focus to support the schools Garfield, Hoover, and Taft, with the largest percentages of low income students, or students who qualify for free and reduced-price lunch.

RCSD BY THE NUMBERS STUDENTS LANGUAGES SPOKEN **UNIQUE SCHOOLS ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS TEACHERS** FREE-REDUCED LUNCH

Our Plan

As a community-based organization our focus is on providing financial support, targeted advocacy, and meaningful comunity and parent engagement to address systemic inequities and help all students thrive.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT – Invest in tergeted programs that:

- Improve reading and math scores
- Strengthen student engagement and social emotional learning

ADVOCACY – Increase per-pupil funding for all schols in RCSD by:

- Driving and developing coalitions to support policies impacting underserved students
- Monitoring revenue-generating opportunities such as parcel taxes and bond measures

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – Better understand the needs of schools and families; share learning and best practices; and create opportunities for connections between and among families and schools through:

- Listening tours in schools
- Annual town hall sessions

Our Impact

By funneling much-needed resources to under-served schools we will improve learning environments, leading to highly engaged students who have developed critical social-emotional skills and increased their overall academic performance.

We define success through one overarching metric: Reducing the number of RCSD students enrolled in ninth-grade remedial classes

If you would like to join us in supporting schools that are underresourced please visit our website at www.rcef.org. We are excited and encouraged to see the new mission come to life in our community.



SUPPORT















COVID Relief Fund

Making a Difference When it Matters Most

In March of 2020, RCSD's schools closed their physical doors and moved to distance learing in an effort flatten the curve and get COVID-19 under control. At the time our community had no idea how long our lives would be transformed. We did know that there would be long term effects on many of our families – especially the ones that qualify for free and reduced lunches.

As a first step, RCEF launched the COVID-19 Family Relief Fund setting a goal to raise \$250,000 to help our families with essential needs and rent. 100 percent of all funds raised were set to go directly to RCSD families. Within weeks, the community responded and donations surpassed our initial goal eventually reaching \$450,000 in support.

Because of our incredible and supportive community, we were able to help 186 RCSD families stay in their homes and 550 families with gift cards for essesntial needs.

By acting quickly, RCEF was a able to lead our community and other non-profits to make a difference for students and their families in their time of need.

We thank our Redwood City community. In the face of the **COVID-19** outbreak, our community decisively chose compassion over fear.

"The Redwood City Education Foundation's early actions to provide Emergency Rental Assistance for families experiencing loss of income due to COVID19 was critical for our community - resulting in early outreach and promotion to families in need and additional investment from our broader community to address housing and food security in light of the COVID19 Pandemic Crisis."

-TERI CHIN, Human Services Manager, City of Redwood City Fair Oaks Community Center

Funding from RCEF made it possible to provide assistance to 187 unduplicated households at an average of \$1872 per household. Although COVID19 Relief funding was initially only available for up to one month of rent to assure sufficient resource to help all households in need, since July, households are now able to be assisted with multiple months of assistance. As of early October, 73 or 39% of the original households assisted with RCEF funding have returned for additional months of assistance.

Here are a few of their stories:

Dan is a single father whose daughter attends one of the RCSD Elementary Schools. He lost work when the retail business where he works was temporarily closed as a non-essential business due to COVID19. Prior to this, he regularly earned about \$3000/ month, but had no way to pay his rent and was not eligible for unemployment benefits. He was one of the first families assisted with COVID19 Relief Funds from RCEF to get him through the initial weeks of the Stay at Home Order.

Carlos and Susan have three children 9, 7, and 4. Prior to COVID19, they managed to pay their rent of \$2700/month on the \$4200/month that Carlos earned. On March 17th Carlos' workplace closed completely due to COVID19. The family managed to pay all of their April rent with the partial earnings Carlos had in March and their savings, but needed assistance with \$2200 towards their May rent. Carlos was not eligible for unemployment benefits. By July, Carlos had returned to work, but on a very reduced schedule – one week working three days; another week not working any days. Carlos and Susana were assisted a 2nd time with rent for July.

Ana works as a housecleaner and had to stop all of her housecleaning jobs due to COVID19. Although her rent is less than \$1000/month at the mobile home park where she lives with her four children, she only had enough savings to cover her rent for April, so we assisted her with May rent. She later began to return to some of the homes she cleans for, but in late summer, she tested positive for COVID19 and had to stop working. We assisted her a second time for both August and September, not knowing how soon she would recover and be able to return to work.



CAME TOGETHER TO HELP

OF OUR RCSD COMMUNITY

RCSD families RECEIVED EMERGENCY **RENTAL ASSISTANCE**

RECEIVED GIFT CARDS FOR ESSENTIALS

GARFIELD COUNSELING FAST FACTS

hours PROVIDED PER WEEK

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF GARFIELD STUDENTS SERVED IN 2020-2021

> counselor **CONTRACTED THROUGH ONE LIFE COUNSELING**

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED THROUGH

THE DEVELOPMENTAL ASSET PROFILE

Garfield School Counseling Support

Research has shown that 34 million children in the U.S. have experienced at least one form of adversity during their childhood. Childhood adversity can include violence or abuse, living in a household with substance abuse, mental health issues, or instability dut to parent separatoin. ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and associated conditions, such as living in under resourced neighborhoods, frequently moving, and food insecurity can cause prolonged stress that affects a child's attention, decisionmaking, learning and response to stress. While this may seem daunting to overcome, research has also shown hope for children who experience adversity. Timely assessments, intervention and care can help mitigate longer-term consequences of childhood adversity and build a child's resilience.3 RCEF is ready to support our students who are experiencing childhood adversity.

> 61% **OF RCSD STUDENTS**

RECEIVE FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS

34% OF RCSD STUDENTS

ARE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

533 students enrolled in Garfield

"Having an onsite full time counselor allows us to meet the often complex emotional needs of every student, so each can successfully learn and grow."

- LUPE TORRES-KHALIL, Garfield Principal

Meeting Redwood City Students Where They Are

RCSD educators – and their colleagues throughout the U.S. – pay close attention to adversities in their students' lives. With financial support from RCEF, Garfield Elementary School piloted a school counseling program in the 2020-2021 school year. Research confirms that supporting students' social and emotional development can improve students' grades/test scores, their ability to persist when tackling challenging assignments and their belief in themselves as effective learners.

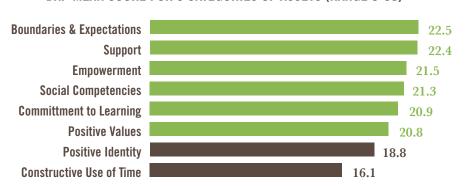
Students in social and emotional learning (SEL) programs have been shown to be more likely to enter and graduate from college, succeed in their careers, have positive family and work relationships, reduced criminal behavior and better mental and physical health.4

The counselor, contracted through One Life Counseling, worked closely with the Garfield teachers and administrators providing therapeutic small group services to students experiencing trauma, stress and anxiety. The counselor also provided one-on-one therapy and work with families, so they can best support their child's mental wellbeing in the home.

Findings - Success to Date

Through the Developmental Asset Profile (DAP), an assessment administered at the beginning and the end of the school year to understand the strengths and supports in student's lives, our counselors observed that the mental health of students has been impacted greatly by the COVID-19 pandemic. The DAP results have made us aware that students are struggeling in two main areas: making constructive use of their time and forming a positive self-identity. Counselor Naomi Varela is focused on improving these developmental assets through her continued work with students.

DAP MEAN SCORE FOR 8 CATEGORIES OF ASSETS (RANGE 0-30)

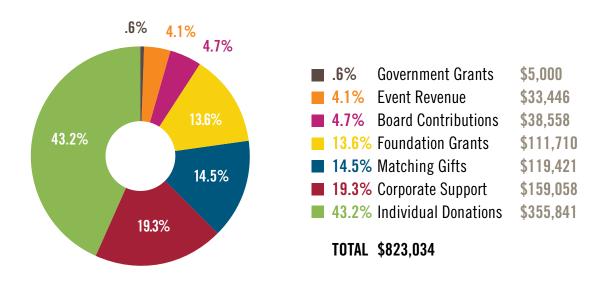




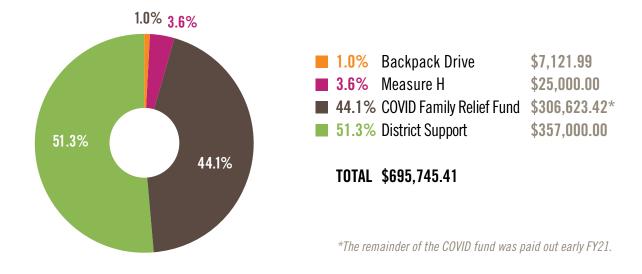
"I came in working at a time where all our students were going through a new transition and have definitely seen some challenges at the beginning of the school year, but it has been absolutely rewarding to see our students smiling and looking forward to our therapy session knowing that they too notice the benefits of counseling."

- NAOMI VARELA. Counselor, One Life Counseling

REVENUES



HOW THE MONEY IS SPENT



DID YOU KNOW?

Over 62% of RCEF's revenue came from individual donors and **corporate donation matching programs last year?** We rely on the support of community members like you to advance our mission. On behalf of Redwood City schools and students, we thank you for your support!

A Community in Action

Thank You Measure H Team!

ADVOCACY

RCEF thanks the Measure H committee, our dedicated group of community volunteers who ran the campaign to approve a school funding measure on the Fall 2019 measure. Even though we came up just a few votes short of the 67% needed to pass, we are proud of our efforts, which earned a mandate from Redwood City voters to prioritize our schools and kids.

RCEF is also deeply grateful to all the incredible volunteers and donors who supported Measure H.



MEASURE H SUPPORT

volunteers

12,000 calls AT 31 PHONE BANKS

9,000 doors knocked **OVER 4 WEEKENDS OF PRECINCT WALKING**

STATE SENATE CANDIDATE'S FORUM



In February, RCEF hosted a forum with the State Senate District 13 candidates to learn more about their plan for public education in California.



During a year of uncertainty, we would like to thank our individual and corporate donors for supporting our Redwood City School District students.

Bhavini Hardev

\$100.000+

Corporate Matching Funds Jay Paul Companys

\$25.000+

Ben Packer Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, LLC Individual Donations through Facebook Oracle Patty & Eff Martin

Yellow Chair Foundation

\$10,000+

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Teachers Association

Roosevelt School PTA

Tamara & Nathan Wall

Samanda Maloa

\$1.000+

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Program - https://casel.org/impact/



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Gilead Sciences

¹ Bethell, CD, Davis, MB, Gombojav, N, Stumbo, S, Powers, K. Issue Brief: Adverse Childhood Experiences Among US Children, Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, October 2017: cahmi.org/projects/adverse-childhood-experiences-aces ² Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL), The Practical Benefits of an SEL

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2019). Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences: Leveraging the Best Available Evidence. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. ⁴ The Aspen Institute (2018). From a Nation at Risk to a Nation at Hope: Recommendations from the

National Commission on Social, Emotional and Academic Development

