$7.2 MILLION SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

AVERAGE SCHOLARSHIPS

$6,080 Grad Students
$29,522 Medical Students
$1,820 Undergrads at 2-Year Schools
$3,331 Undergrads at 4-Year Schools

STUDENTS AWARDED

1,864

APPLICATIONS REVIEWED

3,477

INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED

1,700

VOLUNTEER INTERVIEWERS

135

FIRST IN FAMILY TO ATTEND COLLEGE

53%

NO FAMILY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

28%
THE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION recently surpassed another impressive milestone: In the 61 years since its founding, this organization has now cumulatively awarded more than $150 million in scholarships to Santa Barbara County students.

While this astonishing figure is surely a testament to our community’s unique capacity for compassion and generosity, it also signals a persistent hunger for economic opportunity and educational attainment among our young people. Our data indicate this hunger is only growing.

The Scholarship Foundation received 3,477 applications for financial aid in the 2023-24 academic year – an increase of more than 26 percent or 728 applicants over 2022’s total.

We are pleased to report that the Foundation was able to award nearly $7.2 million in college scholarships to 1,864 area students this year. On a sobering note, however, we were forced to turn away another 1,300 deserving applicants owing to insufficient funding. These students have had to seek financial aid elsewhere. Some will no doubt postpone their studies or tragically forgo them altogether.

We are proud of our efforts to increase access to postsecondary education, yet much more needs to be done. This is where you come in.

Please help us defray the rising cost of college for students and families in our community.

As we remind our generous supporters in these pages each year, the Scholarship Foundation takes great pride in responsibly stewarding the funds entrusted to us by our community partners. Each dollar we receive benefits local students in their pursuit of higher education.

Thank you for supporting the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara!

Melinda Cabrera
President & CEO

Danna McGrew
Board Chair
It has been an eventful year in the president’s suite at the Scholarship Foundation.

In December, Barbara Robertson retired following a three-year stint as president and CEO. Barbara joined the Foundation as director of finance in 1993 and rejoined as operations director in 2011. Appointed chief operating officer in July 2016, she served as interim president and CEO from April to July 2015 and from February to September 2018. Barbara was barely a month into her tenure as president and CEO when Covid lockdowns first disrupted Foundation operations. Her steady leadership throughout the pandemic and its aftermath was widely praised. All told, Barbara served the organization for 22 years.

In January, Dr. Mary Dwyer began serving as interim president and CEO of the Foundation, a position she held until August. A former college professor and administrator who led the renowned Institute for the International Education of Students from 1996 to 2020, Mary joined the Scholarship Foundation Board in 2021.

And in July, Melinda Cabrera (below) was named president and CEO of the Foundation. A native of Apple Valley, California, Melinda comes to us by way of United Way of Santa Barbara County, where she most recently served as vice president. She began her local nonprofit career as assistant director of guest services at the Santa Barbara Zoo.

DO YOU VIEW your current role as a natural progression from your work at United Way?

Absolutely. During my 10 years at United Way, I led various programs and initiatives while learning from accomplished leaders. Over time, I developed leadership skills of my own and assumed a greater role in building and managing teams of people. I found that I enjoyed being a leader and guiding elements of an organization in new, successful directions. I am determined to build on this history at the Scholarship Foundation.

What excites you most about the Scholarship Foundation?

The Scholarship Foundation is a community treasure with a remarkable legacy. I am excited to be part of an organization that empowers students to pursue their educational dreams. I firmly believe that everyone should have the opportunity to attend college or vocational school, and I am already very proud of the Foundation's efforts to make this a reality in our community.

What would you say are your biggest challenges in the short term?

Being comfortable with being uncomfortable. As with any new job, there is a steep learning curve. I have to remind myself that the answers will come with time, and that I don’t have to figure it all out at once.

Do you have a particular leadership philosophy?

I’m a big baseball fan. Joe Torre, the former manager of the New York Yankees, once said, “Competing at the highest level is not about winning. It’s about preparation, courage, understanding, and nurturing your people and heart. The result is winning.” This is how I approach my role as president and CEO. Success will come through hard work, dedication, and collaborating with and supporting my team. We are here to help students and families. We must never lose sight of that.

What would you like people to know about you?

That I am a hard worker and that I truly love to help people through my work. I like to think I have a good sense of humor. And I always strive to create a work environment that is supportive, collaborative, and effective.
The Scholarship Foundation continues to impress the nation’s leading charity-monitoring services.

In June, the Foundation received its 11th consecutive four-star rating from nonprofit evaluator Charity Navigator. The rating – Charity Navigator’s highest – indicates superior financial efficiency and transparency in Scholarship Foundation operations. The Foundation has now received 20 four-star ratings in 21 years.

The Scholarship Foundation also recently received its fifth consecutive Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid (formerly GuideStar). The Platinum Seal is Candid’s highest level of recognition, signifying exceptional openness in reporting institutional finances and performance.

“This organization’s enduring success as a financial and informational resource for area families is the direct result of our commitment to operational excellence. We are proud to be recognized once again by both Charity Navigator and Candid,” said Foundation President and CEO Melinda Cabrera.

Please see page 8 for a breakdown of the Scholarship Foundation’s functional expenses.
San Marcos High School, he is now an English major and hopes once day to teach English in Japan.

“If I had to summarize what the Scholarship Foundation means to me as a transfer student, I would say that it has been an indispensable partner in my education,” said Kevin, who previously served on the Santa Barbara Youth Council. “Thanks to the Foundation, I not only have the materials necessary to continue my education. I also have a wonderful opportunity to work towards building a better future and a better community for those around me.”

One such student is Kevin Acuna, who is now a junior at UC Santa Barbara after transferring from SBCC. A graduate of San Marcos High School, he is now an English major and hopes once day to teach English in Japan.

“Growing up, my family and their undying love for me were the only certainties in an environment marked by poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity, and I still feel the need to celebrate and elevate my mother and five siblings,” she said. “I arranged for them all to attend my Covid-delayed graduation ceremony last year. Coming down the stage and handing my diploma to my mother was the proudest moment of my life.”

Student activism and community work were an important part of her undergraduate experience.

“For four years, I worked hard to achieve an affirming atmosphere for immigrants on campus and in the broader Cambridge community,” she said.

Somehow, Mariana also found the time to work and send money to her family in Santa Maria.

“IT TOOK MARIANA DE LEON a staggering eight years of meetings, filings, and legal maneuvering to obtain a Green Card. The experience helped ignite her passion for legal advocacy on behalf of immigrants.

“There is clearly a dearth of competent lawyers to help bridge cultural, language, and other barriers that often hinder immigrants seeking permanent residency status,” said the Santa Maria High School graduate. “That’s my main professional motivation: to help fill that hole and create a more equitable system for those seeking a better life in this country.”

With help from the Scholarship Foundation, she is well on her way to achieving that goal. Mariana is a first-year student at Stanford Law School, having received a George A. Cavalletto Law School Scholarship. Recipients from that scholarship fund must demonstrate a commitment to community service as well as a strong work ethic and academic achievement – all of which Mariana has in spades.

Born in Jalisco, Mexico, Mariana immigrated to the United States at age 2 and ultimately attended Harvard University, also with substantial support from the Scholarship Foundation. She graduated in 2021 with bachelor’s degrees in literature and history – and numerous academic honors.

With help from the Scholarship Foundation, she is well on her way to achieving that goal. Mariana is a first-year student at Stanford Law School, having received a George A. Cavalletto Law School Scholarship. Recipients from that scholarship fund must demonstrate a commitment to community service as well as a strong work ethic and academic achievement – all of which Mariana has in spades.

Transfer students account for a significant portion of Scholarship Foundation recipients each year.

This year alone, 280 students transferred from Allan Hancock College and Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) to four-year colleges with Foundation assistance, collectively receiving just over $1 million in scholarships. That’s roughly one-seventh of all Foundation scholarship outlays in 2023!
ASSISTANCE LEAGUE of Santa Barbara has been a potent force for good countywide for three-quarters of a century. For the last decade, its community betterment work has included active support of local college students in partnership with the Scholarship Foundation. Established in 2013, the Assistance League of Santa Barbara Scholarship Fund, administered by the Scholarship Foundation, supports area students for the duration of their undergraduate studies. The fund is currently helping 10 students from throughout the county, and cumulatively has provided 84 scholarships totaling more than $250,000.

“Our membership is very enthusiastic about funding college scholarships for local students,” said Nancy Revlin, who chairs the League’s Scholarship Committee. “It means so much to us to be able to give these young people a leg up as they start their adult lives.”

An all-volunteer group, Assistance League of Santa Barbara is the 10th of 120 chapters of National Assistance League, the first nonprofit, nonsectarian organization begun in the West to help those less fortunate. The local chapter was formed in 1948, and moved to its current location at 1259 Veronica Springs Road in Santa Barbara in 1965.

The organization’s approximately 350 members volunteer more than 50,000 hours each year in support of 16 philanthropic programs, which include its scholarship fund. The League also has begun supporting Santa Barbara City College students majoring in trade or technical fields.

Assistance League of Santa Barbara is perhaps best known for its thrift shop, the primary source of funding for the organization’s philanthropic efforts.

Each June, the organization hosts an awards ceremony for that year’s Assistance League Scholarship recipients. Pictured at this year’s ceremony are (from left) Kassandra Garcia-Serrano, Hugo Alvarado, and Veronica Garcia.

Deepening its relationship with the Scholarship Foundation, the Assistance League hosted the judging for this year’s Art Scholarship Competition in January.

“We are very proud of our partnership with the Scholarship Foundation and what we’ve accomplished together for county students,” said Mrs. Revlin.

ALAN GRIFFIN’S remarkable commitment to the Scholarship Foundation spans almost 30 years, beginning with his election to the Foundation Board in 1995. He is now the organization’s second-longest serving Board member, behind only Arthur Swalley, who joined in 1993.

His support of the Foundation and its mission extends well beyond rank-and-file Board membership, however.

Alan served as Board president from 2011 to 2013, an especially eventful period in the organization’s history. Under his leadership, the Scholarship Foundation mounted a series of ambitious initiatives tied to its 50th anniversary, including a $9 million fundraising campaign and the publication of a comprehensive Foundation history book.

His tenure as Board president also saw the organization hire its first North County program advisors and open its Santa Maria office in 2012. The following year the Scholarship Foundation hosted its first North County awards ceremony and remodeled its main office in Santa Barbara.

Perhaps most impressively, Alan and his wife Patricia have consistently donated to the Scholarship Foundation over the years, with lifetime giving now approaching $100,000!

“I especially enjoy interviewing students each spring,” he said. “It always reminds me that we are engaged in life-changing work at the Scholarship Foundation.”

We salute you, Alan!
THE SCHOLARS CIRCLE RECOGNIZES the thoughtful individuals who have included the Scholarship Foundation in their estate plans. We gratefully acknowledge their extraordinary commitment to providing generations of Santa Barbara County students with the opportunity to pursue a postsecondary education.

To learn more about the Scholars Circle or planned giving opportunities, contact Associate Director of Development Nicole Jones at (805) 687-6065 or njones@sbscholarship.org.

A Support System Generations in the Making

Supporting the Scholarship Foundation has been a longstanding tradition for Joanne Rapp and her family. Dr. Kermit Seefeld, her late father, served on the Foundation Board in the 1980s, and her daughter Jennifer is a current Board member. For her own part, Joanne headed the Board from 1993 to 1995, having joined in 1988, and returned to the organization in 2012 to co-chair its 50th anniversary celebration.

"Education has always been an emphasis in our family, starting with our parents," said Joanne. "It's such a privilege to invest in an organization that does so much to help local students become better citizens through learning and exposure to knowledge."

Born in Milwaukee, Joanne moved with her family to Santa Barbara in the mid-1940s after her father was offered a teaching position at Santa Barbara College in what is now the Riviera Theatre complex. Dr. Seefeld would eventually become a founding faculty member of UCSB’s Department of Education. Joanne’s mother Vivian was a noted local educator in her own right, serving as the first principal of Cleveland Elementary School in Santa Barbara.

Joanne met her husband Brian at UC Berkeley, and though she was initially reluctant to return to her hometown, especially after studying abroad in France and Switzerland, the couple has now happily lived in the area for more than 55 years.

In keeping with their family history, Joanne and Brian established the Kermit and Vivian Seefeld Scholarship Fund, administered by the Scholarship Foundation, in 2001.

Unsurprisingly, they recently became Scholars Circle members as well.

"It’s so simple when you think about it," said Joanne. "Every little bit that goes to the Scholarship Foundation helps local students learn and thrive. We are so happy that we will get to contribute to the Foundation and support its important work for many years to come."
THIS YEAR’S SOUTH COAST Business & Technology Awards ceremony grossed a record $310,400 for the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara. Eight standout organizations and individuals were honored at the ceremony, which took place June 7 at the Hilton Santa Barbara Beachfront Resort. The annual awards recognize innovation, leadership, and success in the area’s business and technology sectors. Net proceeds from the event benefit the Scholarship Foundation.

“Since 2001, South Coast Business & Technology Awards ceremonies have provided more than $3 million in scholarships to more than 1,100 students throughout Santa Barbara County. This year alone, we awarded an unprecedented 163 SCBT scholarships,” said Scholarship Foundation President and CEO Melinda Cabrera. “We very much appreciate this generous support from our local business and technology community.”

More than 500 people attended the June 7 ceremony. Serving as event co-chairs again this year were Janet Garufis, chairman and CEO of Montecito Bank & Trust, and Kirsten McLaughlin, market vice president at Cox Communications.

This year’s honorees included John Greathouse (Pioneer Award); Foodbank of Santa Barbara County (Excellence in Service); Elizabeth Cholawsky of HG Insights (Executive of the Year); Yard (Company of the Year); Guillaume de Zwirek of Artera (Entrepreneur of the Year); and CrossnoKaye, Parker Clay, and Sun & Swell (Rising Stars).
This is an unaudited financial statement. For a copy of the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara's audited financial statements, please check our website after January 1, 2024, or call (805) 687-6065.
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We made every effort to list all those who generously donated during our 2022-23 fiscal year, and apologize for any inadvertent omissions. Some donors who have given consecutively may go unrecognized owing to gift timing. Please let us know if you would like to change the way your name appears in our annual report.

* Former Board Member  ** Loydon donor(s) for 10 years  ++ Loydon donor(s) for 5 years

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2023 Annual Report

2022-23 DONORS
ENDOWED FUNDS

AA/UW Santa Maria / Katherine S. Frech Memorial
Alpfa Delta Kappa/Beta Theta Chapter Margaret Straugh/ Virginia Faber
Aurelio Ahles Memorial
American GI Forum of Carpinteria
American Scandinavian Foundation
Donald Anderson Memorial
Pinky Anntor Memorial
Gary and Chris Annell Memorial
Rosanne S. Apogur Memorial
Malden and Louise Archbold Memorial
Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara
J.W. Bailey Construction Company
Robert Ryan Baptista Memorial
Jessica Bambiter
Judy and Leon Bartholomew
The Bell Family
Beta Chi of Sigma Kappa
Virginia Birn Memorial
Charles and Karlyn Boppell Family
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Catherine Boyer Eila Vista/UCSB Liaison
Richard Brody UCSC Engineering
Dorothy May Brin Memorial
Andrew H. and Helen Burnett
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D. Andrew Butcher
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California Retired Teachers Association/Erma Maurer Memorial
Jack and Mimran Carmichael
Bowdrie and Betty Jean Carwell
Dori and Chris Carter
Casa Donidna
George A. Cavallero Law
George and Dale Cavallero/Golea Rotary Club
Carrie Clark and Germaine Richman
Gloria M. Closson Memorial
Collier Family
Davidson Family Memorial
Dickers Brand Community
DeVore Family
Harold Dierenfield Memorial
Robert Ormes Dougan
Hanna Dugan Memorial
Susan Emmett Martin Memorial
Encore
Errett-Fisher Foundation
Virginia J. Faber
Joyce H. Faber
Nancyann & Robert Faling, M.D.
Carolyn Ferguson Founders
Robert and Carolyn Ferguson Memorial
Brooks and Kate Firestone
FLIR Systems
Jim and Ashley Ford Family Charitable
Bob and Cola Foss
Erik M. Frost Nursing
Peter and Catherine Frye
Garden Club of Santa Barbara
Sara J. Gelb
Dan Chan Han
George Kooper
John and Christy Grayville
Leo and Helen Gray Memorial
Gretel Foundation
William J. and Margaret M. Griffin Memorial
Arthur Gutendyke Memorial
Colette Hadley Honorary
Donald H. Harcourt Memorial
Robert F. Harris Memorial
Gerald and Evelynne Harris Memorial
Daniel, Anne, and Jamey Hawkes Memorial
Tobie Hazard
Richardson and Sharon Hermann
Rose Hernandez Memorial
Lauren Ashley Herrera Memorial
Hester Harris
Charles Helleiner Memorial
Housing Authority-Stephen B. Logan Memorial
Sigrid Skov Hervold Memorial
Igniters of Santa Barbara
Inskip
Jacob N. Ishaacchi Memorial
Diane and Dorot Jackson Scholarship Fund in Honor of Dr. Kevin and Jean Crock
Rosemary J. James Nursing
Elizabeth Belby Janeway
Knapp College of Nursing Alumni
Michael David Kolman, Jr. Memorial
Ruth B. Kunin Memorial
Steven Lauer Memorial
Marc and Ina Latham Memorial
Harner A. Leckie
Karl Lopker Memorial
Lowenthall Family
MacFarlane Family
Mac Mazihel Memorial
Marquis Family
Anne Panos Martin
Billie Maurer Honorary
Wendy P. McCaw Foundation Environmental Studies
Suzanne McNeeley
McOrine Boyle
Teresa McWilliams-Honorary
Charleen Fairley Mee
Judy and Fred Meisel
Charles J. and Esther R. Mylnik
Montecito Firefighters’ Charitable Foundation
Montecito Firefighters’ Charitable Foundation Community
Charles W. Monroe and Margaret Fiser Monroe Education
Kathleen Mosley
Menlo Foundation
Nichols Foundation
Harry and Beverly Niemiec Memorial
Ohlgreen Even Family Trust
Scott O’Leary Memorial
One2
One0
O’Neal Family
Margaret and Alex Oehlman Memorial
June G. Outhwaite
Paciﬁc Investors
Panttheon
Parish Family Trust
Patrick Family
Velma M. Patterson
Emily C. Peterson Memorial
Robert G. and Helen H. Peteler Memorial
Herbert & Ethel Peters Memorial
David W. Phelps Memorial
E. Anne Pidgeon
Fleta Dobbs Pope
Prager Family
Catharine R. Quigano
M.J. and Ellen Raffensperger
James Ranta
Red Piano Marcia Kelly/Musical
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Barbara Robertson Honorary
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Jackie Rock Memorial
Robert Rosow Memorial
J. Samuel and Sara L. Russ
Arthur N. Rupe Health Science
Lillian Salin Memorial
Susan K. Samuel Memorial
Ruth S. Saunders Memorial
Saxon Family
Santa Barbara County Cattlemens’ Association
Santa Barbara Contractors Association Education Foundation
Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Benevolent Posse Explorer
Santa Barbara Mattachine Festival
Santa Barbara Swings and Jazz
South Coast Business & Technology
Schall Family
Maryan Schall
C. William Schlosser
Arent and Jean Schuyler
Michael Scott
Irene W. Seed
Marcia Amanda Seed Memorial
Kermit Allen ‘Kip’ Seedfeld Jr. Memorial
Kermit, Vivian & Patricia Seedfeld
SFSB Legacy
To and Through Operating Support Endowment
Donald and Mary Lou Sherwin
Surf Family
Michael Sfetc Memorial
Faye Gillups Sagro Memorial
Sneth Singh Educational
Krishan G. Singh Memorial
N.S. Punde
Jay and Sally Smith Honors
Lawrence and Lillian Smith
Clifford and Juliette Sponsal
Randall P. Sprague Memorial
Dr. Andrews Brad and Dorothy Naegele
Katherine Jones Starr Art
M. Greg Starbaks and Daniel Jacobs
Stone Family Foundation
Alexander James Statt Jr.
Sandin Music
William and Marcie Thornbury
Donn and Daisy Topozzania
Donn and Daisy Topozzania North County
Maureen Murphy Tolson
Coal Towbes Memorial Community Service
Alice Tweed Tyson Foundation Honors
Henry A. Turner Memorial
David and Lela Carpenter UnHed Health
Van Dorje Family
Henry J. VanSchie Memorial
Abern Family
George A. Veronda
Mel Vogel Memorial
Marv Venkainen
Hubert D. Vos
Walsh Foundation/Jack Baker Art
Greg Weiss Memorial
Whalen Family
Jerry and Gary White Memorial
William Crobert Foundation
Will Win Memorial
SBART-Phd Womble Ethics in Sports
MTD/W Robert Yaco
David Yager Honorary
Danna McGrew has been elected chair of the Board of Directors for the Scholarship Foundation. A partner in the advisory and audit departments at local accounting firm Bartlett, Pringle, & Wolf, Danna joined the Board in 2015. She succeeds Matt Rowe, who remains on the Board.

Members who have joined in the last year:

**Michael Young** was UCSB’s vice chancellor for student affairs for 25 years after serving as associate dean at Wesleyan University. Since retiring from UCSB in 2015, he has twice served as interim vice president for student affairs at Sonoma State University.

A former Scholarship Foundation recipient, **Donna Weidl** is a senior vice president and financial advisor with the local branch of Merrill Lynch Global Wealth Management. She began her wealth management career at Merrill Lynch in 2009 after graduating from CSU Channel Islands.

**Jen Brown**, a retired attorney, was a partner at the global law firm Cozen O’Connor, and later served as associate general counsel for Patriot National Insurance Group, where she oversaw London market and U.S. insurance coverage matters, including NFL concussion lawsuits.

**Tessa Kaganoff** began her career as a policy analyst at the RAND Corporation in Santa Monica and went on to join the fundraising staff at UCLA, eventually becoming director of prospect research before retiring in May 2022.

**Phil Franklin** is a former corporate executive who served as chief financial officer at manufacturing companies OmniQuip International and Littelfuse. As chairman of the Board for Tribune Publishing, Phil oversaw the newspaper holding company’s sale to Alden Global Capital in 2021.

A graduate of Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, **Guille Gil-Reynoso** originally worked as a landscape architectural designer and went on to become a grants program manager at the Santa Barbara Foundation. She currently serves as advancement and communications manager at Cate School.

**Tracey Solomon** is a partner in the audit department at local accounting firm Bartlett, Pringle, & Wolf. A Santa Barbara native, she earned a bachelor’s degree in business economics with an emphasis in accounting at UCSB before joining BPW in 2003.

David Yossem, who served on the Scholarship Foundation Board from 1997 to 2015, passed away in December at age 86. Upon graduation from San Jose State University in 1957, David enrolled in Naval Officer Candidate School and went on to earn the rank of commander. A former president of the California Association of Life Underwriters, he founded the wealth management firm West Coast Financial in 1983. David was named a Foundation Honorary Board member in 2015.
FOR MORE THAN SIX DECADES, the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara has provided invaluable financial assistance to area students pursuing postsecondary education.

Founded as the Santa Barbara Scholarship Foundation in 1962, the organization granted its first scholarships – nine $100 book awards – in the summer of 1963. By the end of the decade, it had awarded 1,000 scholarships.

Today, the Foundation is the nation’s largest community-based provider of college scholarships, having cumulatively awarded more than $150 million to some 60,000 county students since its founding. The organization began providing free financial aid counseling in 1975, and was renamed the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara in 1993.