

Miramar Hotel, OneWest Bank Offer Matching Grants for Santa Monica-Malibu Schools

By Lookout Staff

January 17, 2018 -- The Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows/MSD Capital and CIT's OneWest Bank have provided a combined \$50,000 match challenge to the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation, officials of the non-profit announced Wednesday.

The funds raised by the two \$25,000 matching grants will benefit students at all 16 Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District schools, Foundation officials said.

The match challenge will run from January 16 to 31, coinciding with the final weeks of the Ed Foundation's annual parent fundraising campaign, officials said.

Miramar's donation comes one year after a similar matching grant from the hotel generated a record \$161,801, with \$100,000 contributed on the last day of the campaign (["Foundation Raises More Than \\$160,000 to Meet Miramar Matching Grant,"](#) February 6, 2017).

It was the most the Foundation has ever raised on a single day, officials said.

"Being a philanthropic partner in our local community is one of our core values," said Ellis O'Connor, Asset Manager of MSD Capital, Fairmont Miramar's parent company, which is planning the redevelopment of the nearly 100-year-old Santa Monica Hotel.

"We are very proud to continue our partnership with the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation to help shape the lives of the future leaders of our community."

Said Steve Solk, President of Consumer Banking for CIT, "We are committed to building stronger communities where we live and work.

"We are pleased to support the Ed Foundation, which funds beneficial programs for local children and schools such as arts and STEM education, so students can develop the critical skills important to their development and future success," Solk said.

Many schools use these grants for additional arts, STEM and student health and wellness programs, Foundation officials said.

The Miramar is the sponsor hotel and CIT's OneWest Bank is a presenting sponsor of the Ed Foundation's third annual Santa Monica-Malibu Wine Auction, which will be held at the hotel on Sunday, May 6.

To donate or see a full list of programs funded by donations to the Ed Foundation, go to smmef.org.