

STRIVING TO RE-HUMANIZE THE WORK



Dear AES Friends and Family,

For 30 plus years, AES has functioned as a “learning organization” working to get better at getting better in improving the life chances of young people and the functioning of our youth

serving systems. Our country’s current lethal divisiveness regarding how to best approach virtually every major social problem we struggle with provides us with clear evidence that unless and until we directly address the “human factor” issues that surround specific system improving efforts, the good work being done every day will not have the system impacting results we keep hoping for.

Both the latest evaluation research and our own “from the field” findings identify the following “human factor” concepts as the most relevant and actionable change promoters to improve the life chances of vulnerable youth and to add to the immediately useable youth development knowledge base. During a time of accelerating use of dehumanizing processes toward “others”, all of our projects stress the importance of bringing out the best in both ourselves and others. All of our projects also stress the creation of environments where participants feel respected, connected and affirmed. We have learned to get all the right eyes on the problem, applying catalytic thinking, achieve workable unity, build trust and using data to get better at getting better.

We are both excited and encouraged by the early results of our efforts. Given the increasing need for re-humanizing programs, the positive early result of other project evaluations, and our own feedback from our own field experiments, we are prepared to engage additional partners in reducing the distance between vulnerable youth and the resources they need to lead healthy and contributory lives. As we enter another holiday season, from our hearts to yours, thank you for being apart of our journey to positively impact the lives of vulnerable youth.

-Bernie Davitto, AES Co-Founder & Board Member



Pathways to Success is a transformative 6 month program focused on supporting youth to: (1) identify strengths and weaknesses, (2) build a sense of hope and community and (3) educate youth on effective advocacy strategies that foster positive change both personally and professionally. In January, AES will be expanding our Pathways to Success program to Mirasol Village and incorporating a three cohort model which encompasses 14-17 year olds, 18-24 year olds and a leadership strategic planning cohort. In each cohort, we engage youth in interactive and transformative activities that encourage the development of a stronger sense of self by building community and discovering hope, power, and purpose. Our process is play, connect, and learn. Each Pathways program is designed to connect heart to heart, encourage youth to be the best versions of themselves and, foster cross-cultural, cross-generational relationships to impact systemic change.

AES IN THE COMMUNITY

The **Sacramento State Office of Community Engagement** invited AES to be part of their tabling event encouraging Sac State students to get involved with the Sacramento Community as a whole! Students visited the AES table, engaged in meaningful conversations with staff, and took lots of photos with the infamous AES hearts! We look forward to continuing to support Sac State and their students in future events and huge thanks to the Office of CE for always keeping AES in the loop with Sac State events!



The **Nothing About Us Without Us** event took place at Southside Park on October 15th. It was a beautiful celebration of youth



voice that advocated for specific issues young people care about. Council member Mai Vang, Sac Kids First Coalition members, and community partners were in attendance. Huge thanks to our Sac Kids First, Cal Center, and Z-Vybe partners for inviting AES to be part of this event!

CCCA high school held their very first **Trunk or Treat** on 10/21/23 and invited AES to be part of the community fun! There was lots of food, fun activities for kids, and candy everywhere! Our Sac State interns dressed up their car in all things AES and handed out goodies to the trunk or treat goers. Big thank you to our CCCA partners for inviting us to be part of this special day!



Want to help represent AES in your community?

Email katie@aesimpact.org and the first 10 volunteers get a free T-shirt.

CONTINUING TO ADVOCATE TOGETHER



AES continues the long fight for youth power alongside The Sac Kids First Coalition in Sacramento! Continued support with the SKF Coalition has includes AES staff and student interns attending general meetings, supporting SKF led projects, fighting for a Youth Advisory Liaison position, and coordinating youth surveys and data to support for the implementation process of the Children's Fund.

The Coalition is gearing up for some amazing things in the near future with the planning of **The Sacramento Mayoral Candidate Forum** set to take place on January 27th, 2024

from 10am-12pm at Hiram Johnson High School. This forum is estimated to have 400 people in attendance, with the hopes of engaging Sacramento youth and families in the Mayoral candidate process and exposing our community to the possibilities of building trust with the next mayor of Sacramento. [RSVP HERE TODAY!](#)

A famous African Proverb states, **"If You Want to Go Fast, Go Alone. If You Want to Go Far, Go Together."** As we continue our community partnership with SKF coalition, we keep this African Proverb in mind, building our Sacramento Youth Alliance Community Action Team to further support and activate around all things youth power within the City of Sacramento.

SAVE THE DATE - AES GALA 2024

The **AES 2nd Annual Gala of Giving** will take on Saturday, April 27, 2024 in Sacramento. You'll not want to miss this **Casino Royale** themed gala, complete with your favorite casino games, silent auction and dancing. All proceeds go towards AES programs and services. Mark your calendars and keep your eyes open for when tickets come available. If interested in sponsoring a table please contact Jen at jen@aesimpact.org.



MEET OUR INTERNS

Asupa Mila

Asupa Mila is a third-year student at Sacramento State studying sociology and communications. On campus, Asupa is also an active member of the Pacific Islander United (PIU) club. Post graduation, Asupa hopes to go into the corporate world in either the diversity equity and inclusion (DEI) department, or a corporate social responsibility (CSR) department, before starting her own nonprofit organization.



Asupa is a proud first-generation Tongan American from East Palo Alto, California. Asupa's parents and being a role model for her younger siblings has been her biggest motivation for attaining higher education. Her role as the oldest of three children also initiated Asupa's interest in working with youth. Asupa has built on her skills by working with children of all ages through past work experience and is excited to embark on her journey with AES.



Oluchukwu Chukwudi, Olu for short, is a third-year health science major student who currently attends Sacramento State hoping to one day become an Obstetrician/ Gynecologist. Olu is originally from Los Angeles, California, and is a first-generation Nigerian American. Her parents migrated about 25 years ago and that is why she wants to go so far in her education and achieve greatness. Olu is very involved in

the Black community at Sacramento State, she is President of the Nigerian Student Association, a Cooper-Woodson College Scholar, a member of the Collegiate 100, and an active member of the Black Student Union. Olu has spent the last two summers working with children as a YMCA Camp Counselor and hopes to use the skills she's developed to mentor and work with children in AES.

Mike Harp

Mike Harp is a third year at Sacramento State studying psychology in order to become a therapist. Post graduation, Mike hopes to get his PhD in order to be able to become more versatile in the therapy field. Mike may not be a part of any clubs but that doesn't make less involved as he attends Black Student Union(BSU) meetings in his free time. Originally from San Pablo, California, Mike is not only the first one in his family to attend college but he is also the oldest among 7 siblings. Mike strives to be a good role model for not only his younger siblings but also the younger generation, which hones his skills to adapt to children of all ages as well as the ability to grow as a person and a mentor in AES.



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