

# PALOS VERDES PENINSULA NEWS

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Thursday, May 7, 2020

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## ROLLING HILLS ESTATES

# PVNet tech academy expands its operations to 3-D print and then donate face shields



College student and PVNet volunteer Garrett Povin works with the 3D printer used to fabricate headpieces for the face shields being produced for donation to medical professionals. (Photo courtesy of PVNet Academy)



A PVNet volunteer assembles face shields for donation to local medical professionals and first responders. (Photo courtesy of PVNet Academy)



Doug Foster (left) of PVNet gives face shields to employees of the Palos Verdes Medical Group for use at their COVID-19 testing clinic.

**By Robin Pittman**  
Staff writer

First responders and medical professionals throughout Los Angeles County are benefiting from 3D-printed face shields being produced and donated by the nonprofit STEM academy, PVNet of Rolling Hills Estates.

As of April, the school donated more than 1,200 face shields and has repurposed its operation with a goal of making 1,000 shields per week as COVID-19 creates an exceptional need for personal protective equipment.

According to a press release, the effort

is led by the academy's founder and director, Ted Vegvari, who became aware in mid-March about the potential for using 3D printers to ease the shortage of face coverings. He used open-source modifiable designs to create a prototype, and turned the academy into an assembly line for the masks. Each is assembled from a sheet of precision-cut plastic, a foam strip and an elastic headband attached to a prefabricated headpiece. When supplies began running low, the community stepped in with funds to buy more printers and materials.

Volunteers, including students, are producing the shields and assisting with distri-

bution to city police departments, the L.A. County Sheriff's department, hospitals, medical offices, nursing homes, testing clinics and pharmacies. Many of the requests for shields come directly from the individuals who use them.

Donations to the face shield effort are welcome and can be made online [pvnet.com](http://pvnet.com) with prompts to its GoFundMe page. For more information, visit the website or send an email to [education@pvnet.com](mailto:education@pvnet.com).

*Lunada Bay resident Lauren Kidman, a junior at the Polytechnic School, contributed to this story.*