

Ed. Foundation raises more than \$312K in Double December drive

Staff Report

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Education Foundation raised over \$312,000 during the month of December, SMMEF announced in a Thursday, Jan. 7 press release.

Spurred by a \$90,000 matching grant from financial company Dun and Bradstreet, 394 individual gifts were made during the month to support additional programs and staff in the Santa Monica and Malibu public schools.

“We are so pleased with the community’s tremendous response to the matching grant and grateful for Dun and Bradstreet’s leadership,” said Kathleen Rawson, president of the SMMEF board of directors, in the release. “The funds raised are a wonderful example of the tremendous impact businesses, parents and community members can have on our schools when working together.”

In addition to the \$90,000 matching gift, a \$20,000 donation from Dun and Bradstreet will be used to continue their paid high school student internship and college scholarship program for Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District students during the summer of 2016. In 2015, six high school students in the program received paid internships and were given college scholarships.

This is the third year that Dun and Bradstreet has made SMMEF a beneficiary of its EdAhead program, which was established to support education initiatives in the communities where Dun and Bradstreet offices are located. EdAhead is the nation’s first education savings initiative with a multiple match.

The company first matches employees’ contributions to their 529 college education plans, up to a set amount each year, adding the match to each employee’s account on an annual basis. Employee-matched contributions then activate a second match, with the aggregate per office match amount donated to the local public school districts where that office operates.

Donations to SMMEF fund programs for every school in the SMMUSD. SMMEF-funded staff and programs include arts education for the district’s 4,900 elementary students, 87 instructional assistants, and enrichment grants for all 16 schools in the district. Many schools use these grants to provide science, technology, engineering and math, or visual and performing arts programs. Some schools also use these funds to hire additional health clerks, augment on-site counseling programs, or run other programs focused on student wellness.

For more information or to donate, visit www.smmef.org.