

Santa Monica LOOKOUT

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Miramar Match Helps Ed Foundation Raise Nearly \$160,000

February 8, 2022 -- The Santa Monica Education Foundation raised nearly \$160,000 thanks to "an inspiring" \$25,000 match from the Miramar Hotel & Bungalows and its owner MSD Partners.

During the final 12 days of the Foundation's January fundraising campaign, 360 donors contributed a total of \$158,769, Foundation officials said.

Over the past six years, annual donation matches from the Miramar Hotel and its owner have helped raise more than \$1 million for the Foundation to fund programs at every Santa Monica public school, officials said.

The latest matching grant "was a sensational way to end our January campaign," said Alison Havel, president of the Foundation's Board.

"We never cease to be amazed by the generosity of our Corporate Heroes, and the motivation they give individuals to contribute to the Ed Foundation," Havel said.

"We are truly humbled by their continued support."

The money raised will fund arts programs, classroom aides, STEM and social-emotional programs at Santa Monica public schools in the 2022-2023 school year, Havel said.

"The Miramar Hotel and MSD Partners are thrilled with the community's response to our annual matching gift," said Ellis O'Connor of MSD Partners.

"We are proud to continue our partnership with the Ed Foundation and help further its mission to ensure equity and access for all students," O'Connor said.

"It's exciting to see that so many Santa Monicans were inspired to donate."

The Miramar match -- which ran from January 20 to January 31 -- spurred one-day "Flash Matches" of up to \$2,500 from local realtors Diane Dorin and Janet Heinzle.

Fundraising for the 2022-2023 programs will continue through June 30, 2022 and will include the 7th annual Wine Auction, scheduled to take place at the Miramar Hotel on Sunday, May 15.

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