



raft[®]

RESOURCE
AREA FOR
TEACHING

Annual Report

2022-2023



Mission

RAFT's mission is to help educators transform a child's learning experience through hands-on education to one that inspires the joy and discovery of learning.



Vision

RAFT's vision is to inspire the next generation of innovators, problem solvers, and creators, by providing educators with STEAM learning resources.



Impact Statement

RAFT's mission is to help parents and educators transform a child's learning experience through hands-on education. We help bridge the education gap for students and communities by offering engaging STEAM resources to encourage the next generation of innovators, problem solvers, and creators. RAFT does this by providing STEAM Project Kits, Maker Mobile van visits and makerspace builds, STEAM summer camps, tailored educator workshops, and free online learning activity sheets. RAFT's unique Found Engineering process repurposes donated materials that would have otherwise been sent to the landfill into accessible, low-cost, STEAM Project Kits and assembled by volunteers. Educators, and now parents, can become RAFT members and shop at the warehouse store facility for affordable items devoted to hands-on learning.

Letter from the CEO

Dear Friends,

The past year has truly been a testament to RAFT's unwavering dedication in empowering educators and students. Amidst the challenges of adapting to the post-pandemic "new normal," your steadfast support and contributions have been the cornerstone of our success, enabling us to positively impact thousands within the community we serve.

At RAFT, we continuously strive to enhance our offerings for students, educators, and parents. In the coming pages, you'll discover the ways we've evolved, striving to embody RAFT's mission of inspiring joy through hands-on learning. Some highlights of your impact include:

- We nearly doubled our student engagement from last year, reaching over 10,000 students through our various programs and offerings.
- We implemented fantastic enhancements to our Store and Educator Workroom, improving the shopping experience and member benefits.
- We launched our second Maker Mobile thanks to a grant from the KLA Foundation. This electric addition to our fleet will service thousands of students annually.
- We grew our summer program, STEAM Dream Camp, to multiple locations and served over 400 students this summer.

I am immensely proud of our passionate staff, whose commitment to the education community has been the driving force behind our achievements. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to our volunteers and donors, whose unwavering dedication has amplified our impact.

As we step into our thirtieth year of serving our community, we embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead with optimism and determination. Our resolve remains firm in providing accessible, affordable, and top-notch solutions for students, educators, and parents. Your support fuels our mission and vision to transform children's learning experiences to one that engages and inspires the next generation of innovators, problem solvers, and creators.

Thank you for championing our cause. Together, we can continue to reach remarkable milestones and create a brighter future for the community we serve.

Warmly,



Jason Morrella
CEO



RAFT by the Numbers



29 years of serving the education community

6,000 educators served annually

654 Classroom Idea Sheets

200 corporate and community partners

61,353 educators served since 1994

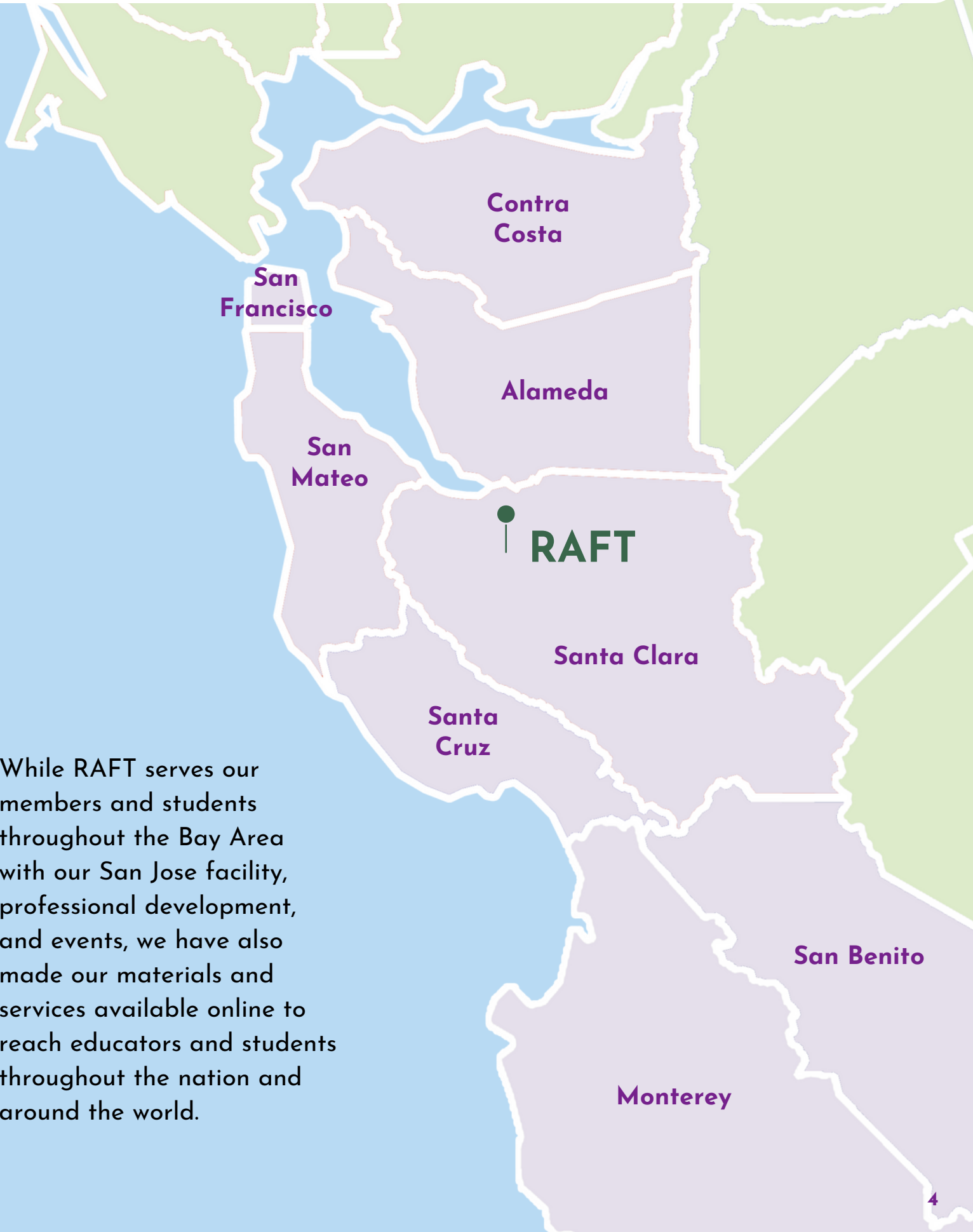
450 STEAM Project Kits developed since 1994

60,113 volunteers since 1994

RAFT Awards



Areas We Serve



While RAFT serves our members and students throughout the Bay Area with our San Jose facility, professional development, and events, we have also made our materials and services available online to reach educators and students throughout the nation and around the world.

Education Programs and Offerings

Maker Mobile Visits

RAFT's Maker Mobile brings a STEAM Lab to schools and communities across the Bay Area. It comes loaded with all the tools, materials, and staff support needed to deliver fun design challenge activities that can have a lasting impact.

RAFT would like to thank the Sharks Foundation and Western Digital for supporting our first Maker Mobile in 2020.



10,000+
students engaged

Maker Mobile Expansion

This year, RAFT launched our second Maker Mobile, thanks to a generous grant from the KLA Foundation.

RAFT's brand new electric Maker Mobile was set in motion at KLA's Global Volunteer Week. KLA employees helped pack over 400 STEAM Project Kits to serve over 2,000 students and were able to check out the new Maker Mobile onsite.



The addition of this Maker Mobile will allow RAFT to serve thousands of students in the years to come.



Makerspace Builds

RAFT collaborates with schools, offering support in designing, constructing, and equipping makerspaces, as well as providing training for Maker Education, fostering curiosity and hands-on learning.



STEAM Nights and Community Events

RAFT supports community events such as STEAM Showcases, family STEAM Nights and Generations Day. At these events, we can provide educational materials, resources and support staff to engage participants in hands-on STEAM activities.



4
makerspaces
built and
supported

100+
visits throughout
the community



Professional Development

RAFT offers workshops and resources tailored for the classroom and learning settings. Our professional development sessions delve into various topics, skills, and methods, ensuring educators continually enhance their knowledge of effective hands-on STEAM learning practices.



STEAM Project Kits

RAFT provides STEAM Project Kits that address Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) concepts while aligning to Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards. Each kit includes required materials, assembly instructions, and suggested activities. The kits serve students from grades K-8.

In the last year, RAFT developed 5 new STEAM Project Kits:

- A Time for Shadows
- Pumpkin Light-Up Circuits
- Platform Car (Version 1)
- Holiday Light-Up Ornaments
- Valentine Circuits



Design Challenges

Created and facilitated by RAFT staff, students engage in challenges that utilize upcycled materials. These design challenges prompt teams to work within time and material constraints, fostering skills like brainstorming, collaboration toward shared goals, iterative learning from earlier attempts, and fulfilling different team roles for group tasks.



STEAM Dream Camp

Campers in grades K-8 experienced the joy of hands-on STEAM learning during RAFT's four-week summer camp. Throughout the camp, students engaged in STEAM activities, team-building exercises, and camper-led projects, immersing them in various themed learning adventures. As budding inventors, campers employed their imagination, creativity, and engineering skills to prototype, construct, and address real-world challenges.



97%

of parents agreed that their child learned fresh STEAM concepts

92%

of teachers affirm that the camp aligns seamlessly with students' needs and learning preferences



What I liked the most about the camp was that I got to create and think of things to make out of different materials.

– Student Camper

RAFT Store

The RAFT Store is a 30,000 sq. ft. member-based shopping and resource environment where educators, parents and anyone supporting the education community can shop, collaborate and learn.

Our low-cost education supplies and unique offerings help our members stretch their dollar and maximize the impact for their students.

RAFT members receive benefits such as discounts on STEAM Project Kits, affordable classroom and office essentials, and access to the upgraded Educator Workroom & Lab.

370 tons of material diverted from landfill

RAFT upgraded our facility for enhanced member benefits! Check out what's changed:

- Added an additional 800 sq. ft. of shopping area to the RAFT Store
- Updated our STEAM Classroom to a state-of-the-art media room - and is available for rental
- Expanded our education R&D space
- Created a formal reception/greeting area for RAFT visitors
- Upgraded our internal network and Wi-Fi for members and employees





RAFT volunteers are a critical part of making our resources available and affordable to the education community. This past year we were happy to partner with groups to host a variety of volunteer events that gave back to the education community in a big way.



Volunteer Partner Spotlight



This past year, RAFT partnered with Credo to provide our first volunteer onsite together.

Credo employees helped prepare a total of 350 STEAM Project Kits and this will help us serve 3,500 students. We appreciate the support of the Credo team and look forward to many more events together.



3,613

volunteers in FY23

62,685

STEAM Project
Kits assembled

250,740

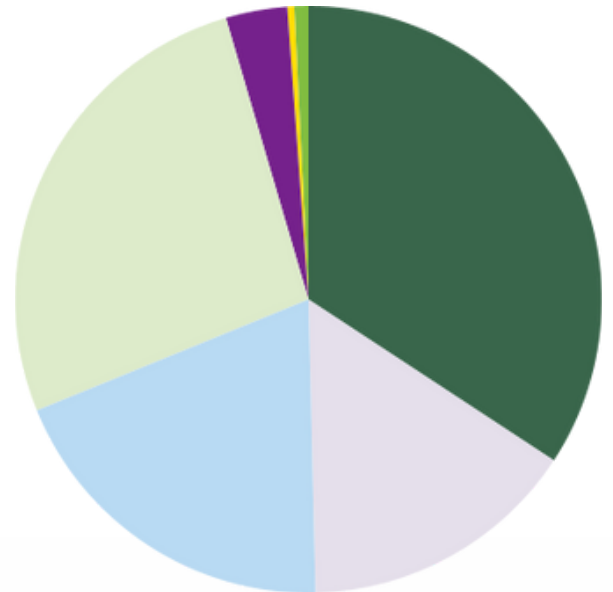
students served

After retiring from a career in higher education it was important for me to continue supporting the educational community; RAFT is the perfect place to do just that. I love being able to help students, teachers and parents and thoroughly enjoy working with the staff at RAFT and my fellow Wednesday afternoon volunteers!"

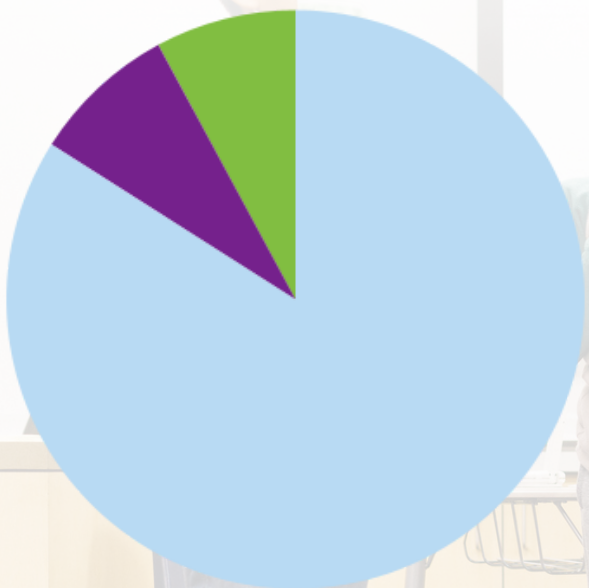
– Nancy Stewart, RAFT Volunteer of the Year 2023

Total RAFT Revenue & Support FY23

Individuals, Corporations and Foundations	\$ 725,074
Fundraising Event	\$ 325,751
Education Income	\$ 406,768
Store Income	\$ 563,807
Membership Dues	\$ 71,760
Other Income	\$ 8,036
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 16,477
Total Revenue & Support	\$ 2,117,673



- Individuals, Corporations and Foundations
- Fundraising Event
- Education Income
- Store Income
- Membership Dues
- Other Income
- In-Kind Contributions



- Program Expense
- Management & General
- Fund Development

Total RAFT Expense Allocation FY23

Program Expense	\$ 3,017,787
Management & General	\$ 291,827
Fund Development	\$ 282,934
Total Expenses	\$3,592,548

RAFT also holds an investment reserve fund as a result of selling our second building in 2019. While not used as part of our operating budget, these investments will continue to support RAFT's capital and programmatic improvements over the coming years, with an anticipated average income of \$400-500k annually.

Board and Staff

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Lilia Mata Vazquez

Mariel Milo

Daniel Muilenburg

Anne Murphy

Yesenia Ornelas

Baoluan Pham

Michael Pollock

Martina Ramirez

Michael Ramot

Jamie Sandoval

Sandra Suttora

Soon-Hiong Tai

Eric Welker

The Magical Maker Mobile Annual Fundraiser



Over 140 supporters were present at RAFT for the annual fundraising event.



RAFT's STEAM Project Kits were on display for guests to engage with.



RAFT 2023 STEAM Teachers of the Year with their presenting sponsors

On September 20, 2023 RAFT hosted its annual fundraiser event. This year's event, The Magical Maker Mobile, highlighted the great resilience and unlimited innovation of the teachers and students amidst the many changes in the educational landscape of the past few years.

RAFT honored 9 inductees into RAFT STEAM Hall of Fame, including our RAFT Heroes, STEAM Teachers of the Year, Volunteers of the Year, Partner of the Year and Material Donor of the Year.

Save the date for next year's event on September 18, 2024.

\$377,000

raised during the event

Scan the QR code to learn more about the event.



Event Committee

- John Ebner
- Gayle Dilley
- Jillian Forusz
- Sharon Hutchins
- Jacqueline Kubicka
- Andrea Whittaker
- Donna Whitney

RAFT 2023 Hall of Fame

STEAM Teachers of the Year



**Michele
Huesties**



**Alvaro
Orozco**



**Antoinette
Schlobohm**

Heroes of the Year



**Ned
Barnholt**



**John
Ebner**

Volunteers of the Year



**Carol
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**Nancy
Stewart**

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City Lights Theatre Company
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Dry Creek Grill
Easy Breezy
Exploratorium
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(Legion of Honor and de Young)
Forbes Mill Steakhouse
Foxen Vineyard & Winery
Franklin Templeton
Gorjana

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In-N-Out Burger
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The Picnic Basket/The Penny Ice Creamery
The Tech Interactive
Tomato Thyme
Topgolf
Total Wine & More
Trader Joe's
USS Hornet Sea, Air and Space Museum
Vidya Phalke and Debjani Deb
Walt Disney Family Museum
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Williams Selyem Winery

STEAM Champion (\$100,000 - \$999,999)

KLA Foundation

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors



Educator Advocate (\$50,000 - \$99,999)

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Synopsys Outreach Foundation



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Cumulative donations from
July 1, 2022 - November 30, 2023

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Intuit
Oracle Corporation



How You Can Help

RAFT supports thousands of teachers, educators, students and parents every year through a multitude of programs and STEAM resources. Scan the QR codes below to learn the many ways you can help us help the education community.

Donate Money



Donate Assets



Donate Materials



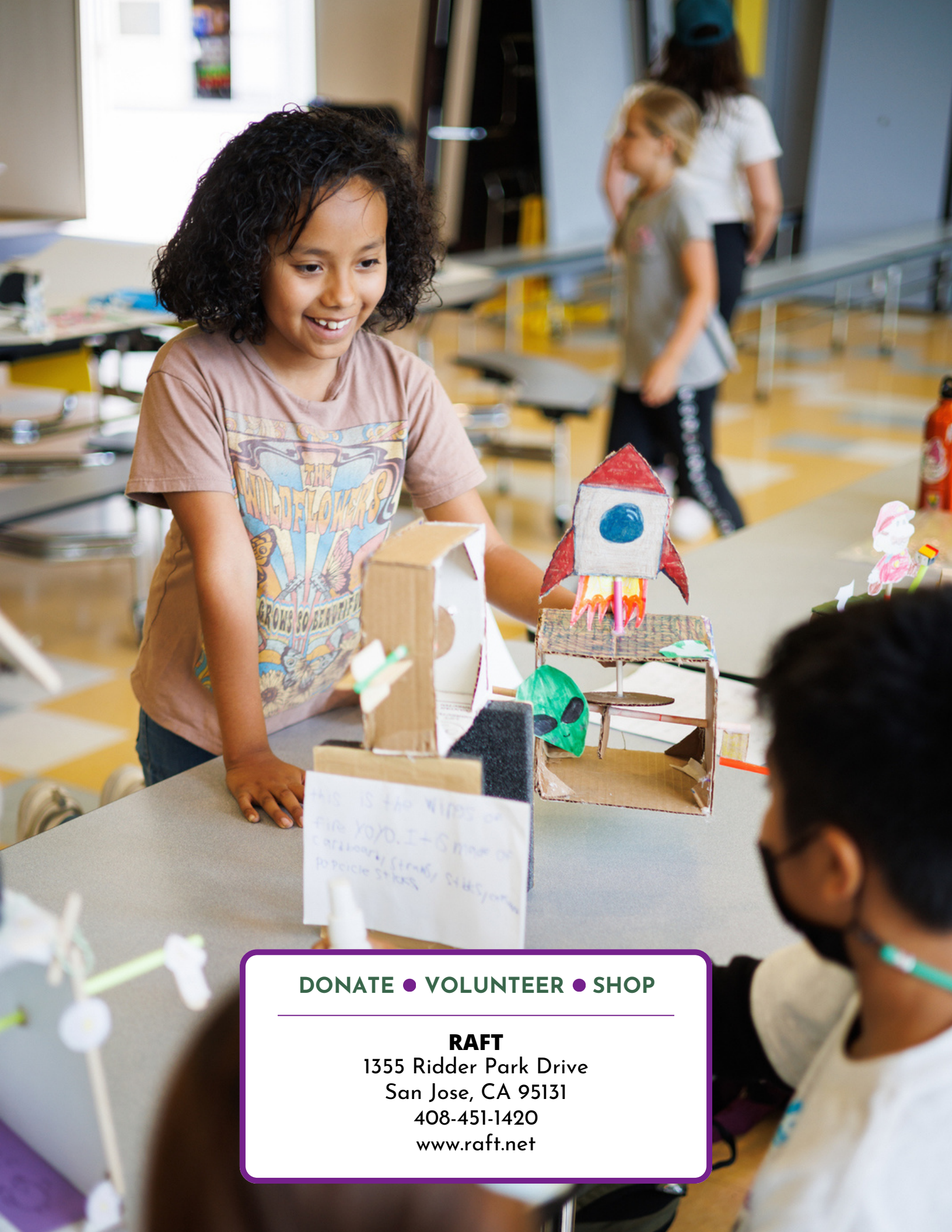
Volunteer



Planned Giving

Plan today to leave a legacy for the future. There are a number of ways to support our efforts through planned giving, such as **wills and trusts, life insurance, retirement plans and real estate.**

If you are considering a legacy gift or have included RAFT in your estate plans, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at development@raft.net.



DONATE ● VOLUNTEER ● SHOP

RAFT

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