



SANTA BARBARA
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

Education Matters

WINTER 2021

FOR THE LOVE OF LITERACY



SB Unified is working to expand critical literacy intervention.

LOVE OF LITERACY
YOUTH IN PHILANTHROPY
TEACHER GRANTS

FOR THE LOVE OF LITERACY

On Wednesday, September 29, the Santa Barbara Education Foundation hosted the Love of Literacy Luncheon to highlight the need for support of students struggling with reading in the Santa Barbara Unified School District.

The outdoor gathering in Elings Park's Godric Grove raised over

\$65,000 in funds to train SB Unified teachers in methods to more effectively work with emergent multilingual learners and students with learning differences, including those displaying characteristics of dyslexia. The event featured speakers who highlighted why literacy is critical for later life success and positive health outcomes.

Publisher and arts advocate Sara Miller McCune shared her thoughts on the importance of literacy. "Reading is more than a way to learn. It is also a way to be happy. It is also a way to grow as an individual, and it is a door that opens in your life and will never be closed afterward. And I feel that every child in this region deserves to have that ability as a human right."



Sara Miller McCune addresses guests at the Love of Literacy Luncheon.

In addition to sharing her own struggles with reading as a young student in an ESL (English as a Second Language) program, California State Senator Monique Limón supported the need to help struggling readers with hard facts. “If you were a student who was eligible for the national school lunch program, you scored an average of 31 points lower than those who were not eligible. What we are seeing here is that there are structures that make it very difficult for student populations who already struggle in other areas. And to me, it is very important that we try to find a way to help our communities and our students be sure that they can read by the third grade.”

Ever the educator, SB Unified Superintendent Dr. Hilda Maldonado, led the group in an activity to help guests

experience what it is like for a student who cannot use context to understand what they are reading.

According to Dr. Maldonado, students fall behind in developing reading skills for many reasons, including learning disabilities, dyslexia, or they are still learning English as a second language.



SB Unified Superintendent Dr. Hilda Maldonado shares her own literacy story.



(Left) Monique Limón talks about her own reading struggles. (Right) SBEF literacy supporters Bukola Ishola, Katie Szopa, Tisha Ford, Elke Kane, Terri Allison, Jesse Rosenberg, Wendy Sims-Moten, and Eryn Shugart.

“And so that is the spectrum of learners that we need to look at when we think about professional development. That’s the kind of investment we need to make in how our teachers are given the skill sets that they need in order to teach.”

In a commitment to supporting SB Unified’s struggling readers, Santa Barbara Education Foundation is continuing to fundraise for an additional \$40,000 to implement this essential literacy professional development project.

Special thanks to Love of Literacy Luncheon sponsors, including Sage Publishing and Montecito Bank & Trust, Chevron, KBZ Architects, Lazy Acres, Mechanics Bank, and Tisha Ford, 19six Architects, Arroyo Seco, First 5 Santa Barbara County, Montecito Journal, Santa Barbara City College Foundation, and Mark Watson Professional Fiduciary, with additional support provided by Griffin & Thornburgh, San Marcos High School Culinary Arts Program, and Tecolote Book Shop.

LIND BROTHERS RECEIVE YOUTH IN PHILANTHROPY AWARD

Jaden and Jordan Lind are brothers who attend San Marcos High School. At the beginning of the pandemic, the brothers learned that many families didn't have wi-fi access and realized that it meant that there were students who could not attend school via Zoom.

Immediately, they reached out to family and friends, raised

over \$36,000, and donated it to the Santa Barbara Education Foundation to assist students in need.



Jaden and Jordan Lind with their Youth in Philanthropy awards.

But philanthropy isn't new to the Lind brothers. For years, Jaden and Jordan have given back locally and to those in need abroad. It all started years ago when Jordan wrote a letter to Santa asking for 20 blankets to distribute to the homeless in Santa Barbara. Jaden and Jordan continue to seek out ways to help those in need. When the Lind family traveled to India in 2019, the brothers distributed holiday gifts to children at an orphanage in Mumbai.

Since then, the brothers established the Jordan Elf Project as a nonprofit focusing on serving the homeless in Santa Barbara, orphans in India, and Covid-related needs. In addition to raising necessary funds for worthy causes through the Jordan Elf Project, the brothers continue to serve meals to the homeless with PATH Santa Barbara and invite friends to join as “elves” to help distribute donations in the community.

The Lind Brothers were honored at the National Philanthropy Day celebration hosted by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties chapters for their ongoing work on behalf of those in need.



Jordan and Jaden Lind distribute donations to orphans in Mumbai, India.

When Jordan and Jaden Lind noticed that their fellow students needed internet access, they reached out to family and friends, which raised over \$36,000.

This gave over 900 student households access to their studies for a month when they needed it most.

THERE'S NO LIMIT TO WHAT WE CAN DO!



It would be an understatement to say that our kids are growing up during a very challenging time. Although they have faced additional difficulties, we know that this is not what will define them. Instead, they will be known for how they worked to overcome these challenges.

Please invest in our kids now with a gift to the Santa Barbara Education Foundation. We connect education advocates like you with programs designed to significantly impact student outcomes with access to the arts, literacy, mental health, and early childhood education. Your gift creates educational opportunities that Santa Barbara students deserve!

Let's show the next generation that there is no limit to what we can do when we make education a priority.

We hope you will include Santa Barbara Education Foundation in your year-end giving! Please visit sbefoundation.org to donate today!

LOCAL MUSIC TEACHERS KICK OFF SCHOOL YEAR WITH A \$16,000 GIFT

The ringing of school bells isn't the only sound that reminds us that Santa Barbara schools are back in session. The sound of violins, mostly played in unison, echoing through local campuses, let us know that our school music education programs are also back in session.



SB Unified music teachers with their annual gift from SBEF.

And with a return to music classrooms, students need instruments to play. **Fortunately, our community dug deep into their closets and garages to dust off and donate over 150 quality instruments to SBEF. In addition, SB Unified music teachers received \$16,000 in funding to purchase classroom materials and maintain their instruments.**

The instruments and funds are part of ongoing fundraising efforts by SBEF with help from community partners including the Johnson Ohana Foundation, Irene F. Anderson Foundation, Performing Arts Scholarship Foundation, Pacific Premier Bank, and proceeds from the annual Keep the Beat Radiothon on 99.9 KTYD.

SBEF GIVES \$100,000 IN GRANTS TO SB UNIFIED TEACHERS!

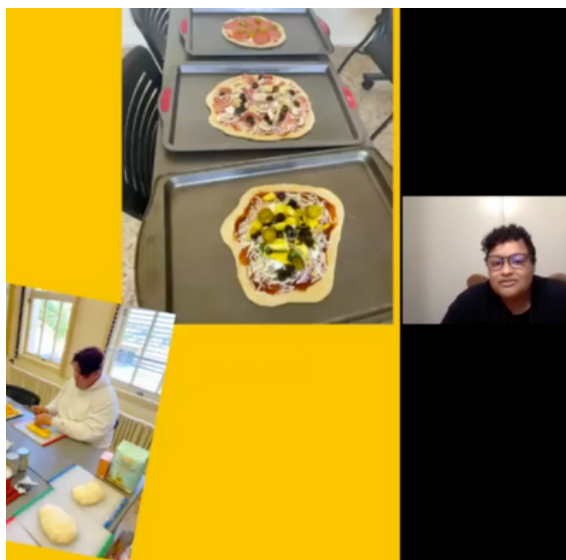
The Santa Barbara Education Foundation will award 64 grants totaling \$100,000 to SB Unified teachers. With this grant cycle completed, SBEF has now awarded over \$375,000 in funding to teachers in the past four years.

This year's grants will help purchase a wide variety of items, including books, school gardens, physical education equipment for special education students, and a field trip to Santa Cruz Island.

SBEF will host an awards presentation to celebrate the Teacher Grant recipients on January 5.

**We are proud to
announce that
this year SBEF
has awarded over
\$100,00 in funds
to 64 SB Unified
teachers!**

**We can't wait to
see classroom
outcomes!**



La Cumbre Junior High TLP teacher Stooky Hernandez shares how her grant made a difference for her students at the 2021 virtual awards reception.

LET'S RECOGNIZE OUR EXCELLENT EDUCATORS!



A teacher's job is not easy! Being a great teacher takes endless empathy, bottomless enthusiasm, and a constant flow of innovative ideas. And it's not just what happens inside the classroom that counts! To set the stage for those "aha" learning moments, endless hours of creativity, planning, and review are needed after the last school bell rings.

It's been a challenging year and a half for teachers, so let's give back some inspiration and kindness by recognizing educators who go above and beyond. Help us thank all our excellent educators, whether a teacher, administrator, counselor, or support staff—we want to acknowledge those who inspire their students and us every day!

Do you want to show a little appreciation to our teachers?

**To give to our local excellent educators, please visit
sbefoundation.org/teacher-appreciation**

ON BOARD WITH SBEF

Get to know the newest member of SBEF's Board of Directors.



ALAN GRIFFIN

A long-time supporter of education in the local community, Griffin has been on the board at the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara for over 25 years and even served as Board President.

Raised in San Diego, Griffin has made Santa Barbara home for over 45 years. He is the branch manager for Raymond James' Santa Barbara location, where he works with individuals, families, business owners, and professionals with financial guidance.

Both of Griffin's grown children attended SB Unified schools. His daughter went on to earn her teaching credential and currently works as a second-grade teacher with Los Angeles Unified School District. Griffin is well aware of a teacher's enormous impact on their students, even with limited resources.

"Students shouldn't have to go to a private school to get a quality education." according to Griffin. "We need to make sure that children who have fewer resources or choices when it comes to education can get the skills they need in our public schools."



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