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Alma Lissette Perez-Ramirez  
10,000 Degrees Alumna  
California State University, Chico 2020

FY20

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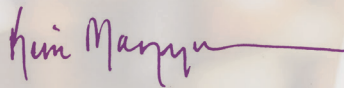
To you, our students, supporters, partners, donors, Board and staff, THANK YOU for being a part of our ONE AMAZING COMMUNITY!

From COVID-19, to the deep prevailing racial injustices, to the devastating fires, our students, families, and communities suffered greatly this year.

Yet, because of your generosity, compassion, and enduring belief in our mission, we have so much to be grateful for and to celebrate! This year, we reached 12,000 students and their families, supported more than 2,200 in college, and celebrated our largest graduating class ever: 244!

This Donor Booklet is dedicated to you, and to the countless ways you helped us to stay positive, strong, and together this year so that we could keep our students from low-income backgrounds engaged and connected to their education.

Thank you for being there for our students, and thank you for being One Amazing Community!



**Kim Mazzuca**  
President & CEO



**Caroline Silverstein**  
Chief Development Officer

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# 10,000 DEGREES ANGEL INVESTORS

Gifts of \$250,000 and more

Investing in the education of our local students benefits all of us.

We could not accomplish our goals without the support, involvement, and enthusiasm of our most generous supporters.

Thank you!

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## 10,000 DEGREES SONOMA COUNTY FOUNDERS CIRCLE

Gifts of \$100,000+ for 10,000 Degrees in Sonoma County

Thank you to these generous donors who were responsible for our expansion into Sonoma County in 2009! Your loyal support is making a difference for thousands of students and their families in Sonoma County.

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& Sonoma Advisory Board Chair  
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## 10,000 DEGREES LAUREL SOCIETY

Multi-year pledges of \$5,000 or more annually

**Thanks to generous multi-year gifts from our Laurel Society, we can confidently plan for the future. Because of you, thousands of students are getting consistent year-round support to get to and through college! Thank you!**

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10,000 Degrees students, Genesis Ortiz-Rubio, her mother, and Samuel Chavez, at their College of Marin graduation in 2019

# 10,000 DEGREES LEGACY SOCIETY

## Planned Gifts

The Legacy Society at 10,000 Degrees, also known affectionately as the Marjorie Mooney Legacy Society in recognition of our first planned gift, consists of supporters who have made estate plans to benefit 10,000 Degrees. Members of the Legacy Society are acknowledged without regard to gift level, as each gift represents a lifetime commitment to supporting students from low-income backgrounds in pursuit of their dreams of graduating from college.

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*+ In Loving Memory*

# Sharon Segal

**10,000 Degrees Donor Since 2009**  
**Honorary Board Member**  
**Legacy Society Member**

Living in Marin, I never realized how many students were living under the poverty line. Once I met Kim Mazzuca, President and CEO of 10,000 Degrees, I began to understand the need. And I also knew that this was something I could never turn my back on. Without education, people have a very small chance of making it in



Sharon Segal with Donna Seager Liberatori

this world and being successful. Education is the great equalizer.

10,000 Degrees entire staff is 100% committed to the goals they have set for themselves. Their enthusiasm is overwhelming. Everyone is dedicated to helping all the students in need.

10,000 Degrees work will never be done. There is always more to do, and I feel very blessed and honored to be on their Honorary Board. I will be involved as long as I can to help young people get the education they deserve and help college graduates go on to change the world.

Giving to 10,000 Degrees is a long-term commitment for me. I want to make sure that 10,000 Degrees goes on forever, and I'd like to be a part of it, whether I'm on this earth or looking down from above.

“I cannot think of a better way to help my community and help a young person than by giving to 10,000 Degrees. To me, it's the most important gift that I can give.”



## 10,000 DEGREES DONORS

We are very grateful to our amazing community of donors who generously gave to 10,000 Degrees between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020.

Thank you for being ONE DEGREE of change!

### VALEDICTORIAN DONOR CIRCLE

\$100,000 and more

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Anonymous (2)

# Suzanne Badenhoop & Guy Lampard

10,000 Degrees Donors Since 2015

Suzanne Badenhoop, One Amazing Night  
Committee Member

Guy Lampard, 10,000 Degrees Board Vice Chair

Almost 20 years ago, I (Guy) volunteered to be a mentor for a Marin City student, Rondell Gibson. Rondell was in high school and part of the Marin Education Fund, now 10,000 Degrees. I helped him apply for colleges and financial aid. We were

both very proud of him when he graduated from St. Mary's College. Today, Rondell is the 10,000 Degrees Southern Marin Program Manager, overseeing Marin City programming.

## Why do we give to 10,000 Degrees? Rondell!

Rondell is the answer for everything. But seriously, there is a constituency of people who can really be helped by 10,000 Degrees. If you care about our society and want to be helpful, it's a natural fit.

Given the over 80% college graduation rate for 10,000 Degrees students, which is well above the national average, supporting 10,000 Degrees is a no-brainer. And these students are also graduating with significantly less debt. Their mission is very close to our hearts. But the implementation and impact of the program are the greatest selling points.

COVID-19 has revealed a lot of inequities in this world. The way that the 10,000 Degrees staff rallied to address those needs is just amazing.

If you want to invest in a successful organization that changes lives of young people for the better, you too can affect the arc of success for young people and our society as a whole by investing in 10,000 Degrees. We feel it's the best return on our investment!



Suzanne Badenhoop, Rondell Gibson and Guy Lampard

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# Maria Arreguin

10,000 Degrees Student

Santa Rosa Junior College, 2022

Maria Arreguin, a first-generation college student, first heard about 10,000 Degrees from her high school counselor. "I was talking to him about whether college was really the thing for me. My parents didn't go to college so I didn't have anyone to talk to about college or financial aid. My counselor said that shouldn't deter me and knew the perfect people to speak to ... 10,000 Degrees!"



During her sophomore year in high school, Maria attended 10,000 Degrees Summer Intensive, and learned about different colleges. "My heart was intent on going to college, and 10,000 Degrees helped me do school searches and learn the different requirements for applying to each one," says Maria, who now attends Santa Rosa Junior College with plans to apply to their nursing program. "10,000 Degrees also provided emotional support. I had a really rough patch with my parents, and they were always there for me. I worked at SRJC's Intercultural Center, where 10,000 Degrees was based, and so I would stop by and say hello every day."

"Now, even with the pandemic, the 10,000 Degrees team still reaches out to me virtually," Maria says. "Marisol, Josue, and Halea have all been helpful when I have a question. They helped me with college applications, financial aid, emotional support, and have been there to answer any college questions I have."

“If it hadn't been for  
10,000 Degrees,  
I wouldn't be in  
college today.”

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Tania Requenes with 10,000 Degrees  
student Walter Hernandez Rivas at his  
2018 College of Marin graduation

# Tania Requesnes

**10,000 Degrees Program Manager, College of Marin**

**10,000 Degrees Alumna & Staff Since 2012**

**MA, University of San Francisco, 2020**

**BA, University of California, Davis, 2012**

**AA, Santa Rosa Junior College, 2010**

I first got involved with 10,000 Degrees as a high school student in 2005. I'm the oldest in my generation, and no one in my family had any knowledge about the college experience. I was a strong student, but not getting the support that I needed. Being accepted into the 10,000 Degrees Summer Intensive was life-changing. It was the first time I set foot on a college campus, and the first time I thought college was possible for me.

After I graduated, 10,000 Degrees offered me a summer job as a Summer Intensive advisor. Initially, I took the job to give back to an organization that had taken a chance on me. But I became inspired to help students with similar shared experiences. Later that year, I was hired as an intern and then promoted to 10,000 Degrees Fellow. Now, I'm a Program Manager on our College Success team.

Since graduating, my sister has graduated college and my brother is finishing his last quarter at UC Santa Barbara. I have also been able to help my cousins enroll in college, including some in community colleges. I have seen first hand the life-changing opportunities that higher education offers, including economic stability and job security.

At 10,000 Degrees, we are able to change some of the systemic institutional barriers and create more equitable systems of change. Returning to the community and giving back is incredibly important to me. I really believe in this work and want to dedicate my life's work to making education a reality for all students.

“Receiving a higher education is truly life-changing, and breaks the cycle of poverty for many students, including me.”



Mark & Thea Dolan<sup>oo</sup>  
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10,000 Degrees students at  
2019 Summer Intensive





**"First generation students and immigrants are the engines of economic prosperity for the United States. Upholding their right to succeed and thrive is a key tenet of The American Dream."**

**Jean-Pierre L. Conte**

2019 San Francisco Changemakers Honoree  
Chairman of Genstar Capital and founder of  
the J-P Conte Family Foundation



**SAN FRANCISCO  
CHANGE  
MAKERS  
DINNER 2019**

Inside The Green Room at the San Francisco War Memorial, 10,000 Degrees supporters joined together on September 26, 2019, for our inspiring annual event, San Francisco Changemakers.

JP Conte, Chairman of Genstar Capital and founder of the J-P Conte Family Foundation, was honored as the 2019 San Francisco Changemaker. A major supporter since 2017, JP's commitment to 10,000 Degrees is foundational to the expansion of our college success programs in San Francisco.

And, thanks to our generous sponsors, donors, and guests, we raised over \$300,000 for the students and programs of 10,000 Degrees in San Francisco!

Thank you to the 2019 Changemakers Event committee, co-chairs Julie and Michael Whitcomb and the San Francisco Advisory Board.



Kim Mazzuca with Dr. Steven Herrington  
at 2019 Sonoma Changemakers Dinner



SONOMA COUNTY  
**CHANGE  
MAKERS**  
DINNER 2019

"The goal of the Sonoma County Office of Education is to ensure that all Sonoma County students, regardless of background, graduate high school ready to succeed in college and career. That's why we're proud to partner with organizations like 10,000 Degrees that are working hard to close the achievement gap and create opportunities for all students."

**Dr. Steven Herrington**

2019 Sonoma Changemakers Honoree  
Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools

At our Sonoma County Changemakers Dinner on October 22, 2019, guests enjoyed an intimate evening and a special presentation honoring our 10,000 Degrees Sonoma County Changemaker, Dr. Steven Herrington, a 10,000 Degrees supporter since 2014 and Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools.

Held at the Prelude Restaurant at Sonoma State University, all event proceeds benefited 10,000 Degrees students and programs in Sonoma County.

## Event Committee

Donna Seager Liberatore,  
*Co-Chair*  
Sharon Segal,  
*Co-Chair*

Jenn Acierto  
Suzanne Badenhop  
Roselyn Brandt  
Barbara Dalmau  
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Ryan Fay  
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Peg Pike

---

Pictured at right: Our ONE Amazing Community  
celebrating virtually on Saturday, April 25, 2020

(pictured from left to right): Katrin Ciaffa,  
Justine Corey-Whitehead & Paul Whitehead,  
Toby Mumford, Julian Mackie,  
John Mackie & Kate Ecker, Deborah Goldman,  
Margy Halloran, Michael & Julie Whitcomb,  
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and Kaylyn Lee Swenson.

# ONE Amazing COMMUNITY

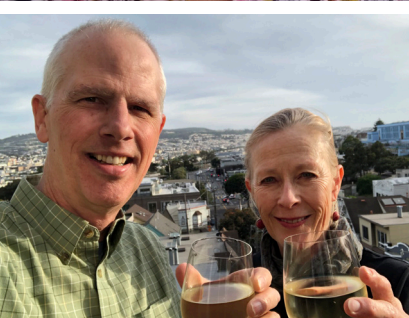
When the COVID-19 lockdown began last March, it prompted us to reimagine our in-person gala into a virtual celebration, "ONE Amazing Community."

Never could we have anticipated the tremendous outpouring of love and generosity that you showed our students from low-income backgrounds. Hundreds of you joined by Zoom from near and far to raise a virtual toast and virtual paddle in honor of our students.

And because of YOU, we met our fundraising goal of over \$1M—a tremendous feat given current events!

**SO TO YOU, OUR ONE AMAZING COMMUNITY,  
WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE.**





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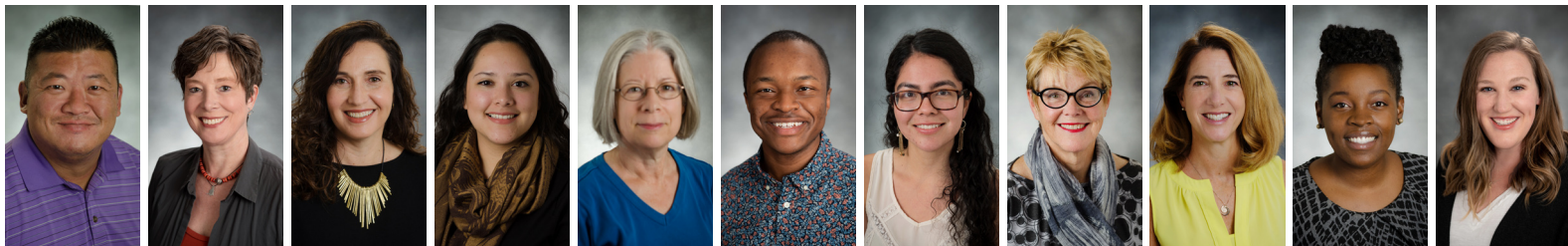
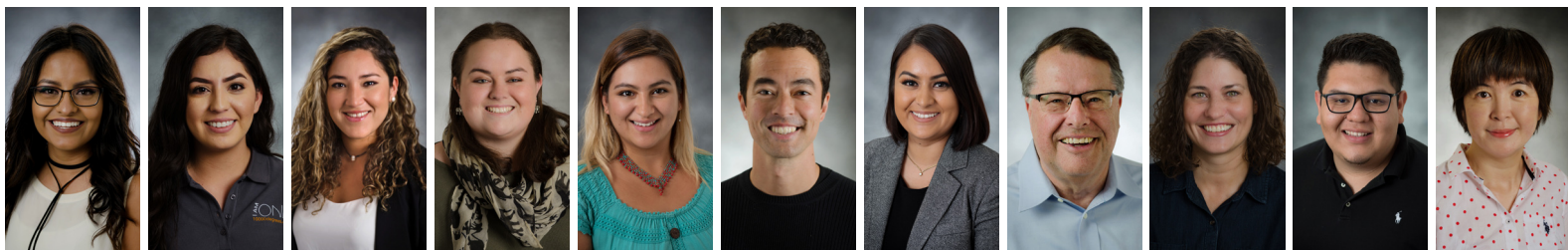
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Please contact

Anna Schlegel at 415.451.4013  
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to correct our records.

Stephanie Chen  
10,000 Degrees Alumna  
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Saga Apostol Guedez<sup>○</sup>,  
Program Manager,  
City College of San Francisco

Avalon Baldwin<sup>○</sup>,  
Data & Evaluation Manager

Reyna Barrera Aguilar,  
Fellow, San Francisco State &  
Sacramento State

Scott BonDurant<sup>○○</sup>,  
Program Director,  
College Success & Fellowship

Barbara Bravo, Fellow,  
Sonoma Valley

Doug Brown, Academic  
Support Coordinator

Amy Carrera, Academic  
Support Coordinator

Jocelyn Castillo,  
Scholarship Intern

Josue Castillo, Fellow,  
Santa Rosa Junior College

Younie Chang,  
Senior Staff Accountant

Jin Choi<sup>○</sup>, Director,  
Scholarship Programs

Katrin Ciaffa, Regional  
Director, Sonoma &  
Napa County

Noelle Colomé, Director,  
Institutional Advancement

Gladys Cortez Fajardo<sup>○</sup>,  
Program Manager,  
Southern Sonoma &  
West Marin

Julie Creighton<sup>○</sup>, Director,  
Finance & Operations

James D'Haiti, Fellow,  
San Francisco

Ana Diaz Galvan, Fellow,  
Northern Sonoma

Kate Ecker<sup>○</sup>, Strategic Projects  
Consultant

Debra Fletcher, Academic  
Support Coordinator

Chinna Ford<sup>○</sup>,  
College Success Manager

Gracie Francisco<sup>○</sup>,  
Program Manager,  
Northern Marin

Noemi Garibay,  
Fellow, South Bay

Rondell Gibson<sup>○○</sup>,  
Program Manager,  
Central & Southern Marin

Diana Glasco,  
Accounting Assistant

Monica Golden, Academic  
Support Coordinator

Abigail Gonzaga Toxqui,  
Fellow, College of Marin

Christopher Gonzales<sup>○</sup>,  
Program Director,  
New Markets

Carlos Gonzalez,  
College Success Advisor

Stephanie Hamilton,  
Scholarship Manager

Nasheli Hau-Gutierrez, Fellow,  
San Francisco

Maria Hernandez, Fellow,  
Northern Marin

Keila Itzun, Fellow,  
Central Marin

Jose Jimenez,  
Program Manager,  
San Francisco

Walter Jones, Fellow,  
San Francisco

Mia Klenk, Fellow,  
California State Universities

Judy Kramer, Academic  
Support Manager

Yessenia Kuhn<sup>○</sup>,  
Development Manager

Traci Lanier<sup>○○</sup>, Vice President,  
External Affairs

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Fellow, Santa Rosa Junior  
College

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West Marin

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Vice President,  
Strategic Growth

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Program Manager, South Bay

Hanh Nong<sup>o</sup>,  
Marketing Coordinator

Hardy Olivas, Fellow,  
Contra Costa College

Lisa Pavlovsky, Academic  
Support Coordinator

Jeanette Perez, Fellow,  
College of Marin

Liz Perez<sup>o</sup>, Program Manager,  
Northern Sonoma &  
Sonoma Valley

Saul Pimentel, Fellow,  
College of Marin

Hector Plancarte-Romero,  
Fellow, Northern Marin

Hugo Que<sup>o</sup>,  
Program Manager, Napa &  
West Contra Costa

Josue Ramirez,  
Data & Evaluation Associate

Brisia Reales, Scholarship  
Coordinator

Tania Requeses<sup>o</sup>,  
Program Manager,  
College of Marin

Stefany Reyes, Fellow,  
Petaluma & West Marin

Maria Rodriguez, Fellow,  
Southern Marin

Kevin Rojas De León, Fellow,  
Northern Marin

Yngri Romero, Fellow,  
Northern Marin

James Saito, IT Consultant

Karla Santiago,  
College Success Manager

Anna Schlegel<sup>o</sup>,  
Director, Annual Giving &  
Events

Caroline Silverstein<sup>o</sup>,  
Chief Development Officer

Gwen Snider,  
Career Development Manager

Itzel Sosa Cervera, Fellow,  
Santa Rosa Junior College

Essence Spencer, Fellow,  
San Francisco

Linda Steck<sup>o</sup>, Development  
Volunteer

Alex Stern<sup>oo</sup>, Program  
Director, North Bay

Brissa Teodoro, Fellow,  
Southern Marin

Megan Topping<sup>o</sup>, Director,  
Corporate Engagement

Leidy Tovar Almanza, Fellow,  
City College of San Francisco

Maria Vargas, Fellow,  
Northern Marin

Halea Waters, Program  
Manager, Santa Rosa Junior  
College

Briona Winston, Fellow, City  
College of San Francisco

Alaina Yoakum, Director,  
Marketing & Communications

Susanna Zúñiga-McGuire,  
Accounting Manager

#### STAFF WHO HAVE WORKED FOR 10,000 DEGREES:

20+ years <sup>oooo</sup>

15+ years <sup>ooo</sup>

10+ years <sup>oo</sup>

5+ years <sup>o</sup>



# Jin Choi

**10,000 Degrees Scholarships Director**  
**B.A., University of California, Berkeley, 1997**

One of our core beliefs at 10,000 Degrees is that education is the great equalizer. It can help an individual escape from the cycle of poverty. As a first-generation college graduate, I got to see this first hand.

I grew up in foster and group homes. I attended four different high schools and moved over a dozen times before I was even in college. Getting into and graduating from UC Berkeley is one of the greatest accomplishments of my life.

High school did not prepare me for the academic rigors of Berkeley. I was failing most of my classes. I was working, and received some financial aid, but I was barely getting by. I went to my advisor, Pat, and told her I wanted to drop out. Somehow, I ended up telling her my entire life's story. By the end of our conversation, she was in tears ... but she wanted to help. Pat

connected me to Daisy in the financial aid office who helped me get more financial aid. Pat also withdrew me from the classes I was failing, so I got to start my second semester clean.

I wish I had known about an organization like 10,000 Degrees when I was going to school. Although I was pretty much on my own, by the grace of God, I graduated. Now, I'm in a position where I'm the Daisy, and get to give away \$4 million a year in scholarships to students in need. Sometimes things happen for a reason. I feel so lucky to have worked for 10,000 Degrees these past nine years, and see everything come full circle. I am proud to be **ONE DEGREE**.

“Everyone who works at 10,000 Degrees really cares about our mission, equity, and our students and, for most people, it's more than just a job.”



Jin Choi (back), with 10,000 Degrees staff  
Yessenia Kuhn, Celina Del Toro Moreno  
and Stephanie Hamilton.

## 10,000 DEGREES ACADEMIC SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS

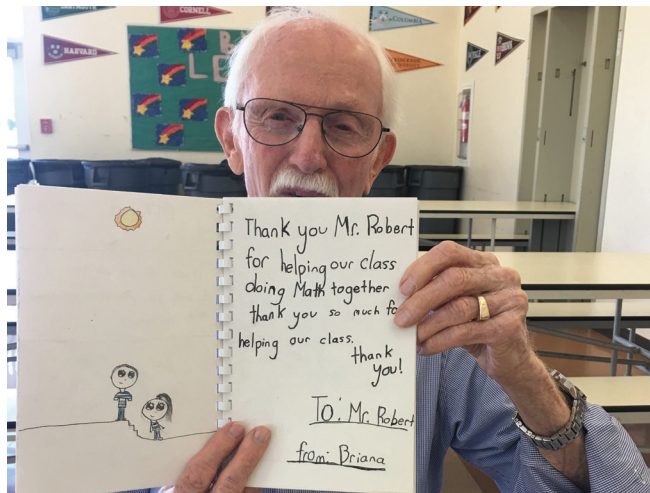
Thank you for being ONE DEGREE of change!

The 10,000 Degrees Academic Support Program matches volunteer tutors with students from low-income backgrounds in Marin County public schools.

Established in 1997 as Marin County School Volunteers, the organization began with 40 volunteers in six Marin County public school districts. Today, the 10,000 Degrees Academic Support Program has 200+ volunteers serving 5,000+ students in 26 Marin County schools. Our program provides academic tutoring, classroom support, and homework assistance for students in K-12. During the pandemic, our volunteers have done an amazing job of shifting all of their work with the students to be virtual.

We are very grateful to our dedicated volunteers and school partners. We appreciate all you do to bring the 10,000 Degrees Academic Support Program to our Marin County students!

Thank you to our Academic Support Volunteers who devoted their time to the 10,000 Degrees students during the 2019-20 school year!



Bob Neuhaus, 10,000 Degrees Academic Support Volunteer



Ellie Ahlgren	Jane Chaplain	Joan Flood	Gary Heyman
Debbie Alcouloumre	Susan Cohen	Franklin Fong	Kim High
Mickey Allison	Don Cohon	Hannecristl Fruhauf	Marjorie Hilton
Laura Anderson	David Colton	Victoria Fung	Wendy Homer
Marilyn Angelo	Carla Crahan	Linda Garb	Glenn Hopkins
Lori Bachman	Rebekah Cunningham	Daniel Gelbaum	Peter Horn
Margie Baer	Trent Cutler	Kenneth George	Tes Howell
Keith Baker	Stephanie Dal Porto	Karen Gerbosi	Catherine Hunter
Kim Barker	Mary Dinday	Leslie Gerstenfeld	Christina Hurwitz
Nance Becker	Michael Dore	Gay Gilliland	Dan Joaquin
Kim Belgarde	Susan Duncan	Stephen Gold	Earl Johnson
Dorothy Bentley	Kristine Durfee	Walter Gonzales	Melody Jones
Richard Bernstein	Pamela Elliott	Richard Greene	Holly Kaufman
Richard Bohnet	Mary Elmstrom	Barbara Grieco	Charlotte Kells
Margaret Brandt	Wendy Erickson	Newton Harband	Rachel Kertz
Josh Brier	Rod Eshelman	Bridget Harris	Barbara Killey
Rhea Brown	Debra Faber	Gail Harris	Susan King
Ronald Brown	Randall Faccinto	Philip Hart	Yvonne Klein
Bob Cahn	Gayle Farkas	Hal Hassin	Theresa Koblenz
Anekah Calderon	Lois Feld	Robert Healy	Noele Kostelic
Pat Carlone	Randy Field	Eduardo Hernandez	Dotti Kuchem
Rodrigo Castro	Debra Fletcher	Patricia Hess	Daniel Kunstler

Christine Lachman  
Yasmine Lancaster  
Marc Langenberg  
Janie Lee  
Karen Leiva  
Henri Lese  
Barbara Levy  
Anne Lieberman  
Susan Little  
Jeff Lockwood  
Patricia Lord  
Samantha Lyons  
Norm Lyons  
Barbara Madrid  
Sherry Manis  
Marc Marvin  
Patti McKay  
Michael Metzner  
Pat Miller  
Martha Moffett  
Lauren Monson  
James Monson  
Laura Monterosso  
Leonette Morrison

Ted Moyer  
Jill Murphy  
Pat Myers  
Carol Nash  
Axel Nelson  
Frances Nelson  
Robert Neuhaus  
Maria Orendorff  
Cindy Ostroff  
Elizabeth Paris  
Carol Perry  
Deborah Phelan  
Debbie Piattelli  
Ned Pinger  
Judith Pomeroy  
Matthew Quint  
Ruthanne Ranz-Appell  
Diana Richmond  
Jay Ripps  
Colleen Rogers  
Robert Rosenberg  
Diane Rosenberger  
Ellen Rosenstein  
Sandra Rowett

Suzanne Rush  
Judi Sachs  
Iris Saligman  
Karen Santiago  
Fran Scher  
Richard Schiller  
Margo Schmidt  
Joan Schretlen  
Katelin Schroeder  
Cathy Schroeder  
Alex Schumacher  
Sally Secor  
Ellen Seh  
Gale Serin  
Patricia Shea  
Wendy Shearn  
Carole Sherick  
Veronica Siggins  
Fred Silverman  
Dian Simpkins  
David Spaulding  
Mollie Squires  
Sheila Starr  
Mark Stevens

Carol Tabb  
Eric Tepper  
Monica Towers  
Sandy Truex  
James Turner  
Madison Uhlhorn  
Chip Vetter  
Megan Walton  
Eliza Warde  
Anne Warner-Reitz  
Lucinda Watson  
Barbara Wenger  
Lynn West  
Joanna West  
J. Gillian Wheelock  
Sandy Williams  
Karen Wilson  
Laurence Wolf  
Stephen Yafa  
Carolyn Zaroff  
Linda Zipperstein



**Debra Fletcher**  
10,000 Degrees Academic Support Coordinator  
with students

“ One of my mentees, a fourth grade Marin City ELL (English-Language Learner) math student, had missed several lessons. I sat in on the math teacher’s lesson on Zoom, then had a combination FaceTime/ Zoom call with the student separately. We did the math problems together in real time. His mother then sent me a text ‘*Muchas gracias por estar pendientes de mi hijo, un millon a gracias*’ — ‘Thank you so much for watching over my son.’ This text from a busy mom brought tears to my eyes.”



# 10,000 DEGREES ACADEMIC SUPPORT SCHOOL PARTNERS FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR

Thank you for your partnership!

## **Partner School in Bolinas-Stinson Union School District**

Bolinas-Stinson Elementary

## **Partner Schools in Novato Unified School District**

Hamilton Meadow Park

Loma Verde Elementary

Lu Sutton Elementary

Lynwood Elementary

Novato High

Olive Elementary

San Jose Intermediate

San Marin High

## **Partner Schools in San Rafael City School District**

Bahia Vista Elementary

Coleman Elementary

James B. Davidson Middle

Laurel Dell Elementary

San Pedro Elementary

San Rafael High

Short Elementary

Terra Linda High

Venetia Valley K-8

## **Partner Schools in Sausalito Marin City School District**

Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy

Willow Creek Academy

## **Partner Schools in Shoreline Unified School District**

Bodega Bay Elementary

Inverness Elementary

Tomales Elementary

Tomales High

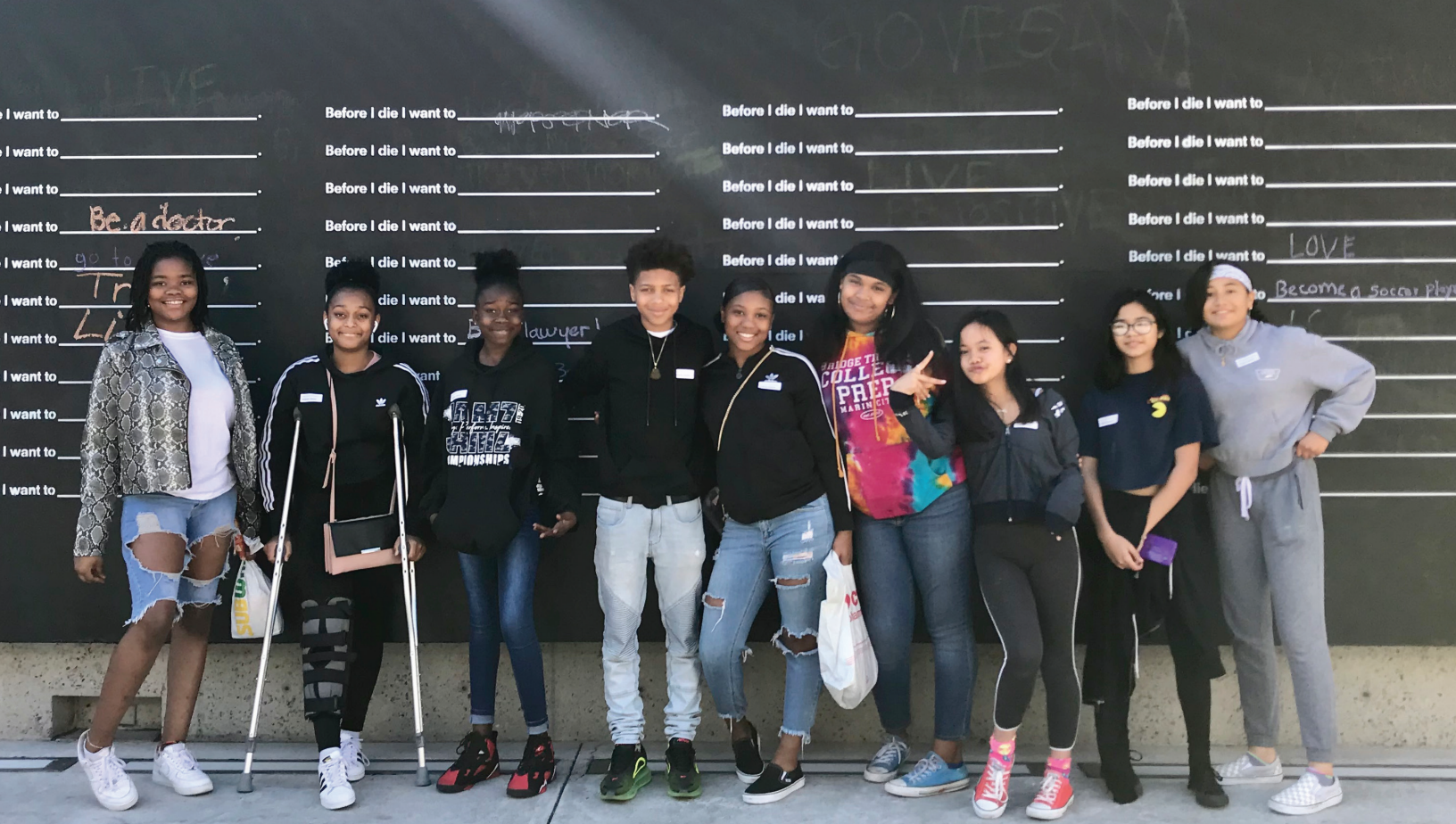
West Marin Elementary

## **Partner School in Tamalpais Union School District**

Tamalpais High

*For a complete list of 10,000 Degrees  
donors and supporters, go to:  
[10000degrees.org/supporters](https://10000degrees.org/supporters)*

*We sincerely apologize for any omissions  
or listing errors. Please contact  
Anna Schlegel at 415.451.4013 or  
[aschlegel@10000degrees.org](mailto:aschlegel@10000degrees.org) to correct  
our records.*



10,000 Degrees middle school students from Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy on a field trip at Oakland Museum of California in February 2020





Jennifer Vargas and her family  
10,000 Degrees Alumna  
University of California, Davis, 2020



# Lizbeth Najera-Muñoz

## 10,000 Degrees Donor Since 2020 New Board Member

I came to the US from Mexico when I was nine years old. I didn't know that I was undocumented until high school when I was trying to apply to colleges and a nonprofit who came to present about FAFSA said I couldn't apply. However, they told me about various private scholarships available.

**As an immigrant, I felt getting an education was the only way to achieve the American dream.**

My parents sacrificed a lot for me to be here. I'm the first in my family to graduate from college. Going to college and then to law school was the minimum I could do to honor them and make their sacrifices worth it.

The mission of 10,000 Degrees is very personal to me. I know first-hand how impactful the services are to the students who need them. I would have

benefited greatly from 10,000 Degrees. Yes, our Fellows run workshops and help with financial aid and college applications, but they also give intangible help and positive reinforcement, saying "I support you and believe in you." I didn't get that growing up, I actually got the opposite. Many people discouraged me from going to college and law school, and didn't believe in me. I don't know how, but somehow I was able to believe in myself.

Now, I work for a big multi-national company that assists other international companies. It's intellectually challenging work, but by being on the 10,000 Degrees Board, I feel I'm helping the world be a better place for students whose challenges I know all too well.





PO BOX L, San Rafael CA 94913  
415.459.4240 10000degrees.org  
Tax ID #95-3667812

