

2022 Annual Report



**A Year of
Growth & Resilience**



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DeAnna Pursai
Executive Director/Co-Founder



**College of
Adaptive Arts**
Inclusive Collegiate Partnerships

Transforming for Continued Scaling Up & Traction

What an incredible past year this has been at College of Adaptive Arts. On the academic front, we've welcomed the most number of adult students from the Bay Area, CA, and across the nation. We recently just had our first overseas request for an adult that is eager to continue learning for which a traditional college model was not a good fit.

Our staff are some of the most dedicated, thoughtful, compassionate, and hardworking professionals I've ever been privileged to work with. Their creativity is boundless in that they relentlessly work to set their students up for optimal success. This past year we've brought up from the staff 3 leaders into managerial positions to help with the enormous volume and demand for these adaptive collegiate services for adults who historically have not had access.

Fiscally this has been a transition year as we've invested in some service solutions that did not pan out for our school. We came together as a team to brainstorm new solutions with the ever-helping hands and guidance of our phenomenal Parent Advisory Group. They helped us pave the path forward through the astute services and support of a young professional with a loved one at the school, and we're back on track with a viable working solution. Additionally, the volume of donations is down

this past year in this economic climate, although the number of overall donors has remained steady. We've got a fiscal oversight board committee working tirelessly and committed to getting us back operationally moving forward to continue to grow sustainably and strategically to scale.

The CAA students remain the constant shining guiding light. They show up each day in person and online with the most genuine smile eager to learn, share, contribute, collaborate, and build a broader base of lifelong friendships. They are creative, intellectual, inquisitive, witty, and so desperately eager to show what they're truly capable of. On the days when life feels overwhelming and daunting, I'll have a conversation with a CAA student about their plans, ideas for new potential classes, and upcoming CAA courses they're interested in enrolling, and it always becomes crystal clear that nothing else matters than bringing this equitable, collegiate model to full fruition. One day we know this model will be integrated onto every campus of higher learning around the world for adults who historically have not had access to college education. And communities will be better and more inclusive for us all.

What's next in 2023-2024? Programmatically we'll be focusing on Workforce Development in non-routine career pathways for adults with IDD. We got a phenomenal

investment from County Board Supervisor Joe Simitian's office to work with West Valley College students and CAA students to build a robust workforce pipeline training adults in career paths in higher ed opportunities beginning with the positions of teacher's assistant and receptionists. We're also working diligently to build more collaborative partnerships on the campus of West Valley College to become a service-learning/leadership training hub for their students. And we'll be building out our new CAA Student Advising and Counseling Department thanks to some tremendous resources allocated to our college from State Senator Dave Cortese's office.

CAA will officially be turning 15 years old in August of 2024. This year we'll be launching a campaign to secure 150 monthly recurring donors at \$50/month. If we can match our donations to the amount of tuition received each year, we'll be fully and operationally sustainable. We welcome you to join us in this monumental Moving of the Mountain for adults who are ready to demonstrate their astute capacities, vibrant intellect, and boundless ideas for how they can contribute to make this world a better place. We invite you to join us – the traction and momentum is truly palpable and growing.

I recently came across a quote that deeply resonated with me: "You can't lose if you never give

up." I watch these students and families every day of my life live by this motto. That's the sentiment of the College of Adaptive Arts Mountain Movers team – we will keep going and see how far we can move the mountain for these incredible lifelong learners!

- DeAnna E-Pursai ☺

“You can't
lose if
you never
give up.”





**College of
Adaptive Arts**
Inclusive Collegiate Partnerships

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO



Our Mission

College of Adaptive Arts provides an equitable collegiate experience to adults with special needs who historically have not had access to college education.



Our Vision

College of adaptive Arts empowers the student body to creatively transform the way the world views individuals with disabilities. CAA creates successful contributing citizens through the arts.



Our Mottos

**Inclusive Collegiate Partnerships;
Creating successful contributing citizens.**

We are a College bridging the gap for adults who have traditionally been marginalized in higher education.



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Donate**



“I am
challenging myself.”

Impact Statement from Melissa Correa

Melissa Correa is a student who has been at CAA since the beginning. According to Melissa, part of what she likes about attending school is the social aspect.

“I like seeing my friends and I have fun,” said Melissa. “I am challenging myself.”

Melissa has Down syndrome, and for the majority of her life, her mother Janice Correa had to be an advocate for her when it came to her education. But with CAA, Melissa was given the power to choose the classes she wanted and was interested in instead of having them chosen for her.

Melissa’s mother, Janice Correa, said she is constantly amazed at how Melissa is able to grow and thrive.

“She’s 41 and is continuing to enrich herself,” said Janice. “She has tried many different courses but has decided what she likes and what she doesn’t.”





College of
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Making An Impact



“Simply put, we, as a family, are so happy Samuel is part of the CAA community. Thank you to everyone, the instructors, staff, volunteers, parents and students for creating such a fun and welcoming learning environment. We truly cherish CAA so much & will always be grateful for the joy & security CAA has given Samuel. To see him flourish & thrive at a wonderful place that encourages its students to explore, learn and embrace their unique authentic selves — what more could we ask for.”

- Cotilda Nakimuli, sister of CAA Student Samuel Kigozi



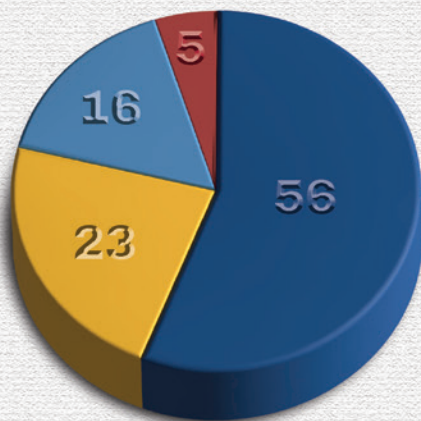
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Annual Budget

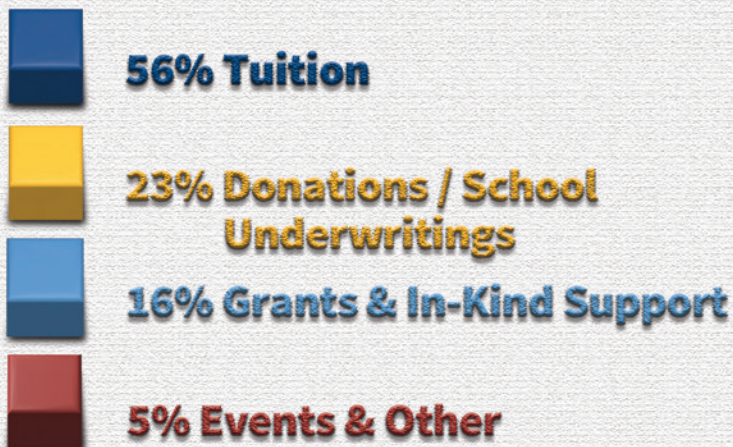
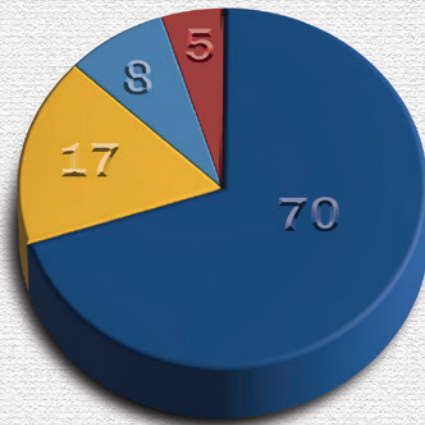
Operational Budget: 1,350,195.10

Goal for Sustainability/Replicability: \$2 million

2023 Income
\$1,382,000



2023 Expenses
\$1,479,000



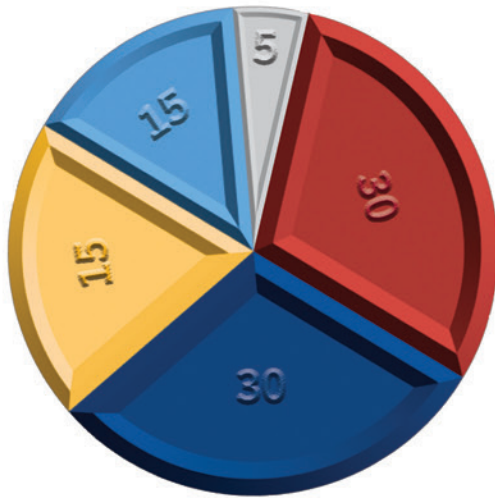
“Being at CAA has actually helped me come out of my shell. I love being on campus and being here with my friends.”

- CAA Student Curtis Kataji



Ratio of Ethnicity (2023)

Hispanic Caucasian API Multiple Ethnicities African American



18-74+ years

Student Age Range from 18 to 74+
All ages welcome.



220 students

Average Students Per Semester



1050 Seats

Average Class Seats Filled
Per Semester

41 Staff Members

Total Staff Members
Currently at CAA (2023)



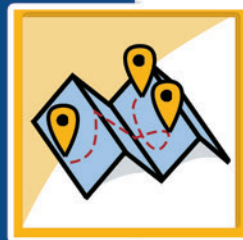
3000+ Registrations

Total Class Registrations to Date

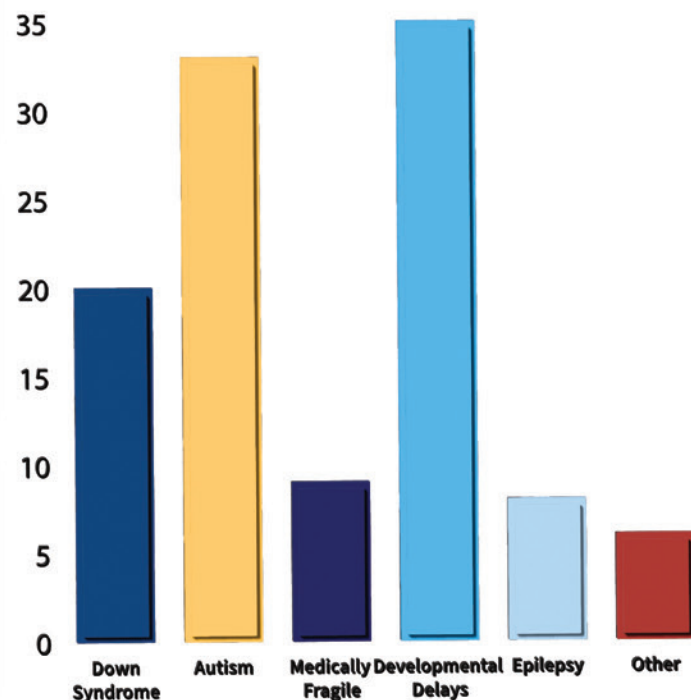


8 Regional Centers

Total CA Regional Centers Served



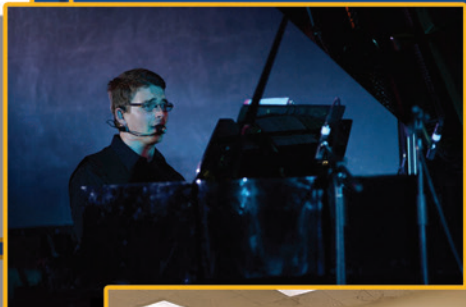
Breakdown of Population (2023)





Our Classes

- Communications Department Director, Danielle Weaver, further developed the Language Studies part of her department by offering exciting new classes including Italian and additional Spanish classes, rounding out the existing program along with the fan-favorite, Sign Language classes. In fact, in response to a rapidly growing number of students expressing interest in Professor Angel Coronado's Spanish class, CAA opened up an additional two Spanish classes each week and still had record-breaking waitlists. And the 2023 Communications Showcase, made possible by a generous donation from Helpers Community, will be an opportunity for students to share their communications skills with the community.
- With new staff getting certified in the ever-popular Pound Fitness program, CAA expanded the program by offering both entry level and advanced classes, with Health and Wellness Department Director, Nicole Matarangas, and Professor Renee Pontil encouraging CAA's students to find opportunities to pursue wellness in ways that work for them.
- Science and Technology Department Director, Michael Reisman, further developed CAA's goal to have more interdepartmental collaborations, now offering interdisciplinary Graduate level classes in partnerships with Music Department Director, Sharon Lea, and Theatre Department Director, Hannah Thrasher. These partnerships provide an opportunity for students to combine their creative instincts with the technological advancement that can open up a whole new world for their creative outlets.
- Deepening the community partnership with Eureka Street Theatre and SF Shakespeare Festival, what began as a workshop for our Graduate Theatre students quickly became a popular stand alone class under the direction of Theatre Department Director, Hannah Thrasher, with students enjoying the highly interactive exercises and activities following the Hunter Heartbeat Method of acting. Students had the opportunity to show off these new talents during CAA's very first in-person Theatre performances since the pandemic, also highlighting the exciting partnership with the West Valley College.
- Health and Wellness Department Director, Nicole Matarangas', newly formed CAA Varsity Dance Cheer Squad provided more advanced training for our seasoned Cheerleading students, who performed in the community with standing ovations from the audience at the SJSU I-House Pancake Breakfast and at the Christie's Sereno Group Annual Gathering in October, 2022.



Donor Impact



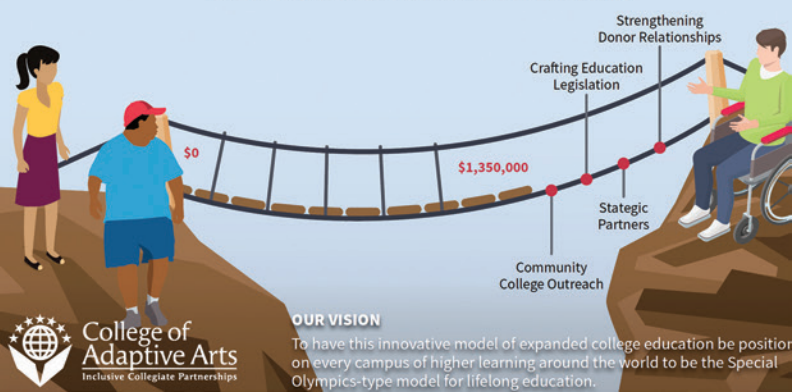
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- With the \$20,000 donation from Helpers Community, CAA will be able to purchase accessible picnic tables that will serve as an additional outdoor learning space and an opportunity for a seasonal 5th classroom, along with providing a waiting area for families and drivers and a safe space for students to socialize and study together outside the classroom setting.
- The 2023 Communications Department Showcase will be made possible this year due to the \$20,000 donation from SV Creates. The immensely popular annual event, which was on hold during the pandemic, honors the introverts at CAA, providing an intellectual setting for non-performing students to shine their light alongside performing arts enthusiasts. This is often the first time community members and the families of newly enrolled students have the opportunity to see students showing off their Communications skills, including poetry, dramatic readings, sign language, and spoken word.
- A generous \$2,400 anonymous donation for IT systems, which was used for a Classy/Salesforce system integration, allows CAA to honor the backend infrastructure required in order to run the organization, cutting administrative costs and freeing up staff to work on pivotal projects that will prepare us for scaling up. Donations like these that are dedicated to CAA's administrative and operational infrastructure pass the savings on directly to the students and the program offerings, letting CAA do what it does best - provide accessible lifelong learning opportunities for adults with special needs.



MOVING THE MOUNTAIN FOR CAA CLOSING THE GAP

Striving Towards \$2 Million Fiscal Sustainability





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Accomplishments



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In The News

- 12 Press Releases Distributed to 427 local media outlets and national disability focused trade publications/outlets
- 3,950 Email Newsletters sent to 3,100 opt in subscribers
- 10 Media Placements and Articles in Local and National Publications
- 2 National Non Profit Awards (Classy and Great Nonprofits)
- 2982 Facebook Followers (up 375 people from July 2022 to July 2023)
- 897 Instagram Followers (up 95 people from July 2022 - July 2023)
- 200 Twitter Followers

Featured in an article, "Reimagining Educational and Vocational Opportunities for Adults with Developmental Disabilities", in the Spring 2023 National Disability Magazine DiverseAbility.

[Click Here To Read The Article](#)

Featured in a Mercury News story, "College for Disabled Adapting to Success at Saratoga Campus" in March 2023.

[Click Here To Read The Article](#)

Featured in a Silicon Valley Voice story, "College of Adaptive Arts: You Are Not Alone" in January 2023.

[Click Here To Read The Article](#)

Nominated as one of the top 50 Change Makers for the 2023 Classy Awards in April 2023.



"I liked how everyone was like me... The staff and teachers really understood me."

Student Tyler Thacker, who also works at CAA as an Associate Professor, she knew CAA was the place for her after touring the school in 2019. "I liked how everyone was like me," said Tyler. "The staff and teachers really understood me." Having since had the opportunity to join CAA's staff, Tyler expressed feeling more confident and that working in an environment like CAA is incredibly supportive. "I love working for CAA because I love working with the amazing staff. I get along well with them. We are all like family." said Tyler, who is enjoying taking classes at CAA as well as teaching, and her main goal is to move up to be a lead teacher or site manager.

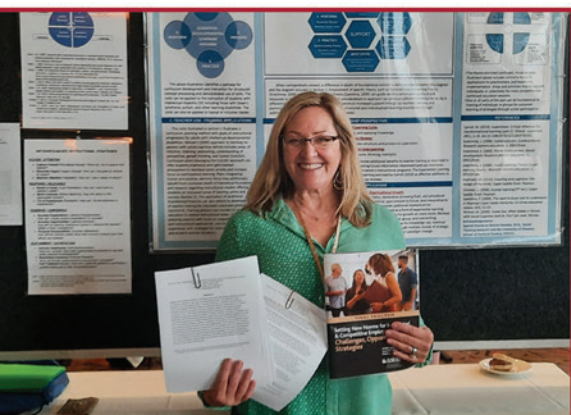


Accomplishments & Community Engagement



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- CAA was awarded a \$250k Inventory Item Grant for Workforce Development by Supervisor Joe Simitian's County office – June 2023
- Department of Labor Workforce Development Apprenticeships Vendorizations – Receptionist & Teaching Assistants – May 2023
- Invited to be part of the newly forming Democracy Institute at West Valley College – May 2023
- Dr. Pamela Lindsay presented at 2 national conferences on higher education and adults with IDD – June & July, 2023
- Dr. Pamela Lindsay's peer-reviewed research article was published in the International Journal of Special Education – Jan. 2023
- DeAnna Pursai was a recipient of the CA Women's Legislative Caucus Women Making Herstory – Woman of the Year for State Senate District 15
- CAA was selected as a Top 50 finalist for the Classy Awards – May 2023
- SJSU Sbona School of Business Honors students worked with CAA for a 2-semester internship – developing a CAA Handbook for the school
- CAA launched our internal Cardinal Apprenticeship Program supporting CAA students to be trained to become future employees – June 2023
- 2022 Great Nonprofits Top Rated Nonprofit
- CAA is now in 12 states – 8 Regional Centers in CA – serving over 216+ students – 1,000 distinct learning opportunities
- CAA student Paige gave the Pledge of Allegiance at the Santa Clara County Board President Susan Ellenberg State of the County presentation Jan 2023
- CAA student AJ presented to the Saratoga City Council – May 2023
- Conducted 2 robust Parent Advisory Council meetings which led to a referral of a sibling built CAA a custom registration system The new CAA registration system, affectionately named the Jason Registration system, is responsive, user-friendly, streamlined & has become a tremendous hit at CAA – thanks to CAA Superstar Sibling Jason Evans



In June 2023, CAA co-founder Dr. Pamela Lindsay presented her research at the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Pittsburgh. She is a pioneering researcher in the field of higher education and adults with developmental disabilities, and after her presentation, she was asked to be a California Regional Liaison for AAIDD.

In July 2023, CAA co-founder Dr. Pamela Lindsay presented at the Association for Higher Education and Disabilities (AHEAD) conference in Portland. She continues to pioneer important initiatives when it comes to the field of higher education and adults with disabilities.

INVESTING

IN HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

For Adults Who Historically
Have Not Had Access

OUR VISION: Empowering the student body to transform the way the world views individuals with disabilities. CAA creates successful contributing citizens through Inclusive Collegiate Partnerships.



Workforce Development

- Train CAA Students with IDD
- Internship & Apprenticeship Enrollment & Support
- Partner with West Valley Continuing Education
- Build a Volunteer to Employment Pipeline for CAA Student
- Support Gig Economy Employment

Giving Levels: **\$1,000** **\$5,000** **\$10,000**
\$25,000 **\$50,000** **\$150,000**



Program Collaboration with West Valley

- Service Learning Module development for West Valley Students supporting CAA student volunteer opportunities
- Volunteer support for programs
- Building a pipeline of student and faculty partnerships
- Pair West Valley and CAA Students to foster social integration, resiliency, and learning tools for collegiate success

Giving Levels: **\$1,000** **\$5,000** **\$10,000**
\$25,000 **\$50,000** **\$150,000**



CAA Student Services & Career Counseling

- Provide support services to students and their families
- Help them navigate collegiate life
- Career pathway options
- Diploma track guidance and academic growth

Giving Levels: **\$1,000** **\$5,000** **\$10,000**
\$25,000 **\$50,000** **\$150,000**



our



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Donors

**It Takes a Village
to Move A Mountain**



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2020-2022 Donors and Partners

Together we are Moving Mountains

“I like learning new things and feel comfortable there.”

- CAA Student Giorgina Brackett



School Underwriters

Art: Schmidt Family

Business: CoEquantum Fund

Communications: Open

Dance: Open

Health & Wellness: Bill & Linda Giannini Family

Library: Schmidt Family

Music: Soderbery Family

Science & Technology: Raghuram Family, Riccio Family

Theatre: O'Farrell Principe

FamilyTV/Film: Private Family



Monthly Recurring Personal Donors

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Janet & Chuck Atkinson

Clyde & June Beck

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Sue Breckenridge

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Leann Cherkasky Makhni

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 Sereno Group of Willow Glen

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 *Amato Pizzeria
 *AnT Swim School
 *Apple Corporate Match
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 *Six Figure Fundraising
 *Benford Real Estate Inc.
 Blach Construction
 Bluffton Street Fair -
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 *BrainSHARE - Joe Siecinski
 CA State Senator, Dave Cortese,
 District 15
 California Sports Center
 Cara Couture Invitations
 *Christie's Sereno 1% for Good
 *City of San Jose -
 Mayor Sam Liccardo
 Co+Ed Architecture
 *Coequantem Fund
 *Columbian Foundation
 Supporting People with
 Intellectual Disabilities

Dae-Wook Kang, M.D.
 *Delta Kappa Gamma Soceity
 *DKG, Zeta Theta Chapter
 *Gotuaco & Associates
 *Heritage Bank of Commerce
 Helpers Community
 Industrial Council for Small
 Business Development
 *Kiwanis Club of West San Jose
 *Knights of Columbus #3474
 *lifeSport Fitness, Inc.
 *Luis Pedro Castillo Pictures
 *Micheletti Insurance Services
 *Mission City Community Fund
 *Northrup Grumman Foundation
 *OneHope Wine

Donor Testimonial

**"Whether on a topic of
 physical illness, mental
 illness and or just overall
 life experience and what
 we've learned along the
 way, I truly believe [CAA]
 helps us to work as a team
 on an even higher and
 stronger level."**

- Professor Sharon Lea

*Oracle Corporate Match
 *Pam Foley, San Jose City
 Council, District 9
 *Peace and Light Foundation
 *PG&E Corporate Match
 *Pinnacle Bank
 *Promote Her Business Silicon
 Valley Networking Circle
 Red Hat Club of Bluffton, IN
 RSD Charitable & Educational
 Foundation
 Santa Clara County Board
 Supervisor, Joe Simitian,
 District 5
 *Santa Clara County Realtors
 Foundation

Santa Clara Retired Teachers Association
 Santa Clara University Arrupe Program
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 *VMware Corporate Match
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"We have been donors of CAA for years!"

"Setting up a recurring donation many years ago has been one of the most satisfying and rewarding ways that I have been able to support CAA. I picked a modest amount to donate from every paycheck that was well within my comfort zone. Over time (years and years) CAA has received the sum of all of these donations and CAA has been able to budget and plan without the uncertainty that comes from repeated one-time donations. My company matched my donation, doubling the benefit to CAA." - Tom Kirkley

Personal Donors

Hinna Adnan
 Deepa Advani
 *Marilynn Ahern
 Salman Alam
 *Peter Allen
 Anthony Allen
 *Bill & Deb Alley
 *Lupe & David Ambrosio-Garcia
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 Donna Diaz



“CAA is a wonderful organization that provides educational training and support to adults with special needs.”

“I believe that everyone should have the opportunity to learn and grow, regardless of their abilities. CAA provides a safe and supportive environment where adults with special needs can reach their full potential.

I have known CAA co-founder DeAnna Pursai for many years and have been consistently impressed with her dedication to helping adults with special needs. DeAnna and her team are passionate about providing their students with the tools they need to succeed. They are also committed to creating a community where everyone feels welcome and valued.

Here are some specific examples of the amazing work that CAA does:

- They offer a variety of educational programs that are tailored to the individual needs of their students.
- They offer social and recreational activities that help students build relationships and develop life skills.
- They work with students to develop employment plans and help them find jobs.

- Ed Correia - President/CEO of Sagacent Technologies

*Rod Diridon, Sr. & Dr. Gloria Duffy
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AWO Huemanity Salon Series
Best Buddies Santa Clara University
Buddies in Action
Casa di Mir Montessori School
Chandler Tripp Preschool
Chopsticks Alley
Christmas in the Park
City Lights Theater Co.
Community Health Partnership
CreaTV
Dance of Peace - Khalilah Ramirez
Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Stanford Univ
genARTS Silicon Valley
Gilroy Center for the Arts
HOPE Services
International House - San Jose State University
Jewish Federation of
Joint Venture Silicon Valley
Latizmo Hip Hop Productions
Los Gatos Ballet
Momentum Employment Services - Momentum for Mental Health
New Ballet School
Open Mind School
Opera San Jose
Parents Helping Parents Pivotal
Promote Her Business Silicon Valley Networking Circle
San Andreas Regional Center
San Francisco Ballet
San Francisco Shakespeare Festival
San Jose Museum of Art
San Jose State University Disability Awareness Day
Santa Clara University
Santa Clara University Community Action Program
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