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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HOPE HORIZON EAST PALO ALTO CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF VISIONARY WORK
OPENING DOORS TO HOPE AND A FUTURE FOR EPA YOUTH**

Ruby Anniversary Celebration Highlights a Longevity Nearly as Old as the City of EPA

EAST PALO ALTO, Calif., March 8, 2024 —Hope Horizon East Palo Alto (Hope Horizon EPA) is celebrating its 40th anniversary this Saturday, March 9, 2024 at a gala celebration. The mission of Hope Horizon EPA (formerly Bayshore Christian Ministries) has been enjoyed by over 4,000 students -- that youth from EPA and the Bellehaven neighborhood of Menlo Park will grow spiritually, gain life skills, and develop as leaders. 250+ youth have also been given their first opportunity to work through internships, summer jobs, classroom leader roles and even permanent full-time work leading to director-level positions.

“Hope Horizon EPA’s 40th anniversary celebrates thousands of student lives changed,” said Tiffany Hong, co-Executive Director at Hope Horizon EPA. “We have bridged the disparity gap, equipped students with STEM skills and vocational training, supported their mental health, and offered families hope against poverty, food insecurity, and more. Just one example of the academic victories we celebrate with our students is that our high school ChurroBots robotics team won first place last weekend in the [Silicon Valley Regionals](#) of the First Robotics

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Competition. Our team is the first and only First Robotics Competition club in our city -- made up of students from East Palo Alto representing over 12 different high schools.”

Gala Celebration

On Saturday night, March 9, 2024, starting at 4pm, our community will celebrate this milestone at our [Ruby Anniversary Celebration](#). Hundreds are expected to gather at the Grand Bay Hotel in Redwood City, Calif. where a student art auction will seek out the highest bidder, a spoken word performance will inspire young and old alike, and students will dance and sing and share stories of doors opened to hope and a future.

Over the past 40 years, there have been many stages and phases of growth at Hope Horizon EPA (formerly Bayshore Christian Ministries). Here are some of the highlights:

1983-84:

Stanford InterVarsity students study the book of Amos, attend a Summer Institute on economic justice at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, and a leadership workshop taught by Dr. John M Perkins, a civil rights activist and leader in Gospel-centered reconciliation and development. Three students commit to establishing a ministry-oriented Christian community in East Palo Alto, begin building a team, and decide on serving children as the primary focus. Thirteen college students and recent graduates from Stanford and Santa Clara Universities begin ministry in East Palo Alto, launching seven neighborhood-based Bible Clubs.

1987-88

Bayshore Christian Ministries (BCM) is incorporated as a non-profit and the first 3 full-time staff members, Andrew Hartwell, Norm Picker, and Tony Looper, set out to raise BCM’s first budget of \$40,000. High School Fellowship, Adventures in Learning (precursor to SAIL (Summer Adventures in Learning)), and scholarship assistance to local private schools begin.

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1993-94

High School Fellowship expands to include tutoring, followed by dinner and fellowship; students take mission trips to serve the homeless in Los Angeles; SAIL doubles in size; STEP (Summer-Time Enrichment Program) launches for 1st and 2nd graders; TeenWorks debuts as a school-year program springing from summer Junior High jobs; EPA Voices Today, a newspaper published by the SummerWorks program, is launched and distributed through the community with help from the San Jose Mercury News, Bayshore Animal Clinic and Jones Mortuary.

2000-01

BCM moves into its newly completed facility built at 1001 Beech Street and hosts first-ever programs in the building. There is a major increase in volunteers and interns including many BCM youth and alumni serving in volunteer and staff leadership positions. To provide additional volunteer and intern housing, BCM completes the purchase of a second home in the community.

2005-06

Students participating in BCM's teen dedication class take a road trip to Southern California and three spring break college teams from Calvin College, Grand Valley State University, and Hope College travel to East Palo Alto to learn and serve. Summer program students record an album titled *Impact Slap* and teens host a Soul Food Dinner and Dance Extravaganza.

2012-13

BCM begins hosting Vacation Bible School-style programming during the summer at different locations throughout the community and launches EPA Fellows, a leadership development program where recent college graduates explore ministry and gain practical skills in leading youth. College scholarships are awarded to 15 local youth and the EPA Chica Squad competes in the Technovation Challenge, places in the top 20, receives honorable mention, and are featured in Google's Made With Code.

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2016-17

StreetWorkz students head off to Missouri to be trained as leaders at Kids Across America Camp. BCM's First Lego League team earns two Judges Awards during competition and advances to regionals. EPACenter and BCM begin a partnership to offer a variety of art classes to students. Staff, board, and volunteers head to the CCDA National Conference in Los Angeles.

2022

BCM rebrands as Hope Horizon East Palo Alto. The new logo represents an open door to hope and a future. The inclusion of East Palo Alto in the name indicates our legacy of commitment to this community. We have been and will continue to be an open door to hope, opportunity, community, and Christ, rededicating ourselves to serving youth in our community.

"It is a privilege to be part of this community and see the impact that caring adults have on student lives," said Josette Langevine, co-Executive Director at Hope Horizon EPA. "We come alongside families, with help from many volunteers and financial supporters, to bring these students hope and a future in the form of after-school academic supports, fun and engaging summer camps, and youth group-type activities to supplement what is available in our community, often reaching students who otherwise would not find these supports."

About Hope Horizon East Palo Alto

Hope Horizon East Palo Alto (formerly Bayshore Christian Ministries) is a 501c3 non-profit organization founded in 1984 and located in East Palo Alto, Calif. Its mission is to equip the youth of East Palo Alto and the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park to grow spiritually, gain life skills and develop as leaders so they have hope and a future. Hope Horizon EPA offers after-school, evening, and summer programs, using a relational, wholistic and collaborative approach to empower the next generation of community leaders. Our vision is that our alumni are active in their faith, possess hope, purpose and marketable skills and give back to their communities. To learn more, visit www.HopeHorizonEPA.org.

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