



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**\$150,119 Donated to Santa Monica Education Foundation, Inspired by \$25,000 Match From The Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows and MSD Partners, L.P.**

*Donations made as part of a weeklong match campaign, which also included \$2,500 one-day Flash Matches from Ilona Brown and Lisa Pound, Compass, and Green Brooms Music Academy*

**SANTA MONICA, Calif.**, February 1, 2019 – Santa Monica parents, community members and businesses came together to support local public schools during a week-long match for the Santa Monica Education Foundation. Inspired by a \$25,000 match from The Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows and the hotel’s owner MSD Partners, L.P., 789 donors contributed a total of \$150,119 during the match, which ran from January 24 to 31, 2019 and coincided with the end of the Ed Foundation’s annual parent pledge campaign.

The money contributed will directly fund arts programs, classroom aides, STEM and student health and wellness programs in Santa Monica public schools next year.

“The Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows and MSD Partners, L.P. are thrilled by the results of our continuing partnership with the Santa Monica Education Foundation,” said Ellis O’Connor of MSD Hospitality “One of our core values is the commitment to being an active member of the community. Over the last three years, our \$25,000 per year in matched donations to the Santa Monica Education Foundation have resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars that directly benefit students at all 12 local public schools. We know that access to an equitable, outstanding public education benefits not just the students, but everyone that lives and works in this great city.”

“Quality public education depends on the entire community,” said Linda Greenberg, Executive Director of the Education Foundation. “We are so grateful to The Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows and MSD Partners, L.P. and every donor that was part of this match. Only by working together, will we continue to ensure that each student in Santa Monica has access to an enriched, excellent education.”

Weekly elementary arts classes are one of the most beloved programs funded by donations to the Ed Foundation. In this program, each elementary student explores their creativity in comprehensive arts classes. Students paint, dance, draw, put on theatrical productions and learn

about renowned artists. Arts education has been shown to help students express complex ideas accurately and clearly, solve problems, collaborate with others, and take initiative. In a state where only 39 percent of students participate in the arts, elementary art programs distinguish Santa Monica schools as some of the few offering true, comprehensive arts education.

Ed Foundation fundraising for programs in schools next year will continue through the spring with events, as well as corporate and foundation outreach. The Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows is the sponsor hotel of the Ed Foundation's fourth annual Santa Monica Wine Auction, which will be held at the hotel on Sunday, May 19. At this highly anticipated event, parents, community members and corporate supporters enjoy outstanding wine and food tastings, and silent and live auctions of world-class wines and exceptional experiences. The three previous Wine Auctions have raised a combined \$659,000 for local public schools.

During the \$25,000 match, two other local businesses offered one-day Flash Matches for donations. Ilonda Brown and Lisa Pound, Compass, who are new donors to the Ed Foundation, matched \$2,500 in donations on January 30. Green Brooms Music Academy matched \$2,500 in donations on January 31, their third Flash Match for the Ed Foundation in as many years.

Annual donations and Ed Foundation endowments are funding \$2.6 million in programs during the current school year. Fundraising for 2019-2020 school-year programs will continue through June 30, 2019.

For more information or to make a donation to support Santa Monica students, go to [smedfoundation.org](http://smedfoundation.org).

### **About the Santa Monica Education Foundation**

Contributions to the Santa Monica Education Foundation fund excellent programs at every Santa Monica public school – from arts to STEM to wellness – that shape our future problem solvers, visionaries, and global citizens.

Established in 1982 by a dedicated group of parents, community leaders, and local business owners, the Ed Foundation raises funds to enhance and supplement the curriculum of the Santa Monica schools. The Foundation's mission is to engage the community to invest in a vibrant educational experience for all public school students in Santa Monica.

To learn more about the Ed Foundation, visit [smedfoundation.org](http://smedfoundation.org).

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