

2023 Annual Report



Message from the Chair



Caltech students are uniquely gifted and have the potential to change the world in many ways. But many leaders today, especially science leaders, face political and financial

complications and personal and professional stress uncommon in the past. More than scientific knowledge is needed to persevere and succeed in science and in life.

The Caltech Y equips students for success as leaders in the contemporary world by enhancing their global perspective, fostering social skills and diverse experiences, deepening ethical considerations, and cultivating cultural awareness. This is achieved through collaborative teamwork, the formation of new friendships, community service and involvement, exploration of global perspectives, activism, leadership development, and, very importantly, opportunities for fun and stress relief.

We supplement the outstanding academic curriculum and enhance the student experience at Caltech by offering a wide range of co-curricular events and activities for all members of the campus community, selected and led by students themselves. Our programs fall under our five pillars: Leadership, Service, Adventure, Civic Engagement, and Perspective.

We recently completed the research and data gathering to create our new 3-year Strategic Plan. We learned far too many students and faculty are still unaware of all the Caltech Y offers students, so we ask you to spread the word about all we do.

We also learned of some barriers students may be facing to accessing programs, we are making a renewed commitment to ensuring there are no financial barriers to any Caltech student participating in any Caltech Y activity or trip. We hope you will continue or increase your financial donation to help us meet this challenge.

We are thankful for your support and promise to continue to earn your trust and pride!

Cynthia Bengtson
Chair, Caltech Y Board of Directors



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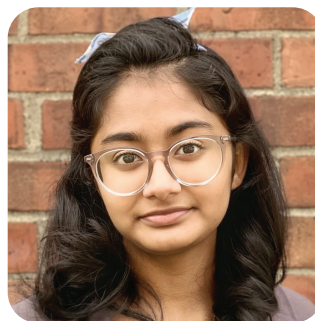
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Message from the ExComm President



As a graduating senior, I cannot reflect upon the last four years without acknowledging the significant influence the Caltech Y has had on shaping the individual I have grown into. Although I was part of the unfortunate class of students that began their Caltech careers at home, I found community

through virtual programs such as Rise Tutoring and the annual Science Policy Symposium. The Y has sent me a block away from campus to read to children at McKinley Elementary School and across the ocean to French Polynesia to work with a local coral restoration organization through the ACT Award. It has truly been an honor to serve as the Student ExComm President of an organization that supports worldly perspectives and lasting relationships within and beyond the Caltech community.

In the past year, ExComm has worked to expand the breadth and reach of our programming, to ensure that we can provide opportunities for exploration to all. Beyond continuing our service through tutoring and preparing meals at Union Station, we have educated students on money management through our Finance Fridays and brought students to the El Capitan Theatre for a showing of Disney's Wish. Our recently introduced Explore LA Cultural Cuisine Tours have brought students together to travel the world—from Hong Kong to Portugal—in sharing a meal. We have also fostered and maintained relations with other student organizations on campus, with the creation of a joint ASCIT-IHC-Caltech Y calendar for undergraduates and the creation of a new Y Representative role within house communities to further promote our programs and activities and establishing a stronger presence of the Y on campus. In my last few months at Caltech, I truly look forward to continuing to find new ways to enhance student life, communicate the importance of our programs, and make them as accessible and pervasive in the community as possible.

It's nearly impossible to find one word that describes the Caltech Y. We offer opportunities to explore science policy, venture into the great outdoors, connect with the local and global community and so much more. If I had to choose, however, I would say "transformative"—we are constantly changing the lives of our students for the better, and making an impact on the world around us. We transform students into leaders and our campus into a community. Your support and generosity would be greatly appreciated to help keep our amazing programs running for the coming years.

Rupa Kurinchi-Vendhan
Student ExComm President



The Ripple Effect

Caltech taught graduate student Manisha Kapasiawala how scientific discovery can ignite large-scale change, affecting the lives of billions of people. And, the Caltech Y showed Kapasiawala the profound impact of small actions.

“When we think about transforming the world, we tend to think of it on a high level,” Kapasiawala says. “Through the Caltech Y, I learned that scaling down to one person can be just as powerful and sometimes more personally meaningful.”

Through the Caltech Y’s Rise program, Kapasiawala helped a Pasadena high schooler reach her full potential. The student had struggled with math, earning a D and some Cs in middle school. In 2021, the Caltech Y paired Kapasiawala with the student for Rise’s summer math program.

“Math can be especially difficult to succeed in because the concepts build off each other,” Kapasiawala says. “If someone doesn’t understand one part then it’s harder to make connections later on. She is a very bright student who just needed to get back to the basics.”

The student never looked back. Kapasiawala worked with her tutee for three more years and helped her earn all As in math and Advanced Placement biology and chemistry. For her stellar marks, the student was accepted into two transformational programs from QuestBridge, a national nonprofit that assists high-achieving, low-income learners in gaining acceptance into prominent colleges and universities.

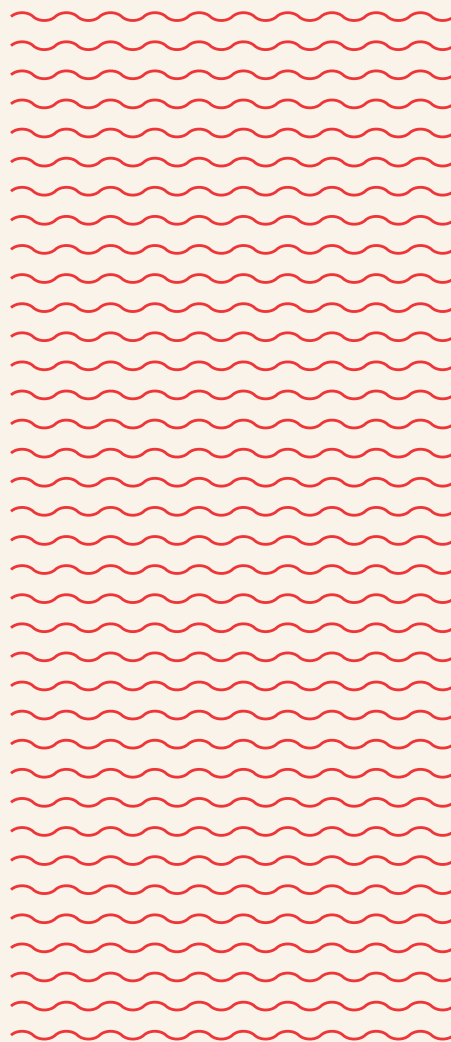
“There’s a nice ripple effect happening,” Kapasiawala says. “As she goes on to do great things, she’ll help and inspire other people.”

As Kapasiawala considers the impact she wants to make in her career, the Caltech Y again has been an invaluable resource.

As a committee member for the Student Activism Speaker Series, Kapasiawala has gained insights from speakers such as conservation biologist Tim Shields, who visited campus in June. Equipped with drones, 3D printers, and a small team of scientists, Shields is saving Mojave Desert tortoises from extinction. On the other end of the spectrum, Kapasiawala has twice joined the Caltech Y on its Washington D.C., Science Policy Trip to see up-close how law- and policymakers are seeking national change with global ramifications.

Grateful for her experience with the Caltech Y, Kapasiawala recently joined the Caltech Y Board of Directors as a graduate student member to help promote the organization to the greater Caltech community. Kapasiawala especially wants to focus outreach on new graduate students who are adapting to life at Caltech. Sometimes, pressures of a new environment or research struggles can cause graduate students to feel isolated, especially in the absence of the vast social opportunities available for undergraduate students, she says. The Caltech Y offers a place where these graduate students can find community, perspective, and even enjoyment while learning a new skill or giving back.

“As Caltech strives to become more inclusive, creating a community for all students will become even more important,” Kapasiawala says. “I’m proud to be a part of a group that has been building community for decades and continues to be invested in student success.”





Fresh Air

Growing up in Redmond, Washington, nature was James Ragan’s playground. An Eagle Scout and a hiker who once logged 300 miles in one year, Ragan still considers the Enchantments trail in the Cascade Range one of the most beautiful places he has visited.

In the summer of 2019, as he prepared to drive to California to begin his first year at Caltech, the aerospace engineering graduate student received an email from the Caltech Y. It invited all new undergraduates and graduate students to its annual pre-orientation campout at Yosemite National Park. Ragan registered, and for five days he and other students hiked North Dome,

Cathedral Lakes, and the Mist Trail during the day and cooked dinners, roasted marshmallows, and played cards in the evenings.

“It’s nice to have a bunch of people new to Caltech have one shared experience,” Ragan says. “I arrived at Caltech with a support system in place and knew people who shared similar interests with me. I still reach out to some people from the Yosemite trip, and we go hiking together.”

Excited by his time at Yosemite, Ragan joined the Caltech Y’s outdoor committee his first few weeks on campus. In this role, Ragan and his fellow committee members organize approximately one campout and three day hikes a term to destinations such as Joshua Tree National Park and Switzer Falls. Yet, the most important task of the committee, he says, is to help the less-skilled campers feel at ease and enjoy the outdoors.

“There are students who have never been on a hike before,” Ragan says. “The Caltech Y provides the help, the gear, and the resources so that a camping trip is a lot more doable for those who maybe aren’t comfortable going out on their own.”

Eventually, Ragan discovered that the Caltech Y hiking treks were more than fun diversions. “Academic life, or maybe just life in general, can be stressful,” Ragan says. “It was important for me to unplug and do something a little bit simpler for a bit.”

After his first term at Caltech, Ragan sought more opportunities to be involved with the Caltech Y. He began tutoring a Pasadena public high school student in math and science through the Rise program. Then, in 2023, he joined the Caltech Y board, the group’s governing body that oversees the budget and guides its future. Both commitments enable Ragan to make a difference without taking too much time away from his research.

Nearing graduation, Ragan says the Caltech Y has had a profound impact on his student experience. “The Caltech Y is that spot on campus where you’ll know everyone will be welcoming and ready to help you go on your next adventure,” Ragan says. “I credit the Caltech Y for giving me a well-rounded, holistic education.”

Designing Their Caltech Experience



Sisters Shalini (BS '23) and Rupa (BS '24) Kurinchi-Vendhan chose Caltech for its rigor and research. Yet, they sought a college experience beyond these defining traits. Giving back and pursuing passions outside of science were equally important to them.

The Caltech Y gave Shalini and Rupa the outlet they needed.



Following in the Footsteps of Bronte and Dickens

For Shalini, the Caltech Y offered new ways to deepen her love of reading and literature. Thanks to a collaboration between the Caltech Y and Reading Partners, a nonprofit that pairs volunteers with struggling students, Shalini worked with Pasadena first and third graders. The opportunity reminded Shalini of her childhood when she read to Rupa, who is just a year and a half younger. At their New Jersey home, they devoured classics such as *The Chronicles of Narnia*, the *Harry Potter* series, and *Great Expectations*.

“I love to read, and I want others to feel the joy that comes from finishing a good book,” says Shalini, who holds dual degrees in astrophysics and English. “It made me very happy when students told me they love reading now or they are reading at grade level.”

The Caltech Y also provided Shalini a chance to visit the stomping grounds of her literary heroes. After she graduated from Caltech in 2023, Shalini embarked on a solo journey to England with support from the Studenski Award, which provides up to \$6,000 for Caltech students who find themselves at a crossroads in life. Shalini visited British libraries, the homes of literary giants such as Virginia Woolf, Charlotte Bronte, and Charles Dickens, and the Lake District, a national park that poets and authors such as William Wordsworth and Beatrix Potter frequented.

“I wouldn’t have had that experience without help from the Caltech Y,” Shalini says.

Saving the Ocean’s Ecosystem

For Rupa, the Caltech Y offered her a community she needed during the COVID shutdown. As she was taking her first-year classes online and thousands of miles from campus, Rupa received emails from the Caltech Y. The group offered opportunities for her to be involved remotely. She tutored a Pasadena public school student through the Rise program and talked with law- and policymakers through the Washington D.C., Science Policy Trip.

Once the campus reopened, Rupa became even more involved. She has served as president of the Caltech Y and volunteered at Make-a-Difference Day for the past four years. Last year, as one of the student organizers for Make-a-Difference Day, Rupa recruited student teams to crochet blankets for victims of violence through Project Linus and hosted a science outreach event for Young Legends, a San Gabriel Valley group dedicated to uplifting Black students.

“The Caltech Y has been that rare gem for me,” Rupa says. “It basically offers everything that makes me happy and connects me to activities that really excite me. This is the Caltech experience I wanted.”

Rupa’s experience with the Caltech Y has been so fulfilling that she no longer wants to separate her passion for science from her interest in social and environmental impact.



Shalini in England



Rupa, Project Linus

In the summer of 2023, she used funding from Caltech’s Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF) and the Caltech Y’s ACT Award to assist with coral reef restoration in French Polynesia. For SURF, Rupa applied computer vision technology with real-time data provided by drones to identify coral reefs most in need of intervention. The Caltech Y award expanded Rupa’s SURF research by enabling her to do outreach such as participating in ocean cleanups, educating tourists on coral reef restoration, and hosting hands-on educational workshops for local students on ocean conservation.

“Research for the sake of research is very cool because you’re furthering knowledge but what excites me is research for the sake of impact,” Rupa says. “The Caltech Y played an important role in contextualizing my Caltech research.”

Now alumni, the sisters have become promising scientists in their respective fields: Shalini is wrapping up her year as a Fulbright Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy in Germany and Rupa is preparing to pursue graduate studies in machine learning at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. They also carry with them the knowledge that their influence on the world is not limited to their future professions.

“My first year at Caltech, it was hard for me to step away and not study nine hours a day,” Rupa says. “But stepping away was an important decision because it helped me realize that I already had the ability to make people’s lives better.”





2022-23 Student Awards



Advocating Change Together (ACT) Award

Rupa Kurinchi-Vendhan
and **Emily Zheng**

Offers students an opportunity to explore a cause and make a difference. Funded by the Caltech Employees Federal Credit Union (CEFCU).

Patrick Hummel and Harry Gray Travel Award

RJ Chadha, Ailene Chan, Arnav Das, Niyati Desai, Abigail Jiang, Ke Shi, Wenhao (Jerry) Xuan, and Luke Zhou

Established as a joint gift from Carla and Paul Hummel, Patrick Hummel, and Shirley and Harry Gray to support undergraduate travel opportunities that promote professional and leadership development and broaden students' perspectives.



Lucy Guernsey Service Award

Peiwei Chen, Suchitra Dara, and Danika Nimlos

Initiated in 1992 by the Caltech Y ExComm in honor of Lucy Guernsey, the Caltech Y's Executive Director from 1989-1992, in recognition of her leadership, dedication to students, and diligence to furthering the Y's commitment to volunteerism.



Gunilla Hastrup Adventure Award

Raj Tarafder, Gabby Dituri, Newton Nguyen & Erica McCormick, Andrew Lu & Victoria Tobin, Gabbi Twombly & Hope Arnett, and Matthew Hajjar

The Hastrup Adventure Award — established in memory of Gunilla Hastrup, a long-time Caltech Y Board Member — provides students the opportunity to take a break from the rigors of academic life, to delve into their family roots or history, and/or explore a different culture. The award captures her devotion to student welfare, as well as her spirit of adventure, love of travel, and belief in maintaining strong cultural ties.

Paul Studenski Memorial Award

Shalini Kurinchi-Vendhan, Katelyn Lee, and Ekta Patel

Created in memory of Paul Studenski, a Caltech student who was killed in an automobile accident while traveling across the United States in 1974. It is awarded to a Caltech undergraduate who has reached a crossroads in life and would benefit from a period away from the academic community to gain self-awareness and explore possible directions for the future.



2022-23 Programs



Social Programs

- ✓ **Decompression** (Fall, Winter, Spring)
- ✓ **Explore LA**
 - Huntington Gardens Lunar New Year Festival
 - Joe Hisaishi Candlelight Concert
 - Knott's Scary Farm
 - LA Philharmonic
 - LA Zoo Lights
 - UCLA Women's Gymnastics vs. Oregon State
- ✓ **Friends Events**
 - Eugenia Cheng "The Square Root of 2 and the Devil in Music"
 - Laurie Leshin "An Evening with Dr. Laurie Leshin"
 - Jane Olson "Being A World Citizen"

Outreach

- ✓ **Alumni Weekend**
 - Reunion Campus Walk
 - Reunion Hike
- ✓ **Orientation 2022-23: Y Open House**



Outdoor Adventures

- ✓ **Adventure 101**
 - LA Hiking
- ✓ **Camping Trips**
 - Y Hike: Sequoia
 - Joshua Tree Stargazing Trip
- ✓ **Day Hikes**
 - Eaton Canyon Day Hike
 - Hollywood Sign Day Hike
 - Sandstone Peak and Mishe Mokwa Trail Day Hike
 - Switzer Falls Day Hike



Community Service

- ✓ **Community Service & Advocacy Fair**
- ✓ **Professional Attire Fair with Career Achievement, Leadership, and Exploration at Caltech (CALE)**
- ✓ **Suva Elementary 5th Grader Campus Tour & Demos**
- ✓ **Make-A-Difference Day**
 - Boys and Girls Club
 - Eco Urban Gardens
 - LA Arboretum
 - LA Food Bank
 - Project Linus
 - Ronald McDonald House
 - Union Station
 - U.S. Forest Service/Eaton Canyon
 - Young Legends
- ✓ **Rise Tutoring Program**
 - Rise Banquet
 - Rise Tutoring, Monday-Thursday

- ✓ **Union Station Homeless Services**
 - MLK Service Project - Sack Lunch
 - Monthly Adopt-a-Meal
 - Masters of Taste Fundraiser
- ✓ **Ongoing Community Service Projects**
 - Youth of Promise (YOP)
 - Young Legends
 - Lab Equipment Access Program (LEAP)
 - Y-Tutor
 - Steam Summer Experience (SSE)

Cultural & Educational Programs

- ✓ **Life Skills**
 - First Aid Basics
 - Caltech Women's Club Origami Workshop with Robert Lange
- ✓ **MLK Commemoration Week**
(co-sponsored with Caltech Center for Inclusion and Diversity)
 - Beyond "I Have a Dream" — Bookmark Making
 - "The Justice of STEM: A Critical Conversation on the Intersections of Social Justice and STEM" Keynote Address with Heather Malveaux
- ✓ **Movies That Matter**
(co-sponsored with Caltech Public Events, the Caltech Center for Inclusion and Diversity, and the Caltech Sustainability Office)
 - *Who Killed Vincent Chin?*
Screening and Q&A with Producer Renee Tajima-Peña
- ✓ **Student Activism Speaker Series (SASS)**
 - "Eco-Hack!": Drones, Lasers, and 3-D Printing to Save Mojave Desert Tortoises Film Screening and Q&A with Tim Shields & Frank Guercio
 - A Policy & Leadership Lunch Talk with David Kang
 - A Pre-Keynote Lunch Q&A on Generative AI and Society with Kevin Roose
 - Building Back Better With Biotechnology and Synthetic Biology: A Conversation with Dr. Mary Maxon
 - CA Ballot Overview with The League of Women Voters
 - *Can We All Get Along? The Segregation of John Muir High School* Movie Screening and Q&A with Director Pablo Miralles
 - Cryptocurrency Regulation: Chaos, Current Environment, and Frameworks for a Globally Competitive U.S. with James Healey, Brian Brooks, & Eric Chung
 - Journeys of a Humanitarian with Jane Olson
 - The 2022 Midterm Elections in Review — A Conversation with Michael Alvarez
 - X+Y: A Mathematician's Manifesto on Gender with Eugenia Cheng
- ✓ **World Fest** (co-sponsored with the Caltech International Student Programs)
 - International Food Fair
 - Malaysia Revealed with Yu Yu Phua, Tony Yap, and Sarah Liaw
 - Multicultural Fashion Show (co-sponsored with International Student Programs and ASCIT)
 - Beyond A Vacation: Caribbean with Jordan Benjamin
- ✓ **Washington D.C. Science Policy Trip**
- ✓ **Hawaii Alternative Spring Break Trip**



Multidimensional Programming: Mapping the Pillars of the Caltech Y



The Caltech Y enhances student life through programs based on five pillars: Leadership, Service, Civic Engagement, Adventure, and Perspective. This heat map shows how most Y programs span multiple pillars, enriching students in a diversity of ways. Students often seek specific opportunities for growth but leave with much so more. By participating, they gain a broader set of experiences, fostering well-rounded citizens, scientists, and activists ready to contribute meaningfully to the community.

* (Reading Partners, SKILLS, STEAM: Coders, YWCA/ASCIT Girl's Circle Mentoring Program)
 ** (co-sponsored with Student Faculty Programs)
 *** (co-sponsored with CCID)
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We are grateful to the hundreds of people who support our mission through the annual campaign and additional contributions. Here, we recognize those who have donated so generously this past year. Thank you!

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CALTECH Y BALANCE SHEET as of 9/30/23

Assets

Cash (\$4,439 restricted for endowment)	\$	646,250
Prepaid Expenses		16,163
Unconditional Promises to Give		53,031
Endowment Fund Investments		7,794,951
Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trusts		1,667,107

Total Assets \$ 10,177,502

The Institute holds certain other revocable perpetual trust endowment funds for the benefit of the Caltech Y, with valuation and annual income of \$116,212 and \$5,489, respectively.

Liabilities and Fund Balances

Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$	8,750
CIT Accounts Payable		23,372
Accrued Liabilities		87,520
Deferred Revenue		170,788

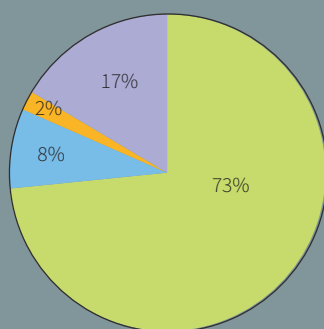
Total Liabilities 290,430

Fund Balances		
Operating Fund with and without Donor Restrictions		425,014
Endowment Funds		7,794,951
Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trusts		1,667,107

Total Fund Balance 9,887,072

Total Liabilities & Fund Balances \$ 10,177,502

REVENUE & EXPENSES year ending 2023



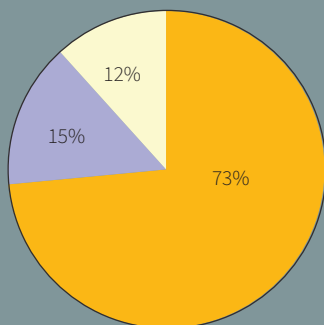
Revenue and Support

Revenue and Support

Contributions and Grants *	\$	793,941
Endowment Income		88,493
Interest Income		21,427
Program Service Revenue		177,882

Total Revenue and Support \$ 1,081,743

*includes donations restricted for endowment of \$10,100



Expenses

Expenses

Program Activities	\$	858,095
Management and General		173,150
Development		136,338

Total Expenses 1,167,583

Net Income (Deficit) from Operations (85,840)

Net Realized & Unrealized Gain on Endowment 838,630

Deficit of Revenue over Expenses \$ 752,790

Giving

to the Caltech Y

When you make a gift to the Caltech Y, you may choose how the funds will be used as you consider the options for making your donation. Unrestricted gifts allow the Caltech Y to allocate funds wherever the need is greatest, which means that your gift may be used across the entire spectrum of Caltech Y programs. Directed gifts allow you to choose the Caltech Y area of interest that most suits your intention. All donations are tax deductible.

Here are options to consider when making your Unrestricted or Directed gift:

The Caltech Y Centennial Endowment

A strong financial base guarantees that future generations of students will benefit from the Caltech Y's programs. Consider adding to an existing fund or establish a new named fund. Whatever method you choose, giving to the endowment fund creates a permanent legacy of support for the Caltech Y for the next 100 years.

Charitable Gifts from IRAs

You may roll over your IRA to the Caltech Y and exclude the entire amount of that gift from your taxable income (certain limits apply). You can also create a charitable remainder trust as the beneficiary of your IRA, so that your heirs receive income from the trust and the Caltech Y receives any remaining principal.

Cash Gifts

A minimum gift of \$200 per person or \$400 per couple qualifies you as a Friend of the Caltech Y for that year.

United Way Pledges

Caltech staff and faculty may contribute through the United Way Campaign, which usually runs in the fall. If you are a Caltech employee, you can designate the Caltech Y to receive your pledge and the Institute match. Other companies also offer United Way matching. Please inquire at your workplace.

Securities, Stocks, and Bond

These can provide a considerable tax advantage if transferred to the Caltech Y before they are sold.



Planned Gifts

Bequest, life-income plans, and estate gifts are effective and tax efficient ways to make a legacy gift to the Caltech Y.

Matching Gifts

Many companies offer matching gift benefits to their employees, doubling the value of their charitable contributions. Check with your company's human resources or benefits office to see if your employer has a corporate matching gift program. Your support will go twice as far.

Contribute with everyday shopping:

Ralphs Community Rewards Program

If you have a Ralphs Rewards card, you can support us while you shop at Ralphs. Once you register your card online, you can choose the Caltech Y as your preferred charitable organization. Simply visit www.ralphs.com to set up your Ralphs account. Once logged in, search for CALTECH Y (nonprofit number TG312), and then click Enroll. Swipe your registered Ralphs Rewards card or use the associated phone number when shopping.

The Caltech Y can help you navigate the many giving options. For more information, please contact Maya Rosental Saporito, Project Manager, at (626) 395-6163 or email maya.saporito@caltech.edu.

Check out
our giving
website



Caltech Y...*making a world of difference*

www.caltechY.org or find us on Facebook and Instagram

