



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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\$607,755 Raised for Local Schools Thanks to \$50,000 Match from Bird

Donations made as part of the Ed Foundation's back-to-school giving drive that also included a \$5,000 one-day Flash Match from David Yun & the Eighty8 Group and a \$2,500 Flash Match from Santa Monica Music Center

SANTA MONICA, Calif., September 13, 2018 – 928 donors contributed to the Santa Monica Education Foundation as part of a back-to-school giving campaign that raised \$607,755 for students, including a \$50,000 match from Bird, inventors of the shared electric scooter movement that originated right here in Santa Monica.

The money raised will fund arts programs, instructional assistants and grants for each Santa Monica public school next year. Schools use the grants to fund additional arts, STEM and student health and wellness programs.

“Thank you to Bird and to each of the 928 donors who contributed during this incredible match,” said Linda Greenberg, Executive Director of the Ed Foundation. “This was a terrific start to our campaign this school year and we are grateful for our donors’ dedication to ensuring an excellent education for all Santa Monica students.”

This \$50,000 gift follows a previous contribution from Bird to the Ed Foundation. Last fiscal year, Bird helped the Foundation round out its fundraising goal with a donation of \$11,500.

"It is so inspiring to see the Santa Monica community rally around a cause that benefits so many youth," said Carl Hansen, Director of Government Affairs at Bird. "Investing in programs for students helps improve public education throughout Santa Monica, and we are glad to see others have joined us in support of our community schools. We thank the Education Foundation for their partnership and remain humbled by the incredible work they do for our community."

The \$50,000 match concluded September 4. During the match, two other local businesses offered one-day Flash Matches for donations. David Yun & the Eighty8 Group matched \$5,000 in donations on August 28 and Santa Monica Music Center matched \$2,500 on September 4.

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.

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 <http://smedfoundation.org>.

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