



# HOMWORK ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Family Supportive Housing created our **Homework Enrichment Program (HEP)** at the San José Family Shelter to address the distinct educational barriers that children and youth who are experiencing homelessness confront. These include a lack of privacy or quiet spaces in which to do homework; lack of access to computers; and the intense emotional and time pressures that these students' parents are under, as they struggle to find work and housing. Left unaddressed, these barriers can slow or block student success.

HEP keeps students on track by offering a **structured and fun learning environment**, devoted mentors, and ongoing personal attention to approximately 150 school children in grades K-12 each year. HEP gives students access to a dedicated **homework room**, a **computer laboratory with 12 computers**, a **library**, and an additional classroom **every Monday through Friday evening**.

Our experienced after school program teacher, with nightly support from a corps of skilled volunteers, coaches students for success throughout the school year and keeps them engaged and intellectually stimulated during summer months. Students receive **academic assistance in core subjects** and targeted

skill development in key areas like **time management**, **note taking**, **test taking**, **using technology**, and **research skills**. Many of the children we serve, who are at risk of dropping out or falling behind a grade level, receive intensive **one-on-one instruction**. In addition to these academic supports, HEP provides **creative opportunities and outlets** that encourage children to think big and envision success at school and in life.



## OUR PROMISE

Family Supportive Housing is committed to keeping the children and youth we serve safe, engaged in learning, and on track for success. We promise our client families that HEP will:

- Help to keep school-age children living at the San José Family Shelter academically competitive and motivated through **innovative, intensive educational enrichment programming**;
- Address any cognitive and learning deficits among program participants in a constructive manner, communicating expectations that are based on the very best that each child can achieve;
- Provide **positive role models** in HEP's teacher and volunteers, who will consistently deliver meaningful learning experiences to participants;
- Engage program participants in **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) learning** on a regular basis, because STEM literacy expands academic and job opportunities;
- Increase rates of homework completion, and decrease rates of school absence and tardiness, among the children and youth whom HEP serves.

## OUR PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Family Supportive Housing teams up with prominent Silicon Valley organizations to deliver high-quality, fun educational and life skills programming to the children participating in HEP. Our recent partners include:

**Intel** – Intel has offered a series of age-appropriate HEP workshops throughout the academic year on computer safety and “maker kits.” Maker kits give students hands-on opportunities to learn STEM concepts, while creating their own inventions. The kits communicate the joy of inventing and encourage kids to use their imagination.

**Cal CPA** – The California Certified Public Accountant Foundation has led workshops on the basics of earning and saving money. Cal CPA workshops introduce HEP students to best practices in borrowing, setting goals and long-term planning.

**Happy Hollow/Youth Science Institute** – Happy Hollow and the Youth Science Institute have each presented hands-on, interactive education experiences for HEP students, bringing live animal “ambassadors” onsite to teach children important concepts in life science and environmental stewardship.

**San José State** - San José State Nutrition Students have led HEP sessions on healthy eating, exercise, and lifestyle as part of our Healthy Eating, Active Living program. That program has also educated HEP students about growing and harvesting fresh produce in our Shelter learning garden.

**Volunteers** - HEP engages 10 volunteers (age 18 or older) per night. Student volunteers from local colleges and working adults collaborate intensively with children in specific areas of concentration. Prospective HEP volunteers must commit to serve a minimum of three months; many continue with HEP for years. We are fortunate to attract loyal volunteers from Santa Clara County industry leaders like Lockheed Martin and NASA's Ames Research Center. These volunteers' science and engineering background is of particular benefit to children struggling with STEM concepts. The children also enjoy working with Santa Clara University and San José State University students, who are close to their own age cohort. These college students model academic success to HEP participants in encouraging ways.

