



Leveling Up in 2024



Dear AES Friends and Family,

Happy 2024! I hope your new year has started wonderfully. For all of us, the new year brings an opportunity to pause, reflect, and imagine the possibilities of the year ahead. As an organization, we have reflected on our long-term strategic plan, narrowed our focus to programs that best support our vision, and solidified our 2024 calendar. We look forward to sharing our plans with all of you. First, we are excited about the launch of a new Pathways to Success program, motivated by our newly trained mentors, and inspired by the newest cohort of AES Impact Grant recipients. You'll get a glimpse of each of these developments in this newsletter.

I am also ecstatic about the recent announcement of our 2nd Annual Gala of Giving. After time apart to ensure the safety of all our AES supporters, we will come together this April to share our successes and plans while raising much-needed funding for our impactful community programs. I can't wait to see you all there! As always, we are truly thankful for you. Our work would not be possible without your investment, heart, and determination to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable youth. As we look at the year ahead, we share the words of our co-founder, CC Carter, and our hope for all our supporters this year, "May the year bring you all the joy and happiness that you all deserve. May the year shower you with prosperity and peace. May it remind you that you are never alone and that you are loved. May it show you the kindness that lifts your heart. And most importantly may you receive all that you deserve!"

Stephanie Rahlfs
Chair, AES Board of Directors

GALA OF GIVING 2024



Join us on April 27th for the AES Gala of Giving

This fun-filled evening includes an inspiring program, delicious meal, live and silent auction, casino games and exciting entertainment!

**Ballroom, 9719 Lincoln Village Dr
Sacramento, CA 95827**

5PM - VIP Ticket Experience Admission

*Includes a special jazz performance by Larriah Jackson (AES youth mentor and Season 19 of The Voice finalist), specialty cocktails and appetizers, and silent auction

6PM - General Ticket Admission

6:30PM - Dinner and Program

8:00PM - Casino, Dessert Bar, and Prizes

Don't miss this the chance to have fun while making an impact in the lives of vulnerable you! Sponsorships and tickets are available now. Click the buttons below:

SPONSORSHIPS

GALA TICKETS

Traveling from out of town to join us for the gala?

AES has reserved a limited number of hotel rooms at the Hyatt Place Rancho Cordova. You can use this [reservation link](#) to book your room by April 11, 2024 or while available. The group code is G-AESI.

2024 AES IMPACT GRANT RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to our second cohort of AES Impact Grant recipients! As part of AES' commitment to catalytic philanthropy, each organization will receive funding and AES' tactical support to help them Level Up their organizations in 2024.



RECLAMATION PROJECT @ 916

The Reclamation Project @ 916 is a 100% youth-run, grassroots social justice organization delivering mutual aid, liberating anti-oppression education, healing justice, and solidarity to marginalized and under-served communities and youth throughout the Sacramento area. With a network of 150+ County-wide youth volunteers and 300+ programming participants, TRP@916 spearheads multi-faceted systems change, dismantling, and cultivating via direct organizing with historically and politically oppressed communities, movement-building around youth-impacting policy, public socio-political educational workshops, community unity and empowerment, and people-centered distribution of resources. TRP@916 is honored serve as a pillar for youth agency for a coalition of 50+ organizations across California, dedicated to amplify future generations in their liberating work.”



INTERNS 2 PRO

Interns 2 Pros, Inc. is an organization that cares deeply about the future workforce. Their mission is to connect, inspire, and fully equip diverse high-school and college students for their careers. Cultivating habitual workforce & workplace readiness at every touchpoint for the next generation is the core focus of Interns 2 Pros. They implement this through the following:

- Hosting career exploration & educational events
- Connecting students with ultra-quality internship & fellowship programs
- Implementing robust talent, career, & leadership development programs

- Providing timely and timeless resources
 - Mentorship opportunities
 - Awards for high-performing college students
 - Awards for impactful professionals & organizations
 - Providing financial scholarships for college expenses & internship participation costs & more
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FEED SACRAMENTO

In 2013, a group of compassionate individuals recognized the growing homelessness crisis in Sacramento. Fueled by a shared desire to make a tangible impact, they founded "Feed Sacramento Homeless." This grassroots organization aimed not only to provide nourishment to those in need but also to create a sense of community and dignity for Sacramento's homeless population. As the founders of "Feed Sacramento Homeless" witnessed the transformative power of community support, they recognized an opportunity to address the root causes of homelessness, so they launched "The Bigger Picture Mentor Program" to provide mentorship and guidance to at-risk youth. The program aims to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness by empowering young minds with education, skills, and a vision for a brighter future. Their intertwined journey continues to inspire others to join the mission of creating a more compassionate and resilient society, one where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.



YOUTH FORWARD

Via the Sac Kids First coalition, Youth Forward is helping build the next generation of

youth advocates and organizers. Sac Kids First continues to be the largest coalition advocating for children and youth in the region. In 2022 we were able to secure a win for the children and youth of our City via the passing of the Sacramento Children's Fund. In 2023 we focused on getting youth input by conducting listening sessions across the region with over 150 youth. Additionally, we were successful in forming a 10 member Youth Planning Committee to play an integral role in the planning of our upcoming Sacramento Mayoral Candidates Forum. We are proud to be an intergenerational and ethnically diverse coalition and truly stand on those values. We are really excited to continue doing great work in 2024 for our community with the support of AES. Because we truly believe that when children, youth, and their families thrive in this city than we all do.



TOFA

The mission of TOFA is to preserve and enhance the overall Health and Wellness of the Pacific Islander Community in the greater Sacramento area by providing resources that support and promote community involvement and leadership, higher education, civil rights awareness, civic engagement, and cultural arts.

CREATING IMPACT AT LUTHER BURBANK



On January 19th, AES College Mentors successfully hosted part two of the Level Up program at Luther Burbank High School in Sacramento's District 8. The day was dedicated to fostering positive self-development, cross-cultural and cross-generational communication, and healthy mental wellness among students. One

distinctive element of the program was the crafting of a class message on mental wellness, summarized in a collaborative video. Each student, in each period, contributed a short clip reflecting their thoughts on mental wellness, using prompts such as "Healthy mental wellness in my life looks like..." and "Leveling up to create change means...". This creative expression allowed for a diverse array of perspectives and empowered students to articulate their unique experiences. The "Level Up" program at Luther Burbank High

School not only provided valuable insights and skills but also laid the foundation for ongoing discussions and initiatives promoting the well-being and success of the youth in our community.

SACRAMENTO MAYORAL CANDIDATES

The Sacramento Mayoral Candidates Forum on January 27th took place at Hiram Johnson High School. This crucial event provided an invaluable opportunity for youth and family residents of Sacramento to engage directly with mayoral candidates. Attendees had the chance to hear candidates articulate their visions for the city and explain why they believe voters should cast their ballots in their favor. The Alliance for Education Solutions remains committed to fostering civic engagement and empowering our community through informed decision-making. Thank you to all who attended, contributing to a more informed and engaged Sacramento. Together, we shape the future of our city alongside our children and youth!



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