

Palo Alto Community Fund

...endowing our future

Spring 2005

A Program That Says: **YES**

With a cadre of over one hundred well-trained volunteer tutors, YES Reading is an organization that makes the most of its limited resources. By offering one-on-one tutoring, the YES Reading program furnishes students with the individual help that classroom teachers wish they had the time to provide.

The Palo Alto Community Fund supported the YES Reading program in 2002 and again in 2004. Located in its own portable facility at the Belle Haven School in East Menlo Park, the program currently serves 75 students who are reading below grade level. Since September, YES Reading is also tutoring 40 students at the Selby Lane School in the Redwood City School District. And in March, a pilot program will begin at Castro Elementary School in the Whisman School District.

"YES Reading showed us that reading could be fun, and our tutors help us to realize that reading would make a better future for us."

—Sonia, YES Reading student

The success rate of the program is remarkable. In 2004, 92% of YES reading students measurably improved their reading skills, and 25% improved their reading by more than two grade levels. More than one-fourth of the students served by YES reading during the 2003-2004 school year reached grade level in their reading abilities and graduated from the program.

The impact of the YES Reading program spreads far beyond its core mission of improving students' reading skills. With excellent curriculum and materials, tutors trained by

local education specialists are able to foster in children a life-long love of reading.



Photo courtesy YES Reading

Over 100 YES Reading volunteer tutors work with students in nearby communities. Tutors frequently find that they have become their students' mentors and friends.

The program encourages community involvement by recruiting volunteers from a broad spectrum of backgrounds. "There is no shortage of kids," says Executive Director, Sarah Almy. "It's attracting community volunteers that is important." A short while ago a student from Palo Alto High School volunteered as a tutor. It turns out that he was a former participant in YES Reading and wanted to impart to others the enrichment he had gained from the program.

The Home Connection program has increased family participation in the reading experience with a monthly book give-away, called "Take Reading Home," on-going family nights at the Reading Center, family literacy events, and Friday afternoon story hours. "We are creating a long-lasting, positive impact on our community by fostering relationships between students, volunteers and parents of diverse backgrounds."

PACF is pleased to have said "Yes" to YES Reading!

Acknowledging Our Donors

a message from the co-presidents

The job of the Palo Alto Community Fund has two main components: addressing the needs of the community by making annual grants to local nonprofits and soliciting funds from the community in order to make those grants possible. With the support of our loyal donors, even in these challenging economic times, PACF was able to grant \$130,000 to 23 non-profits in 2004. Over the last 25 years we have granted over \$1 million to 258 Palo Alto area organizations.

The PACF rightly focuses its attention on maximizing the impact of our limited resources on the needs of the broader community. But we must never lose sight of the individuals who make our work possible: **OUR DONORS**. As involved members of the community, our donors can help us direct our funds consistent with the values and concerns of our community at large.

Continued on reverse

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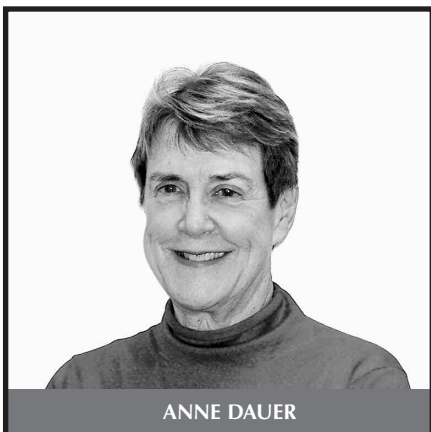
PACF Welcomes Two New Board Members

The Palo Alto Community Fund is pleased to introduce two new board members for 2005: Anne Dauer and Kathy Schniedwind.

Anne Dauer's first love is the Cantor Art Museum where she has served as a docent and an administrator and trainer of docents for twenty years. A lifelong community volunteer, Anne has also served on the boards of the Children's Health Council and Family and Children Services. As a member of the Stanford Historical Society, Anne researches 100 year old houses on campus. When she's not busy volunteering, she enjoys traveling, movies and reading. Anne lives in Menlo Park with her

husband, Art, who also volunteers in the community.

Kathy Schniedwind is also a longtime community volunteer. Having had three children go through Palo Alto schools, much of her time has been committed to PTAs, the Palo Alto High School College Center, and other school related activities. Kathy, a Junior League graduate, has her own graphics design business and many local non-profits have greatly benefited from her graphic expertise. When Kathy's not at her computer, she enjoys knitting and other handcrafts. She lives in Palo Alto with her husband, John.



ANNE DAUER



KATHY SCHNIEDWIND

Acknowledging Our Donors (Cont'd)

We invite you to tell us how we can better serve community interests and, in turn, benefit our local nonprofits.

- *Do you see particular needs in our community that are not being met?*
- *Are there local organizations to which we should be paying more attention?*
- *What community issues are you interested in?*
- *What trends do you see shaping our community in the future?*

Our strength lies in understanding and responding to our donors and the nonprofit community. Help us continue to be responsive by contacting us at 650-345-0993 or www.paloaltocommfund.org.

Beth Martin ANNE TAYLOR

Beth Martin & Anne Taylor
 Co-Presidents

The mission of the Palo Alto Community Fund is to build and sustain a philanthropic endowment that responds to the goals and needs of our community by supporting new or existing programs sponsored by a broad spectrum of Palo Alto area non-profit organizations.

CONTACT THE
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