



SANTA BARBARA
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

Education Matters

SPRING 2021

BACK IN THE CLASSROOM!



Harding Elementary students jump for joy in jackets donated through SBEF's Student Fund-a-Need campaign.

**STUDENT FUND-A-NEED
INSTRUMENT DRIVE
TEACHER GRANTS**

STUDENT FUND-A-NEED GIVES STUDENTS A WARM WELCOME

Schools are continuing to adapt to what has been a rollercoaster year in education. Whether it was the pivot to remote learning or the preparations for a return to in-person learning with new safety protocols, the needs for keeping students safe while learning are continually changing.



Cleveland Elementary students pose in jackets donated through SBEF's Student Fund-a-Need campaign.

In response, the Santa Barbara Education Foundation created the Student Fund-a-Need campaign to raise funds for jackets to help keep students warm and dry so that they can concentrate on their studies.

Students who have already returned to in-person learning are now in classrooms where windows and doors need to be left open with fans on to allow for airflow, and teachers are depending on outdoor spaces for teaching lessons while giving students space.

So far SBEF has raised over over \$47,000 and distributed jackets students at 11 schools sites. To learn more , visit SantaBarbaraEducation.org.

JUNIOR LEAGUE DONATES SOCCER BALLS TO KICK OFF 2021

From designing exercise videos to mapping out safe running routes and encouraging walks and hikes, Santa Barbara Unified School District PE teachers have done a fantastic job adapting to the times. But when it came down to it, putting equipment into students' hands (and feet) was crucial, and the versatile soccer ball was high on



Junior League volunteer Jessica Burns delivers soccer balls to PE teacher Ethan Zolt at Cleveland Elementary School.

PE teachers' wish list. The Santa Barbara Education Foundation partnered with the Junior League of Santa Barbara to make these requests a reality.

In January, Junior League collected over 600 balls to distribute to SB Unified elementary school students for PE classes during remote and hybrid learning. In addition to many in the community who donated new and gently used soccer balls, local law firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck generously sponsored the soccer ball drive.

INSTRUMENT DRIVE RAISES \$30,000 FOR MUSIC PROGRAMS

The Morning Mojo's Lin Aubuchon and Bill Pesso dedicated all of February on 99.9 KTYD to the Keep the Beat Instrument Drive. The on-air event raised awareness, celebrated SB Unified's young aspiring musicians, and brought over \$30,000 to support local school music programs.

However, the support wasn't just monetary. During the radio event, SB Unified music teachers and local professional musicians like Glen Phillips and Zach Gill took to the airwaves to rally the community to donate used instruments collected at weekly drop-off events. The



SBEF Development Assistant Sammy Lapse with instruments donated during a weekly drop-off day.

efforts resulted in over 120 instruments, including Indian string instruments, accordions, cellos, and a piccolo that will go directly into the hands of students in SB Unified music programs.

Monroe Elementary Music Teacher Liz Caruso sees first-hand how exploring a new instrument can make all the difference for students.

“When you give a student an instrument, you just never know how it will change them. For the shyest of students, it can become their voice.”



Just half of the over 120 instruments were donated during the month-long on air event.

Many of the donated instruments have often gone unused for years and typically need tuning or minor repairs before they are given a new life in school bands and elementary music classes. SBEF will use the Instrument Drive’s proceeds to get the instruments inspected, repaired, and ready for an SB Unified student musician to play.

“We are delighted with the response from our community to support music students during this challenging time,” said SBEF Executive Director Margie Yahyavi. “These funds will help ensure that our local students will have what they need to continue their musical learning.”

SBEF AWARDS \$110,000 IN GRANTS TO TEACHERS

When the current school year started with distance learning, it was clear that teachers would have a growing list of needs for their students with the new format. In response, the Santa Barbara Education Foundation awarded a total of 55 grants to SB Unified teachers totaling \$110,000 to meet the needs of their students.

Since 2018, the Santa Barbara Education Foundation has offered SB Unified teachers grants to promote innovative teaching and purchase classroom supplies. This year's grants helped purchase a wide variety of items, including outdoor seating and shade structures for on-campus hybrid learning, digital cameras, laser cutters for STEAM labs, compost bins, and books about social justice and current politics.



La Cumbre Junior High TLP teacher Stooky Hernandez shares how her Teacher Grant made a difference for her students.

“We all recognize this has been a difficult year in education and the Ed Foundation is privileged to be able to support our teachers,” said SBEF Programs Manager Katie Szopa.

Sherri Bryan, a librarian at Santa Barbara High School, used her grant funds to update reference material to better serve students remotely. “Thanks to this funding, approximately 2,200 Santa Barbara High School students now have access to a carefully curated, reliable selection of informational reference materials from any device. We were able to replace many of our outdated collections of print reference books with newer resources that can be used by many students simultaneously, and by any of our students at any time.”

Although many teachers are thankful to SBEF for the critical funding, SBEF Grant Committee chair Victoria Juarez knows who deserves the real praise. “The grant committee is proud to support Santa Barbara teachers’ remote learning innovations in the midst of these unprecedented challenges. Their perseverance, dedication, and hard work inspire us all.”

On January 7, SBEF hosted a virtual awards presentation to celebrate all 55 Teacher Grant recipients. Superintendent Hilda Maldonado joined in to congratulate the teachers. With this grant cycle completed, SBEF has now awarded approximately \$275,000 in funding to 170 teachers over the past three years.

LIND BROTHERS HELP FUND WI-FI ACCESS FOR FELLOW STUDENTS

Brothers and San Marcos High students, Jaden and Jordan are used to giving back. Seven years ago, Jordan wrote a letter to Santa asking for 20 blankets to give to the homeless. Just over a year ago, they traveled to India with their family and distributed holiday gifts at an orphanage.



Jaden and Jordan Lind

While most kids their age are focused on Zooming with friends and having fun, Jaden and Jordan continue to give back by volunteering at local homeless shelters on weekends.

When the brothers learned that many families didn't have wi-fi access, they realized that many other students in SB Unified would be unable to attend school via Zoom. They immediately reached out to family and friends to raise \$12,000 for wi-fi and donated it to SBEF's Student Online and Academic Resource (SOAR) campaign. Well done, Jaden and Jordan!

ON BOARD WITH SBEF

Get to know the newest members of SBEF's Board of Directors and staff.



Bukola Ishola

Bukola Ishola is also a long-time resident of Santa Barbara, as she remained in the area after receiving Bachelor of Arts degrees in both Political Science and Black Studies from the UC Santa Barbara. Ishola is also a Benefits Consultant at OneDigital Health, where she educates her clients about nuances in the health

insurance industry to further encourage knowledgeable forms of consumerism for her patrons. Apart from Ishola's busy work schedule, you may find her spending her free time with friends or at a local farmers' market.



Carolyn Ross

Ross is an alumnus of Stanford University, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in both Music Composition and English. She continued her learning at UC Santa Barbara, where she received a Master's in Education and a teaching credential. She was immediately hired by the Santa Barbara

Unified School District in 2001 as a theatre arts and reading intervention teacher. Since 2008 she has taught theatre arts and honors English at Goleta Junior High School. In 2019, Ross was named Goleta's Finest Educator of the Year. She also received Goleta Valley Junior High School's Certificated Employee of the Year in 2016 and Goleta Valley PTA's Honorary Service Award in 2008.



Warren B. Ritter II

Originally from South Carolina, Warren B. Ritter II graduated from Wofford College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. In 2018, Ritter shifted from corporate banking to Wealth Management Strategies Insurance and Financial Solutions, where he continues to produce solutions that assist individuals with

comprehensive problem solving, estate planning, and financial literacy. In his free time, Ritter is an avid reader and enjoys both playing basketball and practicing the piano.



Eryn Shugart

Eryn Shugart, Ph.D. has joined the team at SBEF as its Major Gifts Officer. Eryn is a Santa Barbara native who holds a doctoral degree in psychology from Claremont Graduate School.

She has worked in public service in Santa Barbara for the past 25 years with

accomplishments including substantially increasing the income at Friendship Adult Day Care Center through contracts with the Veterans Administration, CenCal Health, and Tri-Counties Regional Center. While working as executive director at Jodi House Brain Injury Support Center, Eryn secured a multi-year, half-million-dollar government grant to establish Jodi House as one of seven state-funded sites serving adults with traumatic brain injury. As senior development director and interim executive director at Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation, Eryn established a Major and Planned Gifts Team, a Planned Giving Advisory Council, and raised over \$1 million annually.



2021 HOPE AWARDS

Thursday, April 29, 2021

THURSDAY. APRIL 29 | 4:00 PM | VIA ZOOM

Join us to honor our local heroes of public education at the HOPE Awards. This year we will go virtual to honor Craig Price, a local attorney who spent nine years on the SBEF Board of Directors, and Nick Rail, the founder of Nick Rail Music who has quietly supported music education in our schools for the past 30 years.

To RSVP, visit www.SantaBarbaraEducation.org



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**JOIN US FOR THE
HOPE AWARDS ON
APRIL 29 AT 4PM
VIA ZOOM!
DETAILS INSIDE!**