

'When We Get the Word Out, They Respond'



It took a while for anyone to realize that there was something strange about so many cars filling the parking lots of Santa Barbara's public schools every night.

It turned out that many parents whose households lacked access to the internet were driving their kids to school so they could pick up the Wi-Fi and do their homework – in their cars. And when local schools shifted to distance learning, which was entirely dependent on internet connectivity, the Santa Barbara Education Foundation did what it does best: mobilize.

In 2020, the nonprofit, whose mission is to create and support “programs that enrich the academic, artistic, and personal development of all students in the Santa Barbara Unified School District,” launched a program to help low-income families gain access to the internet and academic resources, including art and physical education supplies and even musical instruments. The community responded in a big way, raising \$267,000 in individual donations ranging from \$5 to five figures and attracting 200 first-time donors in less than a year.

By the end of the year, the program helped more than 2,000 students and their families.

And if Executive Director Margie Yahyavi had her way, access to the internet would be permanent and universal.

“I really think that this is an issue much bigger than the Santa Barbara Unified School District,” Yahyavi says. “We should be supporting and making sure that there’s Wi-Fi access for everyone.”

The internet access program represents the Santa Barbara Education Foundation’s ethos: substance over style, less talk and more

Invest in Public Education

Great schools don’t just happen! Support from community members like you creates equitable access to high-quality programs for over 13,000 students attending Santa Barbara Unified School District schools.

When you give to the Santa Barbara Education Foundation, your support ensures students who need scholarships can explore engineering and arts during the summer. Your donated used instruments go directly into the hands of young musicians after some necessary maintenance and cleaning. Your gift provides much-needed classroom supplies and innovative teaching tools for our students.

There are so many needs for today’s students, and we need your help! Would you consider investing in public education today to provide the building blocks for a stronger Santa Barbara in the future?



action. Whether it’s mentoring students at risk of dropping out of school, helping kids struggling with reading learn to read, or providing jackets to underprivileged students to keep warm during the winter, the foundation strives to rapidly marshal resources toward worthy causes.

“People trust us to have our finger on the pulse,” Yahyavi says. “We have relationships with a lot of people in the community who understand the importance of investing in public education. When we get the word out, they respond.”



SBEF has been an incredible resource for the music educators in the Santa Barbara Unified School District. Through their yearly instrument drive, we have been able to put more instruments in the hands of our students. This year, funds from Keep the Beat allowed us to purchase the necessary supplies to provide each elementary student with a take-home music kit for remote learning. Students have been very excited to explore music via Zoom with their egg shakers, rhythm sticks, recorders, and drumsticks!

— Karen Dutton

Adams Elementary School Music Teacher



The programs provided to students and teachers through the SBEF are essential components in helping our youths succeed in today's most challenging climate. We are continually impressed by the achievements of SBEF in the important work they do. They are deserving of our support and the support of other community members.

— Jack Mithun and Mercedes Millington

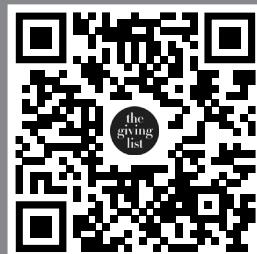
An Opportunity to Advance Literacy

With less than half of students reading at or above grade level, according to test scores, the Santa Barbara Unified School District has identified literacy as one of its top three priorities. As part of its wide efforts to improve literacy, the Santa Barbara Education Foundation has launched the Fisher & Frey Professional Development Program that utilizes methods championed by Doug Fisher and Nancy Frey, two experts in literacy instruction. The Fisher & Frey method has had great success nationwide with students from low-income families and English as a second language. The foundation has undertaken a fundraising campaign to attract \$200,000 per year for a program that will last three years.



**Santa Barbara
Education Foundation**
sbefoundation.org
1330 State Street, Suite 201
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

SCAN TO MAKE A DONATION...



...AND LEARN MORE
ABOUT SANTA BARBARA
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Contact:

Margie Yahyavi, Executive Director
margie@santabarbaraeducation.org
(805) 284-9125

KEY SUPPORTERS

Arnesen Family Foundation
Timothy and Louise Casey
Andrew and Mary Jane Cooper
Daniel and Mandy Hochman
Elaine F. Stepanek Foundation
James S. Bower Foundation
John L. Carleton Foundation
Senator Monique Limón
JM Lind
Superintendent Hilda Maldonado
Sara Miller McCune
Mithun Family Foundation
Mosher Foundation
Santa Barbara Foundation
Nick Rail
April Thede
Towbes Foundation
Walter J. & Holly O. Thomson Foundation
Wood-Claeyssens Foundation
Zegar Family Foundation