



*Breaking the Cycle of Poverty Through Education While Promoting a Culture of Giving Excellence*

## **PRESS KIT**

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## **Vision**

Our vision is to inspire educational success and life-long learning. We focus on:

- serving economically disadvantaged Central Texas students and their families to help them achieve educational success;
- transforming their lives from poverty to financial independence and enabling a better life for future generations;
- providing financial and capacity building resources to education focused nonprofits, schools and collaborations; and
- creating a culture of giving excellence in our community through leadership, high-engagement, advocacy and innovation.

## **Mission**

Our mission is to break the cycle of poverty through education while promoting a culture of giving excellence.

**Breaking the cycle of poverty through education.** -- KDK-Harman tagline

**KDK-Harman funds academic programs that assist economically disadvantaged students and their families.** --This is the basis which KDK funds programs.

**Categorically speaking, KDK funds in the following areas:**

K-12 Education

- Elementary
- Middle School
- High School

**Our grantmaking focuses on three key areas:**

- **Integrating technology into teaching and learning**, with a particular emphasis on STEM, reinforcing a vision for how teachers working with technology can transform student learning and better prepare our students for college and career success;
- **Optimizing out-of-school time**, with a particular emphasis on STEM, to enhance core academic learning and career-focused skill building activities that connect to a student's motivations and ability to meet their career aspirations; and
- **Enabling and supporting systems-level change and collaboration** between organizations and networks, aimed to increase both awareness and integration of student-centered learning experiences and promote public will to implement them as community engagement is a critical piece to sustainability.

## **Geographic Funding Area**

KDK-Harman Foundation funds 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and schools with programming excellence that align with its mission and serve the economically disadvantaged within Travis, Williamson, Hays, Bastrop, Caldwell, Burnet and Llano counties of Texas.



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## **History and Overview**

The KDK-Harman Foundation was established in 2004 by Janet E. Harman, who named the family philanthropy in honor of her three children, Kevin, David and Kelly. The Foundation's first grants provided support to educational programs in Austin, the home of the Harman family. The KDK-Harman Foundation has since turned its attention to sharpening the programmatic focus of its giving to focus on re-imagining how, when and where students learn, and expanded its reach to include seven central Texas counties.

In Central Texas, as in the rest of the United States, a substantial achievement gap exists between economically disadvantaged children and their higher income peers. KDK-Harman Foundation seeks to close this achievement gap, particularly in the areas of math and science, to ensure that all students, regardless of income status or ethnicity, receive an excellent education. KDK-Harman believes education is the civil and human rights issue of our time, and is the key for economically disadvantaged families to escape poverty and access living wage careers.

Janet views her family foundation as a strategic vehicle to provide financial and capacity-building resources to education-focused nonprofits and schools that provide programming for K-12 students in Central Texas, with a focus on integrating technology into the classroom, STEM education, out-of-school time programs, and collaboration and system-wide change. She is a strong believer that the nonprofit sector can bring about change if nonprofits are given strategic, hands-on support in growing their organizations. To reflect that belief, KDK-Harman Foundation takes a high-engagement approach to its philanthropy by working closely with grantees to provide financial, operational and networking support. The focus is toward building upon the capacity of our grantees so that they can execute their missions effectively and efficiently, thereby making a lasting difference in the lives of low-income students and their families.

## **Board of Directors**

Janet E. Harman, President and Founder  
Kent Mayes, Trustee  
Eugene Sepulveda, Vice President  
Jo Ivester, Treasurer and Secretary

## **Junior Board Members**

Kevin Sooch  
David Sooch  
Kelly Sooch

## **Staff**

Jennifer Esterline, Executive Director  
Erica V. Ekwurzel, Grantee Consultant  
Mary Verhaeghe, Executive Assistant  
Patricia Conrad, Bookkeeper

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www.kdk-harman.org  
512.328.9400

Year Founded	2004
Total Dollars Granted (to-date)	\$4,663,250
Total Number of Grants Awarded	141
Largest Grant Awarded	\$100,000
Smallest Grant Awarded	\$10,000
Average Grant Size	\$40,300
Total Assets as 12-31-10	\$24,129,535
2011 Grant Budget	\$904,000

Grantmaking at a Glance

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Grants Paid	\$638,000	\$1,029,000	\$1,034,000	\$837,500
Median Grant	\$35,000	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Average Grant	\$42,533	\$42,875	\$43,500	\$43,500
Largest Grant	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Smallest Grant	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000

**Mission:** To break the cycle of poverty through education while promoting a culture of giving excellence.

**History:** KDK-Harman Foundation is a family foundation located in Austin, Texas. The foundation was established by Janet Harman and named in honor of her three children, Kevin, David and Kelly. The Foundation takes a high engagement approach to its philanthropy by working closely with grantees to provide financial, operational and networking support.

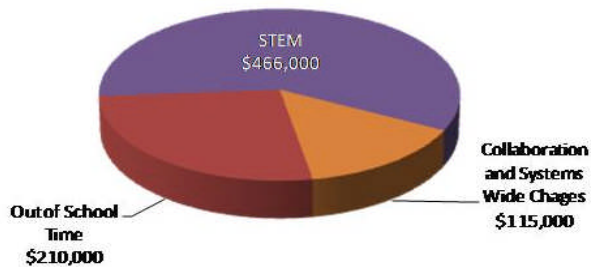
Our three grantmaking initiatives to achieve this goal include:

- Projects that focus on **Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)** and **integrating technology** into teaching and learning;
- Improving the quality of and access to **out-of-school time programs**;
- Enabling and supporting **systems-level change & collaboration** to support an excellent education for all Central Texas students.

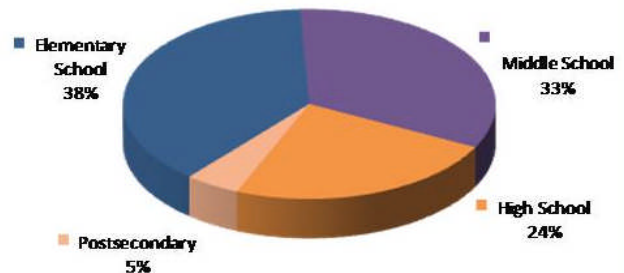
**Geographic Funding Area:** We fund 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and schools with programming excellence that align with our mission to close achievement gaps for low-income students in grades K-12, preparing them with 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills and access to quality careers. Our geographic focus is: Travis, Williamson, Hays, Bastrop, Caldwell, Burnet, and Llano counties of Texas.

Grants as of September 2011

Grant Money Disbursed by Program



Number of Grants by Age Group





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## 2011 Charitable Grants



### **AISD**

To support AISD's Summer STEM Camp at eight Eastside elementary schools

[www.austinisd.org](http://www.austinisd.org)

\$62,000



### **Boys & Girls Clubs of the Austin Area**

To support their Ace It! Summer Instructional Program in Math done in partnership with Sylvan Learning of Austin.

[www.bgcaustin.org](http://www.bgcaustin.org)

\$50,000



### **Del Valle ISD**

To support their Race to Learn Summer Robotics Program in seven elementary schools in order to build a pipeline of STEM programming from elementary to high school.

[www.delvalle.tx.schoolwebpages.com](http://www.delvalle.tx.schoolwebpages.com)

\$50,000



### **East Austin College Prep Academy**

To support their Summer STEM Institute, a seven-week full-day summer learning experience for 150 students between the ages of 6 – 17 uniquely designed to implement engaging learning opportunities and activities.

[www.swkey.org/schools/academy/academy\\_overview.html](http://www.swkey.org/schools/academy/academy_overview.html)

\$36,000



### **Round Rock ISD**

To support their 2011 Summer KICKS program for 120 at-risk middle school students in the district.

\$53,000



**Foundation Communities**

To continue to support their PATHS Summer and After School program at their three learning centers. Using established curricula that measures students' progress, the PATHS program directly addresses two problems children from low-income families face low reading achievement and childhood obesity. In addition to reading support and health education, the curriculum also includes daily activities involving math and writing skills, computer time, unstructured outdoor play, arts activities, healthy snacks, and homework help.

[www.foundcom.org](http://www.foundcom.org)

\$50,000



**Heart House**

To support their continued expansion in Austin during 2011-2012. The goals of 2011 are to double the number of children served in Austin, while at the same time, continuing to meet high quality standards and academic achievement within existing programs. Heart House plans to dramatically increase the number of children whose lives are changed through the Heart House experience.

[www.hearthouse.org](http://www.hearthouse.org)

\$25,000



**Girlstart**

To continue to expand their After School STEM programming in rural areas in Central Texas. Girlstart is the only nonprofit organization in Texas whose mission is solely focused on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education for K-12 girls.

[www.girlstart.org](http://www.girlstart.org)

\$50,000



**Central Texas Afterschool Network**

To support capacity building grant to the Central Texas Afterschool Network (CTAN). The Central Texas Afterschool Network represents a comprehensive coalition of people and organizations committed to Out-of-School Time programming. \$25,000

[www.ctanweb.org](http://www.ctanweb.org)



### **Mind Research**

To implement their ST Math program in two new elementary schools in 3rd through 5th grades \$60,000

[www.mindresearch.net](http://www.mindresearch.net)

**Current 2011 Total \$461,000**

## President's Biography

### **Janet E. Harman**



When Janet E. Harman founded the KDK-Harman Foundation in December 2004, it launched her new career. After undergraduate work at Cornell University and graduate work at Stanford University, she had a successful career as an electrical engineer and engineering manager for high tech firms and later formed her own engineering consulting firm. When her children were young, she “retired” from the workforce to focus on her family and philanthropic efforts.

Today, Janet serves as Founder and President of KDK-Harman Foundation, which she endowed with over \$26 million. KDK-Harman Foundation was created to support educational opportunities for economically disadvantaged families through education and academic programs at area nonprofits. Janet believes education is the key to escape poverty and access higher-paid employment opportunities. “Education is an essential means towards achieving financial independence and enabling a better life for families and their future generations. A better educated society will result in lower crime rates, a reduction to the burdened healthcare system, and increased economic productivity,” states Harman.

Ms. Harman’s involvement in philanthropy spans years of commitment and service to others. She has been involved at the leadership level at Center for Child Protection and Children's Medical Center Foundation of Central Texas. In recent years, she has also supported St. Stephen’s Episcopal School, Lifeworks, and Girlstart. Throughout the 20 plus years of living in Austin, Janet has volunteered and actively participated in numerous organizations including Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Eanes Elementary, Hill Country Middle School, and Austin Civic Orchestra. She was proud to be the keynote speaker for the 2008 American Youthworks DreamBuilder’s Luncheon. Currently, Janet serves on the boards of Greenlights for Nonprofit Success and the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders. Throughout the 25 years of living in Austin, Janet has volunteered and actively participated in numerous organizations including Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Eanes Elementary, Hill Country Middle School, Austin Civic Orchestra, Center for Child Protection, and Children's Medical Center Foundation of Central Texas.

Janet lives in Austin, Texas with her husband Kent and her four children, Kevin, David, Kelly and Lauren. Her hobbies include worldwide travel, skiing, and pilates. Her family enjoys spending time with their four dogs, and two cats. Janet looks forward to passing on her values of commitment to philanthropic efforts and service to her children by involving them early in their lives.



## **Biographies – Board Members**

### **Kent Mayes**

Kent Mayes serves as Principal/Founder of Mayes Method, a personal fitness firm focused on assisting his clients to reach their full potential in sound health and fitness goals. Kent served as the Founding Director of Timberline Fitness Studio in Austin and Houston. Mayes currently serves on P3 (Mind·Body· Spirit), a nonprofit organization, whose mission is to develop health-literate youth to enable a healthier society and future.

Enthusiastic to serve in his new board role at KDK-Harman, Mayes looks to this as an opportunity to not only expand his personal understanding of philanthropy, but to also actively engage his daughter, Lauren, in the spirit of community service.

Kent shares the same beliefs as his wife, Janet Harman, about education being an essential means towards financial independence. Kent lives in Austin with his wife Janet, his daughter Lauren, and his three step children Kevin, David, and Kelly.

### **Jo Ivester**

Jo Ivester is a founding board member of the KDK-Harman Foundation. Her passion for education as a means of fighting poverty goes back to her childhood when her family moved to an impoverished town in rural Mississippi and her mother taught in the local high school. She and her mother have recently completed a book chronicling those experiences entitled *From Cotton Fields to Shakespeare* which she is currently seeking to publish. Following a fifteen-year career in the transportation and high-tech industries, she began teaching math on a substitute basis at the middle and senior high school level. More recently, she has served as an adjunct professor at St. Edward University's undergraduate business school teaching operations management. Jo received a B.S. in civil engineering from MIT and an M.B.A. from Stanford. She has been married for twenty-seven years and has four children.

### **Eugene Sepulveda**

Eugene Sepulveda is a community activist dedicated to making Austin a better place to live, work and play. He was indoctrinated into grass roots activism as a child at the skirt of his aunt, who helped organize Houston's Hispanic community. Over the last twenty-five years, he has served in leadership positions on the boards of the Austin Community Foundation, Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, PeopleFund, Leadership Austin and the Austin Museum of Art, as well as serving as a board member for more than fifty other local, statewide and national nonprofits and foundations. He currently serves as the CEO for the Entrepreneurs Foundation of Central Texas. During the previous seven years, he taught social entrepreneurship and global business to undergraduates and MBA students in The University of Texas' McCombs School of Business. Prior to teaching, Eugene was a CFO, consultant and banker in Austin's high-tech community. Eugene earned his B.A. from Texas A&M University.

## **Biographies – Staff Members**

### **Jennifer M. Esterline**



Jennifer Esterline serves at the Foundation's Executive Director. Jennifer was born in Austin and raised in Dallas. She returned to Austin in 1994 to attend the University of Texas at Austin and received her B.A. in Latin American Studies in 1998. After graduation, she studied abroad in Mexico and Costa Rica and also spent a year interning at the State Capitol. In 1999 Jennifer returned to UT to get her Master's degree in Public Affairs with a concentration in Latin American Studies and philanthropic studies at the LBJ School of Public Affairs. Upon graduation, she stayed on at the LBJ School working to develop domestic and international programs for the RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service. She then focused her work in the field of resource development as Director of Development at both Texas RioGrande Legal Aid and UT's Office of Development. Jennifer joined the KDK-Harman Foundation in the fall of 2006 as its first program officer and was promoted to executive director in 2009. Currently, Jennifer serves as Chair of the Central Texas Education Funders and Chair of the Development Council for a local early literacy nonprofit, A Community for Education (ACE). She is also serving a term on the University of Texas Elementary School board of directors. In her spare time, Jennifer enjoys spending time with her husband, Horacio, and two young sons. [jennifer@kdk-harman.org](mailto:jennifer@kdk-harman.org)

### **Erica Villarreal Ekwurzel**



Erica Villarreal Ekwurzel serves as the Foundation's Consultant which reinforces the Foundation's commitment as a high engagement grantmaker and enables KDK-Harman to offer grantees fundraising, operational and networking support. Additionally, Erica manages the Foundation's advocacy efforts that assist in increasing the Foundation's knowledge and understanding about education policy grantmaking and collaborate with other funders in identifying promising practices and opportunities for collaboration in the arena of public policy. Prior to joining the Foundation, Erica worked in the nonprofit sector as a development officer with the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) of Travis County.

Erica earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and Spanish from Austin College and a Masters in Public Affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas-Austin, with a concentration in Nonprofit Management and Philanthropic Studies. Currently, Erica serves as the Chair of the Legislative Network Committee for Conference of Southwest Foundations in addition to serving on the steering committees of Association of Fundraising Professionals Membership Committee, Central Texas Education Funders, and Education Policy Working Group for Grantmakers for Education . In her leisure time, Erica enjoys yoga, scuba diving and spending quality time with her two children and husband. [erica@kdk-harman.org](mailto:erica@kdk-harman.org)

## Mary Verhaeghe



Mary Verhaeghe serves as the Executive Assistant for KDK-Harman, and is employed by KDK Management. Mary attended USF California and has worked in various positions in technology across the states. Mary started working for Janet before the inception of KDK-Harman back in 2004, and is Janet Harman's Executive Assistant. Mary has just recently turned her focus over to Janet's foundation to help in running KDK-Harman's technology department, assisting in foundation events, and in running the foundation office. Mary enjoys spending time with her husband, Dean, and their four grown daughters. Now that Mary and her husband, Dean, are getting close to an empty nest, Mary enjoys doing more volunteer work with different organizations around Austin, going to concerts, and being able to do things spontaneously again. [mary@kdkmgt.com](mailto:mary@kdkmgt.com)

## Patricia Conrad



Patti Conrad serves as the bookkeeper and Office Manager for KDK-Harman, and is employed by KDK Management. She is a graduate of Santa Clara University and holds a B.S. in Business Administration. Before settling in Texas 12 years ago with her husband and two small children, Patti managed several fitness, dining and golf clubs in Northern California. Her time in Austin has been spent raising her two now high school children, working in various small business and volunteering in the local community. Patti still continues to work on one of the original Mobile Loaves & Fishes teams and most recently was on the Westlake Relay for Life Committee benefiting the American Cancer Society. [patti@kdkmgt.com](mailto:patti@kdkmgt.com)