

Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation Gets Two \$25,000 Matching Grants

By Lookout Staff

August 21, 2017 -- Santa Monica Place and Kaiser Permanente have given matching grants of \$25,000 each to the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation, organization officials announced Friday.

Funds raised from the matching donations will support arts programs, instructional assistants and stretch grants at all Santa Monica-Malibu School District (SMMUSD) campuses, officials said.

"We can't think of a better community investment to make than giving back to our local schools," said Julia B. Ladd, assistant vice president of Property Management at Santa Monica Place, which is owned by Macerich.

"Strong schools are the backbone of a strong community and a vibrant economy," she said. "We are so proud to be part of this effort to fund crucial programs for Santa Monica and Malibu students."

Said Yesenia Monsour, director of Public Affairs & Brand Communications at Kaiser Permanente, "We hope that this match encourages other community members to join us in supporting our local public schools."

"The programs funded by the Ed Foundation are crucial to the development of a child's wellbeing and enable all students to truly thrive," Monsour said.

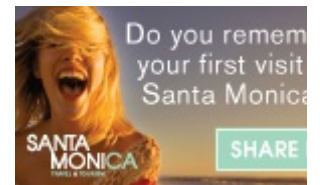
The donations help fund elementary arts programs, 87 instructional assistants in classrooms and stretch grants for each school. Many schools use the grants for additional arts, STEM and student health and wellness programs.

The Foundation's mission is "to engage the community to invest in a vibrant educational experience for all students in the Santa Monica and Malibu public schools," officials said.

The programs funded by the Foundation help "shape our future problem solvers, visionaries and global citizens," officials said.



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Last year, the foundation raised a record \$1,378,496 in gifts and pledges between July 1 and September 30, foundation officials said ("[Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation Raises Record Amount.](#)" October 5, 2016).

The largest donations to the foundation have come from the RGK Foundation, which gave a \$100,000 matching gift last year, and Dun & Bradstreet, which gave a \$90,000 matching grant in 2015. Both grants were matched by donations.

The Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows/MSD Capital and Saint John's Health Center Affiliation Endowment Fund each have given between \$50,000 and \$99,999, according to the foundation's website.

The Santa Monica Place and Kaiser Permanente match will run until September 6.

For more information or to donate visit smmef.org.



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