



Grail Family Services

Empowering San Jose Families

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Dear GFS Friends,

Each year at this time, we take a moment to thank those who have supported our work and the community we serve, and to reflect on what we've accomplished during the year. On behalf of GFS, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our funders, volunteers, donors, partners and the community-at-large who have helped us to significantly expand our reach and impact. This year has been particularly challenging for our families. We are grateful for your support as we continue to serve them. We could not do our work without you!

At our annual event in May, we announced the launch of 3 significant projects. I'm happy to report what we have accomplished so far:

1. Working with Dr. Graciela Borsato, Director of the DREME (Development and Research in Early Math Education) Network at Stanford University, we have incorporated **Early Math** into our State-funded Preschool and Yes We Can...Read!™ Programs. Current research shows that early math skills are as much a predictor of later academic success as early literacy. We are preparing to launch an Early Math Initiative for East San Jose.
2. We continue to strengthen and expand our partnerships within the community. We are working with the Si Se Puede Collective to complete a Strategic Plan. We are also actively involved in the Alum Rock Prenatal - 3rd Grade Early Learning Initiative, which also includes ARUSD, FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, Kidango, SOMOS Mayfair, and the Santa Clara County Office of Education.
3. We completed an assessment of scaling our BBP Professional Development program in partnership with Stanford's Alumni Consulting Team (ACT) which will help us determine next steps for expansion. In the meantime, we are in the process of training 85 TK-3rd grade teachers from 3 school districts through a grant from the Heising-Simons Foundation. So far we have trained 25 teachers and we have 3 more trainings scheduled for early 2018.

I am excited about the many opportunities that lie ahead. As we grow, your financial support is critical. Please consider making a donation in support of GFS. You can do so through our website, www.gfsfamilyservices.org, or through the mail.

We wish you and your family a holiday season filled with love and happiness.

With gratitude,

Veronica P. Goei, Executive Director

GFS - 2017 in Pictures



November, 2017



Thank you Supporters!

- Alum Rock Union Elementary School District (ARUSD)
 - Bella Vista Foundation
 - California Dept. of Education
 - Castellano Family Foundation
 - City of San Jose
 - FIRST 5 Santa Clara County
 - Heising-Simons Foundation
 - Leo M. Shortino Family Foundation
 - Manufacturers Bank
 - Morgan Family Foundation
 - Santa Clara County Dept. of Mental Health
 - Santa Clara County School Linked Services
 - Santa Clara County Social Services Agency
 - Severns Family Foundation
 - Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF)
 - Sobrato Family Foundation
 - Sunlight Giving Foundation
- (partial list)*

SAVE THE DATE

April 12, 2018
GFS Annual Luncheon

Please follow us!

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Highlights of Our Impact

Our programs focus on giving young children a strong start and providing their parents with knowledge and tools to support them. Here are some results we achieved this year:

1. Our State-funded Preschool finished its first year at full capacity, 48 students, and we are already at full capacity this year, with a wait list.
2. Parent engagement is essential to our preschool program. We're happy to report that in our first year we had a parent engagement rate of 90%. Last year parents contributed an impressive 867 volunteer hours! Thank you, parents!
3. Families in our Hablemos Juntos oral language program increased 23% in the number of words adults spoke to their children, 26% in conversational turns, and 16% in child vocalization, as measured by pre- and post-assessments using the LENA™ analysis software tool.
4. 89% of teachers participating in our Family Engagement Professional Development Program indicated they had learned tools and strategies they could immediately apply to promote family engagement. 100% left the training with a personalized Family Engagement Plan.



GFS Selected for Sobrato Impact Lab



At Grail Family Services, evaluation and continuous improvement are key components of every program. That's why we are so excited to have been selected by the Sobrato Family Foundation to participate in their Impact Lab, an intense 18-month program designed to help nonprofit organizations better measure, analyze and communicate their impact. As one of only 9 organizations selected from a pool of 39, GFS will attend in-person collaborative learning sessions, receive nearly 100 hours of customized, one-on-one expert coaching; and develop specific plans for harnessing evaluation data and implementing new learning systems across the organization. We are so thankful to the Sobrato Family Foundation for this opportunity!

Create a Reader, Change a Life! Become a Reading Mentor

Reading Mentor volunteers for our comprehensive early literacy program Yes We Can...Read!™ (YWCR) come from all walks of life – community members, corporate professionals, real estate agents, business owners, consultants, retirees and college students. What they have in common is a strong desire to give young children a boost in their early literacy development. Sandra Rasmussen, a Management Consultant, has been a Reading Mentor for 4 years. "It's my favorite day of the week!" she says.



For just an hour a week, you too can make a difference in a child's life. Watch our new YWCR video on our website, and contact us at info@gfsfamilyservices.org to volunteer. You can also support us by making a donation via the DONATE tab on our website.