



COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
PARTNERSHIPS

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ERICA MOHAN

The pandemic continues and its impact on CEP, our students and families, our staff, our volunteers, and how we deliver our programming is far reaching. Yet, despite the challenging circumstances created by the pandemic, **CEP continues to grow and thrive and deliver individualized academic services, basic needs support (food, clothing, hygiene items, etc.), and referrals to community service agencies.** Indeed, by all measures, CEP had a wonderfully successful 2021. We reached over 150 students with one-on-one tutoring and mentoring online and in-person and another 70 through group programming. We opened a Learning Hub in Richmond to serve Kennedy High School students facing homelessness and housing insecurity and we transitioned our Children's Learning Center to a new, permanent location inside the Family Matters Shelter in Oakland. We also hosted a Learning Hub at the Marriott Hotel in Richmond for families who had been moved there during the pandemic. We helped families as they transitioned from shelters to hotels and motels, as necessitated by the pandemic, and helped them secure laptops, hotspots, food, and clothing. Through socially distanced and Covid-responsible strategies, we distributed thousands of books, learning tools, and maker kits to our students.

2021 also presented significant challenges, most of them stemming from the pandemic. Many CEP staff members, volunteers, families, and partners contracted Covid in 2021. **We needed to frequently adjust our programming and services as shelters and other housing providers transitioned in and out of lockdowns and periods of mandated isolation.** Shifting masking and vaccine mandates and school and business closures presented further challenges. Much of our time in 2021 was spent navigating the challenges presented by the pandemic and 2022 will probably be quite similar.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, foundations, partners, and corporations, as well as new partnerships with the San Lorenzo Unified School District, West Contra Costa Unified School District, and the Oakland Unified School District, CEP had a stronger than anticipated financial year. **Thank you to all who supported our students and our mission in 2021 - none of this would be possible without you!**

I am so proud of the impact CEP is having on our students, their families, and the community, and I hope that you are motivated to join us to further our impact and support our mission.

Sincerely,



Erica Mohan

Founder and Executive Director, CEP

CEP'S STUDENTS

Nearly 250,000^[1] students in California reported experiencing homelessness during the 2019-2020 school year, the unfortunate result of factors such as high rents, job losses, evictions, health crises, or a family separation or divorce.^[2] **This is more than twice the national rate of student homelessness.**^[3] In the Bay Area alone, there are at least 15,000 homeless students. These students are living on the streets, in cars, motels, shelters, or “doubling up” in shared living spaces with friends or family, often cycling through many different living situations during the course of a single year. The coronavirus pandemic has pushed even more families into poverty and out of stable housing.

The profound and disruptive impact of unstable housing on a child’s education calls for intensive, targeted interventions, yet California receives one of the lowest per-pupil levels of federal educational support in the United States, even with its outsized need.^[4] It has become the role of community-based organizations, then, to fill the gaps.

THE NEED FOR SUPPORT

We all know the importance of literacy both for educational attainment and success in life. Yet, the most recent data from the California School Dashboard tell us that districts across Alameda and Contra Costa Counties (the two counties where most of our students live), and in particular those serving primarily low-income students, are failing to improve student literacy. For students facing homelessness and housing insecurity, the literacy rates are even worse, with nearly half of California fourth grade students facing homelessness failing to meet grade level standards for literacy (as compared to 30% of stably housed students).^[5]

Moreover, according to a 2021 report from the The Learning Policy Institute, “Statewide, 48% of all students met or exceeded state standards in English language arts in 2015–16, and 37% did so in mathematics. For students experiencing homelessness, those outcomes were 29% and 19%, respectively. For English learners experiencing homelessness, fewer than 9% met or achieved state standards in mathematics; for students with disabilities experiencing homelessness, this proportion was just 4%. Highly mobile students were significantly less likely than their peers to meet or exceed state standards.” ^[6]

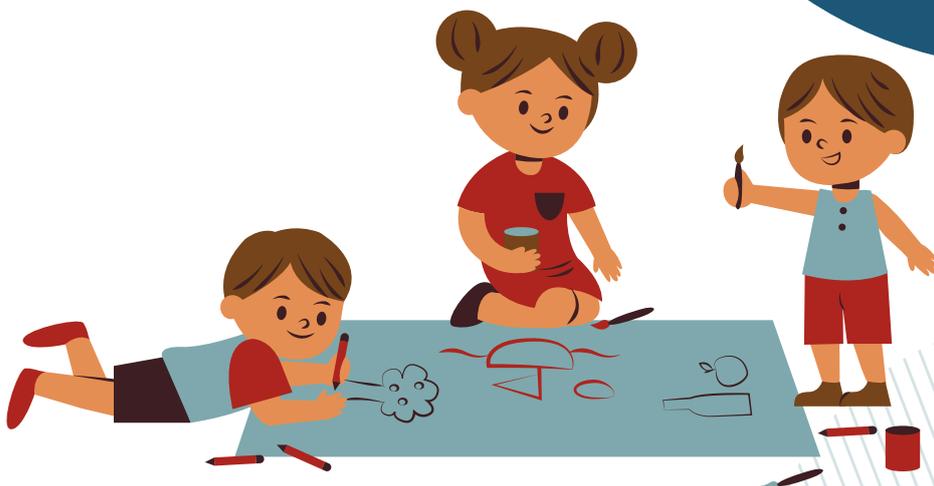


CEP'S RESPONSE

CEP is rising to the challenge to step in where systems have failed, with a mission to increase the learning opportunities and enhance the academic achievement of students facing homelessness and housing insecurity. CEP is an innovative mobile learning resource that meets kids where they are—helping to alleviate the inherent challenges of mobility and transiency. CEP meets its families wherever they can, be it at McDonalds, a library, or at the shelter they live in, and the relationship does not end just because a student moves or transfers to a new school district. The heart of CEP's model is to offer relationship-centered programming that follows students wherever they go. CEP creates long-term, one-to-one mentor-student relationships that foster social and emotional development, improve executive functioning, and ultimately result in stronger academic performance by students.

Since its inception, CEP has provided educational support to over 1,300 children facing homelessness and housing insecurity, and has distributed more than 7,000 books and 1,500 backpacks filled with school supplies to its students.

CEP's approach is holistic. Its programs help families navigate through a challenging system while also nurturing the individual needs of each student.



CEP'S APPROACH

Provide necessary support for academic success

- Weekly one-hour 1:1 sessions with a tutor/mentor
- Group educational and enrichment programs

Connect students to resources

- Backpacks with school supplies distribution
- Personalized book distribution
- Chromebook and WiFi distribution

Ensure that students' basic needs are met

- Partnerships with school districts, shelters, healthcare providers, and libraries
- Food, clothing, gift card, household item, and hygiene kit distribution

CEP'S PROGRAMS

One-on-one Academic Support (In-Person & Virtual)

Children's Learning Center (In-Person & Virtual)

High School Learning Hub (In-Person & Virtual)

Weekly Programs (Currently on hold in some locations due to Covid)

- Homework Club
- Literacy Club
- Summer Reading Club
- Computer Club

Quarterly Programs (Currently on hold in some locations due to Covid)

- Family Reading Nights
- Back to School Nights

CEP'S IMPACT IN 2021

Since the onset of Covid, we have had to adjust all aspects of our program as well as the metrics by which we measure our impact. Consequently, we have also begun evaluating the organization according to our ability to adjust and refocus our services and programs in response to the pandemic and our students' and families' evolving needs. In this, we believe, we have excelled.

In 2021, we more than doubled our group program hours thanks to our Learning Hubs in Richmond and our Children's Learning Center in Oakland. By offering programming five days per week for multiple hours each day, our Hubs and Learning Center provide more consistency, oversight, and academically rigorous support than we had previously been able to offer. These programs kept students in school who otherwise would have not attended virtual schooling. Indeed, for some students, the only time they attended online schooling was at a Hub with the support of CEP staff. For many students, the CEP programs provided the only academic support, enrichment, and socialization opportunities they had during the 2020-2021 school year. Not surprisingly, our Hub and Learning Center students reported a much easier transition back to in-person schooling than many of their peers, as they were more prepared for their schools' safety procedures, social interactions, and academics.

- ***New Contracts/Partners:*** West Contra Costa Unified School District, Bay Area Community Resources, Oakland Unified School District, and San Lorenzo Unified School District
- ***New Learning Hubs:*** Kennedy High School Learning Hub and Richmond Marriott Learning Hub
- ***New One-On-One Tutoring Pairs:*** 60
- ***Number of Students Served in 2021:*** 220
- ***Number of Volunteers in 2021:*** 175
- ***Number of Group Program Hours:*** 1,850
- ***Books Distributed:*** 2,000+
- ***Enrichment Activities and Maker Kits Distributed:*** 250
- ***Ladybug Menstruation Kits Distributed:*** 60
- ***Hotspots Distributed:*** 35
- ***Families That Received Unrestricted Financial Support of \$400:*** 20
- ***Families That Received Any Type of Basic Needs Support:*** 100

My son looks forward to seeing you and your dog all week. For several days after your tutoring session, he's calmer, happier, and much more patient.

- Student's mom

CEP'S CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER

In 2021, our Children's Learning Center (CLC) moved to its new, permanent location inside the Family Matters Shelter in Oakland. The CLC provides a safe and welcoming space for students to read, learn, access tutoring, play games, do art, take piano lessons, and so much more. With distance learning well underway and students attending school online, in early 2021 we began to build out our enrichment programs at the CLC. Students learned about chemistry by building rockets, attended drop-in homework help sessions, received photography lessons from professional photographers, learned about DNA from UC Berkeley students through a hands-on experiment with strawberries, made a mural featuring students' favorite quotes, and so much more! Favorite activities from each season include:

Spring

Spring planting and transplanting quickly turned into tasting cherry tomatoes and searching for caterpillars. The kids learned and taught other kids about how to care for plants and how we can observe them carefully to see what they need.

Summer brought some amazing outdoor, volunteer-led programs. We were so lucky to have professional dancers teach us their moves and mindfulness techniques, and of course, play freeze dance with us! We also had an amazing time making beads, jewelry, and musical beats.

Summer

Fall

When the Oakland Library re-opened, we had an amazing field trip that resulted in new library cards for six families and tons of manga and story books checked out. We supported our students as they cautiously, but excitedly, returned to in-person schooling.

While gatherings in the CLC have been limited due to Covid, we were thrilled to host a Family Reading Night featuring hot chocolate and gingerbread house making! It ended the year on a high note by showcasing the determination, collaboration, and creativity that all of our students embody in their daily lives.

Winter



Spring and summer at the Children's Learning Center were full of gardening fun!

A RENEWED FOCUS ON OUR OLDEST STUDENTS

As reported by SchoolHouse Connection, "the lack of a high school diploma or GED is the number one risk factor for young adult homelessness, increasing the likelihood of homelessness by 346%." [7] We cannot overstate the importance of helping our students attain their high school diploma or GED. While we know that graduating from high school is a multiyear process that begins in early childhood, we also know how much our current high school students need our support, especially in light of pandemic-caused disruptions to their learning.

We were so pleased to open our Learning Hub at Kennedy High School in Richmond in 2021. The Learning Hub survived the challenges of creating a new program during a pandemic and we are now open five days per week during after-school hours. At the Learning Hub, we provide one-on-one tutoring and mentoring, graduation coaching, college application support, career exploration, and connections to community partners. Students also have opportunities to participate in artistic and enrichment activities and are encouraged to plan intentionally for their futures. We are so proud of our students who attend the Hub, who are improving their grades, and who are adapting to the challenging times that we continue to endure today.

IN 2021, CEP OPENED A
LEARNING HUB AT
KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL
TO SUPPORT OUR
STUDENTS ON THEIR PATH
TO GRADUATION.



"The pandemic widened preexisting opportunity and achievement gaps, hitting historically disadvantaged students hardest. In math, students in majority Black schools ended the year with six months of unfinished learning, students in low-income schools with seven. High schoolers have become more likely to drop out of school, and high school seniors, especially those from low-income families, are less likely to go on to postsecondary education." [8]

A YEAR OF GENEROSITY

In 2021, I reached my five year anniversary of being a monthly donor to CEP! I attended CEP's second ever volunteer training eleven years ago and I haven't stopped championing CEP since then. When I moved out of the area and could no longer support CEP in person, I decided to become a monthly donor. I know how important steady donations are to nonprofits and I am so pleased to know that my donations will support some of the Bay Area's most vulnerable students and help provide them with individualized tutoring and mentoring.

-Jessica Rich, Donor

We are so grateful for each and every donation we receive! Here are some of the many ways that the community stepped up and supported our students and our work in 2021.

- \$13,500 donated anonymously for hotspots and to give directly to our families (\$400 each for rent, food, basic needs, prescriptions, etc.)
- Dozens of handmade quilts donated to our families
- A \$25,000 donation match during the 2021 CEP Gala
- Three children under the age of 10 making and selling lemon curd and donating all proceeds to CEP
- The EisnerAmper office in San Francisco donating 100 stuffed backpacks to our students
- Dozens and dozens of donated menstruation kits from the Ladybug Project and Concord Rotary

Our 2021 Gala Sponsors



Holiday Gifts!

Thank you for generously donating holiday gifts to our students in 2021

Oakland Builders' Alliance

Skyline Community Church and
Preschool

The Orinda Preschool

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

2021 was a year of significant growth and capacity building for CEP. We served more students than ever before, added three full-time staff members, and hosted five interns. Growth of this sort would not be possible without the generosity of the individuals, foundations, community partners, and businesses that support our work. Thanks to this generous support, and our fiscal responsibility, CEP is a financially strong and stable organization. We take very seriously our roles as financial stewards of the community's investments and gratefully share this Financial Snapshot of 2021.

INCOME

Donations (32%).....	\$127,957
Grants (24%).....	\$95,383
Annual Fundraiser (17%).....	\$67,803
Community Partnerships and Contracts (27%).....	\$110,073
Other Income (0%).....	\$69
Total.....	\$401,285

EXPENSES

Fundraising (5%).....	\$20,651
General Admin (11%).....	\$39,754
Program (84%).....	\$310,260
Total.....	\$370,665



My student is very special to me, I was tutoring him while I was finishing my degree in elementary studies. He was my "first" student...I want to thank CEP for giving me a platform to give back. It truly was a memorable experience.
- Former Volunteer (who moved away)

Community Education Partnerships' mission is to increase the learning opportunities and enhance the academic achievement of students experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity.

As we approach our work, we acknowledge that:

- Access to safe and appropriate housing and high-quality educational opportunities are fundamental rights that are denied to too many.
- Homelessness and housing instability need not, but too often do, create obstacles to learning and educational access.
- Education is empowering.
- So-called “achievement gaps” are better understood as “opportunity gaps.”
- There is intrinsic value in learning, even if not aimed at academic achievement.
- Everyone can learn if given the opportunity, tools, time, and support to do so.
- All students deserve to be held to high expectations.

Our philosophy of service is based on:

- Respect, humility, and non-judgment.
- The recognition that with our privilege comes the opportunity and responsibility to show up and use our advantages and resources to help our neighbors.
- The belief that all children have a right to be seen, heard, and valued and that showing up for children now can have a life-long impact.
- An acknowledgment that the communities we serve are best able to identify their needs and priorities and that their voices and guidance should direct our planning and decision making.
- The recognition that, through service, we can build meaningful connections between individuals and groups who are often segregated from each other.

References

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