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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HOPE HORIZON EAST PALO ALTO OFFERS DAY CAMP
WITH HIGH SAFETY STANDARDS TO 115 YOUTH IN FOUR SITES**

In the 'Wild West' of Day Camps, Camp Hope Horizon Raises the Bar with Background Checks, CPR, First Aid & Mandated Reporter Training, Security Cameras, a Walkie-Talkie Security System, Safety Plans, and an Impressive 5:1 Camper to Adult Ratio

EAST PALO ALTO, Calif., July 15, 2022 — Camp Hope Horizon, hosted by Hope Horizon East Palo Alto (Hope Horizon EPA), stands in stark contrast to the 'Wild West' of California day camps described in a recently-published article titled "[CA Children's Day Camps: Attend At Your Own Risk](#)," by Elizabeth Aguilera for CalMatters. While Aguilera portrayed a mess of unsafe, unregulated camps, Hope Horizon EPA has set a high standard for its day camps with rigorous self-regulation to heighten safety for its campers.

"We have done more than is required of us," explained Josette Langevine, Hope Horizon EPA's Director of Operations, "Why? Every child deserves a safe space to grow. For nearly 40 years we have been that safe space in East Palo Alto and will continue to push the standard for our community. We love each of the 115 K-12th grade students that we are serving at four sites this summer, and want them to be safe."

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Camp Hope Horizon Safety Standards

Aguilera's article explained that "California day camps operate without background checks, CPR training, child/adult ratios or required reporting of injury and death." Yet Hope Horizon EPA has voluntarily put into place these safety measures:

- First Aid training for all classroom leaders, interns and staff
- Background checks for all classroom leaders, interns, staff *and* volunteers
- Mandated reporter trainings
- Safety plans - including training and drills for emergency procedures (fire, earthquake, shelter in place, evacuation plan, lockdown procedures)
- Security cameras
- A walkie-talkie security system
- A check-in system for all persons on premises
- General health and Covid safety precautions
- An excellent 5:1 ratio of campers to adults (classroom leaders and volunteers)
- Healthy meals provided through the Ravenswood School District (entree with grain, vegetable, fruit and milk), and
- A revised handbook reflecting heightened safety measures.

About Camp Hope Horizon

Camp Hope Horizon offers K-12 youth an affordable camp experience replete with academic support programs, creative and STEAM electives, active outdoor play – both in and out of the water, and exciting outings. 115 East Palo Alto students are learning new skills and creating memories through field trips and family engagement nights.

Morning sessions at Camp Hope Horizon are dedicated to academic support in math, language arts and social studies to avoid summer learning loss. Electives such as film, poetry, tech, life skills, journaling, gardening and art stimulate the curiosity and creativity of the student.

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Academic sessions and special interest workshops are designed to help students succeed in school and prepare for possible future careers in STEM.

Learning Outside the Classroom

In addition to classroom learning, students are offered swimming lessons twice a week at the local YMCA. Friday field trips offer unique ways to create memories, have fun and learn at venues including:

- The Tech Interactive
- California's Great America
- Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk
- Aqua Adventures Waterpark, and
- Raging Waters.

Family Engagement Nights in the O'Keefe neighborhood on East Palo Alto's "Westside" (west of Highway 101 and behind the Four Seasons Silicon Valley) create space and opportunities for whole families to create memories, work together on fun projects and experience family bonding – a blessing in East Palo Alto where many parents work multiple jobs to make ends meet. Activities at these celebratory events included building birdhouses, making ice cream, karaoke, minute to win-it games with prizes, a raffle, and dinner.

"As our students and interns learn, grow and experience new things, they are developing skills and relationships that will last a lifetime," says Tiffany Hong, Executive Director at Hope Horizon EPA. "It was particularly encouraging to see dads and moms coming out to build bird houses and eat pizza with their children on the Westside while getting to know neighbors and building community. Memories are being created that will stay with these children and teens for a lifetime."

"Thank you for the programs at Hope Horizon EPA," a student recently wrote on an assignment. "It has helped me to see life in a totally different way and changed the way I think."

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Leadership Development and Volunteer Support

Camp Hope Horizon gives local high school and college students leadership experience and employment to help with college savings or other future financial needs. This summer, we are employing 16 young adults in this capacity.

Volunteer support from East Palo Alto and surrounding communities has always been critical to Hope Horizon EPA's ability to meet its mission. "This summer, volunteers are teaching, mentoring, praying for our students and programs, preparing meals and lending their professional skills to improve our work," explains Natessa Martinez, Director of Programs at Hope Horizon EPA. "We are passionate about helping our young leaders mature and grow towards their potential and couldn't do it without community support."

Volunteer support includes:

- 10 helpers on our main campus on Beech St.
- 9 helpers on the Westside at Boom Pop Park
- 3 volunteers in our high school program, offering mentoring and friendship, and
- 16 professionals lending their support to our programs and operations.

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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