

think

MAGAZINE 2019



BUILDING A COMMUNITY WHERE ALL KIDS



ARE PREPARED FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER



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MAGAZINE 2019

Think Together partners with schools to change the odds for kids.

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think
TOGETHER



I'm new here.

Maybe you are too. Or maybe you've been on this adventure with us for a long time. Either way, I'm glad you've opened this issue of *think magazine*.

I can't help but smile looking at this photo. I like to think these kids are running toward their future. Kimberly, on the left in the red shirt, may never meet you or me. But she knows we are here for her through the support she receives from her Think Together community. We give her confidence to dream and learn.

In my short time at Think Together, I'm astounded by the collective passion and expertise that Think Together leaders and staff bring to the education field. For over two decades, they've identified and implemented solutions that change systems and make the greatest sustainable impact. Think's programs get all kids, no matter their demographic or circumstance, playing successfully on the same field. (Literally. See page 17.)

In this issue, you'll meet Dominic at one of our afterschool sites and find out why he wants to be a scientist. You'll see teachers spending their summer with our leaders, honing their classroom skills to better engage all students. And you'll read about Jose Candelas, one of our staff members who has been changing the odds for kids in Orange County for twenty years.

We want to see a community of students who are college and career bound. These five faces represent millions in the state of California who are depending on us and our school partners to provide them with a great education. This is vitally important work, for the kids' future and for ours. And it's fun too!

In this together,



JOEL WYATT
Chief Development Officer





RAISE A HAND

Khary Espy, a VP at Northern Trust, has invited his friends and network to raise their hands for students. As co-chair of the Friends of Shalimar committee, he creates opportunities for fellow professionals to get involved with education.

Khary joined Founder & CEO Randy Barth and board member Dan Young, President of Camino Enterprises (pictured above) at the annual **Raise a Hand Dinner and Experience** in April.

Thanks to these leaders and fellow guests, \$415,000 was raised to implement coding curriculum in Think's afterschool programs. Khary can't wait for the kids at Shalimar to get their hands on the new tech.



WE ARE LEARNERS

It's not just the kids who are "thinking together." This year saw the launch of **ThinkCon**, an annual development conference for Think staff. Employees spent three days in soft skills workshops and sessions on innovation topics like coding and social emotional learning. Speaking on trust-based leadership, Orenda Education leader Scott McGuire invited staff to consider their influence. "We have to practice leadership that inspires. Our school partners trust us to be on their team and driving toward the same 'why'."



TWEETING FOR BUDGET INCREASE

Think Together joined forces with families, educational leaders and community members across the state this year to advocate for a California budget increase to the **After School Education and Safety Program (ASES)**. Originally passed in 2002, ASES provides a per-pupil daily rate for afterschool programs. The 50-cent requested increase is critical to keep pace with rising minimum wage and allow providers (including Think) to continue serving current students. Thanks to a robust Twitter and phone campaign, as well as forward-looking leadership from California's Assembly, Governor Newsom acknowledged the rising cost pressures and responded with a \$50 million increase in the final 2019-2020 budget.



BOOK TOUR

Robin Avelar La Salle, Co-Founder and CEO of Orenda Education, has been criss-crossing California to introduce ideas from her latest book, *Shattering Inequities: Real World Wisdom for School and District Leaders*, co-authored with Ruth S. Johnson. Through invitations from county education offices, school districts, and leadership conferences, she's inspiring a new generation of equity leaders who have the power to change the trajectory of education for California students.

NEW FACES

IN THINK LEADERSHIP



**JOEL
WYATT**

Chief Development Officer

“I admire George Foreman because he stunned the world to regain the Heavyweight Championship at the age of 45, proving that the heart is the last thing to die.”



**MARY
WILLIS**

Chief People Officer

“I’d love to be mentored by Mother Teresa, because her gentle service transcended socio-economic and racial boundaries. She didn’t marginalize anyone based on ‘have’ or ‘have not’.”



**RON
TAYLOR**

Executive General Manager

“I’d want to meet Winston Churchill. He was a pugnacious spirit who, despite multiple failures, never relented in having influence on Britain and the world stage. He was a force of nature.”

As Think expands its mission with school partners across the state, new leaders have signed on to change the odds. We asked them to introduce themselves and share who their dream mentors would be.



DAVID ANDERSON

**General Manager
Southeast Los Angeles**

“I greatly respect James E. Burke, Johnson & Johnson Chairman and CEO (1976-1989) and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, who modeled business ethics and a company’s responsibility to employees, management and the community.”

YECENIA CARDENAS

Sr. Director of Early Learning and School Age Programs, OC

“Helen Keller is my hero because she is a symbol of courage in the face of overwhelming odds. She overcame the adversity of being blind and deaf to become one of the 20th century’s leading humanitarians.”

CAROLINE COURTER

Sr. Director of Program Innovation

“I’d love to spend time with Walt Disney because he was an innovator of change, curiosity and creativity. His life’s work impacts children of all ages around the world on a daily basis!”



Connect with these and other Think Together leaders on LinkedIn:

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Faces of the Future

Stephanie Correa and Alexia Calderon

These two Think Together graduating seniors were honored for their academic achievement and community service. Thanks to scholarship sponsor Anu Worah and the Worah Family Foundation.



Champion of Change

Sang Peruri

Sang (pictured here with his kids, Robin Avelar La Salle and Randy Barth) was recognized for his vision, leadership, and investment in growing the impact of Think Together and Orenda Education.

Randy Barth Leadership Award

Robert Bryant

Robert (pictured here with wife Zoya), a long-time site coordinator at a Think Together Riverside program site, was honored for service above and beyond the call of duty. His investment in students shows exemplary leadership.



National Philanthropy Day Legacy Award

Ueberroth Family Foundation

From all of us at Think Together, congratulations to the Ueberroth family for this much-deserved honor. Celebrating 35 years of funding local nonprofits in the areas of at-risk communities, education, health and human services. Thank you!



ARIEL IS ONE OF TWO MILLION

**SHE IS ONE OF 2 MILLION
STUDENTS IN CALIFORNIA FALLING
BEHIND IN MATH AND ENGLISH.**

That's where Think Together comes in.
We partner with schools to change the
odds for Ariel and other students like her.

**DONATE TODAY TO MAKE SURE
ARIEL REACHES HER DREAMS:
[THINKTOGETHER.ORG/GIVE](https://thinktogether.org/give)**



Before school. During school. After school.

     @thinktogether

#WHEELSUP WITH RANDY BARTH

Think Together Founder & CEO Randy Barth takes you on the road to change the odds.

3 VOICES I'M FOLLOWING



Linda Darling-Hammond

[@LDH_ed](#)

Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education Emeritus at Stanford University, Faculty Director at SCOPE, and President of the Learning Policy Institute

Our new analysis of CA school districts finds students of color are reaching extraordinary levels of academic achievement in districts that have prioritized investing in teachers and teaching quality.

Via [@LPI_learning](#)
[#PositiveOutliersCA](#)



Pedro Noguera

[@PedroANoguera](#)

Professor of Education, Founder [@ctschoolsca](#)

It's good for CA to identify schools that are struggling. Now it must explain what it will do to help them: "California names its lowest-performing schools — & here are the 110 district and charter schools in LAUSD that require intervention."
[@LASchoolReport](#)



Dan Walters

[@dancalmatters](#)

Political Columnist for [CALmatters.org](#)

Does spending more on schools pay off?

[@calmatters](#) "Money is clearly not the only factor in educational outcomes... there are socioeconomic, cultural, familial and other forces at play and we shouldn't make money the sole approach to our educational dilemma. It's much more complicated than that."

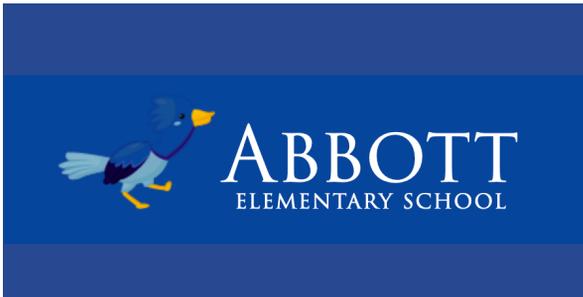
2 MILLION KIDS I'M CHEERING ON

Our daughter Emily graduated from UC Riverside this spring. Her mom and I are so proud of her. There are 2 million students in California with similar talent, but they don't benefit from the same level of expectations from their schools or have the same support system outside of school. On the road looking for partners to shatter this inequity.

It takes a village.



1 SITE I'M VISITING



I get to see it all come together at Abbott Elementary in Lynwood USD. Think program leaders run physical education while Abbott's teachers collaborate on guided planning with Orenda's team. After school, students are experiencing our new Coding For All curriculum as part of Think's Expanded Learning Program. And the learning continues in our summer program. Closing the achievement gap with this school partner!

A QUOTE THAT'S GUIDING MY WORK

“There is nothing more powerful than a humble person with a warrior spirit driven by a greater purpose.”

-Anonymous





Photo by Shiggy Ichinomiya

From L to R: Fujimori, Toh, Golden, Gustafson and Castillo

CRACKING THE CODE TO THEIR FUTURE

Broadcom Inc. and Think Together partner to launch coding programs throughout California

By Lawrence Gustafson and Matt Nixon



“Training kids in coding not only improves computing skills but it’s a way for them to think outside of the box and also gives them confidence in their dreams for a bright future.”

*-STANLEY TOH
GLOBAL IT MANAGER, BROADCOM INC.*

INTRODUCING CODING

into over 400 schools throughout California to impact over 150,000 kids annually may sound daunting. But we believe it’s possible to change the lives of kids in underserved communities by preparing them to be our next-generation computer programmers and app designers. This is the motivation behind Think’s Coding For All initiative.

Broadcom Inc., a global technology leader that designs, develops and supplies software solutions, has partnered with Think Together for over 10 years, providing much of the technology infrastructure the organization runs on today.

Only 13% of Think Together partner schools have the technology to implement coding programs. So Broadcom

has donated thousands of laptops for students to learn and practice on. Paula Golden, President of the Broadcom Foundation, says, “We view coding as not only central to a company like ours that’s built around electrical engineering and computer science, but also as an essential skill that is important to the future of the world at large.” And it’s personal for her, too. “I stepped away from science in middle school because no one encouraged me,” Paula shares, “If I’d had a Think Together in my life, I would probably be an engineer right now.”

Global IT Manager Stanley Toh says, “Training kids in coding not only improves computing skills but it’s a way for them to think outside of the box and also gives them confidence in their dreams for a bright future.”

“It’s nice to see your company doing something for the community – these kids could be working here someday,” shares IT Manager Leo Castillo. Broadcom wants its next generation of employees to come from the communities they’ve impacted. They want Think students. VP of Research and Development Ichiro Fujimori agrees, “That one STEM opportunity with a computer can change a person’s life forever.”

But what does it look like to introduce kids to coding – kids who have not had access to these types of programs before? We asked Breanna Caso, Think Together’s new STEM Program Coordinator for the Riverside Region, to host an impromptu coding session during summer programming to see what would happen.

Continued on next page →



With bachelor's and master's degrees in Nano-Engineering from UC San Diego, Breanna Caso brings an incredible mind and drive to Think Together. She's passionate about encouraging more minorities and women to move into the STEM field. Her job is to continue to build and expand our STEM programs and provide awareness for Coding For All.

The 20 third-graders walk into the classroom full of anticipation. Breanna's already prepared their desks with computers and Lego kits. There's an energy in the room; when Breanna announces that the kids will be building robots, they all cheer. "It's hot outside today, so we're going to build a cooling fan," she says.

The kids get to work building their fans, following directions on the computer. Once the fans are built, Breanna teaches them how to code their fans to go faster or slower, and even how to make noises. All the kids are in shock.

Dominic, Byron and Joel sit at one table. When asked what they want to be when

they grow up, they all agree... scientists. Dominic looks over at Byron and says, "I hope we can be scientists together." Joel continues, "I want to code and build something that will help my community." It's their first experiences with coding, but they're already dreaming about the future.

Hailey appears to be the only student with coding experience. And her fan is spinning long before the others. She says she practices at home. She also wants to be a scientist.

There's a resounding groan when Breanna tells the kids it's time to clean up. From the looks on their faces, this first coding experience

could actually be that life-changing moment for some of them.

This is what Coding For All is about: making sure kids in California are prepared for the technology workforce.

And thanks to Broadcom's support, students at over 50 schools now have laptops and are on the path to becoming coding experts. We invite you to join in their future success as Think Together expands coding to provide thousands of kids with the same opportunities.

Learn more at thinktogether.org/blog/codingforall.







HOSLER MIDDLE SCHOOL
CELEBRATES WINNING THE
ANNUAL THINK TOGETHER SOCCER
TOURNAMENT, SPONSORED BY THE
LA84 FOUNDATION. **#PLAYFORALL**



A photograph of a school hallway. In the foreground, a person's hand is visible holding a white tote bag with the Orenda Education logo, which consists of a stylized leaf design and the text "orenda EDUCATION". In the background, several people are standing in a hallway with blue walls. Signs on the wall include "MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM" and "EYE ROOM".

ROCKSTARS.

SUPERHEROS.

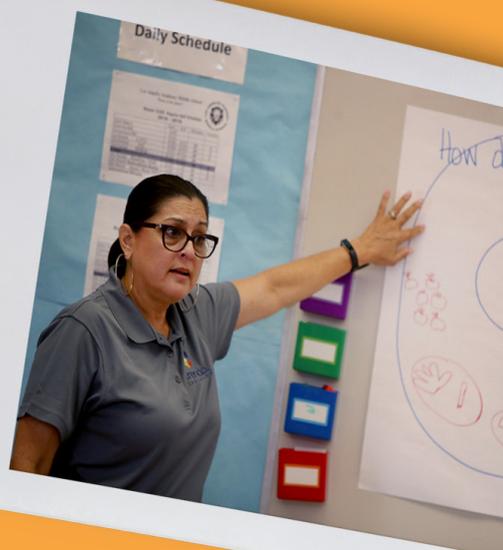
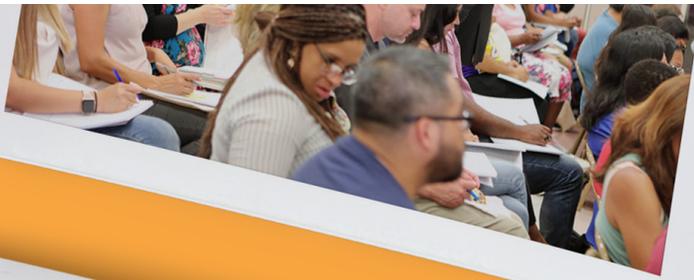
TEACHERS.

Getting LAUSD ready to go back to school

By Elaine Legere

While their students sleep in enjoying their last few weeks of summer break, hundreds of teachers from 19 schools in Los Angeles Unified School District, Local District Central file into a cavernous multi-purpose room at Los Angeles Academy Middle School. It's 8:30 AM and the music is blaring.

This is Summer Institute, the week-long teacher training from Orenda Education. With the air of professional conference meets pep rally, each day a new theme - from movie stars to rockstars, Pink Ladies to superheroes - gets the teachers energized. And while the Orenda event may look like a costume party, the team is serious when it comes to learning.



Formerly known as Principal’s Exchange, Orenda Education is Think Together’s professional services partner with a shared mission to change the odds for kids, led by co-founder and CEO Robin Avelar La Salle. Orenda partners with school districts to transform systems and practices in order to close the achievement gap. Summer Institute is an important piece of Orenda’s immersive multi-year approach.

“I LOVED THIS YEAR’S SUMMER INSTITUTE – IT GAVE ME TANGIBLE STRATEGIES THAT CONNECTED TO THE STANDARDS. IT ACTUALLY MADE ME WANT TO GROW AS A TEACHER!”
-LAUSD TEACHER

Chief Academic Officer. “We also want them to be open to new ideas for teaching strategies.”

Following the General Session, teachers are divided up by grade level into break-out sessions for math or English language arts. For the next few hours, they are immersed with “low-prep, high-impact strategies” led by the Orenda team. They call out “MVPs” (Most Valuable Points) at the end of each lesson, and absorb strategies, like “Fun, Fast, Furious,” and “Golden Ticket” – names that may sound

Roberto Martinez, Superintendent of LAUSD Local District Central, opens the morning General Session and then passes the baton to Scott McGuire, Orenda’s Director of Educational Services. Scott adeptly presents simple, big-idea strategies that

like amusement park rides, but are so effective, teachers can’t wait to use them when they return to their own classrooms. Together, the teachers identify rigorous content, and then make it engaging and fun with the Orenda strategies – an

will increase student engagement and accelerate learning, while the teachers vigorously take Cornell notes balanced on their laps.

“I’M A NEW TEACHER AND THIS WAS AMAZING. I’M VERY LUCKY TO HAVE ALL OF THE RESOURCES YOU PROVIDED.”
-LAUSD TEACHER

important combination to ensure that their students are learning at grade-level.

An organization that is driven by data to drive continuous improvement, Orenda has tested every detail of Summer Institute to

Whether they dressed the part or not, the teachers are the superheroes of the week. Infused with new teaching strategies that they can immediately use in their own classrooms, they leave with a sense of purpose, newly prepared

achieve the best results. “We need to make this fun for the teachers – they are giving up a week of their summer to be here,” says Danelle Almaraz, Orenda’s

to make a difference in student learning and, ultimately, in students’ lives. 🌟



“ WITHOUT THINK TOGETHER, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED TO ME.”



THE TWENTY-YEAR INVESTMENT

CHANGING THE ODDS IN HIS COMMUNITY

By Matt Nixon

After 20 years at Think Together, Jose Candelas has a good idea about what each day will look like – building bridges in the community between parents, kids and educators. But today is different.

Jose hears there's someone waiting for him in the lobby. He walks out and immediately recognizes Chantel Vasquez, even though it's been over 10 years since he's seen her. They first met 18 years ago when she was a Think student at Davis Elementary School. Now a college graduate, Chantel stopped by to say thank you for all the support throughout her elementary years.

Jose has always had a passion for helping kids. Originally planning on becoming a teacher, he was recruited by Think Together and joined the organization in 1999. A Santa Ana native, Jose spent the next eight years working in his community at Davis Elementary. "We really tailored the Think Together program at Davis around what the teachers needed, what the kids needed and what the parents needed," Jose shares, "We made it a win for everybody."

Chantel joined Think Together in first grade because her parents, both Spanish speakers, could not adequately support her with homework. She entered the program struggling with reading, writing and math; six years later, she was ready for honors classes in middle school.

"Without Think Together, I don't know what would have happened to me," Chantel says, "I definitely wouldn't have been able to go to college and chase my dreams." Chantel was accepted to Stanford University, UCLA, UC Irvine and UC Riverside, to name a few. She recently graduated from UC Irvine with a Bachelor of Science in Economics. Now she's studying for the GRE and preparing to apply to Cal State Fullerton's graduate economics program – Jose couldn't be more proud.

Today, Jose is impacting even more kids in the community as Think Together's Reach Out and Read Facilitator. "As the organization has expanded, it has stayed true to its mission," Jose says, "That's why I'm still here." Discussing her time at Think Together, Chantel shares, "It always felt like a second home, it was an amazing experience." Twenty years in, Jose feels the same way. 🙌

Life Goals

WITH
PACIFIC LIFE



WALTER B. GERKEN AWARD

Think Together was presented the 2019 Gerken Award in recognition of impact on Orange County. Gerken, former CEO of Pac Life, was incredibly active in his community and his wife Darlene served as a volunteer at Shalimar.

From L to R: Eric Boden, Think Together board of directors; James T. Morris, Chairman, President and CEO of Pacific Life Insurance Co.; Lawrence Gustafson Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, Think Together; Tennyson Oyler, President of the Pacific Life Foundation; and Randy Barth



HELPING TEENS GRADUATE AND GO TO COLLEGE

This year, the Pacific Life Foundation contributed \$80,000 to the Shalimar Teen Center, part of Think Together’s original afterschool site in Costa Mesa. This incredible investment is helping students graduate high school prepared for their future.

2019 Shalimar graduates, with (L to R) board chair John Lee, Randy Barth, and Shalimar inaugural alumnus and board member Paolo Leon

VOLUNTEERING AS TEAMS

“More than 135 employees from our marketing, finance, and technology departments were able to volunteer over two work days, collaborating as teams to clean and repair 3,183 books for children in our Orange County community. We are grateful to the Think Together team for executing such a meaningful and well-organized event for our teams.”

-Tere Segarra
Vice President, Pacific Life Foundation



“Community is a core value at Pacific Life, and I am proud of our teams and their commitment to making a difference in the community. With spirited competition and engaging activities built into the book cleaning and repair project, our employees had the opportunity to blend team building with community service activities that benefitted thousands of children.”

-John O'Donnell
Vice President, Product and Marketing, Life Insurance Division, Pacific Life Insurance Company

“Not only was it an enjoyable experience, but it was also a great opportunity to work together as a team, learn more about each other, all while making a difference in our communities.”

-Josh Scott
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Life Insurance Division, Pacific Life Insurance Company





*KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS AT
CHARLES LEE ELEMENTARY FOCUS THEIR
MINDS WITH A YOGA SESSION BEFORE
BEGINNING THEIR READING CURRICULUM.*





Forging Career Paths

Community partnerships to develop the future workforce

By Matt Nixon



MEET SUSAN WAHL AND ALEXANDRA PEDROZA.

*Two women from different generations and backgrounds.
Both deeply invested in providing quality education programs
in their community.*

SUSAN ALWAYS KNEW SHE WANTED TO WORK WITH KIDS.

Her first job was as a part-time pre-school playground assistant. 40 years later, she is a faculty member and site director at Santa Ana College where she runs a child development center. And that's what drew her to Alexandra.

Alexandra first heard about Career Technical Education (CTE) Internships when Bill Fennessy, Think Together's Director of Community Partnerships and Work-Based Learning, made a presentation in her child development class. Much like Susan, Alexandra had always wanted to be a teacher,

and Bill inspired her to give an internship a try. She shares, "I want to be the one helping students and guiding them." Alexandra enrolled in the CTE program and, after an interview with Bill, was matched with Susan. Her journey into education had begun.

Alexandra fit right in at Susan's center, thriving in an environment where she felt safe and accepted. She completed her first internship and came back for a second because she enjoyed the work so much. Eventually, she gathered the courage to ask about a job, which Susan was thrilled to give her even though she was only 17. "She was the perfect candidate," Susan says. Today, the two women work together to educate and nurture pre-K kids.

As Alexandra shares her story, Susan has tears in her eyes,

***"This is how
you make a
difference."***

Alexandra has big dreams for the future. She's finishing her associate's degree at Santa Ana College with plans to transfer to CSU Fullerton for her bachelor's and master's degrees. Nodding in approval, Susan smiles and says, "My alma mater."

Two different generations but the same passion for kids - Susan and Alexandra have a lot in common. "Taking this internship is the best decision I've ever made," Alexandra says. 🙏



I LEARN YOU LEARN WE LEARN

**EARLY
LEARNING
VOLUNTEERS
SERVE
THEIR
COMMUNITIES**



By Elaine Legere and Sarah Mancinelli

While 4-year-old Emma is learning her alphabet, her program leader, Bioleta, is learning, too.

One of 26 AmeriCorps volunteers working with Think Together's Early Literacy and Math programs, Bioleta is learning how to be a teacher and parent coach, what she wants in a future career and what the next steps are to be ready for the workforce.

AmeriCorps is a national program connecting over 70,000 people each year with intensive service opportunities to meet community

needs. Members serve in full or part-time positions over a 10-12 month period and receive a modest financial award to pay for college.

A key component to the AmeriCorps program is mentorship. Members are given guidance, training and direct experience in the field alongside experts. Our experienced Think Together staff work with each member to help them understand the expanded education workforce and find their place in it.

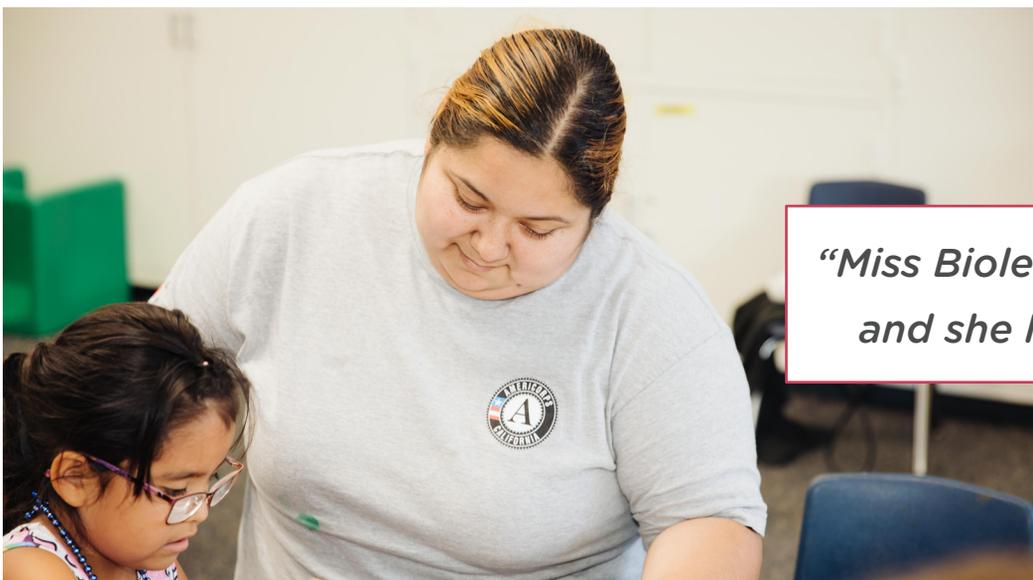
“THE STAFF AT THINK TOGETHER ARE GREAT AND SO ARE THE KIDS – I LOVE BEING A PART OF IT!”

“I joined AmeriCorps because I am going to school to become a teacher,” says Bioleta. Most importantly, our Early Learning kids benefit from the AmeriCorps members, and their dedication to improving the communities they live in.



“Miss Bioleta is so nice, and she helps me,” says Emma, as she spells her name in felt letters.

“It’s great knowing they have a passion for teaching and love working with kids,” says Think Together Early Learning leader, Lidia Alvarado. Happy kids, staff and volunteers: AmeriCorps is a win-win-win partnership. ♡



“Miss Bioleta is so nice, and she helps me.”

MEET OUR NEWEST Board Members

NICK CANDITO

ENTREPRENEUR AND
INVESTOR

REDWOOD CITY, CA



What are you reading right now?

Trillion Dollar Coach: The Leadership Playbook of Silicon Valley's Bill Campbell by Eric Schmidt, Jonathan Rosenberg, and Alan Eagle.

Who opened doors for you?

David Beirne (Benchmark Capital, Bryant University) as a mentor, coach, and friend. His support opened my eyes to the world of technology.

Who are the kids in your life?

Our daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth who we call "Charlie" and my god-daughter, Mya Jane.

What do you see as the greatest value Generation Z will bring to our workforce?

The ability to connect and a global mindset.

Why Think Together?

I'm a new father and excited about changing the odds for kids through education!

What are you reading right now?

The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World by Melinda Gates

Who opened doors for you?

My professors in graduate school

Who are the kids in your life?

My son Parthiv is in college now and I have 7 other nephews and nieces. I am hopeful that their generation will pursue their passions, build bridges of communication, break down cultural, class, and gender barriers and seek a borderless world.

What do you see as the greatest value Generation Z will bring to our workforce?

Creativity, inclusiveness and diversity.

Why Think Together?

Education helps level the playing field. I want to help Think Together achieve their Project 2 Million mission of ensuring that all underserved children in California meet grade level standards in Math and English within the next 5 years.

ANU WORAH

ORTHOPEDIC PHYSICAL
THERAPIST

LAGUNA BEACH, CA



SUMMER TAYLOR

MANAGING DIRECTOR,
DELOITTE
SANTA ANA, CA



What are you reading right now? *The Eye of the Elephant* by Delia and Mark Owens, which follows a couple as their research in Africa turns into a conservation crusade.

Who opened doors for you?

My first career door was opened not by a person, but by my education. I was offered a job because I had attended, and performed well at, UCLA.

Who are the kids in your life?

Our nephew was raised by his grandparents. This is a kid that could have made very different choices, but he always stayed committed to education, and has now graduated from a top engineering school. He coaches his younger brothers and

sisters to “make good choices.” If you give kids the opportunity, more often than not, they will exceed your expectations.

What do you see as the greatest value Generation Z will bring to our workforce?

Gen Z faces disruption but doesn't fear it. They will lead the way in how technology shapes our everyday interactions and makes us more effective and efficient.

Why Think Together?

I grew up in a family of educators and honestly thought I would be a teacher someday. Every child deserves the chance to fulfill their potential. Education unlocks that door.

What are you reading right now? *The Longest Day* by Cornelius Ryan about D-Day and the Normandy invasion. Such bravery for the freedom of others!

Who opened doors for you?

A mentor gave me my first big break when he hired me as his Chief of Staff. He taught me that business executives should have strong values.

Who are the kids in your life?

Our sons are 17 and 15. The music they listen to, how they use technology, and how they

look at the world is amazing to me. I keep an open mind so I can learn. I love it!

What do you see as the greatest value Generation Z will bring to our workforce?

They will change the world for good and will be driven by the meaning of their work.

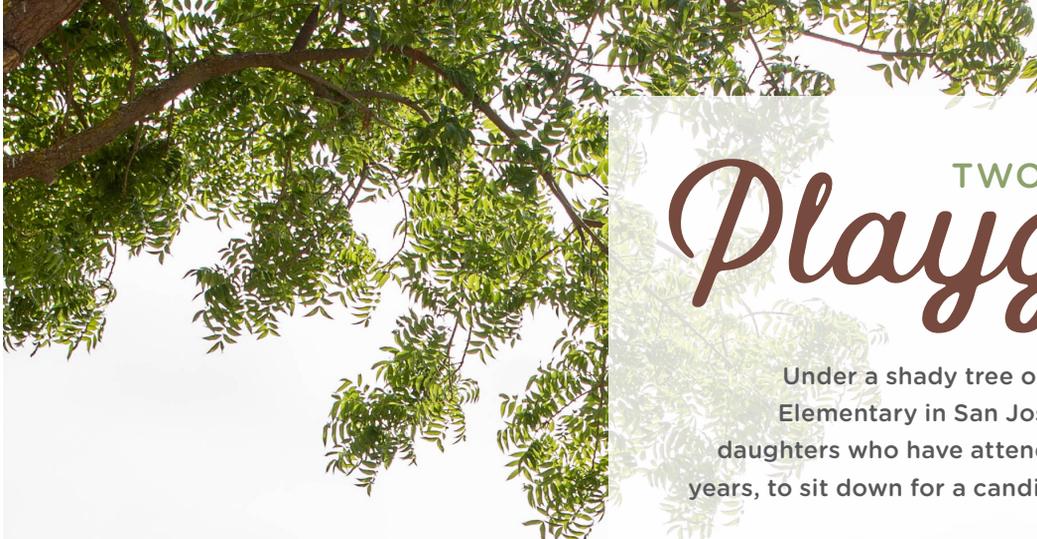
Why Think Together?

I want to serve and unlock the greatness in others. Think Together gives us the opportunity to apply our talents to help unlock the greatness in EVERY child.

JOHN TURNER

CHIEF REVENUE OFFICER,
CHRONICLE
SAN JOSE, CA





TWO PICNIC CHAIRS ON A *Playground*

Under a shady tree on the playground at Millard McCollam Elementary in San Jose, we invited Julie, a parent with two daughters who have attended Think Together for the past three years, to sit down for a candid chat with Site Coordinator Ricardo.

Ricardo: Why did you decide to enroll your child into Think Together?

Julie: When we were looking at schools, we found McCollum and it just so happened that Think Together was a part of the program and we were really excited about it! Makes our lives much easier as working parents.

Ricardo: What do your children say about their experiences with Think Together?

Julie: Kira & Jemma, they love the program! Most of the time we come to pick them up after they have been on campus for 10 hours and they don't want to leave. They want to keep playing and they want to be with their friends.

Ricardo: What does Think Together mean to you?

Julie: Think Together enables our family to do our lives. Mostly being able to work and have a late pick up helps. It helps keep them engaged as well.

Ricardo: How has the Think Together staff impacted your kids?

Julie: I feel all the program leaders encourage them to do their best and to just strive to be better people — and of course teaching them, that's the biggest thing. Teaching them how to behave and teaching them what's appropriate and what's not appropriate, kind of being their parental extension after school is over.

Ricardo: What message would you like to share with your community?

Julie: Think Together has been great for our family. It has been great for my kids, it has allowed us to do our lives, have a roof over our heads, and put food on the table. Our kids are more well-rounded, they are learning outside of school as well, which helps us since they are also doing homework. Makes our lives easier.

Ricardo: Well I am glad that we can help you. 🙌



THINK social



♥ **thinktogether** @thinktogether had the pleasure of hosting Michael Funk, Director of the Expanded Learning Division for the @CAEducation at our Strategic Leadership Group Summit and at @BPUSD's Foster Elementary School. Thank you for all you do for expanded learning, Michael!



♥ **thinktogether** What began at Shalimar Learning Center last June with @irvinecompanyoffice annual Work Day is now complete with a beautiful garden that will create a true "farm to table" resource for the Shalimar Culinary Students. A huge thank you to @armstronggarden Costa Mesa, @marinerschurch, @nationalcharityleagueinc and @nlymnc for finishing the project!



♥ **thinktogether** Congratulations to Chief Operating Officer Tia Dwyer on her nomination in the Orange County Business Journal's Women in Business Awards. Thank you for your hard work.



♥ **thinktogether** Youth sports and structured play can transform the lives of kids by contributing to their physical, emotional, social, & academic development. @la84foundation is a Think Together partner providing thousands of California kids with team sport opportunities. Join us in the #PlayForAll Movement.



♥ **thinktogether** It's #NationalStopBullyingDay (also known as unity day). Thanks to @KPSCAL, @thinktogether students in the Inland Empire are taught social emotional learning (SEL) and how to treat their peers with respect. With @kpthrive's support, we're creating a brighter safer future for our students.



♥ **thinktogether** From all of us at @ThinkTogether, thank you for your support. #GivingTuesday was a huge success - we raised over \$50,000 for afterschool programs! Thanks to the @SobratoFamilyFoundation for your match donation. Thank you for believing in our vision of community.

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