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Contact:

Rachel Faulkner, Chief Operating officer
310-450-8338 x70396
rachel@smedfoundation.org

**372 Donors Contribute \$236,940 for Local Public Schools,
Inspired by \$25,000 Match from MSD Partners and
Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows**

*Funds raised will support art programs, instructional aides, STEM classes,
social-emotional programs and more for Santa Monica students next school year*

Santa Monica, Calif., February 8, 2023 – The Santa Monica Education Foundation’s fundraising efforts received a boost at the end of January, thanks to a generous \$25,000 match from longtime corporate partners MSD Partners and the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows. 372 people collectively donated \$236,940 between January 23 and 31 to help support important programs and staff at Santa Monica’s 11 public schools. The match coincided with the end of the Ed Foundation’s parent fundraising campaign, which concluded on January 31.

MSD Partners and Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows have offered matching gifts to support the Ed Foundation’s fundraising campaigns each year for the past seven years. Collectively, these matches have helped raise over \$1.25 million.

“This was definitely a great way to end our parent fundraising campaign,” said John Baracy, President of the Ed Foundation’s Board of Directors. “MSD Partners and Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows continue to be there for our students, our schools and our community. I don’t know what we would do without their consistent and generous support each year. Their annual matching gifts have inspired thousands of donations over the many years. We are truly grateful.”

Donations to the Ed Foundation support a variety of essential staff and programs in Santa Monica’s public schools, including instructional aides in every elementary school, elementary arts programs, and stretch grants for each school. School decide how to spend their stretch grant, and many use these funds for important social-emotional programs, as well as STEM, additional arts programs, or teacher training.

“MSD Partners and Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows are thrilled to see the response to this match,” said Ellis O’Connor of MSD Partners. “Our partnership with the Ed Foundation – and our support of this community’s public schools – spans many years. We all know that schools form the bedrock of strong communities, and we are proud to do our part to make them as robust as

possible. We hope this might encourage other local businesses to support what's most important – our children.”

While the Ed Foundation's school-based fundraising campaign has concluded, fundraising will continue through June 30, 2022 in order to raise as much as possible for programs and staff for next school year. Donations are down this year and the Ed Foundation has currently raised 81% of its annual goal. In addition to continuing individual fundraising outreach and corporate fundraising, the Ed Foundation will also have their 8th annual Wine Auction, scheduled to take place at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows on Sunday, May 7.

“There is never a bad day to donate to the Ed Foundation and every dollar makes a difference for our students,” said Mikko D. Sperber, Ed Foundation Executive Director. “We are so grateful to MSD Partners and Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows for their tremendous support. And we are doubly grateful that they will host our Wine Auction again this year. I really can't think of a more beautiful setting for it.”

For more information or to donate to support Santa Monica students, go to smedfoundation.org.

About the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows

Situated on five expansive acres on the bluff north of the Santa Monica pier overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the Miramar Hotel sits on what was originally the private estate of the founder of Santa Monica, dating back to 1875. The historic hotel property is one of America's most celebrated and iconic destinations due to its sprawling gardens, luxurious poolside accommodations, spectacular ocean views, and fresh sea air. As the only Santa Monica beachside hotel with bungalows, the Miramar continues to provide guests a relaxing and luxurious environment in its suite of outlets including the recently renovated **Lobby Lounge & Library**, as well as **FIG restaurant**, and **Soko**.

For more information visit: fairmont-miramar.com

About the Santa Monica Education Foundation

Contributions to the Santa Monica Education Foundation fund excellent programs at every Santa Monica public school – from arts to STEM to wellness – that shape our future problem solvers, visionaries, and global citizens.

Established in 1982 by a dedicated group of parents, community leaders, and local business owners, the Ed Foundation raises funds to enhance and supplement the curriculum of the Santa Monica schools. The Foundation's mission is to engage the community to invest in a vibrant educational experience for all public-school students in Santa Monica.

To learn more about the Ed Foundation, visit smedfoundation.org.

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