


COMMUNITY PARTNER



We're on a mission to improve financial lives.

Generous financial benefits in your own backyard.

[Join us](#)

The Almanac Holiday Fund



Upward Scholars student Christen receives her laptop from, left to right, Janet Larson of Atherton, Upward Scholars Executive Director Linda Prieto, and Mary Lou Schiavo of Atherton. Photo courtesy of Upward Scholars.

Posted December 5, 2019

Upward Scholars offers support and hope

by Linda Prieto, executive director of Upward Scholars

When Upward Scholars alumnus Amado came to the U.S. from Mexico in 2011, he started at zero. "I couldn't communicate in English. I didn't have a job. I didn't have any experience in this country," Amado says. His first job was working as a line cook at a Mexican restaurant earning \$8 an hour.

In June, Amado graduated with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and two months later began work as a project engineer at WebCore builders, a San Francisco-based general contractor.

Amado attributes much of his success to the support he received from Upward Scholars, a nonprofit that provides adult immigrants in our community the boost they need to move up the economic ladder through education and vocational support.

Soon after coming to the U.S., Amado enrolled in ESL (English as a Second Language) classes at Sequoia Adult School, then started taking classes at Canada College. At that time, he also applied for a scholarship from Upward Scholars. During Amado's tenure at Canada, he received more than \$2,000 in support from Upward Scholars, which paid for his textbooks as well as bus passes that covered the cost of transportation to and from college.

"When I began my journey, the people at Upward Scholars were among the first people who believed in me," Amado says. "I will always be grateful for that."

Amado is one of 824 students Upward Scholars has served since 2011. Most Upward Scholars students are immigrants who came to the United States as adults.

In addition to receiving textbooks and bus passes, many Upward Scholars students receive laptops that are critical to college success.

"Before I received my laptop, I did all of my assignments on my phone," says Christen, a recent laptop recipient who lives in Menlo Park and is taking ESL classes at Canada College. "This laptop changed my life."

The Upward Scholars laptop program receives critical technical support from Menlo Park resident Sue Kayton, who also is the coordinator of Menlo-Atherton High School's Computer Donation and Refurbish Program.

A cornerstone of Upward Scholars support is its tutoring program, in which students are paired with local volunteers who work with their students one-on-one at a time and location that is convenient to the tutor and the student. This semester, almost 80 students are working with an Upward Scholars tutor or mentor.

Menlo Park resident Deb Abel has been an Upward Scholars tutor for the past five years. "Tutoring an Upward Scholars student is a rewarding way to add real value to someone's life," Abel says. "And it's a tangible way to help students feel welcome in our country."



Support our kids

[MAKE A DONATION](#)



[Grantees](#) [Donor List](#)

As of February 1st, 184 donors have contributed \$305,280 to the Holiday Fund.

* indicates amount withheld at donor's request

40 Anonymous	28,370
Lorraine Macchello	100
Kathy & Bob Feldman	500
Alice F. Schenk & John L. Richardson	200
Jan Jedkins	400
John & Cooky Galen	50
Michael & Lenore Roberts	200
Gail & Susan Prickett	1,000
Lucy Reid-Krensky	100
Mark & Karen Weitzel	*
The Mendelsohn Family	2,500
Joel Jakobson & Krishna Mitra	250
Betty Meissner	100
Barbara and Bill Binder	*
Sidney Chen & Sandra Lee Chen	*
Ken Turkowski	100
LindaKeegan	1,000
Linda keehan	1,000
The Wang Family	300
Carol Kemper	200
Charles Bacon and Cynthia Dusel-Bacon	250
Mary and Bob Dodge	300
Derek and Susan Hine	*
Joe and Julie Zier	*
Gisela Brugger	1,000
Karen Fleck & Ian McDowall	*
Judy & Jim Lipman	50
J. Wong	*
Martha Cohn	100
Kayleen Miller	100
Barbara Kent	150
Walter Robinson	250
Nita & Clay Judd	*
Robert & Connie Loarie	*
Bill Wohler	440
Sandy Cold	500
Terri D. Bullock Family Foundation	
Richard & Jean Duda	1205,000
Tim & Mia Clark	500
John & Lisa Whelan	100
Barbara Oliver	200
Elizabeth Tromovitch	75
Connie & Bob Lurie	30,000
Arnie and Judie Cornez	*
Leonard Shar	750
Dorothy Saxe	*
Gallo Family Fund	500
Barry L. Goldblatt	150
Susan carey	1,500
Kerry & Rick DeBenedetti	*
Dennis Monohan	100
Ann C. Treadwell	*
Colflesh Charitable Fund	50
Bruce & Ann Willard	1,000
Andrea G. Julian	1,000
Lynne S. Fovinci	75
Roger & Pat Witte	200
Nancy & Bill Ellsworth	*
Novitsky Family	100
Kathy & Bob Mueller	100
The UMOG Charitable Fund	
Pegasus Family	100,000
Foundation	1,000
Susan Kritzik and Bruce McAuley	*
Kevin Novak & Hannah Giula	500
Judy and Doug Adams	*
Roger and Wendy von Oech	1,000
Anne Davison	100
Leigh Flesher and Mark Bailey	*
Margaret Melaney	2,000
Mitzi Moynihan	*
Mitzi Moynihan	*
John Donald and Elaine Hammond	
Marc & Mary Ann Saunders	*100
Owen & Hannah Sowerwine	100
Robert Mullen	250
Juli and John Parker	250
Robert & Barbara Simpson	*
Donald & Judith Mac Millan	500
Margo Sensenbrenner	*
Barbara Jacobson	200
Melanie Austin	500
Mary Ann Hurlimann	500
Susan Higley Russell	100
Nancy & Dan Witeck	200
Betsy Stockdale	*
Bill & Melba Rogoway	*
Leslie & Michael Crisp	*
Bryan & Susan Lovegren	50
Sue Bartalo and Dave Fischer	250
Kajsa Tabor	*
Mayling Dixon	*
Dave & Diane Toole	100
Jim Lewis	*
Maggie Markdasilva	1,000
Ross & Liz McDougall	*
Barbara Bessey	*
Douglas Keare Jr & Jill Morgan	
Carrie German	*2,000
Margaret & Jamis MacNiven	100
Jerry & Shirley Carlson	250
Austin Grose	250
Sue Bishop & ViOLE McMahan	100
Vicky Rundorff	*
Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Jagggers	15,000
James E. Esposito	*
Janet Buce Cook	500
Gordon Russell & Batina McAdoo	
Volckmann Family	1,000
Foundation	3,000
Leslie Airola	500
Geoff & Colleen Tate	*
Tom & Ann Livermore	1,000
Kathryn Stivers Charitable Fund	
Joyce castellino	200500
Bob and Marna Page	*
Erika Crowley	*
Donna Mackowski	200
Paul Perret	1,000
Bob & Barbara Ells	500
Kathleen Elkins	*
Don & Catherine Coluzzi	*

In Memory Of

Bill Hewlett and Dave Packard	
Dr. Fereidoon Kaboli	*1,000
Ruth & Chet Johnson	*
Doug Hutton	200
Paul & Ingeborg Katz	*
Vicki Jones & Dee & Jerry Carlson	
Nancy Sallaberry	500125
Wiley Birkhofer	2,500
Stephen F. Martin	5,000
Hugh D. Kennedy	*
Ted Heidinger	500
Jean Zonner	1,000

In Honor Of

Nella and Bill Berry	1,000
Marer Family	200
Nancy Stevens	*
The Liggett Family	*
Dennis McBride	500

As a Gift for

Mira Lajoie	100
-------------	-----

Businesses & Organizations

Rotary Club of Menlo Park	
Foundation	10,000
Griffin & Sons Construction, Inc	*
Hewlett Foundation	8,750
Packard Foundation	15,000
Menlo Park Firefighters' Association	500
Lyn At Your Service	*
TOSA FOUNDATION	1,000

Index

- Home
- TownSquare
- Blogs
- A&E
- Community Calendar
- Home & Real Estate
- Obituaries
- Send News Tips
- Subscription
- Print Edition/Archives
- Express / Weekend Express
- Special Pubs
- Circulation & Delivery
- Promotions
- About Us
- Contact Us
- Advertising Info
- Place a Legal Notice
- Terms of Use
- Privacy Policy
- Palo Alto Online
- Mountain View Voice
- TheSixFifty.com
- Redwood City Pulse