



Promoting quality  
public education for  
**EVERY** student

2020-2021  
**ANNUAL REPORT**



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## Student Advisory Committee (SAC)

The foundation was excited to expand its vision by welcoming our new Student Advisory Committee. The committee's student voices work to support our mission, and the committee chair has a voting seat on the foundation board. The committee's inaugural year got off to a fast start, providing mentorship to 12 district students participating in the Contra Costa County Science and Engineering Fair. SAC also hosted a virtual poetry slam for high school students, which highlighted racism in society, education inequity, and basic humanity.



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Ygnacio Valley

## Letter from the Board President

**When I look into the faces of our students this past year, I feel hopeful for them.** These are the high schoolers who missed their proms, the sixth graders who didn't get to properly spread their wings as middle schoolers, the kindergartners whose introduction to real school was a face on a screen. These and all the students in between are the kids who are the Covid distance-learning generation.

What have they learned? What have our teachers learned? Resilience, surely. Distance learning works for some, but in-person learning works for most. And now, as we look hopefully toward full reopening for the 2021-2022 school year, we find ourselves at a critical time in education. With your help, we can provide new and inspiring opportunities for ALL MDUSD students.

Your support allows us to fund experiences beyond the regular curriculum—more programs, more hands-on learning experiences, more field trips, more art and music, science, and math. We are looking to expand in areas that make students want to learn. That love of learning created our new Student Advisory Committee whose members helped launch the inaugural MDUSD Poetry Slam, increased student participation for the MDUSD Science Fair, and continue to generate ideas to support the foundation's mission. We can continue to be innovative for our students if you provide the resources and support.

Every student in our school district is a gem regardless of which school they attend, and each of them deserves an extraordinary education to help them find their passion. Our goal is to help them do just that.

**Can we count on you?**

Sincerely,

**Mary P. Gray**  
Board President 2020-2021

### Mission

To promote excellence in the educational experience of students who attend schools governed or authorized by the Mount Diablo Unified School District

### Objectives

**Sponsor educational opportunities** that foster a culture of excellence, equity, and inclusion in all MDUSD schools

**Provide funds and resources** for TK-12 educational activities beyond the standard curriculum including STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math)

**Collaborate** with local businesses and organizations to build partnerships that bring relevant learning opportunities into our classrooms



Future scientist at work!



How do plants pollinate? Mystery Science students at Pleasant Hill Elementary can tell you!



Boning up with Randy Monroe and Mosa Mack Science

## Science Enrichment District-Wide

The foundation was thrilled to be able to fund contracts for science curriculum programs for ALL district students this year. The Mystery Science program was rolled out to elementary school classrooms at the beginning of the school year. In January, Mosa Mack programs were provided to middle school students, while Gizmos was offered to high school science classrooms. That adds up to over 30,000 students with access to science enrichment!

*"I love mystery science! It has great activities for students both online and in person, and it motivates all learners!"*

– Marla Ware, 2/3rd grade teacher,  
Valle Verde Elementary School

*"Mosa Mack is an excellent middle school foundational science platform that uses both traditional and distance learning to get students interested in the topics covered through comic video shorts and lab experiences. Gizmos is a wonderful high school biology online simulation science platform that allows students to manipulate a variety of data sets to analyze and draw conclusions."*

– Randy Monroe,  
Foothill Middle School science teacher



A Picasso in the making!



A student follows along with the online lesson

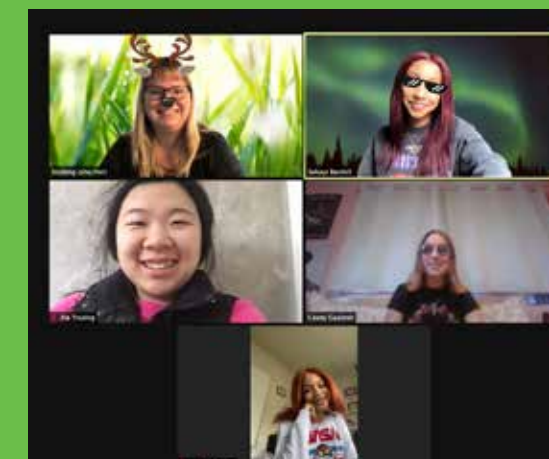
## Art in Action

For the fourth year in a row, we partnered with Art in Action to provide hands-on, Common Core-aligned curricula to 16 classrooms at Wren Avenue and Bel Air Elementary schools.

Students in this program learn about artists and works of art from diverse cultures across the globe. Using artistic vocabulary, learners dive into varied works, from Guinean Banda masks and Renaissance masterpieces through 20th century contemporaries like Ruth Asawa and Jackson Pollock. The best part? Students then create their own masterpieces, using the styles they learned about while adding their own personal flair.



A student Artist presents her masterpiece to her Zoom classmates.



Having fun at a virtual debate practice session

## Bay Area Urban Debate League

The Foundation was pleased to partner with the Bay Area Urban Debate League to provide competitive policy debate to high school students at Ygnacio Valley, Concord, and Mt. Diablo high schools. Although practices and competitions were conducted virtually and all our district students were new to debate, several students took top honors at their competitions. We look forward to supporting an expanded team next year!



# Outdoor Learning

"Seed ya later!" El Monte students learn about plants in the great outdoors



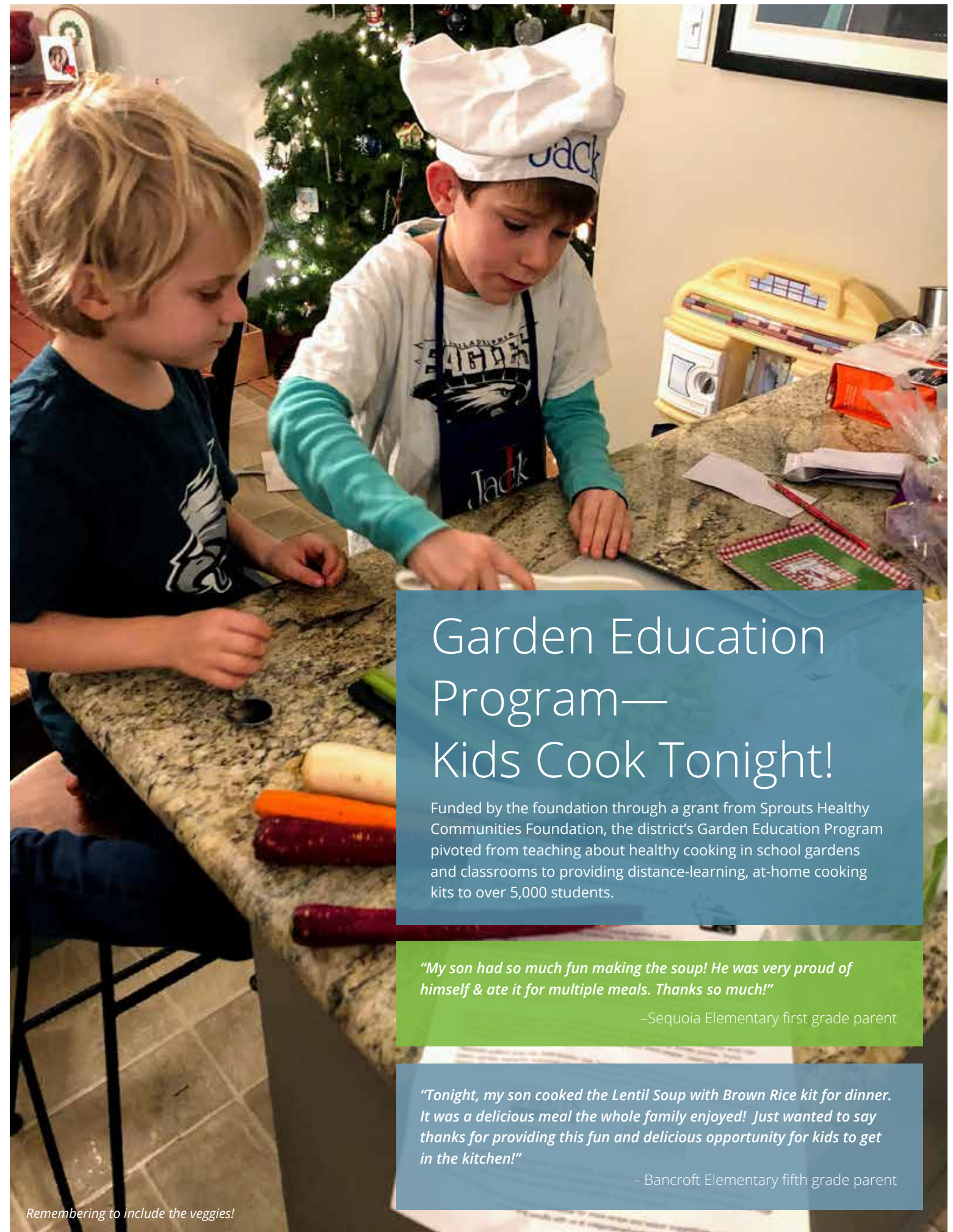
Makes a handy desk, too!



Enjoying the learning and the sun at Rio Vista Elementary

When our schools began hybrid instruction in March, teachers recognized the need for convenient outdoor learning spaces where students could more easily socially distance and take advantage of the learning environment outside their classrooms. However, carrying supplies and finding a place to sit outside was often challenging.

To this end, working in conjunction with the MDUSD Garden Education Program, the foundation funded the purchase of plastic buckets with padded lids for supplies and seating plus clipboards to be used at schools to help create outdoor classrooms. Many schools plan to continue using the supplies next year so students can continue learning in the great outdoors.



## Garden Education Program— Kids Cook Tonight!

Funded by the foundation through a grant from Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation, the district's Garden Education Program pivoted from teaching about healthy cooking in school gardens and classrooms to providing distance-learning, at-home cooking kits to over 5,000 students.

*"My son had so much fun making the soup! He was very proud of himself & ate it for multiple meals. Thanks so much!"*  
 -Sequoia Elementary first grade parent

*"Tonight, my son cooked the Lentil Soup with Brown Rice kit for dinner. It was a delicious meal the whole family enjoyed! Just wanted to say thanks for providing this fun and delicious opportunity for kids to get in the kitchen!"*  
 - Bancroft Elementary fifth grade parent

Remembering to include the veggies!

# Project Lead the Way

The foundation continued to support the implementation of Project Lead the Way curriculum, providing funds for science and engineering purchases at elementary, middle, and high schools. Materials included computer science and life science modules, robotic kits, 3-D printers, and distance-learning supplies.



Ygnacio Valley High School robotics team; inset: Ygnacio Valley High represents with engineering design innovation award

# Finances

Cut-paper collage student work inspired by Spanish artist Joan Miró

323

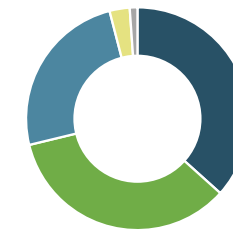
Number of Donors

454

Number of Donations

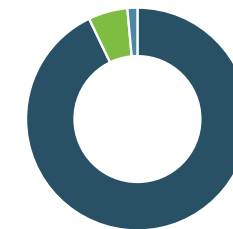
\$122,304.55

Total Revenue



## 2020-2021 REVENUE

Grants	\$45,000.00
Business Donations	\$42,448.87
Individual Donations	\$30,382.86
Employer Match	\$ 3,585.71
Events	\$ 1,370.00
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 122,787.44</b>



## 2020-2021 EXPENSES

Programs	\$9,8701.40
Operating	\$ 6,061.55
Fundraising	\$ 1,541.60
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$106,304.55</b>

In its fourth year, the foundation increased its number of active donors by nearly 60% from the previous year while steadily increasing annual revenue.

Our 6% expense ratio, well below the industry standard, reflects an all-volunteer management team focused on maximizing student program funding out of every donor dollar.

# Young Audiences

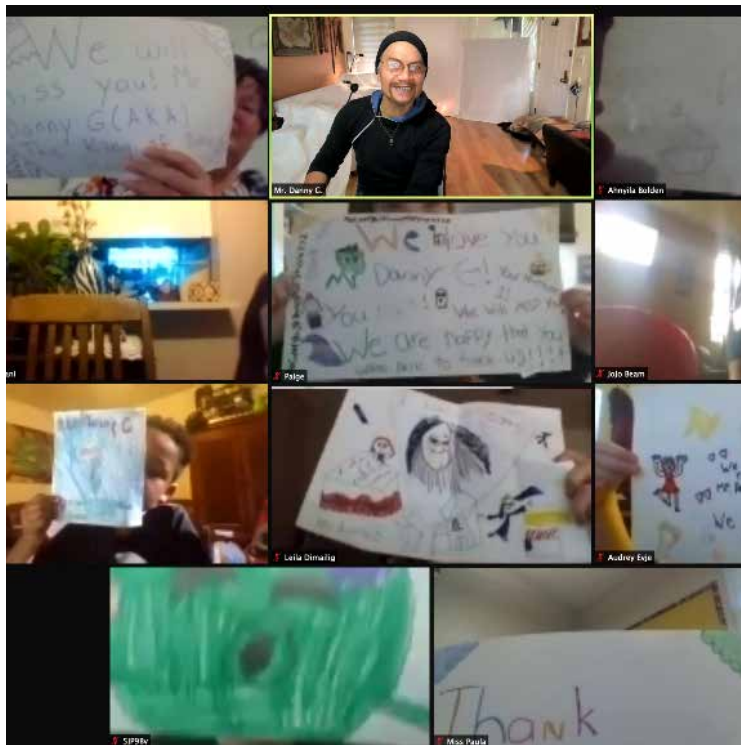
The foundation, with funding from a grant from the Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation, again partnered with Young Audiences of Northern California to provide arts-integrated curriculum at Wren Avenue Magnet Arts Elementary School. The teaching artists, representing music and dance disciplines, worked with all 14 classroom teachers to provide student engagement and arts-integrated lesson plans.

*"The students were very excited about having our dance class every week and loved hearing about different dances around the world."*

– Wren Avenue Kindergarten teacher

*"The artist found ways to be inclusive of everyone in my class (including the teacher!) He was very warm and offered alternate body movements for those who needed it."*

–Wren Avenue 3rd grade teacher



Zoom-delivered thank-you notes from second graders to artist Danny Giray after his final lesson

# Giving

## Annual Campaign

This year the foundation kicked off our inaugural Annual Giving Campaign in February. The STEAM-4-Students/Give 10 campaign asked district families to give \$10 for each student or spend 10 minutes to like, follow, and share us on social media. The campaign was a great success, raising over \$12,000 and bringing 138 new donors.

## Cars 2nd Chance

The foundation began partnering with Cars 2nd Chance, a volunteer-run, local non-profit organization that cuts out the middleman and maximizes the funds generated by vehicle donations. When vehicles are donated through the MDUSD Education Foundation, we receive a portion of every donation.



Give 10 Campaign Thank you social media post





P.O. Box 5151  
Concord, CA 94524

In addition to your donations, we rely on the assistance of many associations and organizations to provide quality programming for all MDUSD students. Thank you to our current partners, and we look forward to working collaboratively with many more groups in the coming year!



Young Audiences  
Arts for Learning  
Northern California



[mdedf.org](https://www.mdedf.org)  
 [@MtDiabloEF](https://twitter.com/MtDiabloEF)  
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