

# **SAN BRUNO**

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## **Community Foundation**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SAN BRUNO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL RECIPIENTS OF THE CRESTMOOR NEIGHBORHOOD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

*Foundation Invests \$100,000 in Seven College-Bound San Bruno Students*

**San Bruno, California, May 17, 2016** – The San Bruno Community Foundation today announced the inaugural recipients of the Crestmoor Neighborhood Memorial Scholarship, a brand new program that assists outstanding San Bruno students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the San Bruno community in obtaining a college degree. The 2016 Crestmoor Scholars include Capuchino High School seniors Alejandra Andrade, Anthony Harvey, Giselle Hengst, Allie Stines, and Erick Sullivan; St. Ignatius College Preparatory senior Jamie Chen; and Skyline College student Leitu Takapu.

The Scholarship Program honors the community members who most directly endured the destruction of the 2010 gas pipeline explosion and resulting fire in San Bruno's Crestmoor neighborhood, especially the eight San Bruno residents who lost their lives in the disaster. As the neighborhood is reconstructed and the survivors rebuild 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 and fire are honored in the annual recipients of the Scholarship.

In 2016, the Foundation is awarding multi-year scholarships totaling \$100,000. Headed to four-year colleges in the fall, Andrade (who will attend Holly Names University), Chen (UC Berkeley), Harvey (UC San Diego), and Hengst (Vanderbilt University) will each receive a \$20,000 scholarship (\$5,000 a year for four years). Stines and Sullivan will attend the College of San Mateo and Skyline College, respectively, and will each receive a \$5,000 scholarship (\$2,500 a year for two years). Transferring from Skyline to San Jose State University, Takapu will receive \$10,000 in scholarship funding (\$5,000 a year for two years).

“As a 25-year resident of San Bruno, I am inspired by – and in awe of – this year’s Crestmoor Neighborhood Memorial Scholarship recipients,” said Patricia Bohm, a member of the Foundation’s Board of Directors and chair of the committee that created the Scholarship Program. “The Crestmoor Scholars include social justice advocates, musicians, filmmakers, athletes, accomplished students, and – most important – young people committed to giving back to San Bruno. By awarding the Crestmoor Scholarships, the San Bruno Community Foundation invests not just in each individual student, but in the future of our community.”

In the program’s first year, the Foundation received 45 applications for the Crestmoor Scholarship. In selecting the 2016 recipients from a highly competitive applicant pool, the Foundation’s selection panel considered applicants’ demonstrated engagement in the San Bruno community, 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 seven Crestmoor Scholars can be found on the Foundation’s website at [www.sbcf.org](http://www.sbcf.org).

“We are thrilled to assist the first class of Crestmoor Scholars in realizing their dream of pursuing a college degree,” said Leslie Hatamiya, the Foundation’s executive director. “As one of the Foundation’s first program initiatives, the Crestmoor Neighborhood Memorial Scholarship Program marks the beginning of the Foundation’s efforts to use the restitution funds to benefit the San Bruno community – to turn what was a devastating tragedy into something truly wonderful for San Bruno.”

The Foundation will recognize the 2016 Crestmoor Scholars at its June 1, 2016, Board meeting at the San Bruno Senior Center, 1555 Crystal Springs Road. Community members are welcome to attend and will have the opportunity to meet the Crestmoor Scholars at 6:30 p.m. at a reception preceding the 7:00 p.m. Board meeting.

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. For more information, visit [www.sbcf.org](http://www.sbcf.org).

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### 2016 CRESTMOOR NEIGHBORHOOD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

In 2016, the San Bruno Community Foundation recognizes seven outstanding San Bruno students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the San Bruno community with multi-year college scholarships totaling \$100,000.

**ALEJANDRA ANDRADE:** A 2016 graduate of Capuchino High School, Alejandra Andrade will attend Holy Names University as a biology major, with the goal of becoming a pediatric nurse practitioner. Alejandra has demonstrated her love of working with children through her volunteer work at the San Bruno Library's Homework Center and Summer Reading Program and as an assistant teacher for St. Bruno's Catholic Church's catechism classes. She also helped organize community outreach activities as an intern with the Kaiser Permanente Public Affairs team. Alejandra was president of Capuchino's Latinos Unidos Club and served as a peer tutor.

**JAMIE CHEN:** Having helped family members navigate complicated health care systems both in the United States and Asia, Jamie Chen aspires to pursue a career in medicine, specifically oncology. Jamie is graduating from St. Ignatius College Preparatory and will begin her studies at U.C. Berkeley in the fall of 2016. Living 12 miles from the epicenter of the 2010 gas pipeline explosion in the Crestmoor neighborhood, Jamie was inspired to begin training as an Emergency Medical Technician after seeing paramedics rush to aid those in need. From volunteering with the homeless at Catholic Worker House of Hospitality of San Bruno, to fundraising for cancer causes as president of the Cancer Awareness and Support Group, to playing the viola at Carnegie Hall as a member of SI's orchestra, to writing and directing award-winning films, Jamie exemplifies a "can do" attitude.

**ANTHONY HARVEY:** A musician, athlete, community volunteer, and top student, Anthony Harvey is a true Renaissance man. As a senior at Capuchino High School, Anthony will graduate with a full International Baccalaureate Diploma and plans to enroll at U.C. San Diego in the fall. Anthony plays the clarinet, guitar, and piano and enjoys playing his own musical compositions. Since middle school, where he was involved in student council and the Leo Club, Anthony has been engaged in the San Bruno community. In high school, he has served as a peer tutor for Summer Bridge, participated in various community events as a member of the Interact Club, and was co-captain of the varsity tennis team.

**GISELLE HENGST:** An advocate for social justice and gender equity, Giselle Hengst plans to double major in Environmental Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies at Vanderbilt University. A top student at Capuchino High School, Giselle has served as president of the French Club, captain of the water polo team, member of the swim team, and cabin leader for the San Mateo County Outdoor Education program, while also providing academic support to others as a peer tutor, assisting as a swim instructor at the San Bruno Park Pool, participating in Students Advocating Freedom and Equality Club, and representing Capuchino at California Girls State.

**ALLIE STINES:** Allie Stines represents the scholar-athlete ideal. Upon graduating from Capuchino High School, Allie will attend the College of San Mateo, where she will play softball and begin her premed studies. Allie's engagement in San Bruno began many years ago when she was named a Posy Parade princess, and over the years she has continued giving back to the community, including organizing a cancer awareness charity softball game that raised funds for the Relay for Life Foundation, volunteering at the annual San Bruno 4<sup>th</sup> of July baseball tournament, and serving as a peer tutor at Capuchino. An all-league athlete, Allie was captain of Capuchino's varsity softball and volleyball teams, and she has served as a volunteer coach for a St. Robert School basketball team.

**ERICK SULLIVAN:** After graduating from Capuchino High School, Erick Sullivan will enroll at Skyline College in the fall of 2016. A member of Capuchino's varsity baseball team, Erick has distinguished himself for his commitment to the Junior Giants program. As a way to give back to the program that started his baseball career, Erick began serving as a volunteer umpire at age 11 and coached his first team at age 13, leading to his selection as the recipient of the "Willie Mac" award, which honors integrity, commitment, and dedication. Erick has also volunteered with the Touch a Truck event for emotionally challenged children, Special Olympics, and San Bruno's annual haunted house.

**LEITU TAKAPU:** The first in her family to graduate from college, Leitu Takapu is receiving an Associate of Arts Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies - Social Behavior from Skyline College. Motivated by a family member's struggles, Leitu seeks to pursue a career in social work in order to serve as an advocate for individuals with mental illness and others in need of social services. In the fall of 2016, she will transfer to San Jose State University to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. Besides being a full-time student and working as a financial aid student ambassador at Skyline, Leitu is also an educational support advocate for Edgewood Center for Children and Families and an elementary school tutor.

