



AMPLIFYING YOUTH VOICES

2025 ASSET CHAMPIONS AWARDS BREAKFAST

YMCA PROJECT CORNERSTONE | MARCH 21, 2025





Welcome to the 2025 Asset Champions Awards Breakfast!

Since the first celebration in 2003, the Asset Champions Awards 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.

Founded in 1999, the YMCA of Silicon Valley's Project Cornerstone has been leading a community movement with the mission to create environments where all youth grow up feeling valued, respected, and known.

Project Cornerstone is committed to ensuring that every young person has the support, skills, and relationships needed to thrive. Through a breadth of programs and services, we engage youth, families, schools, and community organizations to create environments that foster healthy social and emotional development, build positive relationships, and ensure safe, supportive spaces.

Using research-proven frameworks from Search Institute and the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), we engage with over 62,000 youth annually, empowering them to stand up against bullying while fostering empathy, inclusion, and a sense of purpose. We also provide adults – parents, guardians, school staff – with effective tools and strategies to build strong, positive relationships with youth.

With a presence in hundreds of Bay Area schools, Project Cornerstone involves over 4,000 dedicated adults who help us reach youth and create lasting, positive change.

Together with our passionate volunteers, engaged families, schools, and communities, Project Cornerstone is transforming the lives of youth and building a future where every young person feels supported, valued, and equipped to reach their fullest potential.

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

2024-25 YMCA 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

Emcees Welcome Maribel Martínez, Adult Emcee
Rishika Jain, Youth Emcee

Introduction to Keynote Speaker & Youth Panel Ziem Nguyen Neubert
Executive Director, YMCA Project Cornerstone

Keynote Speaker Dr. Denise Pope

Youth Panelists Zahra Mottaghian
Madeline Rusterholtz
Austin Yang

Musical Performance Kyle Strenfel
Children's Musical Theater

In Memoriam Karen Haley

2025 Community Campaign Update Mark T. Johnsen
Board Chair, YMCA Project Cornerstone

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

Lifetime Asset Champion Award Mary Hoshiko Haughey
Presented by Jim Hori,
President and CEO, YMCA of Silicon Valley
and Ziem Neubert

UPstander Pledge YMCA Project Cornerstone
Student Leadership Council (SLC)

About the Speakers and Performers

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. Maribel 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 and sees her work, whether in the office or out in the community or in the arts, as equity; what healing looks like in public.

Rishika Jain Youth Emcee

Rishika is a senior at Homestead High School. This is her first year as a member of the Project Cornerstone Student Leadership Council, where she has helped raise awareness about the fentanyl epidemic. In her free time, Rishika loves to paint, try new boba flavors, and play tennis. In the long run, she aspires to pursue an education in computer science.

Denise Pope Keynote Speaker

Denise Pope, Ph.D., is a co-founder and Strategic Advisor at Challenge Success and a Senior Lecturer at the Stanford University Graduate School of Education. She is the author of "Doing School": How We Are Creating a Generation of Stressed Out, Materialistic, and Miseducated Students (Yale University Press, 2001), which was awarded Notable Book in Education by the American School Board Journal, 2001, and co-author of Overloaded and Underprepared: Strategies for Stronger Schools and Healthy, Successful Kids (Jossey-Bass, 2015). Dr. Pope lectures nationally on parenting techniques and pedagogical strategies to increase student health, engagement with learning, and integrity.

Zahra Mottaghian Youth Panelist

Zahra is a freshman at Los Altos High School and member of the Project Cornerstone Student Leadership Council. Passionate about climate change awareness, she aspires to become an environmental lawyer and has started a climate organization to help her neighborhood become more eco-friendly. In her free time, Zahra loves gardening, researching her interests, and, most importantly, reading!

Madeline Rusterholtz Youth Panelist

Madeline Rusterholtz is a junior at Dr. TJ Owens Gilroy Early College Academy. As a Student Leadership Council member for the past three years, she's been involved with Project Cornerstone's Asset Champions Nominations and Board Committees. Outside of school, Madeline loves volleyball, piano, reading, and painting, and aspires to pursue a career in pharmacy or public health.

Austin Yang Youth Panelist

Austin is a junior at Leigh High School and has been involved with Project Cornerstone since his freshman year, most recently creating lesson videos for the ABC curriculum. He plays the trumpet and marimba and combines his passion for music with his passion for serving his community by teaching percussion at his local middle school. Austin plans to become a doctor and continue serving his community.

Kyle Strenfel Children's Musical Theater San Jose (CMT San Jose)

Kyle is a senior at Dr. TJ Owens Gilroy Early College Academy and performer with Children's Musical Theater San Jose. Like today, you can most often find him singing, acting, and dancing, and if he's not doing that, he's studying mathematical formulas and diving deep into current events. He asks you to please sit back, relax, and enjoy the trip to Santa Fe.

In Memoriam Karen Haley

We honor the memory of Karen Haley, a cherished Project Cornerstone volunteer for the Asset Champions Breakfast, Board Committee member, and one of the original parent workshop facilitators. Her dedication to supporting youth, along with her creativity, cheerful perspective, and tireless efforts have left an indelible mark on our community. Karen's legacy will continue to inspire and impact the lives of many.

Lifetime Achievement Award Mary Hoshiko Haughey

From Day Camp Leader to Chief Operating Officer of the YMCA of Silicon Valley, Mary Hoshiko Haughey's 45-year career has been marked by dedication and impact. Her journey began in 1979 when a friend suggested she apply for a position at the East Valley YMCA. Over the years, Mary has held 21 different roles, showcasing the growth potential and diverse opportunities available through the Y. Mary's passionate support of Project Cornerstone has been instrumental in advancing our mission, and we are profoundly grateful for her enduring support and leadership.

UPstander Pledge

Led by members of YMCA Project Cornerstone's Student Leadership Council 2024-25:

Kian Colfer Hernandez

Rishika Jain

Madeline Rusterholtz

Diego Garcia

Riya Mahajan

Vanita Venkatesh

Vani Garg

Zahra Mottaghian

Marisa Wong

Rithik Gupta

Maggie Ng

Austin Yang

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.

2025 Asset Champions Award Nominees

Adrian Wilcox High School	Francisca Garcia	Patty Miyasoto
Almaden Parents Pre-School	Ida Jew Academy and Valle Vista Elementary	Peterson Middle School
Angeliki Pries	Indigo Program	Randall Elementary School PTA
Anna Staszewicz	Jason Fischer	Raquel Villalobos
Anthony Raffetto	Jeannie Wynne	Reed Elementary School
Austin Yang	Jeffrey Spafford	Richard Ruiz
Brian Wheatley	Jen Uyeda-Allen	Sakamoto Elementary School
Brianne Howell	Jutta Gonzalez	Santa Clara Unified School District
Chantal Cotton-Gains	Live Oak High School	Stephanie Ponce
Christopher High School	Los Paseos Elementary School	Stephen Ferrand
Cindy Zelaya	Melissa Flores	Steve Neese
Danny Patton	Memorial Day Rough Out	Sylvia Cassell Elementary School
Ding Ding TV	Michelle Wu	Toby Fisher
Doug Wiersig	Misty Hartung	Tony Costa
Elijah Regosin-Caffery	Nicolas Tinajero	
Envision Your Pathway	Ocala STEAM Academy	
FEMchess		

Previous Asset Champions Award Winners

Adult Role Model

Ally Bocchieri, Community Volunteer
 Harold Atkins, Each One Reach One Program
 Helen Donald, Girl Scouts
 Jennifer Moyon-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
 John Muir Middle 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
 Saratoga High School

Sherman Oaks Dual Immersion School
 South County Community School
 St. Andrew's Episcopal School
 Summit Rainier High School
 Trace Elementary School
 Union Middle School
 Village Elementary School
 Willow Glen Elementary School
 Willow Glen High School
 Wilson High School
 Yerba Buena High School

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
 Santa Clara Schools Foundation
 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
 International Children Assistance Network (ICAN)
 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
 Olga Morales Anaya, Girl Scouts
 Outlet Adolescent Counseling Services
 Robert Topf, Frost Elementary School and Indigo San Jose Taiko
 Veronica Trejo, Moreland Middle School

Youth Role Model

Abinaya Sridharan, Quimby Oak Middle School
 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
 Kianna Giselle Garcia, Hands That Care Bay Area
 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 Interschool Council

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
 Lori Maitski
 Myrna Pettengill
 Pam Von Wiegand
 Steve Tate



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:

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Asset Building Champions (ABC) A 3-year program focusing on empathy, inclusion, and becoming UPstanders. Students learn life skills like managing emotions, conflict resolution, and celebrating differences through specially selected children's books and YMCA Project Cornerstone lesson plans differentiated by grade level for elementary-age students.

Los Dichos A 3-year bilingual (English and Spanish) program centered on positive cultural identity, with activities that celebrate Latino heritage and teach important social skills using specially selected bilingual children's books and YMCA Project Cornerstone lesson plans. Los Dichos provides a unique opportunity for Spanish-speaking parents to engage in their children's education and development.

Expect Respect A leadership program for grades 4-8, focused on empowering students to create an inclusive school community by discussing bullying prevention, empathy, and leadership skills. A YMCA Project Cornerstone staff member leads an interactive 3-hour workshop with 20-30 selected students who represent the school population. Students develop an action plan to implement positive changes at their school with the support of a school advisor.

Preschool A bilingual program (English and Spanish) for 3-year-olds, using carefully selected children's books to teach social-emotional skills and foster a love for literature.

Middle School SEL A 3-year program for grades 6-8, offering modules on topics like stress management, conflict resolution, digital citizenship, and navigating friendships. The curriculum includes slide decks embedded with engaging student activities, a high-interest video clip, and opportunities for peer discussion. A pre-recorded lesson is also available for flexibility in facilitation. Schools determine when the modules are taught (e.g., in homeroom, advisory classes, or during a course such as ELA or PE).

TK/Kindergarten A 2-year bilingual program (English and Spanish) offering books and activities that build cognitive, social, and emotional skills for 4- and 5-year-olds.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Student Leadership Council (SLC) A selected group of high school students volunteer as members of the SLC. Students meet regularly with YMCA Project Cornerstone staff and Board Committee members to provide youth voice and participate in projects to enhance and support YMCA Project Cornerstone's programs and services while gaining leadership skills.

Asset of the Month Toolkit This toolkit highlights 12 Developmental Assets, providing monthly editable posters and handouts. Each handout includes asset descriptions, discussion topics, and activities for engaging youth and is designed for use by schools, after-school programs, community organizations, and families.

Summer Fun During the summer, YMCA Project Cornerstone offers lessons and videos on its website for continued student and family engagement. ABC and Los Dichos lessons include books, daily activities, and family-oriented projects. Middle school lessons feature video content, reflection questions, and a challenge. Conversation starters, focused on a Developmental Asset, provide adults with questions and/or activities to do with youth.

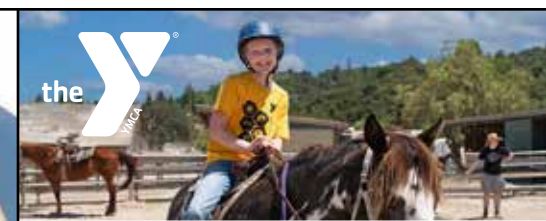
WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Parents and community members can participate in a variety of interactive single-session workshops and a 6-week workshop series called Take It Personally (TIP), 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. Workshops are available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese and can be scheduled in-person or virtually.

SCHOOL STAFF TRAINING

All school staff play a crucial role in building assets and relationships with students and one another. YMCA Project Cornerstone offers targeted training to help staff seize opportunities to learn and grow with their colleagues to create meaningful connections and safe, caring environments. The variety of training topics focuses on building positive connections with students, bullying prevention and intervention, and incorporating asset- and relationship-building into instructional strategies.

To learn how you can partner with us, visit our website at www.projectcornerstone.org or email us at info@projectcornerstone.org.



SUMMER FUN AHEAD!

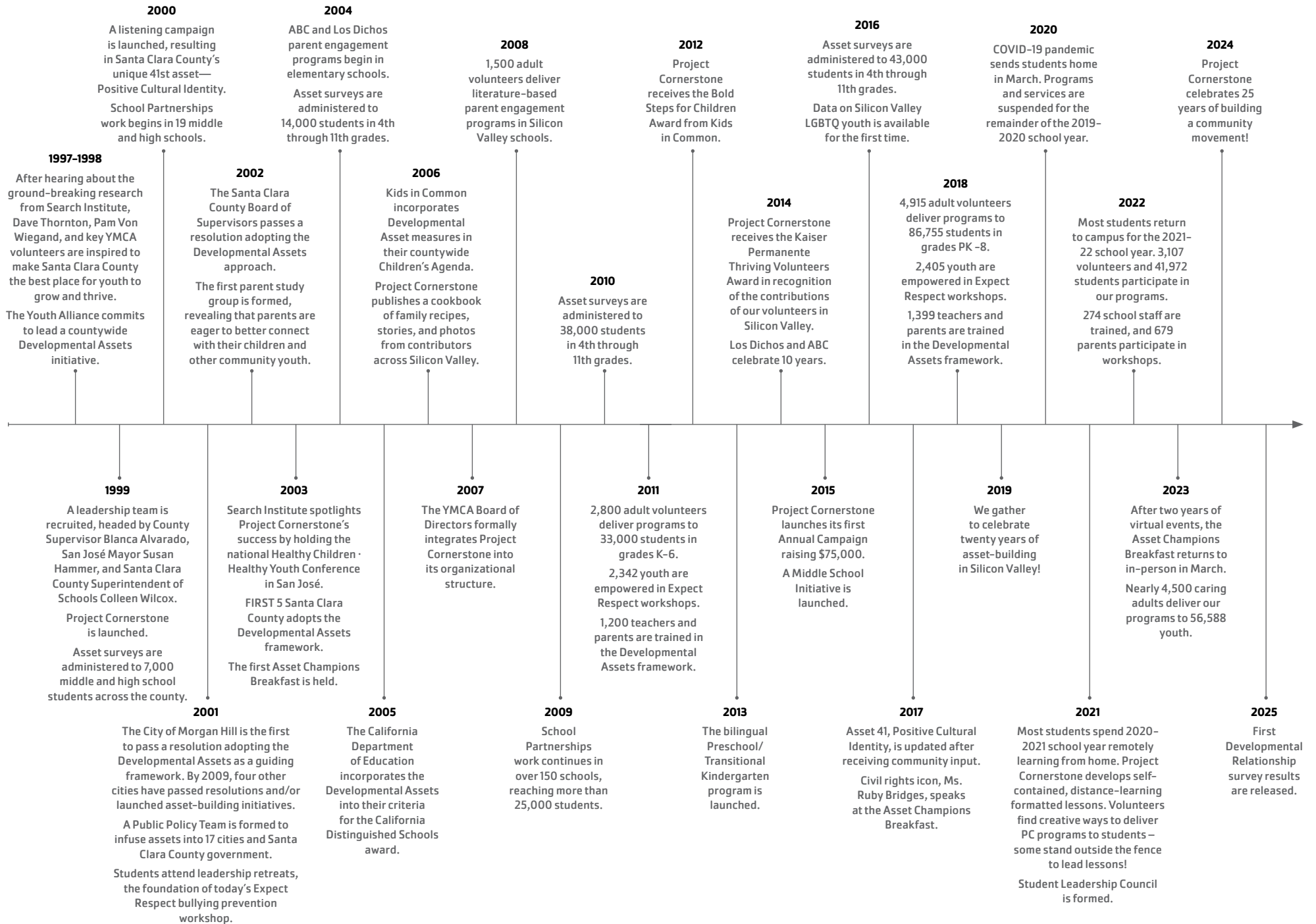
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YMCA OF SILICON VALLEY

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ymcasv.org/summer



YMCA Project Cornerstone Timeline



YMCA Project Cornerstone 2025 Asset Champions

Adult Role Model

Gretchen Yoder-Schrock

Gretchen Yoder-Schrock, an educator at Christopher High School in Gilroy, has consistently held the personal and professional goals of building community through creating relationships, designing memorable common experiences, and teaching her students interpersonal skills to connect with one another. As a Spanish teacher, Gretchen engaged students with music, games, dance, cooking, and interaction. Now serving as the CHS Activities Director, she collaborates with student leaders to organize initiatives that celebrate diversity, including Multicultural Week, a gender-inclusive Homecoming Court, and a Spanish-music dance this spring. She's also been instrumental in founding the Gilroy-Takko Student Exchange Program and participated in international teaching experiences, including a Fulbright Exchange in Mexico City and a USAID program in Ecuador. She and her husband spoke Spanish to their children as they grew up. Gretchen seeks to enrich her students' lives by providing opportunities for community building and by demonstrating that connections with others is what makes life interesting and meaningful.



"One of the aspects that I admire most about Gretchen is her natural ability to encourage students to be leaders. She gives them the confidence to try new things, especially as a Gilroy-Takko Student Exchange leader, as well as when she was a Spanish teacher, and now as the Christopher High School Activities Director. She also reaches out to a diverse group of students at our school and inspires all to give back to our community! She is a natural role model for students and adults alike!" - Emily Diaz, Teacher, Christopher High School

Caring Preschool-Elementary School Climate

Don Callejon Arts and Design School (Santa Clara Unified School District)

Don Callejon Arts and Design School, a TK-8th grade school in the Santa Clara Unified School District, embraces the motto "Cubs C.A.R.E." - Creativity, Accountability, Respect, and Empathy. Students showcase creativity through art and projects addressing real-world issues, like climate change and community-building. Accountability thrives as students and staff hold each other to high standards, rooted in mutual respect. Empathy is fostered daily through activities like morning walks, where students check on one another and form supportive relationships.

This culture is reinforced through community-building initiatives, such as Project Cornerstone's parent-led discussions, Lunch with Loved Ones, and weekly Community Building meetings. These events, along with campus-wide celebrations like Sports Day and Cookie Decorating, strengthen bonds across grade levels and celebrate shared behavior goals. Dedicated staff and parents create a safe, caring, and growth-focused environment where all students thrive.

"From the beginnings of Don Callejon School, the community of teachers, staff, and parents have worked together to create a caring and safe space for students to learn and grow. Through the years my sons have felt supported, included, and loved. It has been a pleasure to be part of a community that fosters a caring school climate at Don Callejon Arts and Design School." - Abigail Andrade, Parent and President of Don Callejon School Community Organization



Caring Middle School Climate

August Boeger Middle School (Mount Pleasant Elementary School District)

Established in 1965, August Boeger Middle School is an AVID and Community School located at the base of the east foothills of San Jose, serving a diverse population of approximately 400 students. The school provides a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities, all designed to prepare students for high school, college, and future careers. The school's Community School supports the whole child's needs by providing family and community engagement opportunities, collaborative leadership and practices, extended learning, and increased and strengthened social-emotional support. Its Wellness Center is staffed with counselors, social workers, and mental health clinicians, while mindfulness practices are integrated into the curriculum through Rise-up groups, workshops, and staff and family sessions. August Boeger's commitment extends beyond the classroom, ensuring that its students grow, achieve, learn, and excel as individuals, scholars, and active community members and leaders.

"At August Boeger, together we rise, united in strength, and resilient through every challenge. We work together to build a community where every voice matters and every dream is possible. As a parent and member of the August Boeger community for 20 years, I have experienced this firsthand with my three kids and have been impressed by the Principal's and staff's unwavering dedication to each student's growth, an exceptional level of commitment that creates an environment where every child can grow and thrive." - Lora Landeros, Parent



Caring High School Climate

Sobrato High School (Morgan Hill Unified School District)

Ann Sobrato High School, established in 2004, serves about 1,500 students from diverse backgrounds, from the southern San Jose area and into San Martin. Sobrato provides a challenging and supportive atmosphere where students can thrive academically, socially, and personally. With a strong emphasis on equity and inclusion, the school prioritizes positive relationships and continuous improvement.

Sobrato offers a wide range of academic opportunities, including an AP program that has received Gold recognition for its 22 AP courses, 6 dual enrollment courses, 26 inclusion courses, and 15 Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways. Leadership opportunities abound through ASB, Agriculture Leadership courses, and an array of co-curricular programs, including over 30 clubs and 22 sports teams.

Sobrato is committed to supporting student success beyond academics. Cal-SOAP has recognized Sobrato for the highest FAFSA/CADAA submission rates in South County for the past 5 years. The school operates an active Wellness Center that promotes social-emotional well-being and also supports our unhoused and foster youth through our CARE team.

"For the past three years, I've been part of the Ann Sobrato High School community and love seeing the great things happening each day. It's comforting to know my child receives support from dedicated teachers, Wellness staff, CARE staff, academic counselors, Freshman Success coaches, and more. Every time I step onto campus, I feel the warmth and care they provide. Knowing my child is supported, respected, valued, and seen each day is truly amazing." - Julie Duran, Parent



Photo Credit: Omar Rahman, Class of 2024

Community Values Youth Canopy

Canopy is an environmental nonprofit dedicated to planting and caring for trees where they're needed most. Beyond tree planting, it empowers communities with the knowledge, skills, and passion for environmental stewardship, fostering a lifelong connection to nature.



Founded in 1996 and expanded to East Palo Alto in 2006 to address tree canopy inequities, Canopy launched the Teen Urban Forester (TUF) program in 2007. This paid internship offers BIPOC high school students opportunities to explore urban forestry and leadership. In addition, Canopy's Community Forestry School trains participants to identify, plant, and care for trees, advocate for urban forests, and inspire change.

Canopy believes trees are vital for equity, health, and sustainability. By amplifying diverse voices and fostering leadership, it works toward a future where everyone benefits from the power of trees.

"Canopy has given me more than just an opportunity to plant trees, it's given me a voice. Through TUF (Teen Urban Foresters), I've gained leadership and public speaking skills, worked with an incredible team, and had a real impact in my community. Canopy values youth by empowering us to lead, strategize, and take action for environmental justice. Their support has made me feel heard, capable, and inspired to create change!" - Paco Aguilar, Canopy Alumni

Positive Cultural Identity Jessica Tejada

Jessica Tejada is a believer in servant and coaching leadership. As the Universal Pre-K Coordinator for the Mount Pleasant Elementary School District, she shares her passion for learning and advocating for others.

Jessica leads the district's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging advisory committee, supporting initiatives and implementing classroom lessons for TK-8th grade students. Through her work with the Ethnic Studies Teacher Residency program in partnership with San Jose State University, she has contributed to curriculum development and standards in Ethnic Studies. She co-wrote and secured the Anti-bias grant from the California Department of Education to combat racism and bias in schools.

As the consortium lead for the Early Educator Teacher Development grant, Jessica helps preschool, TK, and Kindergarten staff pursue college courses, degrees, and permits. She has inspired many team members to advance their professional skills and connected them with funding to support their educational journeys and career goals.

"Jessica is a dedicated leader and advocate for students, families, and staff at Mount Pleasant Elementary School District. With a strong, empathetic approach, she empowers individuals, champions diversity and inclusion, and fosters a culture of belonging. Her leadership in DEIB initiatives, preschool expansion, teacher preparation, and parent engagement demonstrates her commitment to equity and student success. A true asset to MPESD, Jessica is an inspiring educator and leader who drives positive change." - Dr. Elida MacArthur, Superintendent, Mount Pleasant Elementary School District



Youth Role Model Manreet Kaur

Manreet Kaur is 17 years old and a dual enrollment student at Gilroy Early College Academy, where she is majoring in Natural Science. Her lifelong passion for serving others began in her childhood when she began participating in YMCA sports programs and summer camps. The opportunities she found at her local YMCA inspired her to start giving back at 13, when she started volunteering at her YMCA's senior center in Gilroy. Experiencing firsthand how YMCA programs transformed both her life and the lives of thousands in her community, she helped her sister establish the Silicon Valley YMCA's first Youth Board at the Mt. Madonna YMCA in 2022. Now serving as Youth Board Chair, she has proudly led initiatives such as the YMCA's first Youth Ambassador Program, resource drives for the homeless and financially disadvantaged, and youth sports programs that once shaped her own childhood. The YMCA gave her the support and opportunities to thrive, and today, she is dedicated to ensuring that the next generation has access to those same life-changing resources.



"Manreet has been one of my biggest mentors throughout navigating high school and my volunteer experience. She's not only passionate, ambitious, and dedicated, but she is one of the most welcoming, supporting, and kindhearted people you will ever meet in your life. Her incredible drive to dedicate herself to service and uplifting her community inspires everyone around her. It's rare to meet such a genuine, compassionate, and impactful leader as Manreet." - Jaimee Nguyen, Mt. Madonna YMCA Youth Board Community Outreach Manager and Incoming Chair

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 Jill Bourne, City Librarian, San Jose Public Library
 Dana Bunnnett, Co-Executive Director, Kids in Common
 Marisa Cidre, Chief Program and Development Officer, Girl Scouts of Northern California
 Sarah Clish, Financial Advisor, Ameriprise Financial
 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, Managing Partner, Lotus Capital Group (retired)
 Jeff Ostrum, Principal, Financial Architects Partners
 Scott Seaman, Law Enforcement Executive Coach; Retired Chief of Police, Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department
 Dr. Jamal Splane, Principal, Morrill Middle School, Berryessa Union School District
 Joey Vaughan, Manager of Community Partnerships & Community Benefits, Stanford Medicine Children's Health
 Leah Verhoeven, Global Human Resources, AMD

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Event Volunteers

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Kim Flammer	Laura Peterson
Judy Fong	Sree Sammeta
Ashley Healy	Leah Verhoeven

Nominations Review Panel

Rebecca Baelen	Jaime Koo
Amy Bencomo	Chris Miller
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Anisa Chandra	Gene Roehlkepartain
Sarah Clish	Madeline Rusterholtz
Judge Len Edwards (retired)	John Satterlee
Adam Escoto	Jamal Splane
Karen Frederick	Tim Tom
Kianna Giselle Garcia	Leah Verhoeven

Asset Champions Breakfast Committee

Leah Verhoeven – Chair	Julie Griswold Sahota
Amy Bencomo	Kavita Mahtaney
Rona Brodrick	Sarah Moore
Sarah Clish	Ziem Neubert

Decorations Committee

Maxine Granadino	Leah Verhoeven
Julie Griswold Sahota	Rob Verhoeven
Betty Verhoeven	

YMCA Project Cornerstone Student Leadership Council

Angie Alvarado Cano	Riya Mahajan
Fiorella Auqui	Adrita Mitra
Anisa Chandra	Zahra Mottaghian
Andrea Chen	Maggie Ng
Kian Colfer Hernandez	Smaran Rangarajan
Diego Garcia	Madeline Rusterholtz
Vani Garg	Poorna Sairam
Mariam Garnica	Ameena Shafiyeva
Anyu Gupta	Isabel Solis
Rithik Gupta	Apurva Tadimeti
Rishika Jain	Vanita Venkatesh
Braxton Kimura	Marisa Wong
Amy Le	Ryan Wong
Eunice Maciel	Austin Yang

Designed and created by Rob Verhoeven and members of the Project Cornerstone Student Leadership Council.

Interpretation by Miriam King

Kid-sized care for kid-sized people.

Health care designed exclusively for kids



Children's Health

stanfordchildrens.org



Marsh McLennan Agency
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Cornerstone.



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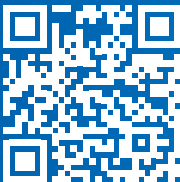


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