In 1999, the Children’s Initiative and the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) formed a partnership to jointly submit a countywide Expanded Learning grant application on behalf of all eligible school districts within San Diego County. Sandra McBrayer, CEO of the Children’s Initiative, with support from Dr. Rudy Castruita, then Superintendent at SDCOE, worked to bring together all eligible school districts to form a regional San Diego Expanded Learning Consortium. Collaborative discussions were also held with significant stakeholders: San Diego County Board of Supervisors, San Diego County School Boards Association, 9th District PTA, Region 18 Superintendents Council, San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, the Probation Department, and the City of San Diego. Through this effort, San Diego was successful in forming the first regional Expanded Learning Consortium in California.

The Consortium partners developed a collaborative philosophy and effective approach to: sharing and maximizing resources, identifying best practices, streamlining training efforts, providing cross agency networking, and bringing in community and parent voice and support.

The San Diego Expanded Learning Consortium is a unique model for the development, management, and sustainability of expanded learning programs and in building cross system partnerships. The size and scope of the San Diego Consortium has tremendous impact on policy and program development at the local, state, and national level. Currently, 27 local school districts and 18 charter schools serving more than 44,000 K-8 students daily are part of the Expanded Learning Consortium.

All Consortium programs receive technical assistance from the Children’s Initiative and the San Diego County Office of Education in support of high quality expanded learning programs throughout San Diego County.
MISSION

- Provide youth with safe and enriching learning environments before and after school
- Provide outcome-driven academic assistance
- Create youth development & enrichment programming that fosters student resilience & improves neighborhood safety

Funding History

With quality programs and dedicated advocacy, the San Diego Expanded Learning Consortium has successfully secured federal and state funding for local districts for more than 20 years.

ASES: After School Education and Safety - funded by the CA Department of Education
21st CCLC: Century Community Learning Centers funded by US Department of Education
Critical Hours: funded by County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>ASES</th>
<th>21st CCLC</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97-10</td>
<td>$363,286,832</td>
<td>$28,518,642</td>
<td>$391,805,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>$50,438,906</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$50,438,906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>$49,563,851</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$49,563,851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>$48,267,629</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$48,267,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>$48,594,036</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$48,594,036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-15</td>
<td>$27,956,301</td>
<td>$330,000</td>
<td>$28,286,301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-16</td>
<td>$27,915,599</td>
<td>$330,000</td>
<td>$28,245,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-17</td>
<td>$27,791,877</td>
<td>$330,000</td>
<td>$28,121,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$643,815,031</td>
<td>$29,508,642</td>
<td>$673,323,673</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Children’s Initiative is a San Diego based nonprofit child advocacy agency. The Children’s Initiative is dedicated to assisting children and families thrive by providing education, advocacy, cross system collaboration, and training to schools, community organizations, government agencies, elected officials, businesses, and parents.

In support of the San Diego Expanded Learning Consortium, the Children’s Initiative provided technical assistance and resources to 27 school districts and 18 charter schools at more than 335 K-8 After School Education and Safety (ASES) programs and 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) programs during the 2016-17 school year. The services that the Children’s Initiative provides empower staff to develop high quality and effective expanded learning programs to improve student learning and achievement. Expanded learning programs provide academic and enrichment opportunities for students which align with educational objectives of the school day. Program staff works closely with teachers and administration to ensure strong communication and collaboration between the school day and before and after school program. The Children’s Initiative conducted 114 site visits, providing onsite guidance and support to improve program quality and share best practice approaches for engaging students. The Children’s Initiative coordinated the annual Touching Minds Shaping Futures professional development conference for more than 560 expanded learning staff from around the county. The Children’s Initiative hosted 12 professional development trainings to: advance nationally recognized strategies for improving academic performance for low income students, learn how to engage students and families in building healthy life choices, incorporate performing arts in expanded learning, and building science and technology skills in students. The Children’s Initiative procured more than $138,000 of in-kind resources for expanded learning programs including: academic curriculum and supplies, tickets for cultural, arts and sporting events, books to expand home libraries and art supplies and gardening equipment.

The Children’s Initiative collaborates with several regional partners including the San Diego County School Boards Association, Association of California School Administrators Region 18 Superintendents Council, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency, San Diego Police Chiefs Association, San Diego County Probation, and the Offices of Supervisors Greg Cox and Ron Roberts as well as other state officials, to promote the need and value of expanded learning programs for families, schools and communities. These partnerships are essential to identifying and securing resources, connecting with local assets, and advancing policies and legislation which support expanded learning goals. The cooperative efforts of the Children’s Initiative and all of our partners result in a shared responsibility for the advancement and growth of expanded learning programs.
The San Diego County Office of Education provides a variety of services for the 42 school districts and five community college districts in the county. The services provided by SDCOE to school districts range from district and school improvement, to budget approval and monitoring.

The San Diego County Office of Education’s Administrative Support Center (ASC) is California’s second largest direct-funded ASES program grantee. The ASC supports San Diego County school districts with grant management, attendance reporting, fiscal management, and program evaluation. Funding from the districts’ 2% San Diego Expanded Learning Consortium fee has been used to augment training and provide technical assistance. The After School Division of the California Department of Education has placed a strong emphasis on fiscal management, grant management, program quality and compliance for all ASES grantees. Specifically, this includes ASES program attendance and fiscal accountability. As a result, this has become the top priority of the ASC. The goal of the ASC during FY 2016-17 was to proactively provide training and site visits to ensure full compliance with the California Education Code, the State Audit Guide, and Federal Program Monitoring (FPM).

In an effort to meet all ASES program and audit requirements, the ASC provided the following trainings and events: City Span Web-based Attendance & Fiscal Management System Training - Trained staff on use of youthservices.net application for participant data, attendance and grant goal progress tracking; ASES 101 Training - Provided site level information on grant & attendance requirements, as well as best practices for programs; Alignment 101 Training - Provided strategies on aligning the after school program with the regular school day; ASES Data Management & Reporting Training - Prepared districts and site staff for CDE State mandated evaluation reports; Focus on Literacy in After School - Provided support to after school program sites by providing supplemental curriculum in core academic content areas through educational, nonfiction books; Federal Program Monitoring - Trained and prepared district staff for successful FPM review; SDCOE Strength’s Based Institute (SBI) - Two days of professional development in which participants discovered their unique, top 5 talent themes using an online, globally recognized, research-based instrument and platform developed by Donald Clifton of Gallup.

The ASC hosted 15 professional learning opportunities and events, attended by more than 420 after school practitioners who represented 26 San Diego County school districts and 14 independent charter schools. Expanded day program site visits are another key component of the technical assistance provided by the ASC. During FY 2016-17, the ASC team conducted 49 site visits to support ASES programs in the areas of Federal Program Monitoring, grant requirements, program quality and audit compliance.
California Department of Education’s Quality Standards for Expanded Learning

In September of 2014, the California Department of Education (CDE) released the “Quality Standards for Expanded Learning in California.” These standards were intended to create clear expectations for what a quality expanded learning program looks like and provides a guide for continuous program improvement.

Quality Standards for Expanded Learning Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point-of-Service Quality Standards</th>
<th>Programmatic Quality Standards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safe and supportive environment</td>
<td>Quality staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active and engaged learning</td>
<td>Clear vision, mission and purpose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skill building</td>
<td>Collaborative partnerships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth voice and leadership</td>
<td>Continuous quality improvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy choices and behaviors</td>
<td>Program management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity, access and equity</td>
<td>Sustainability</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Cycle

Currently, CDE requires every state-funded after school program site to engage in a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) cycle. Program providers are required to do the following on an ongoing basis:

1. Assess program quality by collecting data.
2. Create an action plan for program improvement.
3. Make modifications to improve program quality.
To assess program quality, the San Diego Expanded Learning Consortium collaborated with ERC (external program evaluator) to conduct a county-wide survey based on CDE’s Quality Standards. ERC surveyed a broad spectrum of Expanded Learning stakeholders. In the spring of 2017, surveys were collected from:

- 149 school principals
- 212 on-site program leaders
- 714 front-line program staff
- 934 teachers
- 3,974 parents
- 10,666 students (grades K-8)

Survey data was summarized by school and shared with on-site leaders to facilitate the creation of action plans for program improvement. Tables 1-3 show county-wide survey results on selected items from the student, parent, and principal surveys.

### Table 1. Student Survey Results on Selected Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Survey Item</th>
<th>Positive Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Adults in the after school program help me when I have a problem with something.</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Staff make me feel welcome in the after school program.</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. I learn new things in the after school program. (like art, computers, music/sports).</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. At this program, I am learning how to work well with other students.</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. At this program, I learn skills that help me with my schoolwork.</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2. Parent Survey Results on Selected Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parent Survey Item</th>
<th>Positive Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The after school program provides a positive social environment for students.</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The after school program offers something for everyone regardless of income level race/ethnicity, religion, English learner status, special needs, or sexual orientation.</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. My child is physically safe in the after school program.</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The after school program provides opportunities for students to learn new skills.</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. My child’s academic performance has improved as a result of attending the after school program.</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 3. Principal Survey Results on Selected Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal Survey Item</th>
<th>Positive Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The after school program has quality staff who build positive, supportive relationships with students.</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The after school program provides activities that meet the needs and interests of students.</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The after school program provides opportunities for students to develop their team-building, collaboration, and communication skills.</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The after school program provides hands-on learning activities.</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. The after school program is meeting the academic needs of participating students.</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chula Vista Middle School Club Teen Connection: Giving Back To Their Community

Chula Vista Middle School Club Teen Connection (Club TC) has partnered with Smart Food Foundation, South Bay Community Services, the San Diego Food Bank and Sweetwater Union High School District to facilitate “Smart Food Day,” a monthly food donation program for families, the elderly and the school community since 2014. The Smart Food Foundation donates various healthy food such as: protein rich foods, whole wheat berry, oats, brown rice, black beans, pinto beans and green lentils along with fresh fruits and vegetables from the San Diego Food Bank. All of the food is sorted, organized and distributed by Club TC students every 3rd Tuesday of the month. Club TC sports teams rotate their volunteer time to assist with the distribution of food. Club TC students coordinate the distribution of approximately 20 pounds of nutritious and wholesome food for more than 250 families and the elderly totaling almost 5,000 pounds of food each month.

Club TC Cooking Club students create healthy dishes using ingredients included in the donations for families to taste as they receive their donated food. The students share new healthy recipes with families while they develop and demonstrate their own cooking skills.

Coordination of Smart Food Day offers leadership roles for Club TC students. Students have the opportunity to practice leadership skills such as dedication, positivity, professionalism, responsibility and flexibility. They are addressing a critical need within their community and building special relationships among the young and old.
La Mesa-Spring Valley School District, Extended School Services: Every Student Matters

Creating an expanded learning environment which makes students feel welcome, safe and cared for socially, emotionally and physically is a priority for the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District Extended School Services’ (ESS) program. For more than 2 years, the ESS program has implemented, “Every Monday Matters,” a nationally recognized program which inspires individuals to understand how much they matter to themselves and others. Through a series of structured, guided lessons and activities, expanded learning staff work with students to foster and maintain trusting, positive, nurturing and supportive relationships within their ESS program.

“Check-in and check-out” is an activity directed by ESS staff to connect with students. During “check-in,” students can share out what is going on with them. Then, before the program ends, students gather in their assigned group to “check-out” with each other. During “check-out,” students can share what they learned in the program, something they are looking forward to or anything they choose. This time permits students to be heard, to listen to their classmates and to improve their communication skills. Another activity, “2x10s”, are 2 minute talks ESS staff engage in with their students for 10 days. ESS staff identify students who they know are struggling with their behavior or academically. Students are encouraged to talk about anything except school.

Through the “Every Monday Matters” program, ESS staff strive to foster a sense of belonging and community among the students and help them understand that they are respected, accepted and have something to offer.
Monarch School: Promoting Healthy Living

The Rollin’ from the Heart Foundation has been partnering with the JJCS Monarch School’s expanded learning program since 2014. Co-founder, John Barry and his Rollin’ from the Heart team educate expanded learning students in grades K-8 how to properly and safely ride and use skateboards and skateboard ramps. Not only do students learn the exciting sport, they also receive new helmets, safety gear and skateboards. Twice a year, they participate in a special skateboard event that includes music and food and the opportunity for students to build their own skateboard.

The goal of the partnership between Monarch School’s expanded learning program and Rollin’ from the Heart is to facilitate the development of healthy and active lifestyles while providing a physical outlet for anxiety and stress that many students face daily. The Rollin’ from the Heart skateboard club strives to promote a less sedentary, more active lifestyle and encourages expanded learning students to make positive life choices. By engaging expanded learning program students on a personal level and interacting with them both as peers and mentors, Rollin’ from The Heart gives students the confidence to believe in themselves and helps them discover their own unique interests and identities.

The Rollin’ from the Heart skateboard club encourages expanded learning program students to engage in activities that many of them have not had the opportunity or access to participate in. Using this one-on-one peer/mentor interaction, Rollin’ from the Heart teaches by example. The caring Rollin’ from the Heart team shares their own life experiences and passions with their students and expresses themselves, both as mentors, peers, and friends in a real, engaging and fun way. Expanded learning students love the Rollin’ from the Heart skateboard club and look forward to the days they are on campus.
Art Link: Supporting Art Enrichment in Expanded Learning Programs

Art is a gateway for many students to demonstrate their imagination, creativity and dreams. Providing arts education, hands-on art lessons and art experiences, and field trips for students in expanded learning programs provides them with new and unique opportunities to demonstrate their abilities and passions. Art Link, an art enrichment program, created by the Children’s Initiative, fosters arts education and experiences in expanded learning programs. Through community partnerships with local volunteer artists and businesses, including art stores, paper companies and fabric stores, etc.; art supplies and materials are secured for programs. Students engage in a variety of hands-on, project-based art activities including drawing, painting, mosaics, photography, crafts and jewelry making. They also take part in interacting with visiting artists or art related field trips.

The academic benefits for students involved in arts education include gains in math, reading, cognitive ability, critical thinking, and verbal skills. Arts learning can also improve student motivation, concentration, confidence, and teamwork. Exposure to arts education support skills that are essential to success in the 21st century.

During the 2016-17 school year, districts and charter schools which participated in Art Link included: America’s Finest Charter School, Cajon Valley Union, Escondido Union, Harriet Tubman Charter School, Julian Union, Keiller Leadership Academy, La Mesa Spring Valley, Monarch School, Mountain Empire Unified, National, Oceanside Unified, Poway Unified, Ramona Unified, San Diego Unified, Thrive Charter School, and Warner Unified.

International Children’s Art Exchange: Sharing Art Across the Globe

During the 2016-17 school year, the Children’s Initiative invited and encouraged expanded learning programs throughout San Diego County to participate in the International Children’s Art Exchange (ICAE) program. The ICAE program provides students in expanded learning programs an opportunity to share and receive art work from other students around the world. Participating students create art which illustrates topics and themes such as world peace, cultural events, special holidays, family, friends and favorite past-time activities. Through art, students are able to express and convey information about themselves as well as share and learn about cultures and customs of other students from different countries. Many expanded learning students who contribute their art to the ICAE also choose to be pen pals with their fellow international student artists.

The Children’s Initiative collected, submitted and distributed student art work with the ICAE from the following district schools and charter schools: La Paloma Elementary (Fallbrook Union); Gompers Preparatory Academy; Julian Jr. High (Julian Union); Lindo Park Elementary (Lakeside Union); Avondale Elementary, La Presa Elementary, Spring Valley Academy, STEAM Academy at La Presa Middle (La Mesa/Spring Valley); Monarch School (San Diego County Office of Education); Green Elementary (San Diego Unified) and Beaumont Elementary (Vista Unified).
Focus on Literacy in Expanded Learning Programs Continues to Shine at ASES Sites!

The San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE), Expanded Learning Unit invited expanded learning elementary school programs to be a part of the Focus on Literacy project. SDCOE provides free literacy enrichment curriculum through the Focus on Literacy project to support reading and writing with elementary school students. The Focus on Literacy project provides supplemental curriculum, structured lesson plans and nonfiction books to participating programs. With graphic novels, high-interest nonfiction books and comic books, students expand their vocabulary, increase their reading comprehension and learn the joy of reading. Focus on Literacy’s design and activities reflect active, meaningful and engaging learning in arts, character education, movement and fitness that promote individual and collaborative learning.

More than 70 expanded learning programs participated in the Focus on Literacy project during the 2016-17 school year. This year Epiphany Prep Charter School joined in the Focus on Literacy project and their staff coordinated a Super Run 5K. The Super Run 5K event was based on readings about superheroes and healthy lifestyles. Program staff, family, friends, teachers, counselors and the principal participated.

New Consortium expanded learning programs which implemented Focus on Literacy during the 2016-17 school year include: Ramona Elementary, Del Rio Elementary and Epiphany Prep Charter. SDCOE is thrilled to provide an opportunity to enhance and increase expanded learning students’ academic growth and literacy proficiency which get students excited about reading and learning.
XTRA Weekly: Literacy Enrichment for Expanded Learning Programs

Reading is knowledge and knowledge is success! Providing youth with national news articles improves their knowledge of world events and increases their vocabulary and understanding of complex issues. XTRA Weekly, a unique education curriculum, utilizes nonfiction articles from the Washington Post, Bloomberg News, New York Times and Los Angeles Times to engage elementary and middle school students in reading, writing and critical thinking. The timely and topical weekly current event articles and accompanying activities are designed to stimulate students to think critically and promote thought-provoking discussion.

The students get engaged in reading and increasing their comprehension while they have lively discussion on national, state and world events that shape their futures. Current event articles and detailed lesson plans are provided for both Level 1 (grades 3-5) and Level 2 (grades 6-8). Step-by-step instructions guide staff through preparation and presentation of lessons. XTRA Weekly publishes 32 comprehensive, downloadable weekly lesson plans available for staff to use in the expanded learning programs. All lessons are based on Common Core State Standards in English and Language Arts. During the 2016-17 school year, the Children’s Initiative provided 182 XTRA Weekly subscriptions to 91 expanded learning programs.

Science Link: STEM Learning In Action

For more than 10 years, the Science Link program has supported Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) learning in expanded learning middle school programs throughout San Diego County. Created and coordinated by the Children’s Initiative, this innovative STEM enrichment program engages middle school students in hands-on, interactive methods of discovery and experimentation and furthers their appreciation of the sciences.

Science Link helps students to recognize the broad application of scientific and mathematical principles in the real world. Through hands-on science lessons, scientists sharing their knowledge and experiences, and science-related field trips; students have many opportunities to increase their understanding and knowledge of STEM education. Visiting the Birch Aquarium and dissecting squid or learning about robots with staff from the San Diego Air and Space museum facilitates students’ participation in high-quality science and math enrichment activities and supports students’ connections to local science-based organizations, programs and professionals.

During the 2016-17 school year, Science Link students learned how archaeologists use artifacts to bring history to life. They explored the current giraffe conservation efforts in Kenya to understand efforts to save a species from extinction. Students learned about the laws of motion and gravity while constructing aqua-rockets and compared anatomical parts of a squid to identify the importance of adaption of a species for survival. Science Link brought fun, explorative learning to students in San Diego’s expanded learning programs!
Learning, sharing and doing is what makes the annual Touching Minds Shaping Futures (TMSF) conference for expanded learning staff a success! This free, professional development conference, coordinated by the Children’s Initiative, is attended by line staff, site supervisors, teachers and district contacts from around San Diego County. This year, TMSF XXXI brought together experienced and knowledgeable trainers who facilitated interactive workshops focusing on improving student academics, increasing enrichment activities, making healthy life choices, increasing physical activity, improving nutrition and increasing program quality. Each workshop was based on the Quality Standards for Expanded Learning from the California Department of Education.

Each attendee had the opportunity to select workshops throughout the day which would broaden their professional knowledge and learn about activities that engage students in meaningful activities. All workshops focused on how staff can build positive relationships with their culturally and socio-economically diverse community of students and parents.

This year more than 560 elementary and middle school expanded learning staff from 18 local school districts and 8 charter schools learned new instructional activities, engaging recreation and physical fitness strategies, best practices to enhance program quality and how to meet the social-emotional and academic needs of their students.

TMSF XXXI provided a unique opportunity for expanded learning staff to network with colleagues from other school districts, share programming successes and concerns, and learn how to improve their efforts. Conference attendees increased their understanding of the California Department of Education- Quality Standards in action and how to incorporate easy to implement lesson plans into their programs. Attendees shared overwhelmingly how useful the conference was for improving their knowledge and skills. More than 81 percent stated that they would implement something they had learned at the conference within the next month at their expanded learning site!
“This was my first conference; it was more than exceptional. I am making so many notes about things I need to try. I learned so much about myself and how my actions/reactions, body language, etc. impacts the children and staff I work with.”

Marc - TMSF XXXI, Attendee

96% of TMSF XXXI attendees gave the conference an overall rating of EXCEPTIONAL /GOOD

92% of TMSF XXXI attendees would return to a future TMSF Conference

“Thank you for this experience.”

Anna - TMSF XXXI, Attendee

* Percentage of TMSF XXXI attendees who said when they would be implementing information they learned in the workshops.
Valley Center-Pauma USD: Honoring a 20 Year Community Partner at Pauma School

Jane Anderson began playing golf as a child and eight decades later, she is still as passionate and active in the sport with which she fell in love. Jane Anderson brought her passion for golf to the Valley Center – Pauma Unified School District nearly 15 years ago with her development of a golf program for students. Jane was a teacher and administrator in the San Francisco area for more than 20 years, and then taught 1st grade at Pauma School from 1999 to 2002. Jane developed a golf program at Pauma Elementary School after her retirement. She began offering golf instruction in the ASES expanded learning program to introduce students to the game of golf and to broaden their skills and knowledge in sportsmanship and team work.

Olivia Leschick, Administrator in Charge of Special Projects, Valley Center-Pauma Unified School District, acknowledges the incredible contribution Jane has brought to Pauma School, “Jane Anderson is an amazing advocate for the underserved Pauma expanded learning students. She brings them opportunities to experience and participate in the skilled sport of golf and provides them opportunities to experience golfing events.”

Under Jane’s leadership, students can start learning golf in the 1st grade and students who find their love of the game and improve their skills can participate in junior golf programs, playing in tournaments and clinics. Jane recruits volunteers from the Pauma community to provide instruction to the students at the Pauma Valley Country Club. The Country Club has been generous in providing access to lessons on their exclusive private golf course. Pauma students have had an amazing once in a lifetime opportunity to interact with international pros such as Lorena Ochoa and Rickie Fowler. Jane has rallied incredible support from the entire community and is instrumental in maintaining the close ties between the school, local tribes and the community. She is an inspiration to so many students, families, teachers and other golfers. She embodies community volunteerism!

Escondido USD: Partners with Boys & Girls Clubs Providing Sports for Expanded Learning Programs

The Escondido Union School District and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego are proud partners in bringing quality expanded learning programs to 4 middle schools in Escondido Union School District called X-Track. Since 2007, this partnership has supported expanded learning students to improve academics, increase school attendance, build youth leadership and engage in new and different sport activities.

As part of the Escondido Union School District’s expanded learning programs, X-Track has a unique sports program which offers sports clubs for indoor and outdoor soccer, co-ed basketball, girls' volleyball and flag football. Each sports club runs for 7 weeks and are coached by teachers, administrators, parents and community members. The X-Track sports program promotes student well-being and healthy lifestyle choices through structured physical activity and healthy practices in a safe and supportive environment. The positive benefits for students who participate in the sports program go far beyond just staying physically fit; students are learning life lessons focusing on positive sportsmanship, responsibility, commitment and teamwork while improving their self-confidence and self-esteem. Many students are introduced to new sports and find their athletic passion! Students state that they are eager to continue participating in sports in high school and even college.
San Diego Habitat for Humanity: Playhouses for Expanded Learning Families
San Diego Habitat for Humanity works with a multitude of business and community sponsors to build and donate playhouses for underserved students throughout San Diego County. The Children’s Initiative partners with San Diego Habitat for Humanity to identify eligible students who would love to receive a one-of-a-kind playhouse. Each playhouse is constructed and painted by volunteers who receive design and color input from the student who will be receiving the playhouse. Students get to pick their favorite colors and choose from creative and exciting designs for the walls of their playhouse, including painting images of superheroes, ballerinas, flowers, animals, sports and carnival/circus themes.

During the 2016-17 school year, a student from La Mesa-Spring Valley School District received a personalized princess themed playhouse, painted in a pink and purple color scheme. The day of the unveiling, the family was able to meet the volunteers who created the playhouse and express their gratitude for the special donation.

Barnes & Noble: Promoting Reading for Pleasure in Students
As a recipient of the 2016 Barnes & Noble Holiday Book Drive, 51 schools received new books for their expanded learning libraries. More than 2,000 new, high-interest books were received and distributed by the Children’s Initiative to expanded learning programs throughout San Diego County. Through the generosity of Barnes & Noble patrons, high-interest books covering the classics to contemporary were donated to the Children’s Initiative. The Children’s Initiative provided books in a variety of genres including, but not limited to: sports, science fiction, drama, mystery, poetry, picture books and suspense.

Through the donation of so many amazing books, programs help students find their own reading interests, exercise their imaginations and promote the joy reading. Programs also use the books to supplement literacy enrichment programming, improve students’ learning outcomes and increases students’ self-confidence and self-awareness. Reading at grade level is an important predictor of future academic success. Making books accessible in expanded learning programs supports student reading and learning and engages and entertains students for years to come.

AARP in Partnership
More than 5 years ago, the Children’s Initiative developed a concept for a unique tutoring program for early elementary students reading below proficiency. The idea was to recruit adults who had retired from the workforce and had time to tutor students in reading during expanded learning programs. Research shows that students who are not reading proficiently by the time they enter 4th grade are four times more likely to not graduate from high school. Targeted literacy intervention – maximized during after school time -- equates to more successful students and higher graduation rates.

Several years later, the Children’s Initiative found a partner organization in Experience Corps. The highly successful Experience Corps placed trained and experienced (over 55 years old) adult literacy tutors in schools to help students in grades K-3 who were not reading proficiently. In the last several years, Experience Corps became a program under the AARP Foundation.

Our partnership reading program made its debut in expanded learning programs in eight schools in San Diego during the 2016-17 school year: Normal Heights Elementary and Rowan Elementary within San Diego Unified School District and all six elementary schools in the Lemon Grove School District: Mount Vernon, Lemon Grove Academy, Vista La Mesa, Monterey Heights, San Altos, and San Miguel.

In its first year, the Scaling Reading Success program was a resounding success with support from the AARP Foundation and the Del Mar Healthcare Fund. A total of 52 experienced adult tutors helped more than 250 K-3 students improve their reading and literacy skills. Many students graduated out of the program because they became proficient readers, reading at grade level. This was a huge accomplishment for the students and for their tutors!
ResMed Inc.: Ready to Use Bags
The long-lasting partnership between ResMed Inc. and the Children’s Initiative of more than 7 years continues to support students, families and expanded learning programs throughout San Diego County. ResMed Inc. has continued to generously donate repurposed medical supply bags to expanded learning programs in San Diego County. Functional and practical, ResMed bags are utilized by students, families and staff.

Expanded learning students and staff recycle them as backpacks, laptop and tablet bags, first aid/emergency bags, supply and material bags, and storage bags. Students get excited to use their ResMed bags as art projects, decorating and personalizing their ResMed bags with artistic, colorful designs.

During the 2016-17 school year, the Children’s Initiative coordinated the distribution of more than 1,000 ResMed bags to programs in 10 school districts and 4 charter schools.

Events in San Diego: Tickets For Expanded Learning Programs
Through the generosity of both new and long-standing community partners, the Children’s Initiative provided tickets to expanded learning students and families to enjoy an amazing selection of special events throughout San Diego County.

During the 2016-17 school year, the Children’s Initiative secured and coordinated the ticket distribution of more than 2,000 tickets for 16 school districts and 8 charter schools. Expanded learning students and their families attended San Diego Padres baseball games, USD basketball games, World Baseball Classic games, Point Loma Nazarene basketball games and performances such as The Nutcracker, Disney on Ice, Beauty and the Beast, Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, Ragtime and Circus Vargas.

The donated tickets make it possible for expanded learning students and families to experience many enriching and educational opportunities at no cost. Feedback from students and parents has been tremendous, with many stating it was the first time their child had the opportunity to watch a live performance at a theater, attend a professional sporting event, or be inspired by college athletes.

Union-Tribune Shoe Fund
The wonderful Union-Tribune Shoe Fund was established in 1930 by Forrest Warren, a former reporter and columnist for The San Diego Union newspaper. Recognizing the growing number of children who could not afford shoes during the depression era, Forrest Warren, along with San Diego Catholic Charities, established the Shoe Fund to assist children who needed shoes. The San Diego Union-Tribune took over management of the Shoe Fund after Warren retired. For more than 87 years, the Shoe Fund has done incredible work in providing new, free shoes to low-income students throughout San Diego County. This long standing commitment to underserved children is exemplary.

The Children’s Initiative has partnered with the Union-Tribune Shoe fund for more than 10 years to help underserved students pick out new shoes from Payless Shoes stores. During the 2016-17 school year, 100 expanded learning students received Payless Shoe store gift cards to purchase new shoes of their choice! This unique opportunity supports programs in providing resources to families in need as well as bolster students’ social-emotional well-being. We salute the Union Tribunes commitment in continuing to support of San Diego children.
State Support – Supporting Expanded Learning Programs

Each year the Children’s Initiative hosts local and state elected officials and/or their staff at expanded learning programs in San Diego County. It is during these visits that elected officials and their staff are able to personally observe the benefits expanded learning programs provide to students, parents, schools and their communities. Throughout the visit, the guests are able to see and hear from students and teachers how students are succeeding in completing their daily homework, learning new leadership skills, engaging in sports, and participating in enrichment activities. Elected officials and their staff see students engaged in meaningful, hands-on activities and witness positive interactions with staff, administrators and families.

School leaders share the significant education benefits of expanded learning to the core school day including the value of small group tutoring, homework completion and the inclusion of STEM in expanded learning programs. Each visit showcases the wide variety of programming and learning opportunities offered at exemplary programs such as tutoring and homework assistance, literacy support, nutrition education, physical fitness, arts, culture and enrichment activities.

During the 2016-17 school year, the Children’s Initiative coordinated and hosted visits at 3 expanded learning programs:

- Julio Rivera, Field Representative, Office of Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, visited La Palmas Elementary, National School District.
- Deanneka Flores, Consultant, Office of State Senator Ben Hueso, 40th District, visited La Presa Elementary, La Mesa-Spring Valley School District.
- Georgie Ryan, Field Representative, Office of Assemblymember Randy Voepel, visited Lindo Park Elementary, Lakeside Union School District.

On June 27, 2017, Governor Jerry Brown signed the California State Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-18, which included an additional $50 million in ongoing funding for the After School Education and Safety (ASES) expanded learning program. The increased funding allows ASES programs to continue serving low-income students and working families across California in providing safe, supportive and healthy learning environments for students. This significant triumph could not have been possible without key legislators who serve as strong champions for expanded learning.
Corporate and Business Partners

Alvarado Institute of Skin Care
Armstrong Garden Centers
Aunt Emma’s Pancakes
Barnes & Noble
Big 5 Sporting Goods
California Ballet Company
Cameron Fitness
Cheesecake Factory
Chipotle Mexican Grill
Circus Vargas
City Ballet of San Diego
Corvette Diner
Costco
Cygnet Theatre
Dick’s Sporting Goods
Eastlake Tavern+Bowl
EastLife
El Pollo Loco
Emerald Isle Golf Course
Fox Sports
Fiesta De Reyes
Five Guys Burgers & Fries
Green Field Paper Co.
Habitat for Humanity
In-N-Out Burger
Islands Restaurant Mira Mesa
Islands Restaurant Mission Valley iTAN
Izzy’s Café
J*Company Youth Theatre
Jimbo’s
Lamb’s Players Theatre
Landmark Theatres
Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center
Lazy Dog Restaurant
Lemon Grove Deli
Living Coast
Discovery Center
Lolita’s
Los Tacos
Mainly Mozart
Michaels
Mighty Fine Tees
Mira Mesa Lanes
Oceanside Boat Rentals
Oliver’s Hair Design
Original Tommy’s Hamburgers
Pacific Park
Payless ShoeSource
ResMed
Rubio’s Coastal Grill
San Diego Academy of Ballet
San Diego Advanced Skin Care
San Diego Civic Youth Ballet
San Diego Maritime Museum
San Diego Museum of Art
San Diego Symphony
San Diego Union-Tribune
San Diego Padres
Save Our Heritage Organisation
Señor Grubby’s Sky Zone
Smashburger
Spiritivity
Stampin’ Up!
Starbucks
Suite Manifestation
Sushi Deli
The Broken Yolk Café
The Fish Market
The French Gourmet
The Habit
The Local Pacific Beach
The Lunch Box
The Old Globe
The Paintball Park
Therapeutics Clinical Research
The Stronghold
The Sunny Side Café
The Trails Eatery
Tipsy Crow
Trader Joe’s
University of San Diego Athletics
U.S Department of Agriculture
Visionary Dance Theatre
Wahoo’s
Walmart
Wheel Fun Rentals
Wine & Canvas
Your Guitar Sage