By now, we’ve all heard about how the pandemic erased almost 20 years of academic gains by students across the nation. School closures exacerbated pre-existing educational disparities in low-income communities like East Palo Alto and, without serious interventions, the impacts are likely to be felt for years. For EPATT, these educational setbacks only strengthened our resolve to tackle learning loss with everything we could muster. We launched several strategic initiatives designed to help students regain their footing and are seeing encouraging results.

For example, we partnered with Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School (CCRMS) and East Palo Alto Academy (EPAA) to provide in-school tutoring to their students. In-school tutoring is considered one of the most effective academic interventions available and has been shown to help students accelerate their learning and increase their engagement with school. It’s more specialized and requires us to be especially purposeful in the recruitment and management of our tutoring corps. We’ve significantly expanded our tutor training curriculum to ensure that students have an effective tutor who’s invested in their learning and success.

Another new initiative is directed at students’ physical and emotional health. EPATT coaches now teach PE tennis classes at CCRMS. They’re helping to create a new generation of tennis players and building demand for our after-school program. PE tennis was so popular that even teachers came out to play alongside students. In fact, CCRMS decided to start a tennis team, its first in 20 years. This spring, the team placed third in the Art David Middle School League!

In 2023, EPATT will celebrate 35 years of changing the trajectory of thousands of local youth. When EPATT founder Jeff Arons started the program back in 1988, Ravenswood administrators told him, “You better not come in here with any big ideas and then leave when you find it too challenging.” EPATT’s staying power and ability to innovate is a testament to our uncommon commitment to the community.

Wishing you good health,

Dave Higaki
A single goal unites our team of staff, parents, and tutors: producing high school graduates who are college and career ready.

Our Mission
To change the life trajectory of local youth and their families through academic support, one-on-one tutoring, parent empowerment, and fitness/tennis instruction.

Our Vision
EPATT bridges the opportunity gap for under-resourced K-12 students. We strive to ensure that our participants are prepared for success in college, careers, and in life.
Our comprehensive program has been carefully designed to help each of our students achieve their full potential and maximize their opportunities.

Targeted Academic Intervention
We create personalized, detailed learning plans, teaming up with teachers and tutors to closely monitor every student’s progress toward individual goals.

Partnership with Parents
We place a high value on parent engagement, offering frequent, in-depth workshops that help parents play a proactive role in their child’s education. Parents who are well-informed advocates are our most important partners.

Life Lessons through Tennis
Tennis gives our students the opportunity to have fun while learning life skills and gaining physical fitness. Our tennis program is proudly run by alumni who are giving back to the community and coaching the next generation.
"EPATT has been instrumental in my academic career and character growth. My coaches and tutors always emphasized putting my full effort into achieving my goals. I carried this life lesson with me to UCLA and it is the mentality that got me to this point in my life."
- Alex, EPATT ‘20

"EPATT helped me achieve my goal of being the first in my family to attend college. EPATT also led me to my career path by exposing me to a variety of opportunities that otherwise wouldn’t have been available to me. Today, I am at De Anza College, double majoring in mechanical and computer engineering."
- Arlyne, EPATT ‘21

"EPATT taught me discipline, responsibility, and how to take charge of my learning. Now that I’m part of the staff, I have the opportunity to teach these values to the students I work with, in the community where I grew up."
- Xochilth, EPATT ‘21
Meet Christina, Dave, and Kesha, who have each devoted 25 years to helping local youth at EPATT—an extraordinary 75 years of experience benefiting our students and families. Their longevity and commitment speaks to our strength and effectiveness as an organization.
Dave Higaki
When I look back on 25 years, perhaps my greatest satisfaction comes from reflecting on the shared values, beliefs, and respect that binds us together at EPATT. Our organizational culture, shaped by every member of the staff, past and present, is truly our secret sauce. Our ability to work cohesively as a team for the common good is what really stands out to me.

Kesha Weekes
I am deeply proud of so many of our achievements. One of our most significant accomplishments is how we implemented college and career readiness without a playbook. We’ve designed and executed an original formula for college and career readiness that places parents/guardians in the driver’s seat and empowers students to take ownership of their own learning.

Christina Erwin
I’ve had the privilege of advocating for families for two generations. I’ve watched as each generation steps further into being informed and intentional about what it means to represent themselves, their families, their cultures, and the East Palo Alto community in a positive and meaningful way. The legacy of our family engagement program and its emphasis on education and advocacy makes EPATT especially impactful and unique.
New Initiatives

- Contracted with Ravenswood City School District and East Palo Alto Academy to provide in-school tutoring
- Implemented an innovative, new tutor training curriculum
- Introduced PE tennis classes at Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School and revived their tennis team
- Created our Summer Academy for Leadership and Learning

2021-22 Financials
September 1 to August 31

TOTAL EXPENSES: $1,521,313

- 80% Program Delivery
- 12.5% Administrative
- 7.5% Fundraising

TOTAL REVENUE: $1,590,641

- 60% Individual Gifts
- 27.5% Grants
- 12.5% Events
Help change the trajectory of local youth

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By credit card at epatt.org/donate
By check (payable to EPATT).
Mail to:
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Palo Alto, CA 94306

Get Involved
Are you interested in tutoring or being a volunteer tennis coach?
To learn more about these opportunities or to apply, visit epatt.org/get-involved.
Questions? Please email contact@epatt.org.

Double your Impact
Many companies will match donations or volunteer hours contributed by their employees.
Our tax ID number is 26-3316879.
We are grateful to these funders for their financial support.

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