



Northern California
Annual Report
2021-22



Message from our Board Chair:

Dear Friends,

I'll never forget the first time I stepped onto a Playworks playground several years ago. Every single kid was playing; no one was sitting off to the side; there weren't any apparent cliques. Everywhere I looked, kids were smiling and laughing. On playgrounds across Northern California, Playworks coaches create this exact environment--welcoming, fun, inclusive. And schools need our support now more than ever.

While many aspects of life have returned to some form of normal, the pandemic's impacts are still felt strongly in schools, as kids experience the lingering effects of isolation and teachers grapple with their students' social and learning deficits.

Frankly, play has never been more important than it is today. Through play, kids build friendships, develop confidence, and learn important conflict-resolution skills that serve them throughout their lives. And kids at schools served by Playworks get to play every single day.

I am inspired by our Northern California team's dedication and perseverance through the pandemic, and proud to share that in 2022 we served more schools, expanded our team, and built a strong financial footing to support continued growth. And I am thrilled to welcome our new executive director for Northern California, Laura Medina Quintanar, who in her first sixty days has already brought so much enthusiasm, curiosity, and compassion to her role as our regional leader.

I hope you enjoy reading about our impact over the past year, and I invite you to contact me or another Playworker if you have any questions or are interested in further supporting our important work.

Playfully,



Nick Nieto
Chair, Northern California Advisory Board



OUR MISSION

is to improve the health and well-being of children by increasing opportunities for physical activity and safe, meaningful play.



OUR VISION

is that one day every child in America will have access to safe, fun, healthy play every day.

41,200

Students Served

72

Schools/Partners

59%

of students qualify for free/reduced lunch

86%

are students of color

OUR IMPACT

Every year, Playworks surveys our partner schools to learn about the impact of our programs and find ways to improve. Here are a few highlights from educators surveyed this year:

92% report that Playworks helps students develop the skills they need to succeed in their learning community

97% report that Playworks helps the school create opportunities for inclusion of diverse groups of students

85% of educators report that during learning time Playworks increase students' ability to focus on class activities

96% agree that Playworks increases the number of students that are physically active.





Returning to the Playground

As school campuses reopened in 2021-22, Playworks staff focused on teaching – and re-teaching – basic life skills to students who hadn't had the opportunity to play together for a year due to the pandemic.

Recess proved to be a particularly challenging time. Many kids struggled with cooperation, were overly physical with each other and generally needed support making connections with their peers. It was clear that healing from collective trauma and focusing on mental and physical health would need to be a huge part of returning to school. Playworks, with its emphasis on safe and healthy play, was uniquely positioned to support this transition.

Playworks staff worked to re-introduce foundational skills by focusing on games that promoted community building, connection and conflict resolution. To empower all children to participate fully, we prioritized teaching kids how to play in groups, rather than teaching many different games and even spent time going over the physical boundaries of the playground. With the support of the caring adults at our partner schools, we were able to once again transform school cultures, this time in a post-pandemic world.

By the end of the year, we were thrilled to see our school playgrounds once again filled with games, teamwork, leadership and most importantly, joy.

National Coach of the Year

Kariah Scott

Program Coordinator, Northern California

Join us in celebrating one of our own! At our 25th Anniversary, Get In The Game Gala, Kariah was named Coach of the Year for her dedication and impact on the playground.

"I am committed to being brave enough to change people and brave enough to have them change me," reflects Kariah. "Being with Playworks this year has provided me access to improve my skills. I ask myself how I can be better for myself and for the kids I work with- my time at Playworks has been such a blessing."



Partners in Play



**WARRIORS
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

The Warriors Community Foundation, in partnership with Salesforce, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), and Taube Philanthropies, has awarded a total of \$588,000 to eight Bay Area non-profit organizations through its [Hoops for Kids Initiative](#). Playworks Northern California is thrilled to be among these organizations.

[Check out this inspiring video](#) showcasing our continued partnership with the Warriors Community Foundation and Salesforce during the 21-22 school year.



Growth for the Long Term

Playworks Northern California is thrilled to build on the momentum of the 21-22 program year. This Fall, a subset of our leadership staff including voices from direct services, pro services and development are participating in a strategic planning process to determine how we will increase our impact over the next two years.

In the 22-23 school year we are excited to be piloting Relay, a new service offering where coaches rotate between 2-3 schools instead of being rooted on a single campus. This new model allows us to work with a greater number of students and helps us build sustainable service delivery in partnership with school staff.

Follow us on our social media to stay connected!



 **PLAYWORKS**

Thank You to Our Partners in Play!

Playworks Northern California extends immense gratitude to the generous support of all our individual donors and volunteers. Our impact is the result of our collective investment and commitment to Playworks' mission to bring safe and healthy play to every kid.

Our District Partners

Alameda Unified School District
Alisal Union Elementary School District
Auburn Union School District
Brentwood Union School District
Campbell Union School District
Cupertino Union School District
Davis Joint Unified School District
Dixon Unified School District
Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District
Hayward Unified School District
Monterey Peninsula Unified School District
Moreland School District
Mountain View Whisman School District
Mt. Diablo Unified School District
Oakland Unified School District
Pacifica School District

Palo Alto Unified School District
Pleasanton Unified School District
Ravenswood City School District
Sacramento City Unified School District
San Francisco Unified District
San Mateo-Foster City School District
Soledad Unified School District
South San Francisco Unified
Spreckels Union Elementary School District
Sunnyvale Unified School District
The Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District
Ukiah Unified School District
Vacaville Unified School District
Washington Unified School District
West Contra Costa Unified School District

Our Foundation and Corporate Partners

AAA Northern California, Nevada & Utah
Accenture
Allstate Foundation
Anonymous (2)
Bernard E. & Alba Witkin Charitable Foundation
City and County of San Francisco:
Department of Children, Youth and Their Families
The Clorox Company
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Dean & Margaret Leshner Foundation
Dodge & Cox
The Eucalyptus Foundation
El Camino Health
El Camino Healthcare District

Fenwick Foundation
Franklin and Catherine Johnson Foundation
Kaiser Permanente Northern California
Community Benefit
Kevin Carroll Catalyst
Novogradac Rivers Foundation
Peery Foundation
Quest Foundation
Sage Real Estate
Signature Development Group
Saw Island Foundation
SFUFC Foundation
Sidney Frank Family Foundation
Warriors Community Foundation

If you're interested in collaborating or learning more about our partnerships, [click here](#).

Northern California Regional Advisory Board Members

Nick Nieto, Board Chair
Brandon Belford
Annie Crangle
Anna Chan
Nicole Gambino

Rebecca Goldberg
Pramod Gosavi
Trinity Martin
Craig Michaels
Kevin Sullivan

