



June 2001

Santa Monica - Malibu Education Foundation



From the President, Ralph Mechur

Every morning on my way to work I see students of all ages on their way to school. The youngest being taken by their parents, hand in hand, the middle schoolers being dropped off and the independent high schoolers just getting themselves there.

The parents change and the children change but the tradition carries on. We educate our children because we believe that learning is the cornerstone of their future and the key to a more equitable society.

The Santa Monica - Malibu Education Foundation is an ad hoc group of volunteer adults working to provide enriched educational opportunities for all of our district's students.

We run an annual drawing to fund an enrichment grant program for teachers. We're approaching halfway toward our goal of raising \$2 million for an endowment for literacy. We're starting to plan for a second, and larger, campaign. We're making a difference.

When Superintendent Dr. Neil Schmidt first came to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District in 1992, he wholeheartedly embraced the mission of the Education Foundation. He has been a strong voice in the community's growing awareness that inequities exist among our neighborhood schools and that the programs of the Education Foundation serve the entire district.

We thank you, Dr. Schmidt, for your confidence in us and your support of the Foundation. We will miss you.

We are also confident that Dr. Schmidt's successor, Superintendent John Deasy, will bring the same commitment to having the entire community support all our children. Mr. Deasy recently conveyed his excitement to us as follows. "I am truly anxious to start a collaborative relationship with the Education Foundation. I was so impressed with a community that would be thoughtful enough to start and sustain such important work. It speaks to me about your concerns for equity and excellence in our public schools."

We, too, look forward to that collaboration.

SMMEF Wins State Award

The Santa Monica - Malibu Education Foundation raises funds to maintain and enhance the quality of education for every student in the Santa Monica - Malibu Unified School District. The goal of the Foundation is to generate interest in and financial support for our public schools, thereby creating an opportunity for the community to invest in its future.

This year SMMEF was the recipient of a state award recognizing our efforts to improve our students' literacy. Susan Sweeney, Executive Director of the California Consortium of Education Foundations sent us the following message, which we proudly share with you:

"The California Consortium of Education Foundations (CCEF) is proud to select the *Bells and Books of Knowledge* Art Project of the Santa Monica - Malibu Education Foundation (SMMEF) as a 2000 CCEF Apple Award recipient. This award is presented annually by CCEF to recognize exceptional foundation projects linking schools with their communities. SMMEF's *Bells and Books of Knowledge* Art Project provides a permanent acknowledgment of community donors to the SMMEF literacy endowment campaign. It is also recognized as a celebrated work of public art. The resulting \$2 million endowment enhances curriculum and funds programs in Santa Monica and Malibu's sixteen public schools. The *Bells and Books of Knowledge* project was honored for providing an innovative model for donor recognition and community outreach that can be replicated by other local education foundations. Congratulations!"



Academic Enrichment Grants (AEGs) 2000-2001

Academic Enrichment Grants (AEGs) are grants given to teachers to help craft special programs, equipment or projects for their students that would otherwise go unfunded. Every school in the district that applied received these grants, of approximately \$750 each, for a total of more than \$30,000. AEGs are one way of rewarding innovative teachers who want to explore their unique educational ideas. AEGs make a difference in the lives of our students.



Endowment Fund Grants (EFGs)

In 2000, the Education Foundation once again made literacy in the district a primary goal by funding reference materials in our 16 school libraries. This \$50,000 grant is divided equitably among all the schools in the district.

Sue Gee, the Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, called the Education Foundation “a valuable resource for teachers in the classrooms...allowing teachers to expand their curriculum and add value to the level of their student work.” She added in response to the EFGs, “knowing how much we need to enhance our book collections and provide the best possible resources for our students, this grant will certainly go a long way.”

Ann McKechnie, Librarian at SAMOHI, used some of SAMOHI’s EFG money to incorporate the author, Jacqueline Woodson, into her program. Ms. Woodson, winner of both the Coretta Scott King Award and the L.A. Times Book Award, stressed the importance of reading and rereading in order to be a good writer. 500 SAMOHI students attended Ms. Woodson’s talk. Ms. McKechnie described it as “the single most important event of the year for the cause of literacy and literature.”

AEGs Awarded This Year

Adams	Understanding Mummification Music for the 21st Century
Edison	Radio Drama Club Literacy Project
Franklin	Walk through California LA Opera’s Participatory In-School Program
Grant	Multicultural Rhythms, Songs & Movement for Primary Grades
Lincoln	Graphing Calculator in Algebra Back to Basics & Beyond Handbooks Video Collections 6th - 8th Grade History
Malibu High	Mimeo Whiteboard Scanner Marine Ecosystem Reference Guides Special Education Reading Class Midi-computer Composition & Music Theory
McKinley	Integrating Language Arts and Social Science Kindergarten After-School Music Science in 4th and 5th Grades
Muir	Introduction to Instrumental & Vocal Performance
Olympic	Olympic Chronicle School Newspaper
Pt. Dume	Scholastic Reading Counts & Dell Hard Drive
Rogers	Read 2 Connect
Roosevelt	American History - The Movie
Samohi	Book Club Existentialism and its European Context Computer Display Visiting Jazz Specialist Clinic Curriculum Enrichment Magazines in Spanish Calculus Application in Physics Radio SAMOHI Camcorder for Dance Class Chicano/Latino Literature Digital Diary World War II History Materials Digital & Technological Lessons in Marketing & Business LA Literature Still-Life Drawing & Painting Materials
SMASH	Photography Studio
Webster	Literature Study: Patricia Polacco Art Studio Program

Lights, Camera, Action!

Students in Mr. Paul's Room 21 at Roosevelt Elementary School entered the world of Hollywood with their first short movie. The students chose the topic, wrote the script, built the props and assembled the costumes. The topic was Five Scenes from Colonial American History. Mr. Paul received a 2000 Academic Enrichment Grant from SMMEF which made all of this possible.

In Mr. Paul's own words: "The first step was to divide the students into groups, have them pick group leaders, their topic and begin to write their scripts. We discussed creating a fictional family who would be part of each historical event.

The students spent several weeks writing and rewriting their scripts. We practiced performing them and continued to modify the scripts. Finally, as the scripts came together, we worked on the set and our costumes. More research was needed to determine what people wore in 18th century Boston. Parents came and helped with the props for the set.

We began to practice in the auditorium. There the students learned the importance of projecting their voice, where each person needed to be and cues for each scene. This was not only going to be our movie, but a live performance for the parents as well. We could reshoot the movie if it didn't go well, but they only had one chance to do it on stage. The night we performed was our best performance yet, and we captured it on digital video. The next step was to download it into the computer and massage it. We watched it over and over to determine how it should be best edited. Finally we worked with the sound.

The final result is something the students will have forever. This project combined language arts, performing arts, computer skills and social studies. More importantly, the students enjoyed the entire experience. Everyday our team looked forward to creating, practicing and perfecting our performance. Bringing American History to life through their own interpretation gave each student a greater understanding of the sacrifices made during the formation of our country."

SMMEF is proud of Mr. Paul's class and their fabulous efforts, and we are proud to have helped bring it to life.

Summer School Adventure Begins!

July 2 - 27, 2001
8:30AM - 12:30PM

Grant Elementary School, Santa Monica
Juan Cabrillo Elementary School, Malibu

Sponsored by Santa Monica - Malibu PTA Council
and the Santa Monica - Malibu Education
Foundation

Call 450-8338 x202 for information.

The "Great Gold Ticket Race" Rides Again!

Thanks to all of the students, parents and friends of the Santa Monica - Malibu Education Foundation, our annual drawing was another overwhelming success. We had another record breaking year, surpassing last year's proceeds. Thanks to the children of SMMUSD for taking on the challenge and doing such a fabulous job. Special kudos to Melissa Levoff for chairing this event for the 6th consecutive year. Her tireless efforts and enthusiasm have continued to drive the success of this event.

The drawing was held at Stairway of the Stars, the District's annual concert at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. The Grand prize, a 4 day/3 night cruise for 4 plus \$500, was awarded to a Juan Cabrillo parent, Nicholas Tidy. 2nd place, a \$2000 scholarship donated by Joyce Abbott of Coldwell Banker, was won by a John Adams parent, Connie Cochran. Third place, an IMAC computer, was won by Dori Ravinski. Congratulations to the winners.

This year, the Education Foundation awarded a \$25 Barnes & Noble gift certificate to each teacher whose class averaged two raffle books per student or 100% participation in their class. Additionally, honorable mention goes to Pt. Dume Marine Science Elementary School for its special efforts to increase its contributions, and to Mr. Eric Paul and his 5th grade class at Roosevelt, which outsold every other class in the district. Mr. Paul incorporated the drawing into his curriculum as a lesson in sales, business and computers. The results were outstanding!

The proceeds from this drawing are used to fund SMMEF's Academic Enrichment Grant Program.



Every year over 2,000 students across the District benefit from SMMEF's Academic Enrichment Grant Program.



***From the
Executive Director,
Linda Gross***

The growth of the Education Foundation has exploded over the past 8 months! We have gone from an all volunteer organization to an organization with 4 part-time employees. I count myself as one of those employees. After being the President for 5 1/2 years, I now serve as the Education Foundation's Executive Director.

There were compelling reasons for this change to occur. It is a story that is worth telling because it speaks to the power of what can happen when people unite around an idea. More than a year ago, when fine arts programs were once again at risk of budget cuts, several parents in the community stepped forward to ask the Education Foundation if we would be willing to facilitate an endowment for the arts.

Not knowing if the community would support an endowment campaign for the arts, we asked the City of Santa Monica for and were gratefully granted, \$25,000 to conduct a Feasibility Study. Our consultant, Mr. Robert Bason, spent several weeks interviewing members of the community to determine if there was interest and support for such an idea. The results of the study were clear. Not only was there a passion for the arts in Santa Monica and Malibu, there was desire and determination to secure the arts in the curriculum. It would be necessary, however, for the Education Foundation to prepare itself to embark on a campaign of significance and staff an office that could handle the demands of a fundraising campaign.

SMMEF would like to thank the City of Santa Monica for its amazing support for the campaign we are calling *For the Arts*. Not only did the City of Santa Monica grant us the \$25,000 we needed to fund the Feasibility Study, but it granted us an additional \$200,000 to get this effort underway. This generosity and support will benefit thousands of students in our public schools now and for generations to come. This endowment, once raised, will secure funding for the arts despite the ups and downs of the district's budget. Children will participate and revel in the arts, year after year, thanks to this support and the dedication of volunteers who believe that an arts education is crucial to every student's development.

We are currently in the organizational phase of our fundraising campaign. As we get underway, we will be sharing the campaign's progress with you. I invite you to join us. Make arts education a reality for *every* student in this district! Call and ask how you can help.

***Condensed Statement of Activities
Year Ending June 30, 2000***

<i>Support and revenue:</i>	
<i>Support:</i>	
<i>Contributions</i>	\$ 257,893
<i>Contributed professional series</i>	1,800
<i>Total contributions</i>	259,693
<i>Revenue:</i>	
<i>Interest, dividends and other revenue</i>	25,778
<i>Realized and unrealized gains and losses on investments, net</i>	22,433
<i>Summer School</i>	19,500
<i>Total revenue</i>	67,711
<i>Total support and revenue</i>	327,404
<i>Operating and administrative expenses:</i>	
<i>General and administrative</i>	11,436
<i>Total general and administrative expenses</i>	11,436
<i>Grants distributions:</i>	
<i>Educational grants</i>	82,799
<i>Donor directed distributions</i>	17,500
<i>Total grants distributions</i>	100,299
<i>Total grants and other expenses</i>	111,735
<i>Change in net assets</i>	215,669
<i>Net assets at beginning of year</i>	693,121
<i>Net assets at end of year</i>	\$ 908,790

***Santa Monica - Malibu Education Foundation
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SANTA MONICA-MALIBU EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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