Inaugural Santa Monica-Malibu Wine Auction Nets $115,000 for Schools

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Guests at the Santa Monica-Malibu Wine Auction, including parents from Edison Language Academy

The Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation's inaugural Santa Monica-Malibu Wine Auction raised more than $115,000 to help fund programs for local public schools.

More than 400 guests attended the sold-out April 17 event at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows, sponsored by Dun & Bradstreet, Kaiser Permanente, Santa Monica Place/Macerich Real Estate Co. and Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows / MSD Capital.

Attendees enjoyed food and wine tastings from 35 local restaurants and beverage purveyors as well as live, silent and online auctions.

"The generosity of our food and wine vendors, along with the commitment of our corporate partners, was extraordinary," Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation Executive Director Linda Greenberg said. "We look forward to their continued partnership as we grow this event over the next several years."

The evening recognized many of the foundation's local corporate partners, who have generated an additional $312,734 for foundation-funded programs. Along with the presenting sponsors, these include: 500 Broadway; Diane Dorin, Compass; DLR Group; FreeAssociates Group, Inc.; Harding Larmore Kutcher & Kozal, LLP; MINI of

Santa Monica; NMS Properties, Inc.; RAND Corporation; Santa Monica Daily Press; Sir Speedy Santa Monica; Southern California Edison; Stifel Nicolaus; UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica; Wells Fargo Foundation; Century West Partners, LLC; Fagen Friedman & Fulfrost LLP; Gelson's; Khedr Management Company; and Southern California Disposal Co., Inc.

Following the wine auction, Franklin Elementary School PTA announced a dollar-for-dollar matching gift of $200,000 to the foundation's annual campaign in support of its $3.6 million budget.

Founded in 1982 by parents, local business owners and community leaders, the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation funds arts education for SMMUSD's 4,900 elementary students, pays the salaries of 87 instructional assistants and provides enrichment grants
to all 16 schools in the district. Most schools use these grants for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs, visual and performing arts, or student wellness.

— *Regan Kibbee*

For more information about the foundation, visit smmef.org.