



SANTA BARBARA
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

Education Matters

SUMMER 2018

LITERACY LEADS AT THE HOPE AWARDS



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Every year, the HOPE Awards gives us an opportunity to celebrate local heroes of public education. This year was no exception as we focused on individuals, organizations, and programs making strides for literacy in our community.



Goleta Valley Junior High School Chamber Orchestra



Dos Pueblos High School culinary arts students



Ted Friedel, Robin Freedman, SBHS Principal John Becchio, Cheri Rae of Dyslexia Santa Barbara, and Monie de Wit.



Keynote speaker Fannie Flagg



Student Tazie Denson and La Cuesta Principal Elise Simmons Ed.D.

Keynote speaker Fannie Flagg set the tone for the evening's program by speaking candidly about her own battles with dyslexia. Although Flagg always had a gift for storytelling, she struggled with spelling and writing. She didn't discover her dyslexia until she was in her 30s while working as an actress and TV personality. During her stint as a regular panelist on the game show *Match Game*, a teacher watching the game show from home spotted a pattern in Flagg's misspelled written answers and sent her a note.

Flagg ultimately overcame her lack of confidence caused by the disorder to pursue a career as a writer. She is known for her bestselling novel *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café* and its Academy Award-nominated screenplay adaptation.

SBUSD literacy specialist Claire Krock then shared how her daughter's dyslexia inspired her as a teacher to focus on serving students who are struggling readers. Krock also shared the exciting results of early reading intervention pilot program at Harding Elementary.



Santa Barbara Public Library Director Jessica Cadiente

And finally, we honored the Santa Barbara Public Library in recognition of their work to improve the educational outcomes for members of the community, from infant to adult learners. Director Jessica Cadiente accepted the award on behalf of SBPL and emphasized the critical role that our libraries play in the community. During the Thomas Fire, SBPL focused on creating a sense of normalcy and connectedness by providing additional programming in a safe space while SBUSD schools were closed.

We are excited to report that the HOPE Awards raised over \$94,000 in support of our programs, including \$32,400 to expand early reading intervention!

WOMEN'S FUND SUPPORTS EARLY READING INTERVENTION

As a mother and an elementary teacher with 16 years in the field, Claire Krock felt helpless. Her daughter continued to struggle to learn how to read despite her best efforts. It wasn't until her daughter was privately assessed and diagnosed with dyslexia in the 4th grade that she was finally able to get her daughter the help she needed.

The diagnosis changed her daughter's life and gave Krock a new perspective on how to help her students. She finally understood why there were handfuls of students in her classroom over the years that she was never able to reach. Students who didn't respond to techniques used in a general classroom setting were often recommended for special education. The insight that she gained from her daughter's experience inspired her to try to change the available pathways for struggling readers in our local public schools.



**SBUSD Literacy Specialist
Claire Krock**



**SBEF Executive Director Margie Yahyavi,
Irene Stone, and Claire Krock**

Fast-forward to September 2017. Santa Barbara Unified School District has launched a pilot program at Harding Elementary School to help struggling readers and literacy specialist Claire Krock is at the helm. The program uses research-based methods in a small group instructional setting of students displaying characteristics of dyslexia.

After just a few short months, the pilot program has yielded impressive results. Students who were unable to read the most basic text are not only decoding the written word but developing a love of reading. Student confidence and self-worth are rapidly rising along with their word count. So much so, that SBUSD would like to expand the program to additional school sites in the coming school year.

Enter the Women's Fund. Since 2004, the Women's Fund has awarded over \$6.6 million to programs benefiting more than 97,000 women, children, and families in Santa Barbara County. This year, they donated \$50,000 to Santa Barbara Education Foundation to help expand SBUSD's intervention program for struggling readers.

This critical support will establish the program at McKinley Elementary next school year in hopes of changing learning outcomes for an entirely new group of students.



Women's Fund members pack the house at the Presentation of Grants.

INSTRUMENT DRIVE IS IN FULL SWING

For most, summer is time for some fun in the sun! In the SBEF office, it's the time of year that we focus on stocking up our local school music program for the upcoming school year. Our annual Instrument Drive takes in all kinds of instruments and puts them directly into the hands of students.

Often donated instruments have gone unused for years and are in need of tuning or minor repairs. We work closely with Nick Rail Music to get the instruments the TLC they need.

Do you have an instrument gathering dust? Let our students give it a new life! Donations are welcome year round. Contact us at (805) 284-9125 or info@santabarbaraeducation.org to donate your unused music maker today!





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