

Santa Monica LOOKOUT

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Education Foundation Raises Nearly \$250,000 for Santa Monica Schools

September 11, 2020 -- The Santa Monica Education Foundation raised nearly \$250,000 from more than 300 donors during a one-week back-to-school match, Foundation officials announced Friday.

The donations were in response to a \$25,000 match from Kilroy Realty that prompted a total of \$218,203 in contributions from 309 donors, Foundation officials said.

The donation drive -- which ran from September 2 to 9 -- will fund staff and programs during the school day at all 12 public schools in Santa Monica, officials said.

In the current distance-learning model, programs funded by donations are being delivered online.

Arts programs will take place online in the fall, officials said. Instructional aides funded by donations are helping students in online breakout rooms.

Donations are also funding stretch grants at each school.

"Because each campus decides how to spend their stretch grant, these funds are a flexible source of income as each school responds to changing needs during distance learning," the Foundation said in a statement.

Kilroy Realty has supported students as an Ed Foundation Corporate Hero for three years.

"Our employees live, work and send their kids to public schools in Santa Monica," said Philip Tate, Kilroy's senior vice president for Development and Government Affairs.

"So we recognize and want to support the critical need for enriching staff and programs in Santa Monica schools," Tate said.

"We are grateful to everyone who contributed during the match and thank them for joining us in this important effort for our local students."

As expected, this year's back-to-school match -- which comes as Santa Monica is struggling to recover from the coronavirus shutdown -- fell short of the nearly \$670,000 raised last year during a three-week campaign.

"Unfortunately, our fundraising at the start of school this year is lower than it is in a typical year, as would be expected," said Linda Greenberg, the Foundation's executive director.

"However, the wonderful results of this match show our community's continued dedication to public education," Greenberg said.

"Even during difficult times, our donors have come together to help ensure that Santa Monica students experience an enriched education."

For more information or to make a donation to support Santa Monica students, go to smedfoundation.org.