



New Year and New Opportunities

Dear AES Friends and Family,

Through the years AES has grown, shifted and remained steadfast in our commitment to stay relevant and meet the most pressing needs of vulnerable youth in the Sacramento area. As we embark on a new year, we are excited for rekindled partnerships and opportunities to grow our impact.

This year we will offer additional funding opportunities to local nonprofits, as well as facilitate retreats to help strengthen the cohesion and collaboration within organizations. We are also launching a new mentorship program called Pathways to Success to help high school students explore community college and post-graduation career options.

As we kickstart this new year with excitement and anticipation, we want to thank you for your continued support of AES and your commitment to making a difference in the lives of vulnerable youth. This work would not be possible without you.



Message from our Executive Director



Happy new year AES family! As we look forward to all that is to come in 2023, I would like to take a moment to reflect on 2022 and to thank you for your continued support of the important work that we do **together** to change the lives of vulnerable youth.

2022 was a year of resetting and growth for AES. As we came out of the pandemic and relaunched operations, we welcomed 5 new members to the AES Board of Directors, 4 organizations into our inaugural AES Impact Grant cohort, and 6 amazing youth interns into our AES family. We hosted our first in-person Voices of Change event since 2019 and joined forces with other youth-serving nonprofits across Sacramento, through our

collaboration with Youth Forward and the Sac Kids First Coalition, to secure the passing of Measure L in the November election.

Needless to say, we didn't ease back into our work in 2022. No, we launched forward. And I want to take this moment to thank our fearless founders Bernie and CC, our hardworking staff Ana, Katie, and Mele, and our committed Board. I also want to thank you, our AES family, for staying in this work with us, seeing us through the pandemic, being a part of our relaunch in 2022, and for all that we will do together in 2023 and beyond.

I am looking forward to 2023 with great optimism and hope. We have many exciting and impactful initiatives in the works. And each month, we will share what we are looking forward to in 2023 through the eyes of an AES family member – starting next month with our Board Chair Stephanie. So here's to 2023! May it bring you and yours hope, blessings, and a sense of impact as we continue to do the heart work *together*.

AES Launches Pathways to Success

AES' new **Pathways to Success Academy** starts this February. This is a 6-month mentorship and leadership development program that will educate and encourage youth from Highlands Charter High School to be equipped with the necessary skills to be successful in their futures. In partnership with American River College, participants will take courses in the Design Tech Program, while receiving mentorship and support from AES staff and youth mentors. High school students are matched up with a college mentor and will have the opportunity to experience being connected, respected, and affirmed in small family groups. The Academy meets once a month at American River College as well as other site visits for career exploration. The goal is that when these students graduate from Highlands Charter High School, they will only need to complete one more year of community college at American River College to be ready to enter the workforce with the trade skills, education, and confidence they need to be successful. We are recruiting young adults to serve as mentors! Visit our website and [apply](#) by **January 10th, 2023**.



Fall Festival Event Success

Congratulations to Grace Hadani for a successful event!

Voices of Change Youth Intern, Grace Hadani, and fellow Community Club members at Davis High School hosted a Fall Festival event on November 19th at North Davis Elementary School. The event was a huge success for Davis High

School's Community Club with about 200 attendees and 50 volunteers. The Fall Festival attracted kids between the ages of 2 to 16 years old. The event included festive music, games, and craft activities that the attendees enjoyed with their family and friends. A raffle and a bake sale were also held at this event to raise money for the Davis High School Community Club, raising just over \$300, which will go towards creating more successful events similar to this one. Grace, who is the Vice President of The Davis High School Community Club put a lot of work towards getting this event, funded by The Chang Foundation, which provided a \$1,000 grant to help fund the Fall Festival. Great job to our Voices of Change Intern, Grace and her Community Club at Davis High School!



Hearts Full of Gratitude For Deanna

Thank You [Deanna LaTour-Jarquin](#) for your Service and Leadership!

The end of 2022 brought the conclusion of Deanna's term on AES' Board of Directors. Deanna began her connection with AES through the Cross-Cultural Leadership Center at Chico State. While serving as a legislative aide, she began volunteering her time and expertise as a Davitto Leadership Academy Advisory Board Member, giving her Saturdays to mentor and support youth in their advocacy projects. In 2019, Deanna was honored as our AES Volunteer of the Year at our Gala. She joined the AES Board of Directors and has continued to give of her time, talents, and treasure to move our organization forward.



During this time, life brought Deanna new jobs, graduate school, and marriage! And while she is concluding her term, we know this is not the end, but just the new beginning of her time with AES. Because once AES family, always AES family. Thank you Deanna for your big heart and generous service. We wish the best for you and this next season of your life!

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