

Growing up in the Bay Area, I rooted for my home team, the San Francisco 49ers. I never expected that one day the Niners would be playing for my other home team: EPATT! Thanks to *Touchdowns for Kids*, an innovative fundraising concept suggested by EPATT supporter, Tad Taube, the 49ers were the ultimate champions for underserved Bay Area youth. The Koret Foundation and Taube Philanthropies partnered with the 49ers Foundation to support EPATT and five other youth organizations, donating \$500 for every 49ers field goal, interception and sack, \$1,000 for each offensive touchdown, and \$1,500 for each defensive touchdown. The 49ers had a spectacular season (13-3), helping *Touchdowns for Kids* raise nearly \$200,000! EPATT is very grateful to share in their success.



Dave Higaki  
EPATT Executive Director

An additional shout-out goes to our caring supporters who contributed to our year-end fund drive. You helped us provide the scaffolding and advocacy that changes lives. Know that you've made a positive impact on each and every one of our students. Read on to learn more about what's happening at EPATT these days. There's a lot to tell!

Gratefully,  
Dave

## EPATT's 20th Annual Dinner

"We are Family!"

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

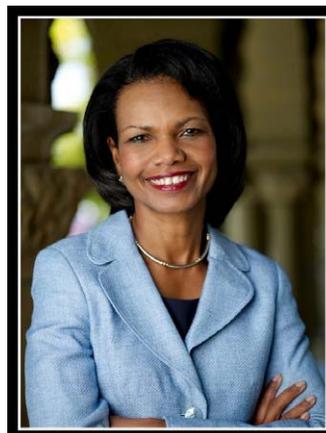
**6 pm cocktails**

**7 pm dinner and program**

**Menlo Circus Club**

**190 Park Lane in Atherton**

This year's program features remarks by Stanford professor Condoleezza Rice, the 66th Secretary of State. An enlightening and entertaining evening is in store for all. To reserve a seat or table for the dinner, please email [Anne.Gould@epatt.org](mailto:Anne.Gould@epatt.org) or call 650.464.1111.



## EPATT Board of Directors

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## Tutor Spotlight

EPATT succeeds because of its dedicated volunteers -- board members, tutors, and donors -- who selflessly give of their time, resources, and their hearts. Most sincere thanks to the over 650 volunteers, past and present, who have nurtured EPATT students.

In this issue of EPATTnews we focus on three tutors who have made a profound impact on the lives of EPATT students. Joseph Lester, Shira Levine, and Shelley Jacobson are deeply committed to helping their tutees succeed in school and in life. We recently spoke with Joseph, Shira, and Shelley and each of them described how they, too, have been changed for the better by their EPATT experience.



Joseph Lester

Joseph, a native of Athens GA, has been tutoring at EPATT since his freshman year at Stanford five years ago. A Political Science major, Joseph earned his BA in 2011, and will graduate with a MA in Sociology in June. Volunteering at EPATT, he says, "helped me see Education Policy as a way to correct social inequality."

Joseph has been an outstanding role model and made extraordinary contributions at EPATT. He describes his first tutee, Aia, a fourth grader. A quiet, shy boy at first, Aia slowly began to "light up" and get excited about learning. Before long, Aia was even talking about wanting to tutor kids in the future.

A third-year Stanford Law School student, Shira says "daily involvement in an EPATT student's life has been a powerful and joyful experience," reigniting her passion for working with children. She finds it gratifying and invigorating when she can help her tutees make big strides in their work.

EPATT is successful, Shira believes, "because the kids develop a special bond with their tutor and the staff, which makes them feel truly cared for." She adds, "EPATT provides a safe space for kids to learn, exercise, and hang out with kids from their neighborhood."



Shira Levine

Donation  
Opportunity



### EPATT Computer Fund

EPATT's Macintosh laptops and desktop machines will become obsolete in June 2012, because they are not compatible with Apple's new Mountain Lion Operating System X. Please consider making a pledge towards the purchase of a new student machine by clicking here: [Donate Now](#)



Shelley Jacobson

Originally from Scranton, PA, Shelley graduated from UPenn's Wharton School with a degree in Finance and works for a local private equity firm. Despite working full-time, Shelley tutors at EPATT twice a week. In September, however, she will begin Stanford's joint degree program MA Education/MBA and hopes to become more involved at EPATT. "EPATT has definitely influenced my career choices," Shelley says.

Shelley attributes EPATT's success to its one-on-one tutoring arrangement. By meeting every week with the same tutee, Jacob, Shelley has been able to understand better how he learns, and plan accordingly. She has helped his study skills and reading retention improve dramatically. "It's so satisfying when your student recognizes they are *not* destined to fail. EPATT provides kids with the support and confidence to succeed."

She also credits EPATT with helping parents. "EPATT does a great job keeping parents informed. Most EPATT parents care deeply about their child's academic performance but some need help navigating the school system. EPATT provides a safety net for the kids who need one most."

### Ambassadors of Change

Many EPATT alums have gone on to do great things. They have become role models in their communities and mentors for the next generation. We are fortunate that several alumni have chosen to stay on at EPATT, teaching tennis, tutoring, and helping around the office.

They are what we call "Game Changers". They grow up with adversity, and return home filled with hope. Check out the video below (produced by EPATT's Lupe Talakai) featuring two Game Changers: Julio Hermosillo and Gaby Quintinilla.



EPATT Game Changers Julio & Gaby

This Spring, EPATT returned to its former home at Cesar Chavez Academy in East Palo Alto. Together with the Ravenswood City School District, we launched a pilot program that features EPATT alumni teaching tennis as an afterschool option to Green Oaks students who cannot attend EPATT on the Stanford campus.

## Get a 3.0, Go to Tahoe!



Every February, our staff prepares for a weekend that many EPATT kids remember for a lifetime. All our middle school and high school students are eligible for the annual trip to Tahoe -- the only condition is that their school GPA must be 3.0 or higher. This year, 24 kids participated in the Tahoe adventure. The long weekend begins mid-morning on Friday. After arriving at their destination, the kids have dinner and must complete all their homework. The next morning, the fun begins and doesn't stop until the vans bring the kids home Sunday night!

### About EPATT

EPATT is a non-profit youth development organization for K-12th grade students. Our program creates effective partnerships with families, schools and volunteers to achieve academic and athletic success. Through one-on-one tutoring, tennis lessons, direct instruction, college counseling and parent education, we prepare students for a productive future.

We invite you to see EPATT in action. To arrange a tour, please email [Amy@epatt.org](mailto:Amy@epatt.org). Learn more about EPATT by visiting [www.epatt.org](http://www.epatt.org).

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