

California State Altruistic Projects 2024-2026



1. **Breaking the Chains (BTC)** works with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to provide hope, healing, and restoration to lives impacted by human trafficking.

Located in California's Central San Joaquin Valley, the BTC is dedicated to helping child and adult victims exit reoccurring episodes of exploitation. It has two campuses in Fresno. One is a safe house that provides long term shelter, a trauma treatment center, transitional housing, counseling offices, and administrative offices. The second campus is called New City and services juveniles. It is equipped with housing, a trauma center, counseling offices, classrooms, and recreation area, and childcare center. It also has a mobile command unit and a newly opened rural office in Parlier, a city near Fresno. Although centered in Fresno, it gets referrals from law enforcement agencies all over California. BTC's trauma-informed services and evidence-based curriculums is operated by a large group of volunteers and 12 paid staff employees. It is serving 117 human trafficking survivors, with 2-3 new referrals daily; 50% are children with an average entry age of 12-14 and the majority are female. It is funded through grants and donations and shows 13 community organization partners on its website. AΔK funds would go directly to help BTC meet the immediate needs of trafficking survivors. Human trafficking is the fastest growing crime in California and Breaking the Chains is making a difference one victim at a time.

Website: <https://www.btcfresno.org/>



2. **Camp Kesem:** Kesem is a program for children, ages 6 -18, whose parents are in cancer treatment, are cancer survivors, or who have lost their battle with cancer. Most organizations focus on cancer research or treatment; but there are 5 million children nationwide coping with a parent's cancer diagnosis. Kesem creates experiences and a sense of community to support these children who often feel anxiety, emotional isolation, loss of social interest, and feelings of hopelessness. This support includes its flagship program Camp Kesem, a free, fun-filled annual summer camp, as well as year-round support, communication, and "Friends and Family Days." Program chapters are on college campuses where Kesem recruits student leader volunteers. With oversight and guidance from Kesem, they undergo extensive training on how to create an environment where these children will feel safe and respected as they cope with their parent's diagnosis. The volunteers also receive leadership training as they are responsible for yearlong fundraising, organizing, hosting the camp, and being camp counselors. There are 130 nationwide chapters serving 7,000 children and 22 chapters in California including many UC campuses and state universities; it has the goal to serve at least 10,300 children by 2025. All Kesem programs are provided at no cost to families thanks to the generosity of individuals, foundations, and corporate partners. California AΔK funds would be allocated to cover costs to allow as many children as possible to attend Camp Kesem.

Website: <https://www.kesem.org/>

California State Altruistic Projects 2024-2026 (continued)

3. **EAT.LEARN.PLAY (ELP)** is a foundation with the goal of improving the educational and life opportunities for children living in Oakland, California. For decades the Oakland School District has experienced serious challenges, compromising the quality of education it provides. By infusing additional money for nutritional meals, quality reading resources, and opportunities to play in newly renovated playgrounds, ELP strives to give every Oakland student the chance to live a happy, healthy childhood. It grows food, helps the schools grow food, delivers food, and renovates dining rooms according to a plan upon which ELP and the district agree. Founded in 2019 by professional basketball player Steph Curry and his wife, Ayesha of nutritional cookbook fame, the Currys cover all administrative and fundraising costs. Hence all monies raised go into the Foundation's programs. Since 2019 ELP has raised \$47 million and lists 39 sponsoring organizations on its website. It has launched a new movement to raise and invest \$50 million by the end of 2025-2026. It is focusing on the 38,000 students and 85 schools of the Oakland Unified School District in order to transform the school experience for a generation of students by working with community food banks, a coalition of literacy partners, and youth sports organizations. This venture will include a Eat.Learn.Play bus as a mobile resource center that will provide 25,000 nutritious meals and 100,000 books to Oakland Youth and their families. AΔK's support will contribute to this worthy effort.

Website: <https://www.eatlearnplay.org/>



THE WILDLANDS — CONSERVANCY —

4. **The Wildlands Conservancy (TWC)** encourages people to get outside and appreciate nature. It is dedicated to "preserving the beauty and biodiversity of the earth and to provide programs so that children may know the wonder and joy of nature." TWC owns and maintains California's most extensive nonprofit nature preserve system of 25 preserves encompassing 200,000 acres of diverse mountain, valley, desert, river, and oceanfront landscapes. From San Diego, then past Eureka, there are at least two preserves in each of Alpha Delta Kappa's Districts: Northern, Valley, Marina, and Southern. (TWC now extends into Oregon and Utah, too). It is also the largest nonprofit provider of free outdoor education for students and visitors. TWC's Outdoor Discovery Program is a nature-based education experience offering hands-on learning aligned with the California Content Standards incorporating the STEAM concepts – Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Teaching packets are created with lessons that educate all students and visitors with the understanding that nature is to be cherished. Over 35,000 Pre-K to post-secondary students have had a chance to learn firsthand about the plant and animal kingdoms through outdoor education experiences – all free of charge. In addition, all preserves are open to the public at no cost for hiking, camping, picnicking, and birding. While TWC is funded through a mix of private and public funding, private funding supports its general operations. The Wildlands Conservancy educational programs and preserves reach through all of California.

Website: <https://wildlandsconservancy.org/>