



PRESS RELEASE

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June 1, 2016

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Local Charity Giving Free Laptops to Deserving Mission Hills High School Students

San Marcos, CA – This Friday, June 3, at 12:00 in the computer lab at Mission Hills High School in San Marcos, eighteen students in the school’s AVID program will be given much needed help with brand new Chromebooks of their own by local non-profit charity, **Youth Empowerment Squad (YES!)**.

Maria is typical of the sophomores at Mission Hills High School in San Marcos, CA that will be awarded laptops on June 3rd. Her parents never made it past middle school, she qualifies for Mission Hills’ free/reduced lunch program, and her family can’t afford a computer. To complete her homework, Maria either has to walk to the local library after school where she gets less than an hour on a computer – if one is available, or she has to go to the school library very early in the morning and hope a computer is available. Her goal is to go to either Stanford University or the University of San Francisco where she plans to major in architecture. Without her own laptop it is becoming clear that it will be nearly impossible to maintain her 4.17 GPA throughout high school. Without a high GPA, all of her volunteer work at a local elementary school and with AVID (as leader of their current events committee) will not be enough to help her get into the school of her dreams. She needs a laptop.

These exemplary students currently attempt to do hours of homework either very early in the morning at school, late after school, at friends’ or relatives’ houses, on their cell phones (if they have one) or on a shared household computer being used by many siblings and parents, making it very difficult to complete their homework and projects.

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Assistant Principal at Mission Hills High School, Amy Hrin, has seen the importance of having computer and internet access for AVID students. “These AVID students are working very hard and many are achieving as much or more than many students who have total access to educational technology. We are excited to see the great things they will accomplish with these laptops that the Youth Empowerment Squad is so generously giving to them. Not only is this a fantastic recognition of their hard work, but it will also allow them to excel in their schoolwork. Instead of spending several hours a day trying to find a computer they can use, they can now dedicate that extra time to the volunteer work and AP classes that each of the laptop-winning students participate in.”

AVID (AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination) knows that students from low income families without a college-going tradition can succeed in high school and graduate college ready - if they have the right supports in place. To achieve this, students need a suite of academic and social supports that are consistently available and that they can readily access. AVID provides that. AVID students fit into one or more of these criteria:

- First person in family to go to a four-year university, or...
- Member of an underserved group at universities, or...
- Low socio-economic status, or...
- Special circumstances.

The **Youth Empowerment Squad (YES!)**, a dba of Disadvantaged Youth Alliance, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity, is dedicated to helping low income, foster youth, former foster youth, and other underprivileged students acquire the knowledge, skills, tools, funding, and confidence to be able to go to college and not only better their lives, but also the lives of generations to come. To learn more visit www.YES.partners.

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