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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISOR DAVID CANEPA HONORS
HOPE HORIZON EAST PALO ALTO WITH COMMENDATION**

*Canepa Recognizes Non-Profit's 39 Years
of Youth Development Support to East Palo Alto Families*

EAST PALO ALTO, Calif., April 19, 2023 —At its first in-person fundraising Gala since 2019, with almost 400 attendees, Hope Horizon East Palo Alto (Hope Horizon EPA) was honored with a commendation hand-delivered and presented on stage by David Canepa, Supervisor of District 5, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.

“My visit to Hope Horizon EPA was inspiring and filled my heart with joy to see how lives of East Palo Alto families have been transformed through its ministry and programs,” said Canepa.

“I was proud to declare it Hope Horizon Day upon my visit but really every day should be Hope Horizon Day!”

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The Commendation stated:

“San Mateo County Board of Supervisor, David J. Canepa, District 5, State of California, Recognizes and Applauds Hope Horizon EPA for equipping East Palo Alto and Belle Haven youth to grow spiritually, gain life skills and develop as leaders so they have hope and a future. Thank you for your incredible legacy of impact, life change, and transformational love that you’ve brought to East Palo Alto for nearly 40 years. Hope Horizon EPA is a faith-based, non-profit organization of faithful staff, volunteers, church partners and community members who have opened the door for the students of East Palo Alto to experience the transformational love of Christ so that they may look into their own futures with unshakable hope.”



Canepa is no stranger to the hardships that many youth in East Palo Alto face. As the son of a chauffeur, grandson of a Mexican immigrant, and husband of an El Salvadoran immigrant, Canepa was the first in his family to attend college – a boast that many Hope Horizon EPA students make after a transformational experience at the non-profit’s K-12 wholistic programming. Also, while East Palo Alto’s youth are 89% Latin, 8% Pacific Islander and 5%

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African American, and 89% are from low-income families (*statistics thanks to the Ravenswood Education Foundation 2022 Annual Report*), Canepa is a fourth-generation son of San Mateo County and of Mexican and Italian heritage.

“It’s humbling that the county has recognized, honored and supported the work that Hope Horizon EPA has been doing for 39 years,” said Tiffany Hong, Hope Horizon EPA Executive Director. “The commendation pays tribute to people like Amy Joh who has been at our organization for 23 years, or Rolando Zeledon, the Executive Director for 17 years before me, or the founder and former Executive Director for 20+ years, Andrew Hartwell. So many amazing students, alumni, staff and partners have contributed to every life changed and laid a foundation for the lives yet to be impacted. We hope to continue the legacy and empower a next generation of leaders.”



Canepa presents the commendation to an audience of almost 400 people. Behind him are Tiffany Hong, Executive Director; a high school student acting as emcee; Josie Langevine, Director of Operations; and Dan Bradford, Chairman of the Board.

Canepa Background

Former Daly City mayor, and current Supervisor of District 5, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, Canepa was also one of 6 candidates for the 15th Congressional District Seat in the US House of Representatives, a seat currently held by Jackie Speier (D-San Mateo). This redrawn district includes East Palo Alto at its southern border and stretches up to San Francisco.

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Canepa also serves as:

- a commissioner on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission
- a director on the City/County Association of Governments
- the Vice Chair of the San Mateo County Transportation Authority
- a Director on the Bay Area Air Quality Management District representing 20 cities, and
- on boards such as the Health Plan of San Mateo, San Mateo County Medical Center, the Commission on Aging, Community Corrections Partnership, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments.



Gala Firsts

Hope Horizon EPA's March 19, 2023 Gala boasted more than just the commendation from Supervisor Canepa. The non-profit is pleased to record these impressive statistics for the Gala:

- Nearly 400 attendees, almost 100 more than the previous record from its 35th anniversary celebration.
- More than half of attendees were introduced to the organization for the first time by friends acting as table hosts.
- [Open Door Circle](#), introduced at the event, now boasts 132 sustaining supporters, and
- 100% of student-created paintings were sold, with the top painting selling for \$300, and over \$1,200 raised in the art auction alone.

"We are celebrating the way God showed up to answer all of our prayers for this event," said Josie Langevine, Director of Operations at Hope Horizon EPA. "Never before has a larger group of supporters sat down together to contemplate the impact that God is having on families through Hope Horizon EPA. We are grateful to God, and every church, volunteer, ministry partner and local community member who showed up to change lives."

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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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