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Lawrence Livermore National Security announces recipients of the 2024 Community Gift Program

[Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC \(LLNS\)](#), the contract manager for [Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory \(LLNL\)](#), has announced the recipients for the 2024 LLNS Community Gift Program. These gifts, totaling \$220,000, reflect LLNS' commitment to local communities.

LLNS received applications totaling more than \$950,000 in requests. Forty-four applications were selected for awards totaling \$220,000 through a committee review process. The program, which launched in 2008, serves children in the Tri-Valley area as well as Contra Costa, Santa Clara and San Joaquin counties, with a focus on literacy, science, technology, engineering and math education, and cultural arts.

The following organizations received awards:

- **Alameda County Foster Parent Association, Chapter 1:** To cultivate a passion for STEAM education among foster children.
- **American Association of Physics Teachers, Northern CA:** To provide support and mentoring to new physics teachers in Northern California.
- **Bay Area Rescue Mission:** To provide women and children experiencing homelessness with essential supplies, including educational materials.
- **California High School – Photography Program:** To provide a unique hands-on learning experience that explores the relationship between analog photography, physics and chemistry through a comprehensive year-long darkroom photography program.
- **California High School – Robotics Program:** To inspire and engage students in computer science by offering physical computing projects that allow students to choose their creations, fostering joy and passion for the subject.
- **Castro Valley High School – The Wallace Dynasty Robotics Team:** To revitalize the robotics program with new components to improve the overall learning experience.
- **Children Rising:** To teach foundational mathematical concepts to enhance critical thinking, problem-solving abilities and analytical reasoning, thereby establishing a strong cognitive foundation through a math tutoring program.
- **Children’s Museum of Stockton:** To obtain a hands-on, STEM-related exhibit to deliver an exciting and innovative interactive learning experience.

- **Choose College Educational Inc.:** To empower students to shape their futures by preparing them for college through the encouragement of a sense of purpose, the development of effective study skills and the cultivation of independent learning.
- **Curious Five:** To provide students K–12 with a positive and supportive STEM learning experience that will inspire them to pursue future STEM careers.
- **Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area:** To empower, inspire and support individuals with Down Syndrome, their families, and the community that serves them, while fostering awareness and acceptance in all areas of life by providing educational programs.
- **Dublin High School Parent Faculty Student Organization – Gael Force Robotics:** To inspire the next generation and underrepresented communities to explore STEM through an innovative robotics program.
- **East Bay Holocaust Education Center:** To engage the community in rare historical artifacts and their related music, imparting lessons of social injustice, hope, resilience and survival through compelling storytelling.
- **East Bay NSBE Jr. Chapter, LLC:** To provide hands-on STEM and robotics programs to under-represented, underserved students in grades 3–12.
- **Engineers Alliance for the Arts, Inc.:** To inspire and educate students about the interaction of art, architecture, engineering, and construction using a STEAM curriculum combining technical and artistic components.
- **Excelsior Middle School, Byron:** To integrate science and technology into classrooms.
- **Gardens at Heather Farms:** To provide elementary classrooms with access to high-quality science instruction.
- **Girls Incorporated of Alameda County:** To support girls' engagement in STEM while addressing the unique racial, gender and socio-economic challenges they encounter in their pursuit of STEM fields.
- **Jefferson School District, Jefferson School:** To expand a drone building program, which will provide students with the opportunity to engage in engineering and programming projects.
- **José M. Hernández Reaching for the Stars Foundation:** To inspire youth to find passion in STEM education through the Science Blast Program.
- **King's Classical Academy:** To expand the robotics program for the upcoming academic year as part of their increasing focus on STEAM education.
- **Livermore High School - GravitechX Robotics Team:** To support a student-led robotics program where students learn leadership, teamwork, and technical skills to prepare them for STEM careers.
- **Livermore High School - Metal Shop:** To train students to become future machinists and engineers.
- **Livermore Music:** To provide musical instruments, mentorship in music, and logistical support to all students seeking a music education.
- **Marilyn Avenue STEAM Academy, Livermore:** To enhance the STEAM program by offering a greater variety of enrichment activities.
- **Merrill F. West High School, Tracy:** To enhance science education by implementing 3D printing to create educational manipulatives, introducing material science labs in chemistry classes, and expanding support for the school's robotics club, which will foster hands-on, interdisciplinary learning that engages students in STEM education and prepares them for future academic and career opportunities.

- **New Heart Community Church of the Nazarene:** To expand our services to address the increasing demand for tutoring among families who cannot afford additional educational resources beyond public schooling.
- **NextGen Innovators:** To provide students with the opportunity to explore the field of engineering through hands-on experiences.
- **Oakland Children’s Fairyland, Inc.:** To support the Fairyland Flora & Fauna education program, which provides access to hands-on life science programming for K–5 students from under-resourced schools in a safe, creative and outdoor space that engages students of all learning orientations.
- **Piedmont Makers, Castro Valley:** To offer high school students access to engineering through competitive robotics in an innovative, engaging and collaborative environment.
- **Regional Parks Foundation:** To provide students with the opportunity to develop knowledge, awareness and respect for their environment, community and themselves, fostering lifelong learners and responsible global stewards.
- **Ripon Elementary School:** To expose students to a broader world they have yet to explore by enhancing their school’s curriculum with a comprehensive science program.
- **San Ramon Valley High School - Robotics Team 1280:** Expand science learning opportunities designed to build exploration skills and knowledge through awareness of the innovative science and technology and organizations in our region.
- **Science is Elementary:** To foster interest in science and a sense of belonging among young children, especially from historically disadvantaged communities, by bringing science learning into homes and communities, addressing the lack of high-quality science education and diversity represented in the field of STEM.
- **Shepherd’s Gate:** To enhance early childhood learning that will incorporate educational, tactile tools specifically designed for children with autism to effectively meet the special education needs of the children in our program.
- **Stockton Unified School District:** To implement a curriculum focused on coding and micro:bit utilization that enhances problem-solving skills and logical thinking, fosters solution development, and builds a strong foundation for future learning, ultimately preparing students for successful careers.
- **Stoneman Elementary School, Pittsburg:** To cultivate positive and rigorous classroom environments that actively engage students in academic pursuits, leading to high levels of achievement.
- **System Overload Robotics:** To create a learning environment that nurtures high school students’ growth and encourages the development of new and creative concepts through engineering competition-level robotics.
- **Tower Foundation of San Jose State University, Science Extravaganza:** To generate interest in STEAM fields among younger students while reinforcing the value of higher education through activities, such as the Science Extravaganza.
- **Tri-Valley Robotics:** To encourage and inspire elementary, middle and high school students to participate in, engage with, and excel in the field of robotics, equipping them for future success.
- **Valley Montessori School:** To provide a robust and empowering Montessori education for children aged 18 months to grade 8
- **Wayfinder Family Services:** To provide an early intervention program to assist children who are blind, visually impaired or multi-disabled to overcome challenges, strengthen their development and reach their greatest potential.

- **Youth Eagles Aviation and Aerospace:** To inspire the next generation of aviation, aerospace leaders and STEM innovators through hands-on, unique and educational experiences.
- **Z-Cares Foundation:** To generate mental health awareness and reduce the stigma of mental illness within our community.

LLNS manages LLNL for the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration. LLNS is comprised of Bechtel, the largest project management contractor in the United States; the University of California, the world's largest public research institution; and BWXT Government Group, Inc. and Amentum, the top two DOE nuclear facilities contractors.

For more information regarding the LLNS Community Gift Program, see the [LLNS website](#).