



**Sequoia  
Healthcare  
District**

FOR YOUR HEALTH



# 2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT

Para una versión en español

# CEO MESSAGE

## *Prioritizing and Strategizing for the Future*

**Dear Sequoia Healthcare District resident,**

I am delighted to present our annual report for the year 2022-23, a year that has been defined by resilience, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to our core values of promoting health and well-being within the communities we serve.

Our new 3-year strategic plan, approved in June 2022, ultimately serves as an actionable and equitable roadmap for improving health access, addressing social determinants of health, and influencing policies through advocacy. The plan, which is outlined on the facing page, contains five overarching priorities that explicitly demonstrate our focus on equity in ALL our organizational and program policies.

We could not meet the plan's goals and objectives without the dedication and commitment of our exceptional staff and Board members, community partners in public health and safety, medicine, education, and 60 local non-profits. They have been nothing short of exemplary, and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of them for their unwavering service to the public.



Through our collective efforts, we forged a united front to help address pressing health challenges and make a meaningful impact on peoples' lives. The stories highlighted in this report are a testament of only a few of the countless individuals who have directly benefited from our resources and of the positive change we are striving to bring in our communities.

As I reflect on the past year, it is gratifying to see just how much progress we've made on implementing strategies that focus, allocate, and align our resources to address many of the concerning health trends that affect our residents; especially in the areas of oral health and mental health services. This leaves me equally excited about our progress moving forward to the 2023-24 year.

Looking forward, we will remain at the forefront of collaboration and program innovation, never losing sight of our commitment to responsible financial management of taxpayer dollars. The challenges ahead, in assuring equitable access to healthcare may be complex, but I am confident that with our dedicated team, visionary leadership, and your continued trust in us, we can overcome any obstacle.

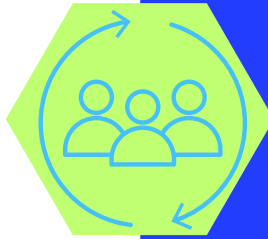
In good health,

**Pamela Kurtzman, CEO**

SHD Staff from left to right: Grants Director Jenny Bratton, Clerk of the Board Heidi Stamper, CEO Pamela Kurtzman, and Communications and Engagement Officer Luz Garcia

# 2022-25 STRATEGIC PLAN

*Our 5 Priority Areas and Strategic Goals*



## **EQUITY AND INCLUSION**

Engage in population-specific efforts to address the needs of those residents in the district that are historically underserved or particularly impacted by health disparities.



## **INNOVATION**

Support new and innovative strategies that improve the health and well-being of district residents.



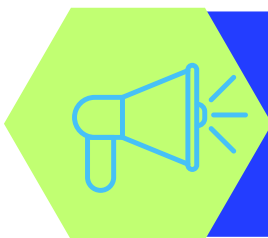
## **COLLABORATION**

Use collaboration with community organizations to magnify the positive impact on the health and well-being of district residents.



## **COMMUNICATION**

Improve effectiveness and reach of communications to district residents, in a culturally sensitive manner, of all resources and activities that enhance their health.



## **ADVOCACY**

Be an advocate for change on issues that impact the health of district residents.

# WHO WE ARE

## Enhancing access to vital health services

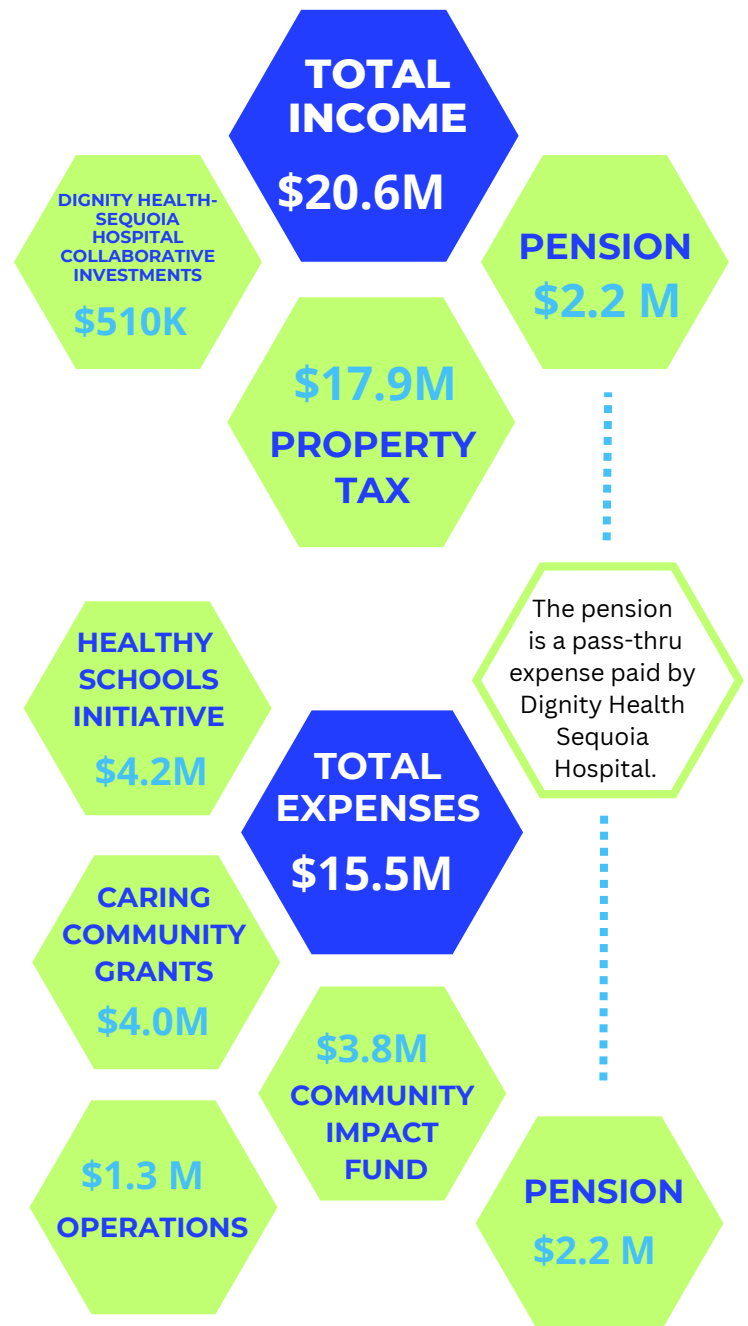
Sequoia Healthcare District is committed to investing all property tax revenue into quality, high impact programs that enhance our community's health and well-being. We administer grants to community partners that serve our most vulnerable residents through three large funding portfolios: Caring Community Grants (p6), Healthy Schools Initiative (p8), and the Community Impact Fund.

Through our Community Impact Fund, we support long-established partners that provide critical health and safety net services such as:

- Ravenswood Family Health Center
- San Mateo Medical Center at Fair Oaks
- Sonrisas Dental Health
- Samaritan House

In spring 2023, the board voted to commit almost \$2 million to a comprehensive oral health initiative which will be delivered by these signature partners, and to the new Navigation Center's dental clinic.

An additional \$920,000 has been earmarked for an innovative collaborative that will help address the difficulties faced by economically disadvantaged members of our community in finding quality dental care. It will enable up to 350 District residents in need of comprehensive dental services to receive the treatment they need to prevent the adverse health consequences caused by untreated dental conditions and help us build a sustainable and equitable system of care in San Mateo County.





# WHO WE ARE

## Community Oral Health Investment 2023-25

The chart shows Sequoia Healthcare District's allocation of oral health funding approved in fiscal year 22-23

### SONRISAS DENTAL HEALTH

\$1.204M

SHD will fund a portion of the uncompensated care for SHD residents, 800 students via school screenings, and the Senior Patient Navigation team serving approximately 200 adults.

### SMMC FAIR OAKS HEALTH CLINIC

This funding will add one dentist on the weekends to the Fair Oaks Health Clinic to increase dental care access for the 700+ patients on the waitlist, of which 86% are SHD residents.

\$320K

### SMC NAVIGATION CENTER

This five-year partnership (total \$450,000 funding across 5 years with \$200,000 paid in the first two years) with UOP Dugoni School of Dentistry will provide the County's unhoused population with an integrated model of care.

\$200K

### RAVENSWOOD FAMILY HEALTH CENTER SAMARITAN HOUSE CLINICS\*

Ravenswood Family Health Center and Samaritan House both provide comprehensive medical and dental care to SHD residents. A portion of the committed investment will increase the number of dental visits provided to unduplicated SHD patients. (\*This is the Samaritan House funding for 23-24; we anticipate continued funding in 24-25.)

\$2M

\$1.35M\*

# OUR IMPACT

## Caring Community Grants Program

The Caring Community Grants Program supported 60 grants in the 2022-23 grant cycle. The program awarded \$4.05 million, an increase from \$3.8 million awarded in 2021-22. In comparison, \$3 million was granted in the previous 2020-21 grant cycle. The program saw a 25% increase in funding in just two grant cycles. The need and demand for services has grown significantly, mirrored by the reach of the programs Sequoia Healthcare District funds.

This year, the grants supported programs that serve approximately 70,000 residents, which is an 8% increase over last year's count of 65,000. It is estimated that one out of four households have benefited from these programs. We measure impact by numbers served and through various metrics, both qualitative and quantitative. We invite you to read a client story on the next page which showcases the impact behind one of these grants.

A complete list of our grantees and information on our upcoming grant cycle is available on our website ([www.seqhd.org](http://www.seqhd.org)).



SHD representatives enjoy a site visit to Peninsula Family Services (PFS), courtesy of Chief Program Officer Charles Hansen (3rd from the left), PFS Chief Advancement Officer Deborah Miller (3rd from the right), and PFS Peer Counseling Director Stella Zeng (2nd from the right).



**4.05 M  
awarded**

SHD 6



**72,000\***



**1 out of 4  
SHD  
residents  
served**

\*this number does not account for duplications

# CLIENT HIGHLIGHT

*Katie Monroe Ahnen*



Katie Monroe Ahnen with her mom

Katie Monroe Ahnen came to Kara after her mother died of metastatic breast cancer in September 2020, during the COVID-19 lockdown. A few months later, Katie began attending the young adult group which had transitioned online during the pandemic.

"Grief is isolating in general," she said, "but because my mom died during the lockdown, I was incredibly isolated. Being able to attend virtual group sessions with peers who'd also experienced the death of someone so important to them, made me feel less alone."

Katie's experience with Kara was so transformative that she knew she wanted to volunteer and work with children and families. A year later, Katie went through Kara's extensive volunteer training. She will begin her volunteer role in Fall 2023.



Kara offers compassion and community to bereaved families and individuals. Visit <https://kara-grief.org>.

# IN-HOUSE PROGRAM

*Art Faro Food Grant*



Art Faro is the namesake of the joint food grant with Dignity Health Sequoia Hospital

A joint holiday food grant program partnership with Dignity Health Sequoia Hospital was created in 2020. In 2022, the joint holiday was dedicated to Art Faro, a former long-time SHD Board member and previous CEO of Sequoia Hospital.

In 2022, the Art Faro Food Grants awarded \$90,000 among seven community partners:

- Karat School Program
- Casa Nuestra
- Ecumenical Hunger Program
- Redwood City School District
- Upward Scholars
- Whole Health for Youth
- First Step Community Services

These food grants directly fed over 9,000 SHD residents over the holidays.



**Dignity Health**<sup>®</sup>  
Sequoia Hospital

Special thanks to Dignity Health Sequoia Hospital for this on-going partnership.

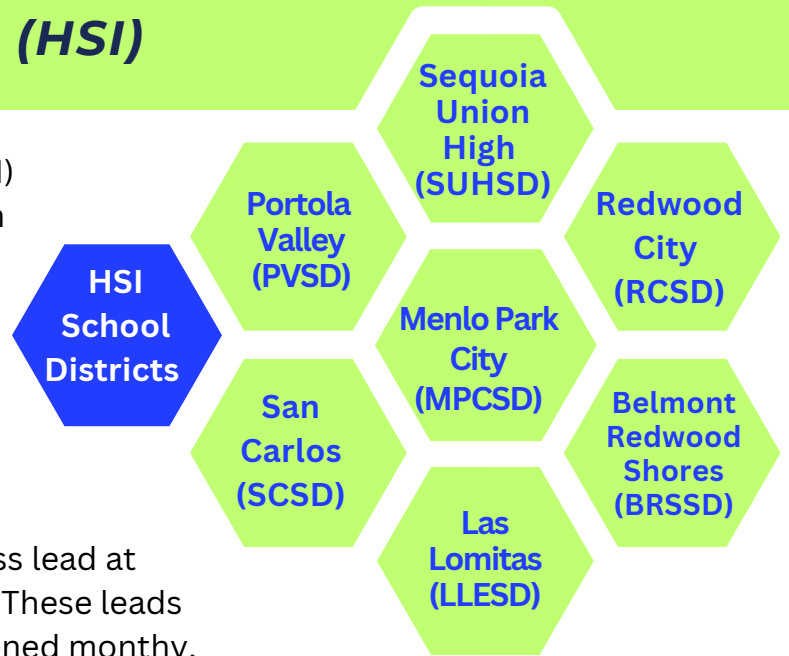
# OUR IMPACT

## Healthy Schools Initiative (HSI)

In 2022-23, our Healthy Schools Initiative (HSI) provided over \$4.2 million in funding to seven local school districts. These funds were used to support staff positions (nurses, PE+ coaches, and counselors). The HSI funds also support a half-million dollar grants program that allows for local non-profits to support local school districts.

HSI funds were also used to support a wellness lead at each of the participating HSI school districts. These leads made up the HSI Wellness Team, which convened monthly, facilitated by the Director of School Health. This team of experts focused on implementing health and wellness programs that impacted over 31,000 K-12 students.

Additionally, the wellness leads managed partnerships such as the ones highlighted on the next page. Some of these collaborations were with SHD-funded partners while others were with partners who received funding from their own school communities.



The 2022-23 Healthy Schools Initiative (HSI) Wellness Team: Kristen Sevilla (BRSSD), Minah Shah (PVSD), Patrinia Redd (RCSD), Ilana Yakubovich (SCSD), Chris Arrington (MPVSD), Nell Curran (LLES), HSI Grants member Jo-Ann Byrne Sockolov, and SHD Director of School Health Ann Wasson. Not pictured: Todd Patterson (PVSD), Celeste Lukrich (SUHSD)



**4.5 M**  
**awarded**

SHD 8



**K-12**  
**STUDENTS**  
**SERVED**



# COLLABORATION HIGHLIGHTS

## Sonrisas Dental Screenings

## Menlo Park City School District



RCSD students learn about oral health

In Redwood City School District (RCSD), Sonrisas Dental Health has conducted dental screenings for Preschool, TK, and Kindergarten students at Adelante Selby, Henry Ford, Garfield, Orion Alternative, Hoover, Roosevelt, and Taft schools. They also plan to screen identified McKinney Vento, Newcomer, and Foster students.

Sonrisas is one of SHD's signature partners and received funding support through Sequoia Healthcare District and Dignity Health Sequoia Hospital to provide routine dental screenings under the coordination of RCSD's HSI Wellness lead. Their goal is to screen approximately 800 students this school year in RCSD.



MPCSD's newest therapy dog Duke

Menlo Park City District's newest school employee arrived in April 2023. The employee was of the 4-legged furry kind and a welcome addition to the MPCSD's PAWZitivity canine staff! With funding by Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation (MPAEF), MPCSD partnered with the nonprofit 4pawzstrong.com to bring therapy dogs to each of the schools.

These therapy dogs help promote the social well-being of students and staff. Duke (pictured above) joined six canine colleagues this past school year. They all had limited responsibilities on campus with a small group of handlers as the main priority was for the hosts and dogs to acclimate to each other and to their new homes. Full implementation of the program will begin this fall.

Sonrisas  
Dental Health

To learn more about Sonrisas Dental, visit [www.sonrisasdental.org](http://www.sonrisasdental.org).



For questions about PAWZitivity, email Chris Arrington at [carrington@mpcsd.org](mailto:carrington@mpcsd.org).

# COLLABORATION HIGHLIGHTS

## *Mental Health*



Since the inception of the Healthy Schools Initiative 13 years ago, SHD has provided mental health support to participating school districts to help address student and staff needs. Our school mental health partners have evolved and expanded over the past years.

For the past two years, SHD has collaborated with the San Mateo County Office of Education to fund Care Solace, which provides therapy referrals and resources to the school communities. Due this partnership, all our school communities have access to professional support. Care Solace is a free online multilingual resource with a live 24/7 concierge to assist individuals in finding local mental health-related programs and counseling services.



There was much need for healing, but also to celebrate collectively in the aftermath of the pandemic, as the spring of 2022 finally saw the lift of County mask ordinances. We used this opportunity to capitalize on our public outreach and be more visible in the community.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the taxpayers for your continued support and trust, and to all our community partners. You are all fundamental to the success of our public health initiatives, and together, we are building a healthier and more prosperous future for our communities.



Care Solace services can be accessed by calling their 24/7 concierge team at (888) 515-0595 or by visiting [www.caresolace.org](http://www.caresolace.org).

# THANK YOU

*To Our Partners*



SHD representatives received a special tour of the new Veterans Memorial Center from our friends at RWC Parks & Rec.



SHD attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for San Mateo County's Navigation Center.



RWC Together Kelly Clavel, SHD Communications and Engagement Officer Luz Garcia and HSI Director of School Health Ann Wasson work the SHD-PAL Health & Harmony Fair this year.



Family Connections Executive Director Eric Valladares and Programs Director Carolina Balladares host a site visit for SHD representatives.

Noah Schectman from Center for Wellness and Achievement in Education (CWAE) and CEO Pamela Kurtzman visit National Center for Equine Therapy (NCEFT).





FOR YOUR HEALTH

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650-421-2155

@shealtdistrict

seqhd.org

**Our Pledge:**

We strive to return to the community 100% of the net tax revenue within three years in health-related programs and services.

**Our Vision:**

For all District residents to experience optimal physical and mental health at every stage of life.

**Our Mission:**

To improve the health of District residents by enhancing access to care and promoting wellness through responsible stewardship of District taxpayer dollars.



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**Ann Wasson**  
Director of School Health

**Luz Garcia**  
Communications and Engagement Officer