



YMCA PROJECT CORNERSTONE
2024 ASSET CHAMPIONS BREAKFAST

MARCH 15, 2024 | 7-9 AM

Santa Clara Convention Center, Mission City Ballroom



Welcome to the 2024 Asset Champions Breakfast!

Since the first celebration in 2003, the Asset Champions Breakfast has brought connection, hope, and inspiration to our community. This morning you'll hear stories of local youth role models, schools, people, and organizations who support, care for, and provide opportunities for youth to become the best versions of themselves.

We are especially excited for this year's event as we mark 25 years of Project Cornerstone – a community movement dedicated to creating caring families, schools, and communities.

Founded in 1999 by the Youth Alliance, today Project Cornerstone is a non-profit organization and community initiative of the YMCA of Silicon Valley. Our mission is to ensure all youth feel valued, respected, and known so they grow into healthy, caring, and responsible adults.

By engaging youth, parents/caring adults, schools, and community organizations, our programs and services empower tens of thousands of youth to stand up against bullying while fostering empathy, inclusion, and a sense of purpose and belonging. Last school year, our partnerships with nearly 180 schools resulted in 4,497 caring adults delivering our school-based programs and lessons to 56,588 youth; 340 4th-8th graders participating in a half-day workshop where they learned the serious consequences of bullying and how to effectively be UPstanders; and 680 adults attending workshops on how to support and create healthy developmental relationships with youth. Perhaps you are one of these people!

We are so grateful you are joining us today as we celebrate Silicon Valley Asset Champions and YMCA Project Cornerstone. We cannot wait to see what the next 25 years will bring!

To learn more about YMCA Project Cornerstone, visit www.projectcornerstone.org.

2023-2024 Project Cornerstone Funders

County of Santa Clara School Linked Services
Kaiser Permanente
Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation
Peter Likhachev Foundation
Sequoia Healthcare District
Sutter Health / Palo Alto Medical Foundation

Program

Opening Performance Mountain View High School Madrigals

Emcees Welcome Maribel Martínez, Adult Emcee
Brian Molina, Youth Emcee

Introduction of Keynote Speaker Jim Hori
President and CEO, YMCA of Silicon Valley

Keynote Speaker Steve Young

Musical Performance Megan Masako Haley and Shannon Haley

25th Anniversary Video Introduced by Ziem Neubert
Executive Director, YMCA Project Cornerstone
Celebrating 25 Years
of Building a Community Movement

2024 Annual Campaign Update Mark Johnsen
Board Chair, YMCA Project Cornerstone

Angela Mai Nguyen
Founder and Creative Director, The Traveling Stem

Awards Presentation Caring Preschool-Elementary School Climate
Adult Role Model
Caring Middle School Climate
Community Values Youth
Positive Cultural Identity
Caring High School Climate
Positive Peer Influence

Lifetime Asset Champion Award Lori Maitiski

UPstander Pledge YMCA Project Cornerstone
Student Leadership Council (SLC)

About the Speakers and Performers

Mountain View High School Madrigals

The Madrigals is an audition choir at Mountain View High School made up of hard working, dedicated, and wonderful students. Their repertoire features a variety of musical styles ranging from Renaissance to contemporary pop songs. Students are in 11th – 12th grade and are selected for their musical talent, positive attitude, hard work ethic, and willingness to embrace our philosophy of Every Voice Counts – where all students are encouraged to take ownership in the pursuit of musical excellence, and to model leadership practices that inspire the vision, encourage the heart, and enable others to achieve group success.

Megan Masako Haley and Shannon Haley

Megan Masako Haley was born and raised in San Jose with her older brother and her younger sister, Shannon. Because her mother was involved with Project Cornerstone, Megan and her siblings grew up with the Developmental Assets from a young age, and she is thrilled to sing at this year's breakfast. Megan's passion for musical theatre started in middle school and led to her becoming an actress in NYC, working on musicals, television, and movies.

Shannon Haley, like her sister Megan, grew up with the Developmental Assets and is honored to be asked to perform at this year's Asset Champions Breakfast. Although she loves musical theater, performing in Children's Musical Theater productions from a young age and then in Archbishop Mitty High School productions, she chose to pursue a career in Physics. She earned her Ph.D. (UC Berkeley, 2022) and is a Senior Scientist with scientific and engineering consulting firm Exponent.

Steve Young Keynote Speaker

Steve Young's fifteen-year career in the NFL was marked by a consistent standard of excellence that came from his own drive for self-improvement, to be a little bit better every day than the day before. Always someone to help others and to celebrate those who did the same, he brought that same ethic to his charitable giving, eventually resulting in the creation of the Forever Young Foundation, which he co-chairs with his wife Barb.

The Forever Young Foundation, a global charity, serves children who are working through emotional, physical, and financial challenges by providing them with academic, athletic, and therapeutic opportunities currently unavailable to them.

Maribel Martínez Adult Emcee

Maribel Martínez (all pronouns) is a Queer Chicana P'urhépecha brainiac, storyteller, and dream warrior. She received her BA in Political Science and Sociology and an MA in Applied Anthropology. She has worked in the public sector addressing issues of health care access, education reform, mental health services, and neighborhood safety and racial equity. She was the founding director of both the Cesar Chavez Community Action Center at San Jose State University and the County of Santa Clara Office of LGBTQ Affairs. She currently co-leads the Division of Equity and Social Justice for the County of Santa Clara. Maribel is also a community artist, whose works have been recognized by local arts nonprofits including the MACLA, School of Arts and Culture, Teatro Vision, and The California Arts Council. She sees her work, whether in the office or out in the community or in the arts, as equity; what healing looks like in public.

Brian Molina Youth Emcee

Brian Molina is currently a senior at Gilroy Early College Academy. This is his second year as a member of the Project Cornerstone Student Leadership Council, where he has helped create activity videos for Asset Building Champions (ABC) lessons and is currently a student representative on the Project Cornerstone Board Committee. In his free time, he loves to workout, try new foods, and play sports with his friends. In the long run, he aspires to pursue an education in neuroengineering.

Mark Johnsen

Mark is the Founder and CEO of Wealth Architects, a leading independent wealth advisory firm based in Silicon Valley. He founded Wealth Architects to redefine a truly wealthy life and help more people align their time, money, and values to build holistic well-being beyond just financial security. Feeling like he won the lottery being adopted at birth, Mark has a passion for democratizing opportunities for youth, so they can have equal access to greater well-being.

Angela Mai Nguyen

Angela is currently pursuing her M.B.A. at Santa Clara University and is the founder of The Traveling Stem, an artisan floral brand based in San Jose, CA. She was named Miss Saigon 2023 of Miss Vietnam California. She enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, and volunteering in the community.

UPstander Pledge

Led by members of Project Cornerstone's Student Leadership Council 2023-24

Kian Colfer Hernandez	Alina Gudeli	Brian Molina	Ryan Verrette
Vani Garg	Vincent Guzman	Ainsley Ng	Austin Yang
Natalie Grabscheid	Irene Hong	Madeline Rusterholtz	

I am an UPstander.
I have the power to influence my peers.
I SAY something or DO something when you need help.
I am **there** for you.
I will help you get the help you need.
You are not alone.
I have your back.

Congratulations to the 2024 Asset Champions Award Nominees

Ali Granbery
Anastacio Barajas
Astrid Sanz
August Boeger Middle School
Barbara Powell-Padilla
Brett Degner
Carolina Pizano
Colton Birss
Diocese of San Jose
Gurkiran Sandhu
Heather Ng
Herbert Hoover Middle School
Ida Jew Academy and Valle
Vista Elementary School
James Kim

Jim Buhisan
Julie Duran
Katie Garlinghouse
Kids Kitchen
Loma Prieta School District
Los Gatos Library
Louise Van Meter
Elementary School
Maricris Morrison
Matt Hill
Maureen McClintock
Mie Breidenbach
Mountain View Los Altos
Challenge Team
Payne Elementary School

Rebecca Nash
Richard Ruiz
Richard Surprenant
Roberto Alvarez
Sakamoto Elementary School
Saratoga Woods
Community Association
Seema Salgaonkar
St. Justin Catholic School
Stefanie Apple
Steve Neese
Stevenson Elementary
Tavvia Harrigan
Teresa Peters

Trace Elementary School
Union Middle School
Village Elementary School
Willow Glen Elementary School
Willow Glen High School
Wilson High School
Yerba Buena High School

Olga Morales Anaya, Girl Scouts
Outlet Adolescent Counseling Services
Robert Topf, Frost Elementary School and Indigo
San Jose Taiko
Veronica Trejo, Moreland Middle School

Positive Peer Influence

Abinaya Sridharan
Adam Malacara, East Valley Family YMCA
Adan Lupercio, Washington Youth Center
Akash Nigam, Kick, Lead and Dream
Almond Elementary School Cornerstone Club
Daniel Katz, Monta Vista High School
Farah Tavana, Van Meter Elementary
Interact 5170 District Council
Jessica Wenzel, Breakthrough Silicon Valley
Johnson Tran, Santa Clara County Youth Task Force
Mario Contreras, East Valley Family YMCA
Matthew Leffler, Baseball Buddies Foundation
Nadia Ghaffari, TeenzTalk
Naireesa Merchant, Fresh Lifelines for Youth
Nicole Pritchard, Mountain View High School
Rock Founders, Gunn High School
Sabrina Ma, Acts of Random Kindness Club
Tony Aguilar, Fresh Lifelines for Youth
Unidos Club of Mountain View
Van Nguyen, Silicon Valley Interscholar Council

Community Values Youth

Bill Wilson Center
Bill Wilson Peer Education Program
CASA of Los Gatos
Children's Musical Theater San Jose
CommUniverCity San Jose
Forget Me Not
The Hub
José Valdés Math Institute
Latino Family Fund de Gilroy
Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation
McKinley/Bonita Neighborhood Association
Milpitas Youth Program Team
San Jose Public Library
Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
SJSU Cesar Chavez Community Action Center
Sunnyvale Challenge Team
TeenForce

Positive Cultural Identity

African American Community Services Agency
Alum Rock Counseling Center
Ana Frias, Anne Darling Elementary School
Annameekee Hesik, Los Gatos High School
Christopher Temblador, San Jose State University
Elena Robles, Folklorico Nacional Mexicano
Fisher Middle School Special Education Team
Jane Babb, Fisher Middle School
Joma Briones, Asian Americans for
Community Involvement
Leticia Tapia, Payne Elementary School
Los Dichos Founding Volunteers at
Easterbrook Discovery School and
Anne Darling Elementary School
Louise Gill, Bret Harte Middle School
Luis Falcon, Downtown College Prep

Spark Award Winners

Dave Thornton
Dr. Barbara Varenhorst
Linda Silvius
Mountain View Los Altos Challenge Team
Ruby Bridges
Town of Los Gatos
Youth Bill of Rights

Lifetime Asset Champions

Anne Ehresman
Kelly Noftz
Linda Silvius
Myrna Pettengill
Pam Von Wiegand
Steve Tate

Previous Asset Champions Awards Winners

Adult Role Model

Harold Atkins, Each One Reach One Program
Helen Donald, Girl Scouts
Jennifer Moyan-Logan, Girl Scouts
John Rose, San Jose Police Department
Lauri Scirigione, Lauri Gray's Dance School
Lisa Jacobs, Almaden Hills, Cambrian Park,
and Willow Glen United Methodist Churches
Lisa Sullivan, Loma Prieta Joint Union School District
Michael Cellini, Montclair Elementary School
Michael Fullbright, Milpitas High School
Mitesh Patel, Fresh Lifelines for Youth
Nancy Kobel, City of Santa Clara Crossing Guard
Raul Peralez, San Jose Police Department
Robert Castro, Mexican American Community
Services Agency
Ron Cooper, Mountain View Police Department
So'o Poumele, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County
Sue Gutierrez, Graystone Elementary School
William Wagner, Good Samaritan United
Methodist Church
Yonit Parenti, Moreland School District

Caring School Climate

Ann Sobrato High School
Aptitud Community Academy at Goss
Bagby Elementary School
Baker Elementary School
Booksin Elementary School
Bret Harte Middle School
Cabrillo Middle School
Calaveras Hills High School

Castillero Middle School
Country Lane Elementary School
Dartmouth Middle School
Don Callejon School
Easterbrook Discovery School
Educational Options (EdOps)
Fisher Middle School
Forest Hill Elementary School
Graham Middle School
Gunderson High School
Leigh High School
Lincoln High School
Live Oak High School
Los Alamitos Elementary School
Los Gatos High School
Lowell Elementary School
L.U.C.H.A. Elementary School
Luther Burbank School
Lynhaven Elementary School
Marshall Lane Elementary School
Moreland Middle School
Mountain View High School
Noddin Elementary School
PA Walsh Elementary School
Price Middle School
Prospect High School
Quimby Oak Middle School
Redwood Middle School
Rucker Elementary School
South County Community School
St. Andrew's Episcopal School
Summit Rainier High School



Thank you to CreaTV for production
of the awardee videos.

YMCA Project Cornerstone Programs and Services

YMCA Project Cornerstone understands that the growth and development of youth is largely influenced by their families and communities, including schools. Our approach is to engage parents, caring adults, school staff, and the broader community with programs and services which foster the acquisition of social and emotional skills, attitudes, and behaviors in youth (Developmental Assets) and the establishment of healthy Developmental Relationships between youth and adults. Our programs and services include the following:

Preschool/Transitional Kindergarten is a bilingual literature-based program that provides students with a set of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) skills and attitudes which promote a strong desire to learn.

ABC is a literature-based program that creates common language and promotes UPstander qualities in youth by building positive relationships, growing empathy, practicing kindness, being inclusive, and developing social and emotional skills while increasing the number of caring adults in the lives of youth.

Los Dichos is a literature-based Spanish-language program that opens new doors for monolingual/bilingual parents to support their children's educational success, instill a sense of positive cultural identity, and connect to other children in the community as another caring adult.

Expect Respect brings together a diverse group of students through a half-day leadership and bullying prevention workshop that emphasizes student voice in developing and implementing action plans to promote a caring school climate.

Middle School SEL Curriculum provides lessons, led by volunteers and/or school staff, which are specifically designed to support middle school students in acquiring the skills and behaviors to manage emotions, social situations and behaviors, and develop responsible decision-making skills.

Middle School Clubs and Programs engage and encourage parents and/or staff to continue purposeful participation with youth on campus in a variety of clubs and activities.

Adult Education includes a variety of single-session workshops and a six-week workshop series which focus on tools to strengthen positive relationships with youth, while inspiring adults to make a stronger commitment to all youth in their lives and community.

Faculty/Staff Training focuses on building positive connections with students, bullying prevention and intervention, and incorporating asset/relationship building into instructional strategies.

Yard Duty/Campus Supervisor Training educates adult volunteers and/or staff on how to promote positive social emotional development and skills during recess.

Consulting is available for any school, district, or community organization on how to engage parents, students, and staff to create and implement asset-building programs and improve school climate.

Thanks to Our Committees and Volunteers

Project Cornerstone Committee of the YMCA of Silicon Valley Board of Directors

Mark Johnsen (Chair), CEO, Wealth Architects, LLC
 Dana Bunnett, Executive Director, Kids in Common
 Marisa Cidre, Vice President of Community Engagement, Girls Scouts of Northern California
 Sarah Clish, Financial Advisor, Ameriprise Financial
 Adam Escoto, School Board Member, Morgan Hill Unified School District; Retired Assistant Superintendent, Ravenswood School District
 Karen Haley, Retired, former Program Administrator, Stanford FSI
 Jaime Koo, Parent Engagement Coordinator – School Climate, Leadership & Instructional Services, Santa Clara County Office of Education
 Gay Krause, Executive Director, Krause Center for Innovation, Foothill College
 Scott Neely, Retired, Managing Partner, Lotus Capital Group
 Jeff Ostrum, Principal, Financial Architects Partners
 Scott Seaman, Law Enforcement Executive Coach; Retired Chief of Police, Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department
 Joey Vaughan, Manager of Community Partnerships & Community Benefits, Stanford Medicine Children's Health
 Leah Verhoeven, Global Human Resources, AMD
 Gaurav Vijayvargiya, Director of Engineering, Samsara

YMCA of Silicon Valley Board of Directors

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David Kennedy	Adam Stein
Gay Krause	Gaurav Vijayvargiya
Michelle Lalljie	Dr. Elizabeth M. Vilardo
Don Lee	Steve Wagstaffe
David Low	Nicole Wright
Katherine Martin	

Event Volunteers

Ana-ilyse Clem	Danny Koba
Denise Cole	Lori Martin
Keith Colfer	Pauline Nguyen
Harpreet Dokal	Rik Nicholson
Adrian Famularcano	Sarah Ogle
Kim Flammer	Laura Peterson
Karen Haley	Sree Sammeta
Anne Hartman	Henry Tran
Ashley Healy	Leah Verhoeven

Interpretation by Miriam King

The Asset Champions award plaques were designed and created by Leah Verhoeven, Rob Verhoeven, and the Project Cornerstone Student Leadership Council.

Asset Champions Breakfast Committee

Leah Verhoeven, Chair	Kavita Mahtaney
Rona Brodrick	Sarah Moore
Karen Haley	Ziem Neubert

Decorations Committee

Maxine Granadino	Betty Verhoeven
Karen Haley	Leah Verhoeven

Nominations Review Panel

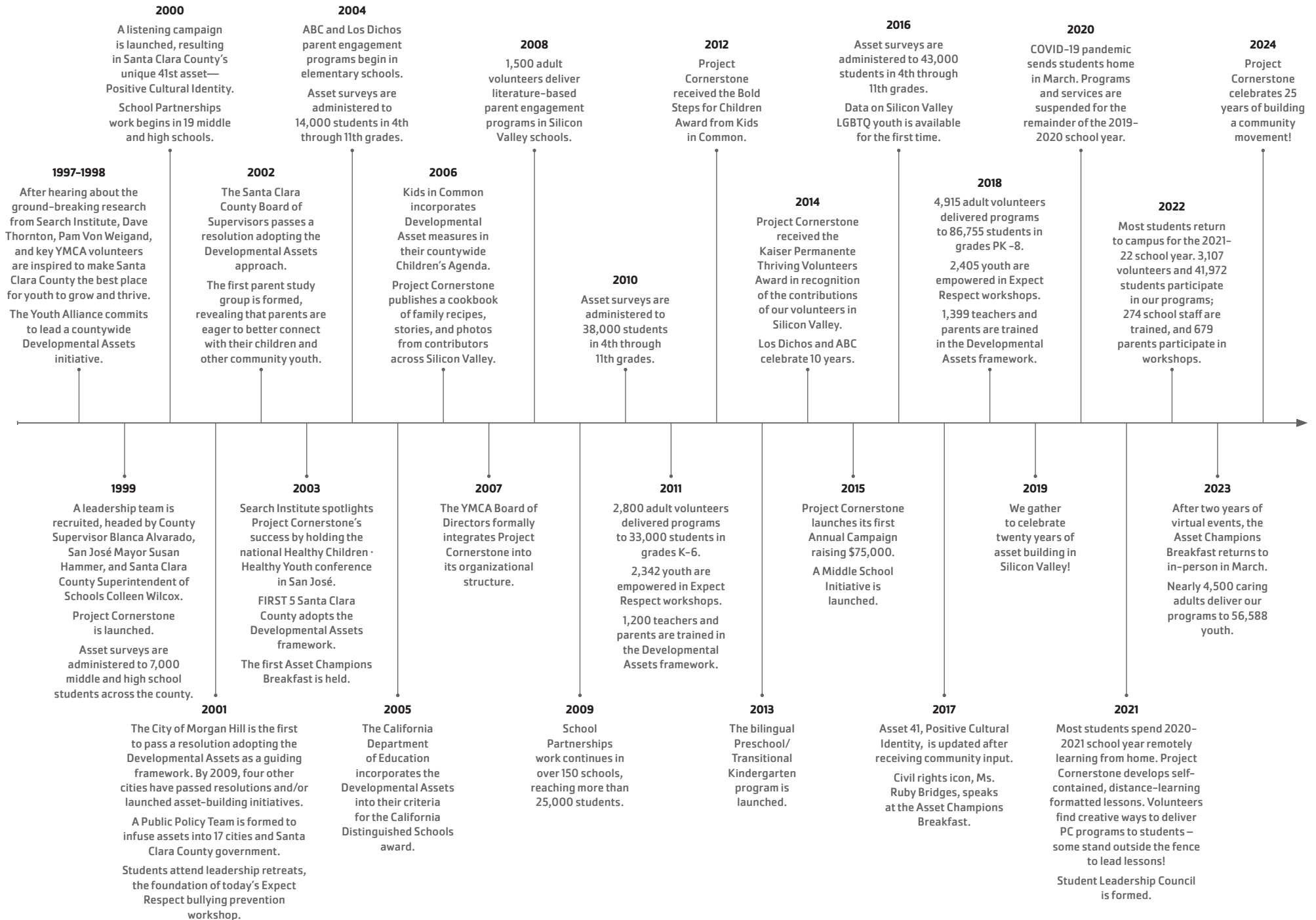
Ghida Allam	Chris Miller
Sarah Clish	Madeline Rusterholtz
Adam Escoto	Jo Seavey-Hulquist
Karen Frederick	Tim Tom
Karen Haley	Leah Verhoeven
Jaime Koo	

YMCA Project Cornerstone Student Leadership Council

Angie Alvarado Cano	Mahika Maini
Pihu Chawra*	Brian Molina*
Kian Colfer Hernandez	Ainsley Ng
Vani Garg	Smaran Rangarajan
Mariam Garnica	Madeline Rusterholtz*
Natalie Grabscheid	Poorna Sairam
Alina Gudeli	Ameena Shafiyeva
Vincent Guzman*	Maria Clara Teixeira
Irene Hong*	Ryan Verrette*
Phanindra Karnati	Austin Yang*
Saisujan Kotakonda	

*Youth Representative on the Project Cornerstone Board Committee

YMCA Project Cornerstone Timeline



Project Cornerstone 2024 Asset Champions

Adult Role Model Ally Bocchieri

Ally Bocchieri, known by the kids as “Mama Bocch, Mrs. B, or Bocch’s Mom,” is a very lucky mother of two wonderful children, Olivia (18) and Alex (17) who have given her the gift of inclusion in their lives, allowing and welcoming her to be involved in their classrooms, sports, and clubs since they were very young. Ally is married to the most amazing husband, Bob, who has selflessly given Ally the flexibility to give of her time to others. She owns a manufacturer’s representative firm called Power10 Sales, where she is VP of Sales, supporting hardware development in the printed circuit board, sheet metal, and connector worlds. Ally is a graduate of Syracuse University as a Policy Studies major and member of the women’s varsity crew team for 4 years. In her “free time”, she loves to run with her dog Murphy and participate in sprint and Olympic distance triathlons. Ally is also an ambassador for Mermaid Series Events and Zoot Sports.



“Ally is one of the most caring people I have ever met. She gives freely of her time volunteering on behalf of the students. Her work has a direct, positive impact on the students at Mountain View High School. I am so lucky to have her as part of the choir family.” – Jill Denny, teacher, Mountain View High School choir

Caring Preschool–Elementary School Climate Sherman Oaks Dual Immersion School (Campbell Union School District)

Sherman Oaks Dual Immersion School serves students in grades TK–8. The school’s positive school climate is evident through a comprehensive Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum and established Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) program. Teaching social emotional skills and promoting positive behavior reflect the school’s goals of nurturing bilingual leaders and critical thinkers who have compassion and respect for others.



All staff members teach the three school expectations and acknowledge students’ positive behaviors throughout the school day. At monthly PBIS assemblies, all classes come together to celebrate students and unlock school-wide rewards.

Sherman Oaks’ families are an essential part of our school culture. Every month, a group of devoted parents volunteer as part of the Los Dichos program. They read a bilingual book to a class and lead students in an engaging activity that highlights an essential cultural or family theme.

Each upper grade class is paired with a lower buddy class and students engage in community-building, multicultural projects, social-emotional activities, and PBIS expectation reviews. These interactions foster a culture of kindness and understanding.

“Sherman Oaks is a second home for my son. Teachers and staff work along with parents to support our kids and provide them with the best education. They go above and beyond to create a loving and safe space for our children. Sherman Oaks is very deserving of this award!” – Yoana Alba Gutierrez, parent

Caring Middle School Climate John Muir Middle School (San Jose Unified School District)

Serving nearly 800 students in the San Jose Unified School District, John Muir Middle School is a caring learning community dedicated to preparing its students for success in high school and in their post-secondary endeavors. Its vision is to prepare today’s students to be thinkers, leaders, and creators for tomorrow.

A dedicated and caring administrative team, school staff, and experienced teachers are devoted to building support structures and creating programs where students feel cared for, respected, and valued. With a beautifully diverse student body from a cross-spectrum of ethnic and economic backgrounds, the administration is committed to restorative justice and deeply value the opportunity to build understanding, connection, and relationships across the entire school community. Together, with an engaged community of families and students, John Muir Middle School is on a mission to unite as one community while elevating opportunities for all of its students.

“Both my boys are at John Muir Middle School and I am impressed by the level of commitment this school has for all students. It is my pleasure to share all I see in their teachers, the after-school activities, and the staff’s willingness to support families. It is the best place for my boys to learn and grow as young adults.” – Kristen Wallace, parent



Caring High School Climate Saratoga High School (Los Gatos–Saratoga Union High School District)

Saratoga High School (SHS) is one of two schools in the Los Gatos–Saratoga Union High School District. Nestled in the picturesque city of Saratoga, California, SHS serves approximately 1,170 students and more than 100 staff members. Established in 1958, SHS is dedicated to cultivating a community of learners who embody excellence, lifelong learning, personal integrity, social responsibility, and overall well-being. With an award-winning music, engineering, and robotics program, SHS has earned a reputation for its rigorous academic setting. Recognizing the importance of fostering social-emotional health, in addition to preparing students for college and career readiness, Saratoga HS students and staff have woven positive mental health support into the fabric of the school community. At the heart of the campus lies Saratoga High School’s Wellness Center, a vibrant hub that offers not only resources and student support services, but also fosters student leaders who encourage students to explore their passions, engage in extracurricular activities, and contribute to the wider community. Offering more than 70 clubs and service organizations each year, Saratoga High School fosters a community where all individuals feel accepted, included, and valued.

“As a member of the Toga community for two years, I’ve witnessed Saratoga High School successfully harness the “village” concept to provide a caring school climate. And, as a Project Cornerstone volunteer for 14 years, it is gratifying to see all eight categories of the Developmental Assets threaded within the structure and culture. From the Wellness Center’s caring staff, peer support groups, and breadth of activities to the school’s administration of Asset Champions, Saratoga High is a supportive community of teachers, staff, parents, and students of various backgrounds and identifications, empowered to make positive change. I appreciate the empathy, authenticity, and acceptance that is Saratoga High School!” – Nedda Ashjaee, parent and VP of Programs, Saratoga High School Parent Teacher Student Organization



Community Values Youth Santa Clara Schools Foundation

The Santa Clara Schools Foundation (SCSF), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is committed to enriching the lives of students, staff, and the wider community within the Santa Clara Unified School District. At the heart of SCSF's mission is recognizing and supporting youth-led community service and championing student-initiated projects with a dual approach. Not only does SCSF provide essential financial support, but it also bridges connections between students and experienced mentors within our community. SCSF's efforts are facilitating a culture of community involvement and learning, empowering students to actively engage and implement solutions for pressing challenges faced by their peers. SCSF plays a pivotal role in nurturing future leaders committed to fostering the common good by ensuring that student-led initiatives receive the necessary resources and mentorship.



"The Santa Clara Schools Foundation truly does so much in opening opportunities for high school students. From my experiences in organizing the Farm to Table Dinner, my mentors created a collaborative environment for me to learn from them, but also use my own creativity to any project. They have made a world of difference in all the initiatives they take on and are helping guide the next generation to success." - Michelle Wu, student, Adrian Wilcox High School

Positive Cultural Identity International Children Assistance Network (ICAN)

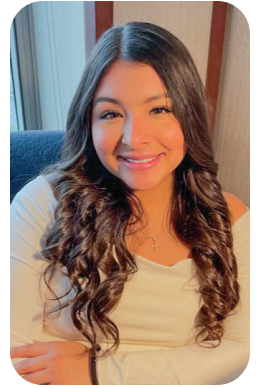
ICAN was founded in 2000 by three Vietnamese refugees: Quyen Vuong, Thay Phap Chon, and Ivy Vuong. ICAN's mission is to engage, inform, and inspire Vietnamese Americans to help raise the next generation of caring leaders through culturally effective social programs, humanitarian aid, and community-based research / health studies. ICAN launched their first programs helping children in Vietnam complete their education so they gain better paying jobs and break out of the poverty cycle. Later, it expanded its programs to serve Vietnamese Americans in the US by addressing the needs for parenting education and promoting community awareness on issues affecting people's lives, especially the challenges of raising children in the two Vietnamese and American cultures. Since then, ICAN has worked to create a bridge across generations so that Vietnamese culture would endure for many more generations.



"In the heart of ICAN, amidst laughter and conversation, I found a second home. Co Quyen's grounded nature influenced my parents and shaped my upbringing. Her patience and empathy not only drive ICAN's culture but also its programs. These teachings guided my parents and, in turn, me. I am a testament to her impactful work and am proud to be part of the ICAN family." - Nancy Ta, youth

Positive Peer Influence Kianna Giselle Garcia

Kianna Giselle Garcia is 19 years old and a sociology major at San Jose State University. Since the age of 7, she has been an active volunteer with homeless organizations. Giselle started off volunteering at a small non-profit organization with her father and that experience persisted into her high school years, where she became a youth advocate and decided to take matters into her own hands. Along with her father, they decided to form their own non-profit organization, Hands That Care Bay Area. Since then, Giselle has been active as a member working hard to help those in need. She shares her passion for community work within the walls of the YMCA's After School Program at Schallenberger Elementary School, where she strives to impact the lives of our youth.



Giselle has always opened her heart to helping those in need, with this characteristic playing a huge role in her everyday life. Her favorite saying is, "Everyone has a story, we are all human beings, and we all have that in common, so we should treat each other as such."

"Giselle's impact on the community is truly commendable. Her efforts in supporting the unhoused and farmworkers is a true reflection of her compassionate spirit. Giselle's talent, care, and role-model demeanor make her an inspiration to many. I am incredibly proud to be part of Giselle's inspiring work since she was in elementary school. She has become a valuable resource and beacon of positivity for our community. ¡Si Se Puede!" - Liz Gonzalez, Executive Director, Youth Development, YMCA of Silicon Valley.

Lifetime Asset Champion

Lori Maitzki first learned of Project Cornerstone in 2002 when she attended a presentation on Developmental Assets at her children's middle school. After participating in the very first "Taking Asset Building Personally" workshop, she then trained to be a workshop facilitator, joined the Project Cornerstone staff in 2004, and became the first Asset Building Champions (ABC) program coordinator in 2005. For more than twenty years, she has led thousands of volunteers to reach hundreds of thousands of youth in the ABC, Preschool/Transitional Kindergarten, and FUNvisor programs. In Lori's words, "I have loved working at Project Cornerstone. Every day brought me a smile because it's been a fulfilling and challenging job that made me feel that I was making a difference in the world. It fills my bucket when I hear from volunteers that they have learned so much from the ABC program and feel better equipped to parent their own children."

2024 UPstander Dedications

David Cabrera, Youth Intervention Services, City of San José
Healthier Kids Foundation

Maria Perez-Cid, Project Hope, City of San José



Caring for our community never stops.

Palo Alto Medical Foundation is proud to partner with YMCA Project Cornerstone.

sutterhealth.org/pamf



Marsh McLennan Agency is proud to support the YMCA and Project Cornerstone.



Marsh McLennan Agency

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Visit www.ymcasv.org/summer or scan the QR code.



Santa Clara County  Office of Education

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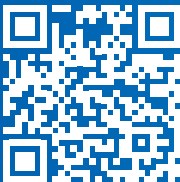


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