

Grail Family Services

Empowering San Jose Families

GFS Board of Directors

Sandra Rasmussen, President
Zulma Maciel, Vice President
Melanie Espino, Secretary
Elizabeth Luna, Treasurer
Graciela Borsato, Ph.D.
Kim Guptill
Marcelo Iwasaki
Aditya Nagarajan
Duanne Welsch
DJ Wheeler

GFS Staff Members

Veronica Goei
Executive Director
Nereyda Hurtado, Ph.D.
Associate Director
Liliana Amaro
Operations Director
Yadira Grajeda
Director of Programs
Leslie Flowers
Development/Communications
Anarita Reyes
Preschool Programs Manager
Juana Castillo
PS Site Supervisor—San Antonio
Preschool Staff
Maria Ornelas, Lead
Carmen Lopez-Alfaro, Lead
Silvia Beltran
Charissa Duran
Jonathan Guzman Hernandez
Priscilla Martinez
Alma Ruiz
Sylvia Solis
Rosa Lopez
Early Care and Education Manager
Ariadna Gallardo
Family Engagement Manager
Cristal Ruiz
Parent Services Coordinator
Carmen Aguila
Family Literacy Coordinator
Nora Guerra
Professional Dev. Manager
Martha Frias
Child Enrichment Teacher
GFS Community Workers
Brenda Arenas, Navigator
Irma Contreras, Promotora
Gabriela Zamora, Promotora

Dear Friends,

Like many of you, I was hoping that by now we would have put the pandemic behind us and be able to go back to “normal.” But normal is a relative term. For many of our families, pre-pandemic normal meant not having access to opportunities and resources. It meant years of enduring the impact of systemic racism and inequities. It meant being overlooked and under-served. This is a normal that we do not want to return to, and that GFS is committed to changing.

During the pandemic we focused on meeting the immediate needs of the families in our community. We are now shifting our focus to their recovery. We have launched local implementation of two national initiatives and one statewide initiative that support economic recovery and family empowerment. We have redesigned our BBP App and will officially relaunch it early in 2022. We are working to lift the voices of parents of young children. We proudly saw many of them testify at meetings of the City Council and the County Board of Supervisors. This is the new normal for Grail Family Services – an innovative, results-oriented service provider committed to partnering with parents to co-create solutions that benefit their children’s future and their community.

We are extremely grateful for the support we received this year. We ask that you continue to support us as we work to create a more equitable, inclusive “normal” for our families with young children.

Wishing you and your family safe, healthy, and happy holidays.



Veronica Goei
 Executive Director

DONATE NOW THROUGH Network for Good
www.gfsfamilyservices.org

Economic Recovery Initiative Launched

GFS is providing business development training and other support to home childcare providers as a pathway to their economic recovery through Jobs to Grow, local implementation of a 3-year national Mobility LABs initiative. Our first cohort of 23 childcare entrepreneurs has completed workshops in digital literacy/computer skills, business skills, and child development.

Jobs to Grow is a collaborative initiative with our Si Se Puede Collective partners – Amigos de Guadalupe, School of Arts & Culture, SOMOS Mayfair and Veggielution.

Mobility LABs is focused on strengthening community leadership and economic mobility by promoting economic well-being, neighborhood belonging, and collective agency. East San Jose is one of only nine communities in the nation selected to implement the initiative, which is funded by the Robin Hood Foundation and Tipping Point.



Thank You, Supporters!

- Adobe Foundation
- Applied Materials
- ARUSD
- Ames Contractor Council
- Bella Vista Foundation
- California Dept. of Education
- Castellano Family Foundation
- Cisco Foundation
- City of San Jose
- Comcast
- East Side Adult Education
- FIRST 5 Santa Clara County
- Health Trust
- Heising-Simons Foundation
- Kaiser Permanente
- Leo M. Shortino Family Fdn.
- Manufacturers Bank
- Morgan Family Foundation
- Robin Hood Foundation
- Santa Clara County Social Services Agency
- Santa Clara County SLS
- Santa Clara Family Health Plan
- Severns Family Foundation
- Shortino Family Foundation
- Silicon Valley Community Fdn
- S.H. Cowell Foundation
- Sobrato Family Foundation
- Sunlight Giving
- The Grail

(partial list)

Please follow us!

-  /GrailFamilyServices
-  @GrailFS

Grail Family Services
2003 E. San Antonio Street
San Jose, CA 95116
408.347.7892
www.gfsfamilyservices.org

Highlights of Our Impact - 2021

- We held a ribbon cutting to officially open our second State-funded Preschool, located on Story Road. We now can offer 96 East San Jose families affordable access to a high-quality early education for their 3- and 4-year-olds. This helps to address a critical gap in the availability of quality early care and education in San Jose.
- In partnership with the DREME Network at Stanford University, we launched a Family Math initiative designed to strengthen the home-school connection around early math. This national initiative includes a Family Math Teacher Training and an updated Family Math Kit™ with early math activities for families to do at home. The initiative is funded by the Heising-Simons Foundation.
- We were selected for local implementation of a national Mobility LABs project in partnership with the SSPC. Through this initiative, GFS is building the capacity of home childcare entrepreneurs to provide high-quality childcare and successfully operate their business. Veggielution is building the capacity of food entrepreneurs. The project aims to strengthen participants’ sense of agency and belonging and will also provide them with access to other services and resources through the SSPC. This project is focused on contributing to our community’s post-COVID economic recovery and will also address a critical need for childcare in our community.
- We were selected by the Heising-Simons Foundation for a new state-wide initiative *Families Lead California*, which is focused on amplifying parent voices, increasing equity, and supporting parents as leaders. GFS is leading this project in partnership with SSPC.
- In partnership with Comcast we are now able to offer community members free access to the internet with the opening of a Comcast Lift Zone at our Family Resource Center.
- We celebrated 21 years of serving East San Jose families and young children.



Redesigned BBP App to Launch in Early 2022



Five years ago, GFS created the Building Blocks of Parenting™ (BBP) App to provide our families with equitable access to information, strategies, and resources to support their children’s healthy development and learning. As with all of our programs, we engaged – and continue to engage – families for their feedback and input to ensure we are providing a quality product that meets their needs. Based on our families’ feedback, we have made significant enhancements since our initial design. We are excited to announce that we will be re-launching our newly redesigned BBP App early next year. The new design is more child-centered, easier to navigate, and includes an App-Wizard to tailor the user experience. The BBP App was developed with the support of the SH Cowell Foundation, the Heising-Simons Foundation, FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, the Morgan Family Foundation, Santa Clara Family Health Plan, and the Castellano Family Foundation.