

# Annual Report 2022-2023

Dear Parents,

We want to thank our fellow families, teachers, staff, administrators, and other members of our community for making this past 2022-2023 school year a huge success. We are pleased to provide you with our annual report on this year's progress towards our organizational goals.

At Friends of Albert Einstein Academies (FoAEA), our mission extends beyond fundraising. We have been dedicated to fostering a strong sense of community through various pillars, including communication, family engagement, teacher and staff support and appreciation, as well as providing a diverse array of experiences such as athletic, academic, and cultural events. This year's successes included the Gala & Auction, which had more than 250 family members, teachers, staff, and administrators in attendance. We also launched several new experiences, including the Hispanic Heritage and Multi-Cultural Festivals and STEM by Friends. All with great success!

Our commitment to communication involves keeping everyone informed about school activities and important updates. Family engagement ensures that parents and guardians are active participants in their children's education journey. Teacher and staff support and appreciation remain central as we recognize the incredible dedication and hard work of our educators. Finally, our various experiences aim to enrich the lives of our students through athletic, academic, and cultural opportunities.

Fundraising efforts by FoAEA this past year collected more than \$140,000. Your generous support allowed us to fund various experiences and programs enriching the educational experience of our amazing students.

Thank you for making it possible for the FoAEA PTO to go above and beyond to support the entire AEA community! Working together we can accomplish great things to help our students and the teachers and staff of our AEA Elementary and Middle Schools.

Sincerely,  
Christine Roche  
President, FoAEA

**2023-2024 FoAEA Board of Directors**

President - Christine Roche	Vice President – Heather McLean	Events Coordinator – Amanda Rowe
Treasurer – Rosalie Henke	Secretary – Matt Kill	Cultural Lead – Vanessa Klein
Fundraising – Lorine Wilcox	Communications – Katie Pipes	
ES Room Parent Coordinator – Andrea Patin		

## **What is Friends of Albert Einstein Academies (FoAEA)?**

FoAEA is our school's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). All AEA parents/caregivers, teachers, and staff are automatically members of FoAEA. As volunteers, we work together to engage our families, enhance our students' educational experience at school, support our teachers and staff, and provide enriching events and programs for our children outside of school.

## **FoAEA Mission Statement**

Friends of Albert Einstein Academies (FoAEA) is an all-volunteer non-profit (501c3) organization committed to cultivating a positive community for the enrichment of all students who attend our AEA Charter Schools. We are families of current students, along with teachers and staff, who work together to promote student enrichment, support teachers and staff, and strengthen our larger AEA community. FoAEA engages all families of our rich and robust school community to help our children grow into well-rounded and global citizens. It is our belief that modelling a strong and diverse community is fundamental to supporting and inspiring our children to become respectful, responsible, and caring leaders of the 21st century.

Our mission as members of FoAEA is to enhance our school's capacity to provide the best possible education for our students. We strive to do this through:

- Focused support of enrichment programs (including Art, Music, Physical Education, and Science) within the set curriculum, as well as overall support for assemblies and field trips.
- Athletic, academic, and cultural experiences (including both German and Spanish) for our entire student body that are both social and educational, and consistent with our International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum.
- Teacher and staff appreciation and support throughout the entire school year (including our teacher grant and Friendsgiving programs and Staff and Teacher Appreciation Week).
- Meaningful family engagement (including meetings and events that promote an open discourse between families, our teachers and staff, school administrators, and our larger community).
- Special events which create lifelong memories and help to cultivate a sense of community (both on campus and in the world in which we live).
- Facilitating and promoting communication between our families and with AEA (facilitated by volunteer room parents as well as through social media).

Since its formation in 2007, FoAEA has provided important financial assistance to AEA. Our efforts have been instrumental throughout the growth of our schools, including helping to start many of the Specials at the Elementary School and the Music Program at the Middle School. The highly anticipated AEA High School will surely benefit from our continued efforts and support. As AEA continues to grow and evolve, so too will FoAEA - as we work together as members of our larger AEA community, all for the benefit of our children.

## **2022-2023 Financial Year in Review**

Our PTO is funded through the generosity of our donors – primarily AEA families. In addition to our live and silent auction at the Gala, we also coordinate a handful of community-oriented fundraisers each year. When you support the FoAEA PTO, you also support initiatives that enrich our children's learning. Consistent with past years, the PTO focuses on three key community impact areas:

- Students: Ensuring our children are ready to succeed when they enter high school.
- Teachers: Helping teachers engage and empower our children, so they graduate with options for the future.
- Families: Helping families build an inclusive community, so our children can thrive in a safe and nurturing environment.

## How We Raised Our Money in 2022-2023:

Read-a-Thon	\$1,505
Gala	\$61,173
Rock n Run-a-Thon	\$28,758
Amazon Smile	\$936
Farm Fresh	\$1,426
\$1/day	\$22,989
Food Sales (donuts, pretzels, churros)	\$2,869
Wintermarkt	\$6,694
Lanternfest	\$1,602
Hispanic Heritage Festival	\$2,128
Multi-Cultural Festival	\$2,073
Sweetheart Dance	\$2,587
Misc. donations	\$11,008
TOTAL RAISED:	\$145,748

## How We Spent Our Money in 2022-2023:

### **Academic and Educational Support = \$73,890**

- **Science, Music, Art, and Physical Education** – Consistent with previous years, FoAEA continued to support the “specials” (Art, Science, Music, and Physical Education) to help fund supplies.
- **Field Trips** – Multiple grades were able to enjoy field trips and overnight camps. FoAEA donated to help support funding so all students can attend, regardless of their financial situation. These field trips included Living Coast, Balboa Theatre, Natural History Museum, Timkin Museum, Water Conservation Garden, Maritime Museum, King Tut Exhibit, USS Midway, Fleet Science Center, 5th grade Sesame Place, 6th grade YMCA Camp Marston, 8th grade harbor cruise and San Diego Zoo.
- **Teacher Grants** – Twice a year, teachers and faculty can apply for grants to help fund their classroom needs. Examples of items funded this school year include: P.E. speaker and microphones at the Elementary School (ES), Tiptoi German reading books, audio books for the Middle School (MS) library, a portable GAGA pit at the ES, and a 3D printer for the MS. The grants typically fund higher ticket items.
- **Friendsgiving** – Through a less formal funding process than the teacher grants, FoAEA funded items for teachers throughout the year for lower budget times. This year some of the Friendsgiving included: shade sails for the ES P.E. area and the 1st grade outdoor hallway, Hispanic Heritage artwork supplies for the MS students, futsal and soccer uniforms for the MS students, St. Nikolaus treats at the ES, phonic readers for 1st grade, 5th grade math flashcards, costumes for the Kindergarten “Times long ago” assembly, 5th grade promotion gift bags, and 8th grade promotion t-shirts.
- **German Intern Support** – FoAEA supports the German interns at the ES, as they are a critical part of the student learning. FoAEA also helped financially support the host families that graciously opened their homes to the German interns.
- **Audio Books for the Library** – With the proceeds from the fall Read-a-Thon and matching funds, FoAEA purchased new audio books for the library at the ES.

### **Teacher Support = \$36,561**

- **Staff and Teacher Appreciation** – Throughout the school year, we showed our appreciation through various activities (welcome back to school t-shirts and breakfasts, lunches, coffee trucks, gift cards for supplies, bagels, and coffee in teachers’ lounge, holiday party, and pies before Thanksgiving).

### **Student Giveback = \$24,374**

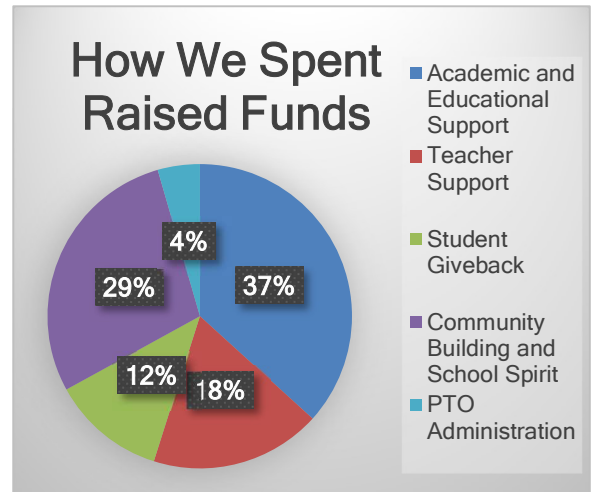
- **Yearbooks at the Elementary School** – Every elementary school student received a free yearbook at the end of the school year.
- **Book Fair** – All students at both campuses were able to receive a free book up to a \$10 value at the Scholastic Book Fair.

### **Community Building and School Spirit = \$57,409**

- **Park Picnics:** Trunk or Treat, Civita Park and De Anza Cove family picnics, and last day of school party at 28th Street park
- **Festivals:** Wintermarkt, Lanternfest, Multi-Cultural Festival, Hispanic Heritage Festival, and STEM by Friends
- **Back to School Pizza Party**
- **Cultural:** Kindergarten Schultüten, Lunar New Year Cookies, and Fasching/Karnival
- **Sweetheart Dance**
- **Gala and Auction**

### **PTO Administration = \$8,994**

- Greater Giving and Giving Fuel processing fees, bank accounts, insurance, taxes and tax filings, and professional services



## **2023-2024 Looking Ahead**

As we anticipate the upcoming school year, we hold a positive outlook for the continuation and expansion of the enjoyable programs and initiatives that were successfully implemented during the 2022-2023 academic year. Additionally, we aim to reintroduce activities that were well-received before the pandemic, such as movie nights.

### **Support FoAEA and Become More Involved**

1. Volunteer for FoAEA-organized initiatives. Contributing your time and effort to create memorable experiences for our children and supporting our teachers is essential. Any time you can spare will help make AEA the best it can be! To sign up and explore volunteer opportunities, please visit [www.foaea.org](http://www.foaea.org):

- Become a Room Parent
- Committees: Welcome, Grants, Fundraising, Events, STEM, Gala, Middle School
- Staff and Teacher Appreciation Week

2. Participate in our board meetings which are held every other month to share your thoughts and ideas (you can find our calendar with meetings and other engagements on our website).

3. Stay informed about upcoming activities and the latest developments within our AEA Community through our social media channels:

- Follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/foaea> or scan QR code below)
- Instagram (@friends\_of\_aea)

4. Fundraise and/or donate to support our students and school with special enrichment programs, experiences, and teacher and staff appreciation.

- Enroll in our Dollar-A-Day program (scan the QR code)
- Register at Farm Fresh to You and enter promo code FriendsOfAEA and 10% of your purchases come back to the school.
- Visit our website for additional ways to support FoAEA

Dollar-A-Day Program



SCAN ME

Facebook Group



SCAN ME