

SAN BRUNO

Community Foundation

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SAN BRUNO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$495,000 GRANT TO BOLSTER MUSIC EDUCATION IN SAN BRUNO'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

San Bruno, California, May 10, 2017 – The Board of Directors of the San Bruno Community Foundation recently approved a strategic grant initiative to make music education a hallmark of San Bruno's public schools. Over the next three school years, the Foundation will make investments totaling \$495,000 in the music programs at Capuchino High School and all seven San Bruno Park School District schools.

The Music Education Strategic Initiative is the result of months of collaboration with the San Bruno Park School District, Capuchino High School, the San Bruno Education Foundation, and the Capuchino High School Alumni Association, with the vision of ensuring that San Bruno's public schools provide equitable access to music education for all children through a continuum of superior music opportunities, from elementary through high school, that inspire, build self-confidence, and develop life skills in students, with the San Bruno community sharing in the value, pride, and appreciation of their contributions.

"The San Bruno Community Foundation is thrilled to support our public schools through the Music Education Strategic Initiative," said Emily Roberts, SBCF Board member and chair of the Foundation committee charged with developing the Initiative. "We know that music education

boosts academic achievement and has an array of educational benefits for the participating students. Moreover, music is an integral part of community building. Community benefits of the Initiative will include fostering the cultural arts through community performances, bolstering a sense of pride in accomplished student musical groups, and strengthening our local public schools to help attract families to San Bruno and increase their interest in sending their children to San Bruno schools. The Foundation is truly excited about this opportunity to enhance San Bruno's public schools in a way that the entire community can share – through the joy and performance of music.”

To fund the Music Education Strategic Initiative, the Foundation is utilizing a portion of the restitution funds resulting from the City of San Bruno's settlement with Pacific Gas & Electric Company following the 2010 gas pipeline explosion that devastated San Bruno's Crestmoor neighborhood.

Foundation funding will enable the San Bruno Park School District to offer a high-quality, standards-based, age-appropriate music curriculum to all grades at all six of its elementary schools. The school district has been unable to fund any district-wide music program at the elementary school level, and music education offerings have been dependent on the support of school PTAs and an after-school instrumental program run by the San Bruno Education Foundation. Under the Music Education Initiative, Music for Minors – a San Carlos-based nonprofit organization that partners with school districts – will provide weekly music instruction for all 1,900 elementary school students in the district. Over the next three years, SBCF will provide \$203,721 to underwrite the cost of Music for Minors, with additional support from the local elementary school PTAs.

At the middle and high school levels, where high-quality but under-resourced music programs are already in place, the Foundation will make substantial key investments to address deficiencies that have prevented the programs from reaching their full potential. These investments will fund, in part, significant one-time expenses that the schools would have a difficult time covering under current financial conditions. Parkside Intermediate School, the San Bruno Park School District's only middle school, will receive \$107,668 in Foundation funding to buttress its burgeoning music program, in which more than 40 percent of its student body participates. These funds will finance a variety of needs, including instruments, music books, and other necessary equipment.

At Capuchino High School, the San Mateo Union High School District comprehensive high school serving San Bruno, student demand for music instruction is increasing, as students who participate in Parkside’s music program matriculate at the high school. The \$116,110 SBCF investment in the Capuchino music program, whose long tradition of excellence has suffered in recent years due to tightened school budgets, will help fortify the program as it prepares for growth. The funds will be used to address high-priority program needs including instrument repair and replacement, music books, music instruction software, transportation to competitions and performances, and, most notably, new marching band uniforms. The funds dedicated to the high school program will be granted to the Capuchino High School Alumni Association.

Two considerations balance the Foundation’s vision for the Music Education Strategic Initiative: the aspirational goal of providing the financial resources to significantly bolster music education in San Bruno’s public schools and the practical concern of making sure the enhanced programming is sustainable once the Foundation’s funding sunsets. To address this second consideration, the Foundation is providing the San Bruno Education Foundation – which will also receive the grant funds for the elementary and middle school program enhancements – \$67,500 to support fundraising capacity building and program coordination efforts. The Foundation believes this investment is a critical part of the Initiative and will help ensure that its grant will have a lasting, meaningful impact in the schools and the community.

“The Music Education Strategic Initiative is a tribute to the Crestmoor neighborhood and our fellow San Bruno community members who directly suffered the tragedy of the 2010 gas pipeline explosion, especially the eight individuals who lost their lives,” said Scott Curtner, President of the San Bruno Education Foundation. “In their honor, we will build on the success of the music programs that are already in place to implement a long-term and enduring vision for providing music education for all students, elementary through high school, in San Bruno.”

The Music Education Strategic Initiative also relies on the support of the Capuchino Music Boosters (an arm of the Capuchino High School Alumni Association), Parkside Music Boosters (which is under the Parkside PTO), the elementary school PTAs, the San Bruno Park School District, the San Mateo Union High School District, and the teachers and staff of the individual schools. The Foundation is hopeful that the partnerships forged through the Initiative will lead to greater

collaboration between the San Bruno Park School District, Capuchino High School, and their support organizations, which is often difficult to achieve in the absence of a unified school district.

“The San Bruno Park School District is so grateful to the San Bruno Community Foundation for this incredible opportunity to provide for our students a seamless progression of music instruction and appreciation,” said Cheryl Olson, San Bruno Park School District superintendent. “From elementary school to middle school and eventually to high school, our students will reap the educational and developmental benefits of the Foundation’s investment for years to come.”

“The San Bruno Community Foundation’s investment in music education will help Capuchino High School build our music program into a source of tremendous pride and accomplishment for our school and the greater San Bruno community,” said Judy Puccini, Vice President of the Capuchino High School Alumni Association. “We look forward to working with Capuchino High School, San Bruno Park School District, and San Bruno Education Foundation to implement the Music Education Strategic Initiative for the benefit of our students and community.”

The San Bruno Community Foundation is the nonprofit organization created by the City of San Bruno to administer the \$70 million in restitution funds received from PG&E after the devastating 2010 gas pipeline explosion in San Bruno’s Crestmoor neighborhood. The Foundation serves the San Bruno community by investing in projects, programs, services, and facilities that have significant and lasting benefits. Through making grants, leveraging partnerships, and taking advantage of other resources, the SBCF assists and enables the community to maximize shared investments and realize their subsequent enhancements and benefits.

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