Enhancing the quality of life of at-risk youth and their families in Santa Clara County through support of education and the arts.
We are pleased to provide this review of the 2014 and 2015 Shortino Foundation charitable investments. We increasingly focus our giving on high impact services that ensure children have the skills and support to grow into self-sufficient adults. Featured are several grantees with proven track records of substantially improving students’ educational achievements in preparation for post-secondary education and employment. They serve as models for successful partnerships with education agencies and other nonprofit organizations, maximizing the impact of public and philanthropic funds.

Tremendous changes in public education are underway, giving rise to greater optimism for improving educational outcomes, particularly for the lowest performing students. After many years of winnowing budgets, California has increased its investment in public education with a focus on low-income and limited English speaking communities. The newly adopted Common Core Standards raise the bar on the breadth and depth of student learning with increased emphasis on critical thinking, communication and creativity. With greater access to technology and improved educational software, targeted education interventions increasingly address students’ individual learning needs.

The Foundation invests in services and programs that augment public education funding and address the educational needs of the lowest performing youth with a focus on:

- **Extended Learning Time** – after-school and summer programs that eliminate summer learning loss and close the achievement gap between low-income students of color and their more affluent peers.

- **Counseling and Mentoring** – school based services for youth experiencing multiple risk factors that support their socio-emotional development and improve educational achievement.

- **Scholarships and College Support** – increase educational options for low-income, first-generation students by providing access to private k-12 schools, as well as college scholarships, in preparation for successful college completion.

Our investments are most impactful when they are aligned with the local schools’ educational plans, other philanthropic funding and partnerships among nonprofit organizations. We will continue to learn best practices from education leaders and philanthropy experts to inform our grantmaking.

We look forward to sharing with you the growing success of these and other vibrant initiatives.

**Christine Burroughs**  
Board Chair

**Elaine Curran**  
Executive Director
Low-income, first-generation college students in the US face many more obstacles to obtaining their college degree than their more affluent peers. After six years, 11% attain a bachelor’s degree, compared to 54% of college students who are neither low-income nor first-generation. They often arrive on college campuses with distinct disadvantages, such as:

- less academic preparation
- working many hours off-campus to help support their families
- living off campus and commuting, often on public transportation
- lack of parental guidance to navigate higher education systems
- lack of financial safety nets when illness or unemployment unexpectedly occurs

UC Berkeley Destination College Advising Corps and Mountain View / Los Altos (MVLA) Community Scholars are two organizations helping youth in Santa Clara County beat such odds and make a college degree an achievable reality.

**UC Berkeley Center for Educational Partnerships**

**Bringing Recent College Grads into High Schools as College Advisers**

UC Berkeley Destination College Advising Corps (the Corps) employs recent college graduates as College Adviser Fellows (Advisers) at 12 San Jose high schools, where they provide academic preparation and college planning services. The UC Berkeley Corps is part of the National College Advising Corps, which partners with universities and high schools in 14 states to increase the number of low-income and first-generation college students who enter and complete college.

The San Jose program began at Lincoln High School in 2009, expanding to 12 schools by 2014. In 2014-15 nearly 8,000 students benefited from intensive advising services, meeting one-on-one and in small groups to review transcripts, select courses, or complete college and financial aid applications. The Advisers have first-hand knowledge of the challenges their advisees face: 83% were low-income or the first in their families to graduate from college and 59% were both.

Advisers also share college readiness information with the entire student body. They led assemblies and classroom presentations for over 17,000 students in 2014-15. Nearly 2,000 parents attended workshops on guiding children with college preparation.

Advisers often go above and beyond in their efforts to help students. They plan and implement high-energy College Weeks, engaging teachers and guest speakers to inspire a college-going culture. The Overfelt High School Adviser planned field trips to 17 college campuses. The Gunderson High School Adviser started a “DREAMers” club for undocumented immigrant students.
The results of these efforts are encouraging: graduation rates for Latino students have improved at five of the six San Jose Unified School District (SJUSD) schools. Students who met with an Adviser in 2014-15 were 24% more likely to apply to college and 23% more likely to be accepted. This success led three SJUSD high schools to fund a second Adviser in 2015-16, doubling the intensive advising services available to aspiring college students.

Mountain View/Los Altos (MVLA) Community Scholars

Scholarships and Mentoring for High School and College Students

MVLA Community Scholars is a 100% volunteer organization established in 2000 to provide scholarships and mentoring to low-income graduates of three high schools in the Mountain View–Los Altos (MVLA) High School District. Mentors are recruited from the community and receive comprehensive training on the unique needs of first-generation college students.

Recognizing the need to reach students before they enter college, mentoring begins in the junior year of high school. Mentors help students research colleges, complete college, scholarship, and financial aid applications, and select the college to which they are best-suited. Most students attend in-state colleges; CSU (43%), UC (15%), community colleges (26%) and private universities (16%).

In 2015-16, 105 college student “Scholars” received mentoring and college scholarships of up to $6,000 a year for four years, with total awards averaging $15,000.

Success Stories

Jose Antonio Vargas represents one of MVLA Community Scholar’s early success stories. Vargas moved from the Philippines to the US to live with his grandparents when he was twelve, only learning he was undocumented when he was 16. MVLA’s scholarship and mentoring provided essential emotional and financial support through his graduation from San Francisco State University in 2004. He went on to become a reporter for The Washington Post and won a Pulitzer Prize in 2008. He received national attention for his reporting on undocumented immigrant youth.

Another noteworthy Scholar is Jose Amaya, a mechanical engineering student at UC Merced. His parents left school in the third grade and Jose’s educational prospects could have been similar. In middle school he joined a gang. Shoplifting nearly led him to juvenile hall, until intervention from a policeman and teachers instead helped Jose re-engage in school. He discovered his talent for math and science and an MVLA Community Scholars mentor guided him through the college application process. While completing his degree, he is paying it forward, working with police to redirect gang-involved middle school students.

Each Scholar receives a personal mentor for the duration of their college career. Mentors offer encouragement and personalized support with budgeting, time management, and course selection. As Scholars prepare for college graduation, mentors help with the challenging transition from college to career by assisting with resumes, interview skills, and internship/job search strategies. Job shadowing opportunities are arranged through the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce. MVLA Community Scholars also funds stipends for Scholars who accept unpaid internships.

The program’s results are impressive: 75% of Scholars have either received their bachelor’s degree or are on track to do so, a dramatic increase over the attainment rate for college students of similar backgrounds.
There are over 1,400 children in foster care in Santa Clara County. They face enormous challenges in overcoming physical and emotional trauma, as reflected in these state and national statistics:

- By grade 11, only 1 in 5 is proficient in English/language arts, and 1 in 20 is proficient in math.
- 45% graduate from high school and only 3% graduate from college.
- 50% of female foster youth become pregnant by age 19.
- 36% become homeless.
- 25% are incarcerated within two years of aging out of the system.

Child Advocates of Silicon Valley, Silicon Valley Children’s Fund, and TeenForce are three organizations that enable Santa Clara County’s foster youth to fulfill their potential.

**Child Advocates of Silicon Valley**

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) support the best interests of children who are under court jurisdiction as a result of abuse or neglect. Child Advocates recruits and trains these volunteer CASAs who supported 734 (46%) of Santa Clara County’s foster children in 2014.

CASAs are matched with youth in 6th grade and may remain with them until they “age-out” of the system after high school. Weekly meetings cultivate strong relationships between the child and their CASA. With a strong focus on educational advocacy, CASAs work with the child’s school and caregivers to ensure that they are in an optimal learning environment and receive appropriate services, such as tutoring and/or special education assessments. With CASA support, foster children’s participation in extracurricular activities and summer programs increases. In 2015 93% of high school seniors with CASAs earned their diploma, compared to 45% of foster youth statewide and 79% of all students. A partnership with Silicon Valley Children’s Fund enables CASAs to effectively prepare foster youth for their postsecondary transition with information on college support and other available services.

By 2018 Child Advocates aims to provide every foster child in Santa Clara County with the consistency, stability, and hope that a CASA offers.

**Silicon Valley Children’s Fund (SVCF)**

SVCF seeks to ease the challenging transition between high school and higher education for foster youth through two academic programs. YES (Youth Education Scholar) to Higher Education provides scholarships and case management services and RISE (Relationships Inspiring Scholar Excellence) offers coaching for former foster youth attending community college.

YES to Higher Education provides Santa Clara and San Mateo county foster youth with college scholarships for up to four years. SVCF has learned that, in addition to financial assistance,
other academic and emotional supports are essential for student success. Students also receive case management, tutoring, mentoring, academic advising, financial planning, and life-skills development. Expansion in 2014 allowed the program to offer support to every qualifying student in the two counties, reaching 140 scholars in 2015-16. 88% of YES to Higher Education scholars completed their Bachelor’s degree in 2015. In comparison, 64% of all students at California’s public colleges and universities complete their Bachelor’s degree within six years.

A Focus on Community College Students

The majority of YES Scholars enroll in community college where they often struggle to navigate the complex system. Only 41% of foster youth statewide persist in a second year of community college. In an effort to increase retention, graduation, and transfer rates, SVCF established RISE in 2013, offering on-campus coaching and support to all former foster youth enrolled in local community colleges. Coaches help students access campus-based services, create a two-year academic plan to meet degree requirements, and participate in small-group social-emotional learning sessions. RISE coached 102 students in 2014-15, 43 of whom also received YES scholarships.

RISE is working: In 2014-15 the retention rate for RISE students was 94% for freshmen and 86% for sophomores, 100% of those still in school completed a two-year degree, and 50% transferred to a four-year college.

TeenForce

Youth employment in the U.S. is low - just 52% of youth ages 16-24 were employed in 2015. Foster youth are three times less likely to be employed than their peers. In fact, 24% of foster youth earn no wages between their 18th and 21st birthdays.

TeenForce launches Santa Clara County’s foster youth on a path to stable employment by recruiting, training, and placing youth, ages 14-24 in employment with local businesses. TeenForce uses a staffing agency model, in which it serves as the employer of record and charges employers a fee for youth workers. Youth prepare for job placement by attending workshops on resume preparation, interviewing skills, and career fields. TeenForce has employed 525 youth since its founding in 2010. Foster youth now represent over 70% of TeenForce employees, up from 7% in 2011.

In 2013 President Obama named TeenForce founder John Hogan a “Champion of Change for Youth Jobs,” one of only nine Americans to receive the award. Locally, San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce named TeenForce the 2015 Nonprofit of the Year.

STEM Training and Internships

In 2014 TeenForce and Silicon Valley Children’s Fund partnered to launch the Foster Youth STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and Work Readiness Training Program for Santa Clara County high school students. SVCF is responsible for recruiting youth and volunteers, including referrals from Child Advocates’ CASAs. TeenForce coordinates the workforce readiness training, internship placement, and employer relations.

After completing 80 hours of training, participants begin a paid internship in a STEM field. Students build their resumes and gain exposure to in-demand careers capable of providing pathways out of poverty. 80 youth participated in the program in 2015-16. Companies providing internships included Symantec, Xilinx, Beshoff Infiniti, and SanDisk.
Financial Statements
Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Statement of Financial Position

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>December 31, 2015</th>
<th>December 31, 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$47,113,932</td>
<td>$48,213,882</td>
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

| Grants and Other Payables       | $225,650          | $302,659          |
| Net Assets, Unrestricted        | $46,888,282       | $47,911,223       |
| **Total Liabilities and net assets** | $47,113,932  | $48,213,882 |

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

| REVENUE AND SUPPORT            |                   |                   |
| Net Investment Income          | $1,272,541        | $1,385,341        |

| EXPENSES                        |                   |                   |
| Grants and Programs             | $2,240,557        | $2,389,856        |
| Management and General          | $54,925           | $87,735           |
| **Total Expenses**              | $2,295,482        | $2,474,591        |
| Change in net assets            | ($1,022,941)      | ($1,089,250)      |

Annual Funding by Program Area

- **Arts**
  - 2014: $200,000
  - 2015: $100,000

- **Counseling/Mentoring**
  - 2014: $200,000
  - 2015: $100,000

- **Scholarships**
  - 2014: $500,000
  - 2015: $400,000

- **Extended Learning**
  - 2014: $300,000
  - 2015: $300,000

- **Other Academic & Enrichment**
  - 2014: $800,000
  - 2015: $800,000
Grant Recipients

ACE Charter School
AchieveKids
Acknowledge Alliance
ALearn
Alum Rock Counseling
Alum Rock School District
Archbishop Mitty High School
Art in Action
BELL – Building Educated Leaders for Life
Bellarmine High School
Books Aloud, Inc.
Boys & Girls Club of Silicon Valley
Breakthrough Silicon Valley
Bring Me A Book Foundation
Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County
Center for Training & Careers
Child Advocates of Silicon Valley
Children’s Discovery Museum
Children’s Musical Theatre San Jose
Citizen Schools
City Year
College Day
Community Health Awareness Council
Community School of Music and Arts
ConXion to Community
Cristo Rey San Jose Jesuit High School
Downtown College Prep
East Side Community Arts
Elevate Tutoring
Employer School Council
EMQ FamiliesFirst
Facing History & Ourselves
Family and Children Services
Family Supportive Housing
Firehouse Community Development Corp.
Fresh Lifelines for Youth
Friends for Youth
Girl Scouts of Northern California
GLOW Foundation
Grail Family Services
Guadalupe River Park Conservatory
Hammer Montessori Foundation
Ignation Companions
InnVision
Juma Ventures
Junior Achievement Northern California
JustREAD
Kidpower
Kiwanis Club of Los Altos
Kiwanis Club of San Jose
Legacy Academy
MACLA
Montalvo Association
Morgan Autism Center
Mouse Squad
MOUSE Squad of California
Music for Minors
MVLA Community Scholars
Notre Dame High School
O’Neill Sea Odyssey
Partners in School Innovation
Peninsula College Fund
Presentation High School
RAFT
Reading Partners
Sacred Heart Community Services
Sacred Heart Nativity School
San Jose Downtown Foundation
San Jose Jazz
San Jose Multicultural Artists Guild
San Jose Museum of Art
School of Arts and Culture at MHP
Silicon Valley Children’s Fund
Silicon Valley Creates
Silicon Valley De-Bug
Silicon Valley Education Foundation
Silicon Valley FACES
Silicon Valley Urban Debate League
Somos Mayfair
Stanford University Office of Science Outreach
Sunrise Middle School
Symphony Silicon Valley
Tech Museum of Innovation
Teen Success, Inc
TeenForce
The Beat Within
Third Street Community Center
Triton Museum of Art
UC Berkeley Center for Educational Partnerships
Unity Care Group
Valdez Math Foundation
VIA
World Wide Workshop
Youth Science Institute
YWCA Silicon Valley
It has truly been a remarkable experience to encourage and assist students in college preparation.

COLLEGE ADVISER FELLOW | PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL