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Santa Clara County Children's Summit

April 24, 2025



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Children's Health

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Today's Agenda

Welcome

Damaris Gonzalez, Gilroy High School
Aesha Sandoval, South County Youth Task Force
Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Kids in Common Board of Directors

Social Emotional Wellbeing Initiative Workgroup Presentations Part 1

Addressing Basic Needs

Belen Reyes, San Jose Conservation Corps and Charter School
Jenny Dang, Second Harvest Silicon Valley

Family and Community Education

Jocelyn Arenas, alumnus Youth Liberation Movement
Viviana Arenas, alumnus Youth Liberation Movement

Hope and Connection - The Foundation of Youth Success

Jenny Nagaoka -Deputy Director UChicago Consortium on Youth Research

Social Emotional Wellbeing Initiative Workgroup Presentations Part 2

Cultivating Caring Communities - In Play

Elizabeth Alvarez, Healthier Kids Foundation
Mayra Mejia, County of Santa Clara Neighborhood Services Unit
Rod Hsiao, InPlay

Greetings at Every Door

Aesha Sandoval, South County Youth Task Force
Linda Lenoir, Health Advocate
Grisel Meza, California Young World

Workshops

Love to Learn

Isabelle Hau (West Gallery), Stanford Accelerator for Learning

Empowering Youth leaders and Educators to turn Student Disengagement into Drive

Rebecca Winthrop (Campbell Gallery), Director of the Center for Universal Education at Brookings

The Sacramento Political and Policy Landscape Around Equitable Supports for Kids

Ted Lempert (Ballroom), President Children Now

Lunch (30 minutes)

Isabelle Hau and Rebecca Winthrop will be available to sign copies of their books during lunch.

Bold Steps for Children Award

Santa Clara County Nature and Health Initiative

Changemaker for Children Award

Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, former Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools

A Conversation about Hope, Connection, Families and Students

Keri Rodrigues, National Parents Union
Rebecca Winthrop, Director at the Center for Universal Education at Brookings

Building Hope and Connection for Our Students Facing Big Challenges

Facilitator:

Joy Murrieta, Kids in Common

Panelists:

Maria Daane, Parents Helping Parents
Sera Fernando, County of Santa Clara, Office of LGBTQ Affairs
Veronica Goei, Grail Family Services

Closing

Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Judge Len Edwards
Co-chairs, Santa Clara County Children's Agenda Network



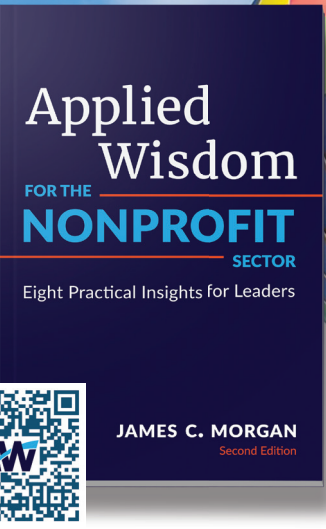
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At Healthier Kids Foundation, we believe that every child deserves equitable access to quality healthcare.

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PROGRAMS	Screenings VisionFirst HearingFirst DentalFirst My HealthFirst	Care Navigation AppointmentFirst CommunityFirst COPE	Education 10 Steps SmileFirst
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1 in 3

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Workshop Descriptions

The Sacramento Political and Policy Landscape Around Equitable Supports for Kids

Children Now President Ted Lempert, who is also a former California Assembly member and San Mateo County Supervisor, will provide his perspective on how kids are faring in the state's policy and budget landscape, including the impact of federal actions. He will highlight the data from the 2025 California County Scorecard of Children's Well-being, and discuss recommendations from the 2025 California Pro-Kid Agenda that are needed at the state level to advance children's health, education and economic security. He will also share how we can ensure that children are the top priority in Sacramento by working together through the Children's Movement of California.

Presenter: Ted Lempert, President, Children Now

Location: East Gallery (Ballroom)

Love to Learn

Explore how relational intelligence—the ability to understand, nurture, and respond to human connections—can transform learning. This interactive workshop delves into the science of relationships in early education, showing how love, care, and connection fuel brain development, resilience, and lifelong growth. Participants will gain practical strategies to create nurturing environments that foster emotional well-being, empathy, and unlock every learner's fullest potential.

Presenter: Isabelle Hau, Stanford Accelerator for Learning

Location: West Gallery

Empowering Youth leaders and Educators to turn Student Disengagement into Drive

Join Rebecca Winthrop for a critical discussion on the student disengagement crisis in U.S. schools. Explore how young people navigate academic pressures and social challenges in middle and high school and discover effective strategies for youth workers and educators to identify, support, and re-engage disengaged students. This session will provide a practical framework to help professionals build stronger connections with youth, foster motivation, and reignite their love for learning.

Presenter: Rebecca Winthrop, Director at the Center for Universal Education at Brookings

Location: Campbell Gallery



Community Agreement

Kids in Common is committed to creating a safe and vibrant community, focused on compassion, curiosity, action, respect, inclusion, and joy. We offer this Community Agreement as a compact for today's meeting to ensure everyone feels empowered and safe to participate fully.

Expectations for today's gathering:

- Be kind and respectful of one another, even when there's disagreement;
- Approach discussions constructively and with curiosity;
- Avoid personal and disparaging language;
- Actively listen and try to account for full context;
- Recognize and observe others' personal boundaries, physical or otherwise;
- Be open to hearing how your words and actions affect others; and
- While we all make mistakes, be willing to right wrongs and learn from them.



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2025 Changemaker for Children Award

Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.

Dr. Mary Ann Dewan came to the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) in 2013 serving first as chief schools officer, and then from 2018-2024 as county superintendent of schools. From the beginning, our county's children, youth, and families have benefited from her collaborative leadership, generous spirit, and problem-solving skills. With a commitment to equity, kindness, and the success of all students, Dr. Dewan has worked tirelessly to serve, inspire, and promote student and public school success. Here are some of her accomplishments:

- Ensured the County Board of Education had a student board member representing the court and community schools.
- Implemented youth civic engagement for our students at the court schools. A James Ranch student was the first student in a California court school to earn the State Seal of Civic Engagement on their diploma.
- Led efforts to ensure student and youth voice was at the center of change efforts in the county. This included the Student Wellness Advisory Group, a county-wide group of young people advising on policies for mental and behavioral health.
- Rolled out a campaign to destigmatize mental health called HeckaWell.
- Expanded and improved programs for juvenile court school students in partnership with the County to provide career technical education, dual credit/college enrollment, arts and music, culinary arts, wellness centers, on-site libraries, civic engagement and collaborated to improve the facilities such as the fitness center.
- Implemented programs and services to improve the provision of special education with inclusive practices and inclusionary instructional programs in SCCOE programs and throughout local school districts.
- Collaborated with legislators serving as a sponsor of bills and policy efforts to advance early care and education, improve outcomes for students with disabilities, expand school based mental health and wellness services, address mental health, behavioral health and wellness, increase access to educational opportunity and support whole child policy implementation
- Secured over a \$100,000,000 in grants, donations, and contracts to lead local, regional and statewide efforts for mental health and wellness initiatives, Community Schools, Teacher Residency programs, inclusive early education expansion, digital equity, equity and access for students with disabilities, African American Students and English Language Learners, data systems and the Statewide System of Support to promote academic excellence and equity focused improvement efforts.
- Expanded opportunities for access to high quality preschool and childcare through partnerships with Early Edge, Educare of California at Silicon Valley, Strong Start, Heising-Simons, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, FIRST 5, and the Packard Foundation.
- Established an education campaign focused on increasing access to high quality, inclusive early learning called "Steps to Success."
- Co-chaired the Foster Youth Task force with Supervisor Cindy Chavez.
- Authored an annual "Educator Housing Resource Booklet" and convened five home-buyer session to assist educators with the high cost of housing in Silicon Valley.
- Provided support, leadership and guidance to ensure LGBTQ youth had the services they needed to thrive in school. This included establishing the first ever position of coordinator for LGBTQ youth at COE, developing model policies, and providing resource guides for schools including Out for Safe Schools
- Worked tirelessly during the COVID 19 crisis by leading regional efforts to coordinate communication support, training, and resource allocation for the six-county Bay Area region, coordinating with county offices of education and public health officers.
- Distributed millions of dollars in PPEs, COVID tests, cleaning supplies, masks, and learning supplies to schools, childcare centers, and community-based organizations
- Worked with FIRST 5, the Healthier Kids Foundation, and local government to ensure families had diapers, wipes, and formula during the pandemic. She also worked to bridge the digital divide and coordinated access to childcare for essential workers.



Even though she has left SCCOE, Dr. Dewan continues to co-chair the Santa Clara County Children's Agenda and is chair of the Kids in Common board of directors. In these and other roles, we know Dr. Dewan will continue to lead and bring her wisdom and generosity to create a community where every child is safe, healthy, successful in learning, and thriving in life.

2025 Bold Steps for Children Award

Santa Clara County Nature and Health Initiative

RECOGNIZING

Santa Clara Valley Healthcare | County of Santa Clara Public Health Department, Santa Clara County Parks
Veggilution | City of San Jose Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

It is well known that being outside and enjoying nature is important for everyone. The health benefits of outdoor activity include:

- **Chronic Disease Prevention:** Exposure to nature helps decrease the risk of chronic conditions like diabetes, high cholesterol, and hypertension by promoting physical activity and reducing stress.
- **Cardiovascular Health:** Regular outdoor activities can lower blood pressure and heart rate, supporting overall cardiovascular wellness.
- **Mental Health and Emotional Well-being:** Nature interactions significantly improve mood, reduce stress, and help manage emotions like anger, fear, and depression.
- **Cognitive Development:** Outdoor experiences enhance brain development, improving focus, cognitive functioning, and academic performance, especially for children.
- **Social Connection:** Nature activities create opportunities for meaningful social interactions, helping to combat isolation and build community bonds.
- **Resilience Building:** Outdoor experiences can help mitigate the negative impacts of adverse childhood experiences (ACES) by providing positive, supportive environments.

Unfortunately for many, getting out in nature isn't always simple. Many families face multiple challenges to spending time outdoors such as economic constraints, limited transportation, not feeling safe in some public spaces, and cultural or language barriers.

In response to this, these organizations have come together to improve community health by promoting equitable access to nature and safe green spaces.

Their work has led to several programs including the Santa Clara County Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, several programs where pediatricians give prescriptions to spend time outside, while also providing support to overcome barriers to accessing parks and safe green spaces. There is also a nature education program for youth ages 9-12, and a program linking public transportation to outdoor spaces.

Their Promotores de Salud program transforms community members into powerful health advocates and creates a network of trusted local leaders who bridge healthcare, nature, and community wellness.





The JUNTOS Park Prescription Program

JUNTOS means together in Spanish and this program brings families and healthcare providers together in outdoor settings to have fun and find joy in nature. This innovative approach includes physicians prescribing nature as a wellness strategy. At the park, families participate in guided nature walks and gardening experiences with health care providers, professional park interpreters, and environmental educators. Transportation and bilingual support are available.

More than 4,500 participants – many who are Spanish speakers – have participated in JUNTOS since its founding in 2017. After the program, parent participants reported that their children now spend more time playing outside and less time on screens compared to those who were referred but did not attend.

Additionally, medical chart analysis showed improvements in pre-diabetes and liver inflammation blood indicators among the children who attended the park prescription program, with measurements showing decreases from their baseline levels.

Access to Green Spaces is a fundamental right in the 'Bill of Rights for Children and Young Adults.' Thanks to the JUNTOS Park Prescription Initiative and the other programs of the Santa Clara County Nature and Health Initiative, more children and families have opportunities to go outside and get healthy. These organizations show how spending time outdoors is a health essential and elevate nature access as a fundamental health priority. Together they are working to transform how our community and health care system understand the critical role of nature in human wellness.



Children's Agenda Network Chairs

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.

Dr. Dewan is an award winning community and education leader. She has over 37 years of experience as a teacher, administrator, researcher, consultant, and professor. She is recognized for her expertise and commitment to children as her work led to more inclusive school environments and the expansion of school-based mental health and wellness services. She serves on a number of boards and commissions and is the chair of the board of directors for Kids in Common.



Judge Leonard Edwards (ret.)

Leonard Edwards is a retired judge now serving as a consultant and educator. Judge Edwards was a Superior Court judge for 26 years, retiring in 2006. He served as Judge-In-Residence with the California Judicial Council for 6 years. Judge Edwards is a judicial educator having given over 500 invited presentations in 47 states and 13 foreign countries. He is a past president of the NCJFCJ. In Santa Clara County, he founded the Child Advocate Program, the Domestic Violence Council, Kids in Common, and the Dependency Drug Treatment Court. His publications can be read at www.judgeleonardedwards.com.



Fernando S. Mendoza, M.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Mendoza, a native of Gardner and Willow Glen in San José, is an emeritus professor of pediatrics and emeritus Associate Dean of Minority Advising and Programs at Stanford University School of Medicine. He served as the Chief of General Pediatrics at Packard Children's Hospital for 18 years. His academic career focused on the health of minority and immigrant children and workforce diversity. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Stanford Medical School and the Joseph W. St. Geme Jr. Leadership Award from the Federation of Pediatric Organizations for his contributions to child health and workforce diversity. He practiced in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties for 35 years and assisted in developing the Gardner Health Center and Ravenswood Family Health Center.



Kids In Common Co-Executive Directors

Dana Bunnett (she/her)

Dana Bunnett has been leading Kids in Common (KIC) since January 1, 2001. When she first started at KIC, she had little knowledge about children's issues beyond her experience of being a mother to a four-year-old. It is the young leaders, the formal leaders and the grassroots leaders that have taught Dana so much about what is right and just for children, youth and families. She believes that it is imperative that we do better by our kids, and she knows we have the wisdom, compassion and resources to create a community where every child thrives.



Joy Murrieta (she/they/ella)

Joy Murrieta is a relentless agent of change and fierce advocate for positive youth development. Prior to joining Kids in Common, Joy served for 12 years as the Co-Founder and Executive Director of a nonprofit youth arts enrichment organization in Worcester (Central) Massachusetts called "Main IDEA," with a mission to empower youth through equitable arts programs that develop social-emotional learning and positive youth development, through data-driven and cross-sector community partnerships. In recognition for her work in the community, Joy received the Worcester Business Journal's Nonprofit Leader of the Year Award, as well as a Key to the City of Worcester in 2022.



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WORKING FOR BETTER RESULTS FOR OUR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Kids in Common (KIC) is a leading child advocacy organization focused on eliminating systemic inequities impacting children's education, health, social emotional wellbeing, and justice. KIC advances this mission by supporting policies, promoting data-driven action, and fostering collaborations of cross-systems leaders and experts that support positive outcomes for all children in Santa Clara County, from cradle to career. KIC's vision is to see every child Safe, Healthy, Successful in Learning, and Thriving in Life.



Photo courtesy of Santa Clara County Office of Education.

OUR APPROACH:

KIC serves as the backbone organization for the collective impact of cross-sector organizations coming together to meet the needs of Santa Clara County youth by mobilizing, coordinating, facilitating action through a coordinated, structured, and collaborative approach; KIC establishes a framework and common language to help policymakers, funders, nonprofit and business leaders to collectively address child development and well-being broadly, from birth to young adulthood, through innovative and sustained collaboration that cuts across bureaucratic silos. KIC takes a holistic view of health with a focus on four major spheres of influence: communities, government and education systems, families and selves. Working collaboratively, KIC achieves collectively what cannot be done alone and is able to align efforts across sectors and among organizations working at different stages of a child's development and move from fragmented action and results to deep and durable impact.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- **Partnership** - building strategic alliances with other organizations, both within and outside the health and human services arena
- **Collaboration** - working in concert with and valuing the success of member organizations, interested parties and other related groups

- **Independence** - pursuing those issues and strategies that represent and support the best interests of children and their families in our community
- **Integrity** - guided by what is best for children in our community, reliable in every commitment made, authentic in word and deed
- **Diversity** - respecting, understanding, and integrating a wide range of perspectives, people and ideas
- **Non-Partisan** - being free from political party affiliation

OUR PROGRAMS:

1. **Children's Agenda Network (CAN):** a county-wide network of over 45 cross-sector leaders committed to improving outcomes for children, youth and families by:
 - a. Relationship Building Across Networks that Support Children, Youth, and Families
 - b. Common Language and Framework for Improving Outcomes
 - c. Developing Shared Knowledge of Best Practices and a culture of continual improvement
 - d. Community participation on activities and policies that affect diverse children and families
2. **Social Emotional Wellbeing (SEW) Initiative:** a structured, data-driven program of the Children's Agenda and 5-year action plan that collaboratively address the youth mental health crisis through three key pillars of work:
 - a. Addressing Basic Needs: Address the economic and social barriers that cause stress and contribute to poor mental health for young people, families by expanding access to food, housing, and other financial supports.
 - b. Cultivating Caring Communities: Building a caring culture that supports positive youth development and seeing value in every young person
 - c. Family and Community Education: Support programs that educate communities about the importance of social-emotional wellness and how to get help when needed and that reduce stigma around seeking help.
3. **Children's Summit:** an annual event that brings together +250 cross-sector leaders and experts in Santa Clara County who are passionate about improving children's lives through collaboration and data-driven approaches.
4. **Juvenile Court Aligned Action Network:** a structured, data-driven collaborative focused on improving education outcomes and increasing the graduation rate of youth in the juvenile justice system.





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Speakers & Presenters

Elizabeth Alvarez

Elizabeth Alvarez is a seasoned professional dedicated to addressing inequities in education, health, the environment, access to safety net services, immigration, and affordable housing through civic activism and community development. She has led initiatives in program development, team culture, and strategic direction. As a San José native, mother of five, and grandmother of four boys, she is committed to ensuring all children and families have access to opportunities to thrive. She is currently the VP of Programs at Healthier Kids Foundation.



Maria Daane

Maria Daane is the Executive Director of Parents Helping Parents (PHP). PHP supports parents whose children - or adult children - experience disabilities, offering 600 trainings and support groups online each year as well as a robust website visited by 200,000 annually. Maria has been at PHP for 8 years, and especially values that over 90% of those who work at PHP as well as the majority of the board of directors are themselves parents of individuals with disabilities. Maria has worked over 20 years as a Manager or Director in the nonprofit sector, and enjoys hiking and family time.



Jocelyn Arenas

Jocelyn Arenas is a Co-Chair of Family and Community Education, bringing years of experience working with youth-serving organizations and community initiatives across the Bay Area. She is passionate about social-emotional learning and creating culturally responsive spaces that support the well-being, healing, and connection of youth and families. Jocelyn works alongside her sister, Viviana Arenas, on this workgroup and in other community-based projects, reflecting their shared commitment to strengthening partnerships that help young people and their communities thrive.



Jenny Dang

Jenny Dang is a policy and community advocate at Second Harvest of Silicon Valley. In this role, she works on food access policy, focusing on Universal School Meals and nutrition. In this current year, Jenny is prioritizing efforts to ensure students have enough time to eat. Outside of work, she enjoys reading and baking.



Viviana Arenas

Viviana Arenas is a community leader, has many years experience in the nonprofit and direct service sector and holds seats on multiple advisory boards and committees. These experiences include, but are not limited to the Bill Wilson Center Board of Directors and Youth Impact Partnership Board, Youth Liberation Movement, Youth Action Board, and West Valley Community Services. She is a program mentor for Razing the Bar. Viviana's prized role was a senior advocacy fellow for Alliance for Girls where she helped lead the work of a successful and powerful initiative called When Young Moms Thrive. There she spearheaded a policy memo that was passed unanimously by the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors. Viviana is passionate about breaking down the barriers young families and individuals face such as unaffordable childcare and housing and is social justice driven.



Sera Fernando (she/her)

Sera Fernando leads the County of Santa Clara Office of LGBTQ Affairs. As an equity and inclusion practitioner and lifelong learner, she also served as Chief Diversity Officer for Silicon Valley PRIDE, Executive Steering Committee leader for the Humans Rights Campaign, and Executive Board member for Microsoft's GLEAM employee resource group. Leveraging her platforms to lift the voices of LGBTQ+ community members, Sera believes that creating diverse and inclusive spaces where authenticity is celebrated and providing access to communities across intersectional identities empowers all of us to achieve more.



Speakers & Presenters (cont.)

Veronica Goei

Veronica Goei, originally from Chile, has 30+ years of nonprofit leadership experience working with children and families from historically disinvested communities. She has led Grail Family Services (GFS), as its founding and only executive director for 25 years. Starting with a \$250k budget and one operating site, Veronica has grown GFS to an \$8M+ organization with three operating sites. Veronica is one of the founding members of the Si Se Puede Collective, a group of five non-profits working collectively to impact and uplift the gifts and talents of East San José. An alum of the HOPE Institute (Hispanas Organized for Political Equality), she has served on numerous nonprofit and education advisory boards. Veronica is the proud mom of two adult children, Heather and Jeremy.



Damaris Gonzalez

Damaris Gonzalez is a dedicated junior and cheerleader from Gilroy, where she's lived the majority of her life. She is passionate about helping others and finding ways to give back to her family and community. With a strong interest in advocacy and justice, she hopes to pursue her career in law by attending Pennsylvania State University.



Isabelle Hau

Isabelle Hau is the author of Love to Learn: The Transformative Power of Care and Connection in Early Education and writes Small Talks, a newsletter on the future of (early) learning. She is the Executive Director of the Stanford Accelerator for Learning, driving research-anchored innovation to ensure every learner thrives in a dynamic future. Isabelle is a leading voice in early education, philanthropy, and impact investing, she previously led the U.S. education practice at Omidyar Network and Imaginable Futures.



Rod Hsiao

Rod Hsiao is co-founder and CEO of InPlay (www.inplay.org), a nonprofit that helps school districts and foundations engage under served students in citywide networks of expanded learning. InPlay's mobile registration solution targets cohorts of students directly to offer local, specialized programs that they can sign up for in 5 minutes using prefilled forms. Their registration service and activity guides are used nationwide by 107 school districts serving over 1,200,000 K-12 students. Previously, Rod served as a COO for various nonprofits, as a senior advisor in the U.S. Congress, and as school board trustee. He attended Oberlin College and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and currently resides with his wife and two sons in San Mateo, CA.



Ted Lempert

Ted Lempert is President of Children Now and teaches California Politics at UC Berkeley. Ted was a California Assemblymember representing San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, chairing the Higher Education Committee and co-chairing the Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education. He was also the founding CEO of EdVoice, served on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and County Board of Education, and was a corporate attorney. He graduated from Princeton and Stanford Law School.



Linda Lenoir, R.N., M.S.N., C.N.S., P.H.N.

Recently retired, Ms. Lenoir worked for Stanford University Psychiatry Department where she was the lead school trainer for the K-12 Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention Toolkit for Schools. She also served on the committees which created Palo Alto's Project Safety Net and the HEARD Alliance at Stanford. Prior to Stanford, Ms. Lenoir served for 26 years as the District School Nurse at Palo Alto Unified School District, overseeing 18 schools and conducting a variety of trainings, including mental health classes for high school students and development and safety classes for younger students. She won the Tall Tree Professional Award from the City of Palo Alto.



Speakers & Presenters (cont.)

Mayra Mejia

Mayra Mejia is a dynamic executive leader and Program Manager II with the County of Santa Clara Probation Department's Neighborhood Safety Services Unit. With over 18 years of experience in local government and community organizations, she specializes in violence prevention, youth development, and community engagement. Mayra has led equity-driven initiatives rooted in wellness and restorative practices, making lasting impacts in diverse communities. A champion for youth voice and opportunity, she has held key leadership roles throughout her career. Her dedication to empathy and inclusion earned her recognition as a Compassionate Leader by Supervisor Cindy Chavez of Santa Clara County.



Ziem Nguyen Neubert, M.Ed

As Executive Director of Project Cornerstone at the YMCA of Silicon Valley, Ziem Nguyen Neubert leads a dynamic team working with schools and community partners to support youth's social and emotional well-being. Ziem's journey as a young refugee, an overachieving youth struggling with identity, and a teacher and administrator for over 20 years have played an integral part in driving her passion to foster positive relationships, experiences, and honest conversations to create safe, caring, equitable communities. Ziem loves her job and is grateful to be surrounded by changemakers who are committed to creating a sense of belonging for all youth and families.



Grisel Meza

Grisel Meza is a dedicated health and wellness professional with expertise in nutrition, employee well-being, and supporting children with special needs at California Young World. She develops workplace wellness programs, creates health resources, and supports children with special needs. Passionate about fostering inclusive environments, she integrates DEI initiatives and promotes public health awareness.



Belen Reyes

Belen Reyes is a passionate and dedicated Corpsmember at the San Jose Conservation Corps, where she specializes in community engagement and recruitment. Her commitment to uplifting others extends beyond her role at the Corps, as she serves on the Youth Advisory Board, representing over 150 corps organizations nationwide. Each year, the Corps Network recognizes outstanding individuals who demonstrate growth, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to their communities by awarding the prestigious Corpsmember of the Year title. This year, Belen was honored with this award, highlighting her dedication to service and her role in empowering the next generation of leaders.



Jenny Nagaoka, M.A. (she/her)

Jenny Nagaoka is the Deputy Director of the University of Chicago Consortium on School Research, where she has conducted research for over 25 years. Her research interests focus on policy and practice in urban education reform, particularly using data to connect research and practice and examining the school environments and practices that promote college readiness and success. She is the lead author of Foundations for Young Adult Success: A Developmental Framework (2015) which draws on research and practice evidence to build a framework of the foundational factors for young adult success.



Keri Rodrigues

Keri Rodrigues is Matthew, Miles, and David's mom and the visionary founder and president of the National Parents Union (NPU) – a groundbreaking organization that unites parents from diverse backgrounds to advocate for the rights, economic and educational needs of America's children. Under her leadership, NPU has become a formidable force, driving policy reforms and fostering parental empowerment across the nation to dismantle economic and educational barriers that keep America's children from achieving economic mobility and prosperity.





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A special **congratulations** to both Dana Bunnett & Joy Murrieta



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Speakers & Presenters (cont.)

Aesha Sandoval

Aesha Sandoval is the co-chair of the Greetings at Every Door, Cultivating Caring Communities Workgroup, part of the Social-Emotional Wellbeing Initiative. Born, raised, and still residing in East Side Gilroy, she has learned a lot about underserved populations and is passionate about helping people feel seen and heard. She has been working with the South County Youth Task Force for ten months and has an associate's degree in administration of justice. She is currently working towards her bachelor's degree in justice studies with a minor in forensic science at San Jose State University.



Rebecca Winthrop, Ph.D

Rebecca Winthrop is a leading global authority on education, the director of the Center for Universal Education at Brookings and an adjunct professor at Georgetown University. She is dedicated to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive in life, work, and as an engaged citizen. Rebecca's work is centered on developing and advocating for evidence-based strategies that bring people together—families, educators, policymakers, and companies—to help children maximize their potential. Her new book, co-authored with Jenny Anderson, is *The Disengaged Teen: Helping Kids Learn Better, Feel Better, and Live Better*.



"Hope and fear cannot
occupy the same space.
Invite one to stay.

- Maya Angelou



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- (* winners must be physically present to receive prizes)



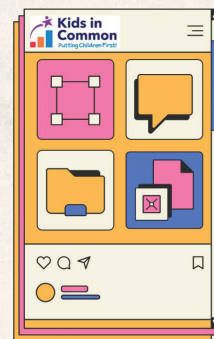
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Kids in Common



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLBEING INITIATIVE

At the 2024 Children's Summit, participants began to design Kids in Common's and the Santa Clara County Children's Agenda's Social-Emotional Wellbeing Initiative (SEW). Since then, workgroups have developed three pillars of wellbeing and 4 strategies that focus on culture change, systems change, and public awareness to improve social-emotional wellbeing.

These strategies are being launched at today's Children's Summit. Please contact Joy Murrieta, Co-Executive Director of Kids in Common to get involved.

Pillar 1

Address Basic Needs

Address the economic and social barriers that cause stress and affect the social-emotional wellbeing of young people, families and caregivers.

WHY: This is foundational to all issues we see with youth. If youth and families do not have their basic needs met, then it leads to other challenges.

Strategy: Food Insecurity Brief

Theory of Change: Food insecurity is increasing and is three times the national goal standard of 6% for households with families. This Food Security Brief is a tool to help policy makers, educators, and families understand the importance of food security to children and youth development, educational engagement, and well-being. Through this educational and advocacy tool, we champion for all youth and families to receive food and other economic supports and call on Santa Clara County leaders to lift policies and practices that support this basic need.

Relevant Bill of Rights: Basic Needs

Workgroup Members

Arcel Blume (Co-chair) | Belen Reyes (Co-chair) | Marilyn Ampuero | Jenny Dang | Enrique Flores | Grace Mah | Rachel Monaco | Patty Ramirez | Monica Simons | Emily Valenzuela | Joey Vaughan | Jamie Wang



Pillar 2

Education for Families & Communities

Support programs that educate communities about the importance of social-emotional wellbeing, parenting for social-emotional wellbeing, & how to get help when needed. Focus on reducing negative stereotypes, bias and stigma around seeking help for behavioral health challenges.



WHY: Education deactivates the stigma associated with seeking help, can help connect people to services, and support healthy parenting.

Strategy: Social-Emotional Wellbeing Resource Hub

Theory of Change: Currently, caregivers have limited access to information and other resources for promoting children's social-emotional wellbeing. The FCE workgroup will centralize learning opportunities and services for caregivers across a continuum of infant, child, and adolescent development. We will be gathering this information to help identify geographic, language, developmental, and cultural gaps in services in Santa Clara County.

Relevant Bill of Rights: Love & Emotional Connections | External Supports for Family

Workgroup Members

Jocelyn Arenas (co-chair) | Viviana Arenas (co-chair) | Rocio Abundis | Brenda Alvarez | Laura Buzo | Linda Lenoir | Kurt McLachlan | Fernando Mendoza | Griselda Meza | Grace Meregillano | Byron Myers | Patty Ramirez | Lina Som | Emily Valenzuela

What
are your
thoughts?



Pillar 3

Cultivating Caring Communities

In all settings, including schools, workplaces, libraries, etc., implement strategies that create caring spaces, with a focus on positive youth development and supportive of children's and families' social-emotional wellbeing.

WHY: Wellbeing starts with relationships, and with a positive youth development approach we can create caring schools, families, and communities and help youth. Youth benefit from spaces where they can find their spark.

Workgroup Members

Bernice Aguilera-Toney (Co-chair) | Elizabeth Alvarez (Co-chair) | Aesha Sandoval (co-chair) | Catherine Aspiras | Leah Asuncion | Leonard Edwards | Heidi Emberling | Enrique Flores | Victor Lopez | Mayra Mejia, | Grisel Meza | Ziem Nguyen Neubert | Patty Ramirez | Elizabeth Stewart

Strategy #1

Expansion of InPlay Resources

Theory of Change: Children and youth need access to spaces and opportunities that ignite their interests and talents. InPlay connects youth and families to in-school and afterschool programs that meet their needs. By expanding the platform's resources through targeted outreach to organizations and encouraging them to join InPlay, youth and families will have access and benefit from the resources available.

Relevant Bill of Rights: Personal Development | Education

Strategy #2

Greetings at Every Door

Theory of Change: We want to make Santa Clara County a place where children feel valued, respected, and cared for. Greetings at Every Door: Fostering Connection and Belonging promotes intentional and caring interactions with youth in multiple settings, including schools, after-school programs, and other spaces where children and youth encounter adults.

Relevant Bill of Rights: Love & Emotional Connections | Support & Guidance



To search for
or add your
organization:



"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

– Nelson Mandela



GREETINGS AT EVERY DOOR

A strategy to support young people with feeling safe, seen, heard, and to feel a sense of belonging.

Spending a few moments welcoming youth promotes a sense of belonging, giving them social and emotional support that helps them feel invested in their learning.

STRATEGIES



LEARN MORE: www.kidsincommon.org/greetings

For more
information:





Community is at the heart of all we do.

Bringing people together for the greater good — that's where transformation happens.

We are proud to support the Kids in Common Children's Summit so that together we can help create a more equitable community.



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CELEBRATING FAMILIES!

Celebrating Families! (CFI) is an evidence-based, trauma-informed, skill-building program focused on children's future physical and behavioral health, including substance use disorders and mental health challenges. Celebrating Families! addresses these needs through building healthy living skills and educating families. Learn more: celebratingfamilies.net





Hope & Community

NOTES AND REFLECTIONS


A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes and reflections.

THE POWER OF *We*

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a healthier community.



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become-resource-family](http://ssa.santacalaracounty.gov/become-resource-family)



The Children's Agenda Network

Children's Agenda Network members have agreed to the values of the Children's Agenda and to advance its goals by focusing on equity, results, and collaboration.

Children's Agenda Network Co-chairs

Mary Ann Dewan, PhD* - *Chair, Kids in Common*
Community Leader

Judge Leonard Edwards* - *Vice Chair, Kids in Common*
Retired, Santa Clara County Superior Court

Fernando S. Mendoza, MD, MPH* - *Kids in Common Board of Directors*
Professor of Pediatrics, Emeritus and Emeritus Associate Dean of Minority Advising and Programs,
Stanford University School of Medicine

Rocio A. Abundis
- SCC Department of
Family & Children's Services
Prevention Bureau

Bernice Aguilera Toney*
- South County Youth Task
Force / SCC District
Attorney's Office

Elizabeth Alvarez*
- Healthier Kids Foundation

Marilyn Ampuero
- Pacific Clinics

Catherine Aspiras*
- SCC Behavioral
Health Services

Jessica Bautista*
- Kids in Common
Board Member

Matt Bell
- Pivotal

Arcel Blume*
- SCC Social Services Agency

Lee Anna Botkin, MD
- Primary Care Pediatrics at
Santa Clara Valley Healthcare

Susan Brutschy*
- Applied Survey Research

Israel Canjura
- City of San José Youth
Empowerment Alliance

Teresa Castellanos
- Community Activist

Zelia Faria Costa*
- SCC Behavioral
Health Services

Sarah Duffy*
- SCC Social Services Agency

Mary Cheryl B. Gloner*
- Kids in Common
Board Member

Veronica P. Goei*
- Grail Family Services

Jennifer Kelleher Cloyd*
- FIRST 5 Santa Clara County

Gay Krause
- Krause Center for Innovation
- MVLALAH Challenge Team

Hilary Kushins
- Dependency
Advocacy Center

Linda Lenoir, RN, MSN, CNS
- Community Mental
Health Advocate

Mara Williams Low
- Leo M. Shortino
Family Foundation

Grace Meregillano
- SCC Public Health Dept.

Ziem Nguyen Neubert
- YMCA of Silicon Valley,
Project Cornerstone

Mary Patterson*
- Child Advocates of
Silicon Valley

Patty Ramirez
- SCC Social Services Agency
DFCS Prevention Bureau

Josh Selo
- Bill Wilson Center

Rosemary Tisch*
- Kids in Common
Board Member

Hon. Patrick Tondreau (ret.)

Jamie Wang*
- Kids in Common
Board Treasurer

Marlene Zapata*
- Kids in Common
Board Secretary

Member Organizations

Children Now
City of San José
County of Santa Clara Dept. of Family & Children's Services
County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency*
County of Santa Clara, Office of Children and Families Policy
County of Santa Clara Office of Supportive Housing
County of Santa Clara Probation Dept.*
Gardner Health Services*
Healthier Kids Foundation*
Parents Helping Parents*
San José Public Library Foundation
Second Harvest of Silicon Valley
Silicon Valley Community Foundation*
Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits
Stanford Children's Health
United Way Bay Area*

Joy Murrieta, Co-Executive Director

Dana Bunnnett, Co-Executive Director

*Member of the Children's Agenda Leadership Council



Kids in Common advocates for education, healthcare, social-emotional wellbeing, and justice for all children in Santa Clara County by supporting policies, promoting data-driven action, and fostering collaborations of cross-systems leaders and experts.

Our Vision: Every child safe, healthy, successful in learning, thriving in life.

www.kidsincommon.org

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Jamie & Joe Wang | Linda Williams | Kids in Common Board of Directors

Champions



Judge Len Edwards

Advocates



County of Santa Clara
Social Services Agency



Dana Bunnett | Elynn Corey | Dr. Fernando Mendoza

Leaders and Supporters



Jessica Bautista | Mary Ann Dewan, PhD | Mary & Alex Gloner | Kathleen King | Linda Lenoir
Meri Maben | Nancy Markowitz | Thomas & Rosemary Tisch | Patrick Tondreau | Marlene Zapata