



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**\$205,503 Raised for Santa Monica Education Foundation,
Thanks to a \$50,000 Match from
OneWest Bank and Santa Monica Place/Macerich**

*Donations made as part of the Ed Foundation's annual Pledge Days donation drive
will support programs at all Santa Monica public schools*

SANTA MONICA, Calif., October 4, 2018 – The Santa Monica Education Foundation raised \$205,503 during Pledge Days, which included a \$50,000 matching gift from OneWest Bank and Santa Monica Place/Macerich. The fundraising effort ran from September 23-29 and the \$50,000 match inspired 351 donors to contribute.

“Pledge Days and this match are a brilliant example of our entire community supporting education,” said Linda Greenberg, Executive Director of the Ed Foundation. “Our generous corporate matching partners and each donor who contributed during the match have helped ensure that our Santa Monica children benefit from important staff and programs next year. On behalf of our students, we are grateful for all that our donors make possible in our schools.”

Donations made during Pledge Days will fund staff and programs at schools across Santa Monica. Programs funded by donations include elementary arts, instructional assistants in elementary classrooms, 5th grade ballroom dance and a stretch grant for each Santa Monica school. Each school decides how to spend their grant. Most are used for additional arts, STEM or student wellness programs.

“We are incredibly humbled and inspired by the results of this match,” said Julia B. Ladd, Assistant Vice President, Property Management at Santa Monica Place. “It is an honor to partner with the Education Foundation and all the donors in our community to ensure that local Santa Monica public school children are thriving.”

“Thank you to everyone who participated in this worthy cause,” said Steve Solk, president of Consumer Banking for CIT, the parent company of OneWest Bank. “OneWest Bank is

committed to investing in the communities where we live and work. We are thrilled to be part of this collaboration to ensure all students in Santa Monica have access to an excellent education.”

As part of Pledge Days, Ed Foundation and PTA representatives were on campuses at all Santa Monica elementary schools to thank donors and encourage others to support programs in Santa Monica public schools.

The event also included two one-day Flash Matches. On September 26, FLEX College Prep matched donations up to \$2,500 and on September 28 David Yun and the Eighty8 Group matched donations up to \$5,000.

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 smedfoundation.org.

About OneWest Bank

OneWest Bank helps Southern California consumers and small businesses meet their financial goals by offering personal banking, small business and lending solutions. We are passionate about serving the Southern California community and are proud to invest in the neighborhoods where we live and work. OneWest Bank is a division of CIT Bank, N.A. (Member FDIC, Equal Housing Lender), a subsidiary of CIT Group Inc. (NYSE: CIT). Founded in 1908, CIT Group Inc. has approximately \$50 billion in assets. For more information, visit onewestbank.com and follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/onewestbank).

About Macerich

Macerich, an S&P 500 company, is a fully integrated self-managed and self-administered real estate investment trust, which focuses on the acquisition, leasing, management, development and redevelopment of regional malls throughout the United States.

Macerich currently owns 52 million square feet of real estate consisting primarily of interests in 48 regional shopping centers. Macerich specializes in successful retail properties in many of the country's most attractive, densely populated markets with significant presence in the Pacific Rim, Arizona, Chicago and the Metro New York to Washington, DC corridor.

A recognized leader in sustainability, Macerich has earned NAREIT's prestigious "Leader in the Light" award every year from 2014-2017. For the third straight year in 2017 Macerich achieved the #1 GRESB ranking in the North American Retail Sector, among many other environmental accomplishments. Additional information about Macerich can be obtained from the Company's website at www.macerich.com.

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