

SAN BRUNO

Community Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAN BRUNO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2025 RECIPIENTS OF THE CRESTMOOR NEIGHBORHOOD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

***SBCF Awards \$165,000 in College Scholarships to 11 Outstanding San Bruno
Students for Their Service to the San Bruno Community***

San Bruno, California, May 21, 2025 – The San Bruno Community Foundation today announced the 2025 recipients of the Crestmoor Neighborhood Memorial Scholarship, which provides multi-year college scholarship awards to outstanding San Bruno students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the San Bruno community. The 2025 Crestmoor Scholars include Capuchino High School seniors Elijah Agra, Abraham Alfakhouri, Mark Askndafi, Adrianna Brignardello, Sarai Freeman, Mia Fuell, and Justin Tchang, and Skyline College students Rumisa Irshad, Aye Chan Moe, Ken Reyes, and Kyla Victorino.

The Foundation created the Crestmoor Scholarship in 2016 in honor of the community members most directly affected by the disaster, especially the eight San Bruno residents who lost their lives. The scholarship program ensures that the tragedy of September 9, 2010, is not forgotten and that the resiliency, teamwork, leadership, and commitment to community displayed throughout San Bruno in the aftermath of the explosion are honored in the annual recipients of the Scholarship. Over the past ten years, 102 deserving San Bruno students have received Crestmoor Scholarships totaling \$1.52 million.

“As campus leaders, club presidents, peer tutors, performing artists, athletes, researchers, and scholars, this year’s Crestmoor Scholars exemplify resilience, leadership, empathy, and commitment to the San Bruno community,” said Malissa-Netane-Jones, President of the Foundation’s Board of Directors. “We are thrilled to help these 11 outstanding students realize their dream of pursuing a college education with multi-year scholarships. We look forward to seeing the Crestmoor Scholars continue their studies in architectural, neuroscience, public health, psychology, and other fields. They bring us tremendous hope for the future of our community and our world.”

This year the Foundation is awarding 11 scholarships totaling \$165,000. Headed to four-year colleges in the fall, Agra (who will attend the University of Southern California), Alfakhouri (University of Southern California), Askndafi (UCLA), Brignardello (UC Santa Barbara), Fuell (UCLA), and Tchang (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo) will each receive a \$20,000 scholarship (\$5,000 a year for four years). Freeman (who will attend the College of San Mateo) will receive a \$5,000 scholarship (\$2,500 a year for two years). As transfer students, Irshad (San Jose State University), Moe (UC Berkeley), Reyes (UC Berkeley), and Victorino (UCLA) will each receive \$10,000 in scholarship funding (\$5,000 a year for two years).

In 2025, the Foundation received 53 applications for the Crestmoor Scholarship. In selecting the 2025 recipients from a competitive applicant pool, the Foundation’s selection panel evaluated, first and foremost, applicants’ demonstrated engagement in the San Bruno community, as well as their financial need, academic record, extracurricular activities, and examples of leadership, teamwork, and collaboration – important qualities that were displayed throughout the San Bruno community in the aftermath of the 2010 explosion and fire. Brief biographies of the 2025 Crestmoor Scholars are attached as well as posted on the Foundation’s website at www.sbcf.org.

SBCF is funding the 2025 Crestmoor Scholarship with investment proceeds from 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, as well as a generous donation from Allan and Mary Lou Johnson.

The Foundation will recognize the 2025 Crestmoor Scholars at a special meeting of the Board of Directors on June 4, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the San Bruno Recreation and Aquatic Center, Community Room, 251 City Park Way, San Bruno. Community members are welcome to attend in person and will have the opportunity to meet the Crestmoor Scholars at 6:30 p.m. at a reception preceding the Board meeting. The public may also attend the Board meeting virtually on Zoom, starting at 7:00 p.m.:

Zoom Webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89096831377?pwd=t1VCXSLKaNtAs3xaRq27GtWNGv2j2u.1>

Webinar ID: 890 9683 1377

Passcode: 949986

Dial-in: (669) 900-6833

In a shift in strategy to focus on a small number of major legacy projects with the Foundation's remaining assets, the SBCF Board recently decided to wind down the Crestmoor Scholarship program. While the program will not be offered in 2026, the Foundation will continue to administer payments on scholarships awarded in 2025 and in previous program years.

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 Foundation assists and enables the community to maximize shared investments and realize their subsequent enhancements and benefits. For more information, visit www.sbcf.org.

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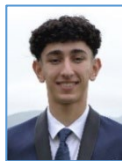
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ELIJAH AGRE: As chair of the School Site Council, member of the Student Equity Council, student board member of the San Mateo Union High School District, and California Boys State representative, Elijah has been a leader at Capuchino High School. He led various community service activities, including food, clothing, and Tongan relief drives, as Interact Club president and a member of the Class of 2025 Council. A National School Choral Award recipient, Elijah sang in the school choir and participated in 12 high school drama productions. Elijah will attend the University of Southern California.



ABRAHAM ALFAKHOURI: Building community, celebrating his heritage, and advocating for social change are core values that drive Abraham. As senior and junior class president, lead coordinator of the Student Equity Council, member of the San Mateo Union High School District Student Board Council, co-chair of the School Site Council, and co-president of the Interact Club, Abraham has led a wide range of community activities at Capuchino High School. He was also captain of the cheerleading squad and founded the Middle Eastern North African Club. Abraham will begin his studies at the University of Southern California this fall.



MARK ASKNDAFI: Committed to helping others and with aspirations of becoming a doctor, Mark plans to study biology at UCLA. As president of the Leos Club and a leader of the Environmental, Mentorship, and Chinese clubs, Mark is committed to giving back to the community, organizing city cleanup events, and supporting many San Bruno Lions Club community activities. Working with his family inspired him to find meaningful ways to give back and make a difference locally. After playing in a variety of San Bruno youth sports leagues, Mark captained the varsity water polo and badminton teams at Capuchino High School.



ADRIANNA BRIGNARDELLO: The combination of her passion for the outdoors and her love of working with children has fueled Adrianna's desire to pursue a career in primary school outdoor education. A leader by example, she has served as a cabin leader for the San Mateo County Outdoor Education Program, volunteered with the Special Olympics, and led beach cleanups with the Pacifica Beach Coalition. Despite battling several injuries, Adrianna captained the Capuchino cross country team and ran on the track team. Adrianna will attend UC Santa Barbara.



SARAI FREEMAN: Sarai's firsthand experience caring for a close family member with a neurological disease sparked her interest in the brain and her plans to pursue a healthcare career. It also instilled in her deep resiliency and empathy – traits that she displayed as captain of the Capuchino High School swim team, where she mentored younger teammates and fostered an inclusive team culture. Sarai also served as treasurer of the Leos Club and a leader of its community activities. Sarai will attend the College of San Mateo this fall.



MIA FUELL: Mia is a Capuchino High School International Baccalaureate diploma scholar, a two-sport varsity athlete, and a dedicated member of the San Bruno community. She served on the School Site Council and Student Equity Council and as a chemistry teaching assistant. Despite suffering a serious knee injury, Mia captained her soccer and track teams and helped lead First Touch Bay Area, a student-led youth soccer program. Motivated by her mother's journey through multiple health challenges, Mia will attend UCLA on her way to medical school.



RUMISA IRSHAD: After a medical misdiagnosis led to her father's tragic passing, Rumisa turned her grief into a commitment to pursue a research career in biology and improve health care outcomes. With an understated leadership style, Rumisa was an in-demand Learning Center peer tutor who primarily helped non-native English speakers, ASSC Commissioner of Communications, vice president of the Vets and Scholars Club, and member of the Stewardship for Equity, Equal Employment, and Diversity Advisory Committee at Skyline College. Rumisa will transfer to San Jose State University.



AYE CHAN MOE: Aye's interest in neurobiology is rooted in helping care for her sister with Down syndrome and the challenges her family experienced in accessing care during political unrest in her native Myanmar. At Skyline College, Aye has served as an executive in student government and the Myanmar Student Union, an honors student mentor, a Learning Center peer tutor, and a leader of the Active Minds Club. With extensive research experience at Stanford and UCSF labs, and an upcoming internship at MIT, Aye plans to transfer to UC Berkeley and pursue a Ph.D. in neuroscience and developmental biology.



KEN REYES: Ken's journey is defined by resilience, leadership, and academic excellence. After spending his early years separated from his parents, Ken immigrated from the Philippines to join his mother and brother in the Bay Area. At Skyline College, his calm demeanor and determination have made him an effective tutor in the Learning Center, where he supports students as they work through academic challenges. Ken also serves as a senator in the Associated Students of Skyline College and as Vice President of the Honors Club. With plans to become an academic counselor dedicated to supporting underserved students, Ken will study psychology at UC Berkeley.



JUSTIN TCHANG: As an aspiring architect who will attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Justin hopes to design life-changing spaces that can transform lives and bolster communities. While taking classes concurrently at the College of San Mateo as a Middle College student, Justin was a leader in Capuchino High School's marching band, served as an Outdoor Education cabin leader, participated on the cross country and track teams, and worked several part-time jobs to help his family. As an intern at a local architectural firm, he collaborated on a proposal to improve a youth baseball field on the San Bruno-Millbrae border.



KYLA VICTORINO: As the child of Filipino immigrants who sought better health care and education, Kyla will transfer to UCLA with plans to pursue a public health career focused on increasing access to underrepresented communities. At Skyline College, Kyla participated in the Accelerate Fellowship at the Bay Area Entrepreneur Center, spearheading development of a downtown San Bruno mural proposal in partnership with the San Bruno Improvement Group. She also served as vice president of the Business Entrepreneurship and Finance Club and worked as a recreation leader for an afterschool program.