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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HOPE HORIZON EAST PALO ALTO CHOSEN
AS 2023 CHAN ZUCKERBERG INITIATIVE (CZI) COMMUNITY FUND PARTNER**

CZI Community Fund Bolsters Hope Horizon EPA's Mission to Equip EPA Youth to Grow Spiritually, Gain Life Skills and Develop as Leaders So They Have Hope and a Future

EAST PALO ALTO, Calif., December 2, 2022 —Hope Horizon East Palo Alto (Hope Horizon EPA) is pleased to be named a 2023 Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) Community Fund Partner. CZI's support to Hope Horizon EPA and 62 other local non-profits includes a financial infusion for organizational sustainability, but also strengthens essential elements such as staff well-being, connection, and innovation through capacity-building activities.

“This vote of confidence in the work we have been doing in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park since 1984 is a great encouragement to our community of students, families, churches, volunteers, donors and prayer warriors,” said Tiffany Hong, Executive Director at Hope Horizon EPA. “We have consistently taken advantage of CZI's training and capacity building programs and are pleased to be added to their roster of 2023 community partners.”

**Chan
Zuckerberg
Initiative** 

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Hope Horizon EPA Named 2023 CZI Community Fund Partner

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The CZI Community Fund, established in 2017, is an annual grantmaking and capacity building program that supports organizations that are increasing access to the building blocks of social and economic well-being, like housing, healthcare, education, job, and career skills, and supporting civic engagement so people have the opportunity to shape their lives and communities.

The Community Fund pairs grants with capacity building to support leadership and organizational development so San Mateo County organizations have the resources and tools they need to further their mission and work.

The 2023 Community Fund grant partner cohort includes organizations working across communities in San Mateo County. To see a full list of the 63 organizations chosen as 2023 partners, visit [Community Fund Partners Directory](#) (and scroll down to see list).

While funding is critical, CZI understands that nonprofit organizations need comprehensive support to be responsive and resilient. To that end, CZI provides individual and collective capacity building support to strengthen essential elements of organizational sustainability.

“Back in 2017, when the CZI Community Fund was created, we were one of its first partners,” explains Amy Joh, Hope Horizon EPA’s Director of Partner Engagement, who has been on staff for over 22 years. “CZI also showed its support of our work in 2018 with a grant aimed at educating our staff on the mental health needs of our students, as those needs became ever more obvious to our frontline workers.”

Hope Horizon EPA, whose 2022 fiscal year ended on Sept. 30, has just released its [2022 impact report](#). Just a few of the statistics from that report are shown.

IMPACT REPORT 2022

*I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. Psalm 9:1*

42,667 PROGRAM HOURS

3.30 AVERAGE GPA

STUDENTS IN OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL
ACADEMIC PROGRAM

90% STUDENTS

IN SPIRITUAL PROGRAMS RECEIVED 1-1
MENTORSHIP

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Other Hope Horizon EPA highlights from fiscal year 2022 included:

- A summer program bringing together over 115 elementary, middle and high school students in all areas of spiritual, academic, STEM, life skills and leadership development.
- 15 party-in-a-box events reaching over 175 people giving an experience that opened doors between East Palo Alto and surrounding communities.
- Increased partnerships to over 25 churches whose giving exceeded our target by 286% and who faithfully prayed, volunteered, mentored, encouraged, loved and served.
- Welcomed more than double the number of volunteers with over 12,000 hours of serving and loving the youth of East Palo Alto.
- Completed a rebrand in March to better communicate our mission.
- Recognition of our high school robotics team by the San Jose Mercury news in an [article](#) highlighting their determination and strength during competitions, including Cal Games (October '21), Sacramento Regionals (March '22) and the Silicon Valley Regionals (April '22). Not surprisingly, this enterprising and diverse group of young technologists maintain [their own website](#) when you can learn more about their endeavors.

And, here is just one of many stories that our team is telling to highlight the work that has been done this year in support of our mission to equip EPA youth to grow spiritually, gain life skills and develop as leaders so they have hope and a future:

**Melinda refused to read with her tutor, *Esther, who gave grace, patiently suggested they do something else. Safe in that space, Melinda asked, "Would you like to know why I don't want to read?" Esther nodded and gave her full attention. "When I read at school, in front of the other kids, they laugh and make fun of me. I hate reading." "Would you like me to help you read?" asked Esther. This time, Melinda nodded and they began to read. Esther patiently took the time to help Melinda pronounce words, correcting gently and with love and without judgment or prejudice. And just this week, Melinda, smiling, happy, ran up to Esther. "You know what?" she beamed. "What?" responded Esther. "I love reading!" (*Names changed.)*

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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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