



Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara

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www.sbscholarship.org



Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara

Fact Sheet

Founded in 1962

The nation's largest community-based provider of college scholarships

Has cumulatively awarded in excess of \$175 million to more than 66,000 students over its history

Serves students throughout Santa Barbara County

Provides scholarships for undergraduate, graduate, and vocational study

Awarded more than \$8.4 million in scholarships to 2,288 students in 2026

Average undergraduate scholarship (excluding community college students): \$3,708

Average scholarship for community college students: \$1,126

Average graduate student award (excluding medical and law students): \$3,580

Total North County awards: \$4.15 million

Total South County awards: \$4.18 million

Sixty-two percent of SFSB scholarship recipients are first-generation college students

Fifty-four percent of SFSB scholarship recipients are eligible for Federal Pell Grants

Provides free financial aid advising services and resources

SFSB workshops and advising appointments serve approximately 20,000 individuals each year

SFSB recipients leveraged an estimated \$51.4 million in additional aid through our advisory services in 2024-2025



Calen Ouellette

President & CEO



Calen Ouellette began serving as president and CEO of the Scholarship Foundation in August 2026. After beginning his career at Porter Novelli Communications in Los Angeles, he went on to work in various capacities for the University of Southern California, serving most recently as chief administrative officer. At USC, Mr. Ouellette executed a record-breaking \$115 million fundraising campaign for the School of Dentistry, and was responsible for annual fundraising exceeding \$10 million. His largest solicited and secured gift was \$35 million, leading to the school's rebranding as the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry in honor of the eponymous benefactor and alumnus. Mr. Ouellette also contributed significantly to USC's \$8 billion fundraising initiative, one of the largest and most successful donation campaigns in higher education history. He subsequently held the title of chief advancement officer at the Los Angeles LGBT Center, and immediately prior to his current role served as CEO of the Clark College Foundation in Southwest Washington.



Pamela Gann

Board Chair



Pamela Gann joined the Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors in 2018, and began serving as board chair in July 2025. Ms. Gann earned a law degree at Duke University after studying mathematics as an undergraduate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She went on to serve as dean of Duke Law School for 11 years before being named president of Claremont McKenna College in 1999, a post she held until 2013. Ms. Gann has held visiting faculty appointments at universities throughout the country, and has taught law and international trade at seminars and institutes in Europe and Asia. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Pacific Council on International Policy, the International Women's Forum, and the American Law Institute, among others. Also a board director for Cottage Health, she previously served as a Santa Barbara Foundation trustee and as a board member for Direct Relief.



2026

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR IN REVIEW

\$8.46 Million

Scholarships Awarded



3,481

Applications
Received



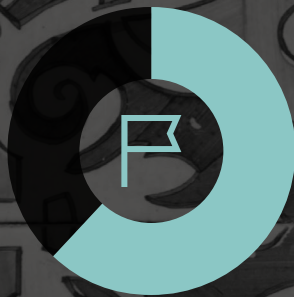
2,288

Students
Awarded



334

Colleges Attended
by Recipients



62%

Of Recipients are
First-Generation
College Students



54%

Of Recipients are
Eligible for Federal
Pell Grants

Top 5 Institutions
Receiving SFSB Funding

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
UC Santa Barbara
UC Los Angeles
UC Berkeley
Westmont College

Average
Scholarships



Undergrads at
2-Year Schools

\$1,126

Undergrads at
4-Year Schools

\$3,708

Graduate
Students

\$3,580

Medical
Students

\$24,888

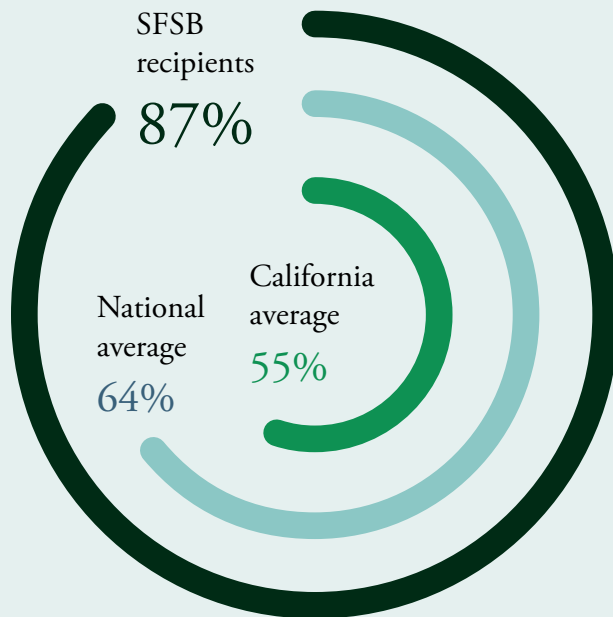
20,000+

Served Through Workshops and
Advising Appointments

\$50+ Million

Additional Aid Leveraged Through
SFSB Advisory Services

6-YEAR GRADUATION RATES



VISION STATEMENT

Every student is empowered to achieve his or her full potential through access to postsecondary education.

Dear Friends—

Organizations that enjoy impactful success over many years must always guard against complacency. At the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara, we view this time-tested counsel as a yearly challenge. Accordingly, renewal and improvement are hardcoded into our operations structure and culture.

The results speak for themselves. Thanks to the continuing generosity of our supporters countywide, the Scholarship Foundation was able to award \$8.46 million in scholarships this year, which is almost 10 percent above what our organization provided to local students in 2025. Since 2024, our annual scholarship awards have increased nearly 20 percent.

True to our commitment to build on past triumphs, however, we are not content with this recent record of accomplishment.

With new leadership and a freshly invigorated staff and Board, we are determined to achieve still more on behalf of local students and their families. Specifically, we are determined to close the funding gap that regularly forces us to turn away eligible applicants – 848 students this year alone.

Expect to see the Scholarship Foundation step into new spaces and continue to seek new partnerships in the months ahead. If this organization has demonstrated anything over the course of its transformative existence, it's that our community is stronger when it works together.

In the meantime, we encourage you to peruse the enclosed report, where you'll see the numbers behind these words, and a few of the faces behind the numbers.

We are genuinely excited about what we can build together.

Thank you for supporting the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara!



Calen D.B. Ouellette
President & CEO



Pamela Gann
Board Chair

Selected once again by the U.S. Department of Education to serve as an exclusive California test agent, the Scholarship Foundation hosted a community workshop in Santa Maria on August 7 to conduct beta testing of the latest iteration of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Hosted at the Santa Maria High School Library, the four-and-a-half-hour workshop involved approximately 175 seniors, mostly from Santa Maria High, together with parents, siblings, Santa Maria High School counselors, and representatives from several advocacy organizations and agencies.

As was the case in 2025, the Scholarship Foundation was the only organization in California selected by the U.S. Department of Education to conduct FAFSA testing this year. In 2024, the Foundation was one of only six organizations nationwide selected to conduct FAFSA testing.

The Department of Education initiated annual FAFSA testing two years ago after technical problems delayed release of the 2023 and 2024 iterations of the form. Completion of the FAFSA is required by virtually all organizations that provide college financial aid.



The Scholarship Foundation's 2026 Community Leaders Luncheon will take place on December 4 at the Hilton Santa Barbara Beachfront Resort.

Former Scholarship Foundation Board President Joanne Rapp is this year's honoree, and speakers will include Westmont College President Dr. Gayle D. Beebe.



Sponsorships are available.

INFO: sbscholarship.org
ATTENDANCE INQUIRIES:
[Alyssa Saavedra, asaavedra@sbscholarship.org](mailto:asaavedra@sbscholarship.org)

Q&A with Calen Ouellette

Calen Ouellette began serving as president and CEO of the Scholarship Foundation on August 10. After beginning his career at Porter Novelli Communications in Los Angeles, Calen went on to work in various capacities for the University of Southern California, serving most recently as chief administrative officer. He subsequently held the title of chief advancement officer at the Los Angeles LGBT Center, and immediately prior to his current role served as CEO of the Clark College Foundation in Southwest Washington.

What prompted you to take this position?

I was drawn to this opportunity because the mission is incredibly compelling. Education has always been one of the most powerful tools we have to change the trajectory of people's lives, and the Scholarship Foundation has a remarkable history of helping students in this community. I saw an organization with tremendous credibility, a committed team, and a mission that matters, and I thought, *this is something I want to be part of.*

What excites you most about the Scholarship Foundation?

The impact. At the end of the day, we're not simply raising money or administering scholarships. We're helping people create opportunities for themselves and their families that might otherwise be out of reach. What excites me just as much is the opportunity ahead. I think there is tremendous potential to expand our reach, deepen our relationships, and tell the story of this work in an even more powerful way.

Do you have a particular leadership philosophy?

I believe leadership starts with listening. Especially when you're new to an organization, you need to spend time understanding the people, the

culture, the history, and what's already working before you start deciding what needs to evolve. I also believe leadership should be human. We can have high expectations and hold one another accountable while still being kind, curious, and willing to laugh along the way.

What does the future hold for the Scholarship Foundation?

I think the future is incredibly bright. We have an extraordinary opportunity to build on a very strong foundation and think bigger about what scholarships, financial support, and advising can mean for our community. I want the Scholarship Foundation to be increasingly recognized not simply as an organization that provides financial assistance, but as a critical part of the educational and economic fabric of Santa Barbara County.

What would you like people to know about you?

I'm someone who cares deeply about people and about doing meaningful work. I like asking questions, and want people to feel heard, respected, and valued. And probably most importantly, I want people to know that I'm genuinely excited to be here. I didn't come to Santa Barbara simply to take a job. I came because I believe we have something really special here to build on, together.



Daniel Serrano

Daniel Serrano's aspiration to become a nurse was born of a childhood mishap.

Heedlessly scampering about his family's home one day as a rambunctious 6-year-old, young Daniel lost his footing and launched headlong into a door frame. The resulting forehead laceration landed him in the care of a crack medical team, whose efforts made a lasting impression.

"Despite being so young at the time, I was struck by the compassion shown me and by the level of care that I received," said Daniel, who came away so inspired that he promptly chronicled the episode and declared his intention to become a medical professional in his preschool notebook. "That's how it all started."

Today, Daniel is a freshman Kinesiology major at Westmont College, thanks in no small part to the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara. One of 72 Inskeep Endowed Scholarship Fund recipients this year, he is already laying the groundwork for a career in nursing, having just completed a highly selective 10-week internship at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital.

"I'm drawn to nursing because I truly enjoy helping people," said Daniel, adding that he would like to work as an emergency room nurse and eventually go into executive management.

"There is no better feeling than knowing that you've provided comfort to someone in need."

Born in Santa Barbara, Daniel graduated last spring from San Marcos High School, where he took part in the San Marcos Health Careers Academy. As a sophomore, he volunteered at Cottage Hospital, greeting and escorting visitors, transporting patients, and serving as a Covid tester.

Daniel's commitment to serving others has included the family home, where from a young

age he helped his hardworking immigrant parents care for his younger siblings.

"This scholarship has shown me that my community cares deeply about me and my education," he said. "I'm so grateful!"



Helen Yanez

Helen Yanez's art encompasses three intersecting interests: creativity, resilience, and cultural expression.

Originally from Michoacán, Mexico, Helen is proud to represent that region's Indigenous Purépecha population as an artist and as an advocate. And now with assistance from the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara, she's well on her way to becoming an educator who celebrates and helps preserve her cultural heritage.

The recipient of an Eichholz Foundation Arts Scholarship, Helen is currently a junior majoring in art at UC Berkeley, having transferred from Allan Hancock College. She is the first in her family to pursue higher education.

"The Foundation is helping me continue my path toward becoming an art teacher and community educator who uplifts Brown, Indigenous, and migrant communities through storytelling, healing, and cultural empowerment," she said.

"My dream is to create spaces where young people feel seen, valued, and powerful. I want them to understand that our histories, our languages, our traditions, and our creativity deserve to exist loudly and proudly in this world."

A graduate of Pioneer Valley High School in Santa Maria, Helen has devoted much of her time in recent years to community art and advocacy programs throughout the region, including painting a commissioned mural depicting area farmworkers that was unveiled in downtown Santa Barbara last spring.

Before heading off to Berkeley, she also served as the lead artist and art program manager at

the Cultural and Creative Arts Center of Santa Maria Valley, where she supported Indigenous youth projects that use art as a tool for education and empowerment.

Helen draws strength and inspiration from her status as an AB 540 student.

"This scholarship is about more than financial support. It's a reminder that people like me deserve to dream, thrive, and pursue opportunities despite the barriers placed before us," she said.



Helen Yanez with mother Maria Luisa Yanez Gallo



Sarah & Roger Chrisman

For **Sarah** and **Roger Chrisman**, nonprofit philanthropy is about more than financial largesse. It also involves contributing to the intellectual capital of the organizations they support.

“You’ll find that the things we’re large donors to, one of us sits on the board of directors,” said Sarah, who joined the Scholarship Foundation Board in 2018 and together with her husband has given the organization \$1.2 million over the years.

“We don’t just give money away; we give our time and our energy as well, and like to monitor operations. We feel very strongly about supporting things that we know about.”

Fortunately for the Scholarship Foundation, the Chrismans know something about the benefits of education.

A native of Pasadena, Sarah earned undergraduate degrees in music and mathematical sciences at Stanford University before obtaining an MBA from UC Berkeley. Born and raised in Spokane, Washington, Roger earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in electrical engineering at the University of Washington.

“We both believe that education is very valuable and making it available to all people is a priority,” said Sarah. “We feel the Scholarship Foundation is a very well-managed source of scholarships for youth in our area. We want to provide our community with the educational opportunities that we both had.”

Subsequent professional opportunities included cofounding the Silicon Valley high-tech firm Network Equipment Technologies in 1982. At the time of its listing on the New York Stock Exchange five years later, the company had revenue of nearly \$50 million.

Since relocating to Montecito in 1999, the Chrismans have generously supported an array of local nonprofits, and in 2015 were named Philanthropists of the Year by the local chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Their latest nonprofit venture: the Mystic Whaler, a magnificent, two-masted schooner that offers educational programming on the open ocean for area children. Last October, Mayor Randy Rowse proclaimed it the official tall ship of Santa Barbara.

“We’re fortunate that we have the ability donate to things that are important, and we think it’s important to maintain the fabric of life here in Santa Barbara. It’s a special place,” said Roger.

Tom and June Anderle
Chris and Anita Anderson
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Dr. Elizabeth Cholawsky
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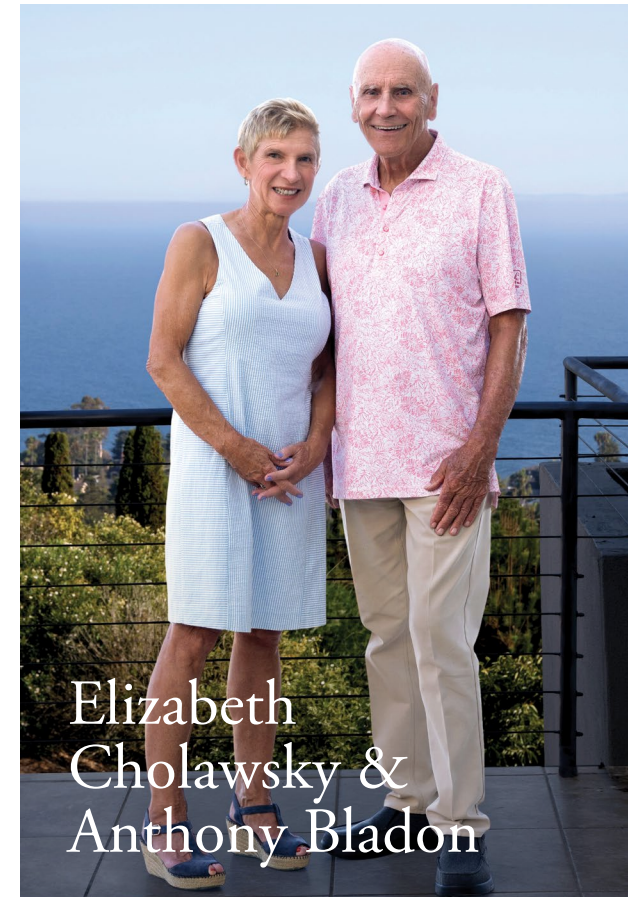
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*David and Susan Yossem

Elizabeth Cholawsky and Anthony Bladon need no convincing that college is a worthwhile investment. Each has a doctorate and a resume bristling with successful high-tech ventures, and each is enthusiastic about supporting the Scholarship Foundation through membership in the Scholars Circle.

"We both have a background steeped in education, and we both received scholarships that were very helpful along the way. We want to ensure that future generations similarly benefit from such assistance," said Anthony, who earned a Ph.D. in computer speech processing from the university of Oxford and worked in academia in his native UK before catching on with a series of local high-tech startups.

Elizabeth, who holds a doctorate in political science with a concentration in econometrics from the University of Minnesota, has been a mainstay of the regional tech scene for more than 20 years, serving most recently as CEO of HG Insights in Santa Barbara. Once that company received a major cash infusion from private equity firm Riverwood Capital, she knew immediately how she wanted to use some of her windfall.

"Once we had discretionary funds, we determined that education would be the focus of our philanthropy, so there was no hesitation about supporting local educational causes, particularly the Scholarship



Elizabeth
Cholawsky &
Anthony Bladon

Foundation," said Elizabeth, who joined the Scholars Circle with her husband in 2022 and became a Foundation Board member last year.

"We don't have children of our own, but we want to continue doing good in this community. We can think of no better way to accomplish that than funding Foundation scholarships in perpetuity."

2026 SCBT AWARDS

Another year, another new funding mark! For the fourth consecutive year, the South Coast Business & Technology (SCBT) Awards ceremony grossed record proceeds (\$361,050) on behalf of the Scholarship Foundation.

Seven standout organizations and individuals were honored during the 2026 ceremony, which took place June 23 at the Hilton Santa Barbara Beachfront Resort. The annual awards recognize innovation, leadership, and success in the area's business and technology sectors.

This year's honorees included architect and real estate developer **Trudi Carey** (Pioneer Award); the **Department of Technology Management at UCSB** (Excellence in Service); AppFolio President and CEO **Shane Trigg** (Executive of the Year); **Mission Wealth** (Company of the Year); ChipAgents CEO and founder **Dr. William Wang** (Entrepreneur of the Year); and **Dimer Instruments** and **Unwrap** (Rising Stars).

Ms. Carey served on the Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors for 22 years.

Proceeds from the SCBT Awards have benefited the Scholarship Foundation since 2001, resulting in just under \$3.7 million in scholarships to date.



Trudi Carey (center) with 2026 ceremony emcees Danna McGrew (right) and Matt Rowe

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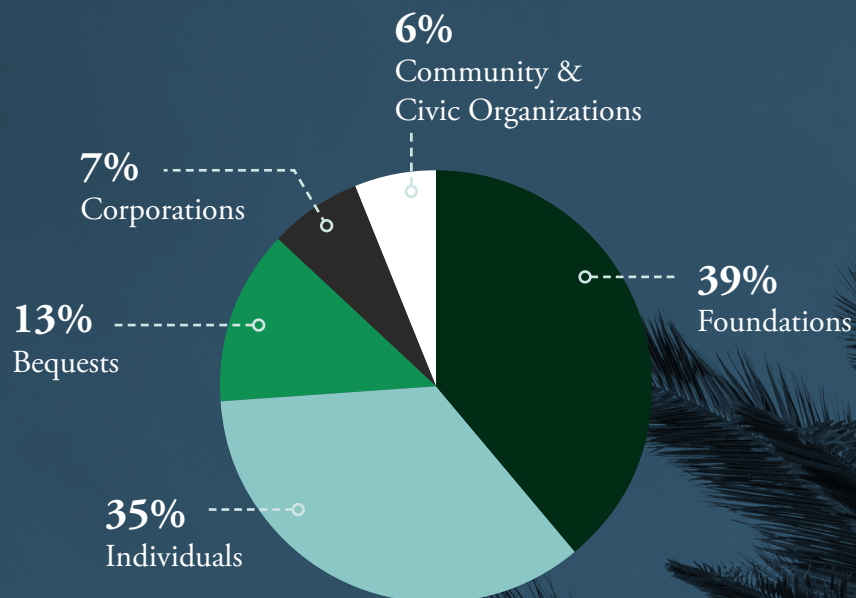
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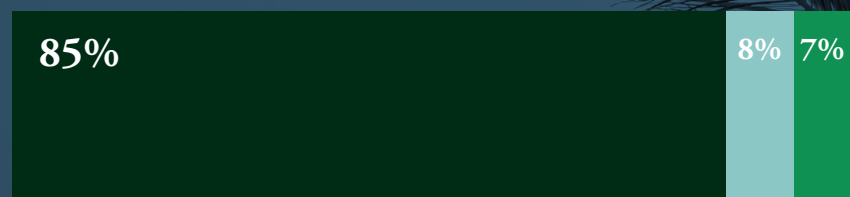
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Seymour Duncan
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US Bank
Village Properties
Wells Fargo
Westmont College

PUBLIC SUPPORT

by Funding Source



FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES



● Program	● Fundraising	● General & Administrative
\$9,229,608	\$826,784	\$727,132

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as of June 30, 2026

ASSETS

Cash	\$8,272,760
Pledges receivable	2,372,458
Investments	90,053,298
Property and equipment, net	18,893
Right-of-use asset, net	398,672
Other assets	289,206

Total Assets	\$101,405,287
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LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$298,788
Scholarship awards payable, net	8,035,096
Lease liability	398,672

Total Liabilities	8,732,556
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Without donor restrictions	8,040,350
With donor restrictions	84,632,380

Total Net Assets	92,672,731
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Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$101,405,287
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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, 2027, or call (805) 687-6065.

2025-2026 DONORS

^ Former Board Member

* Loyal donor(s) for 10 years

We made every effort to list all those who generously donated during our 2025–26 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. We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of our anonymous donors at every level.



\$100,000+

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Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara	Harold Dierenfield Memorial	Housing Authority – Stephen B. Logan Memorial	Harry and Beverly Niemiec Memorial	Saxon Family	Donn and Daisy Tognazzini North County
Atwater-Sellens	Robert Ormes Dougan	Sigrid Skov Hvolboll Memorial	Mark M. Noble Memorial	Santa Barbara County Cattlemen's Association	Maureen Murphy Tolson
J.W. Bailey Construction Company	Hanna Dugan Memorial	Igniters of Santa Barbara	Ohlgren Even Family Trust	Santa Barbara Contractors Association Education Foundation – Built Green	Edo and Bruna Tonello Memorial
Robert Ryan Baptista Memorial	Susan Emmel Martin Memorial	Inskeep	Scott O'Leary Memorial	Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Benevolent Posse Explorer	Gail Towbes Memorial Community Service
Jessica Barnhizer	Encore	Jacob N. Israelachvili Honors Science	One805	Santa Barbara Mariachi Festival	Alice Tweed Tuohy Foundation Honors
Judy and Leon Bartholomew	Errett-Fisher Foundation	Diane and Don Jackson – in Honor of Dr. Kevin and Jean Cook	O'Neal Family	Santa Barbara Savings and Loan	Henry A. Turner Memorial
The Bell Family	Virginia J. Faber	Rosemary J. James Nursing	Margaret and Alex Orhalmi Memorial	South Coast Business & Technology	David and Leila Carpenter UniHealth
Beta Chi of Sigma Kappa	Joyce H. Fahlman	Elizabeth Bixby Janeway	June G. Outhwaite	Schall Family	Walter H. and Eleanor Van Cott
Virginia Birk Memorial	Nancyann & Robert Failing, M.D.	Peter and Gerd Jordano	Pacifica Investors	Maryann Schall	Van Donge Family
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Busch Family	Sara J. Gelb	Lowenthal Family	E. Anne Pidgeon	Jack and Anitra Sheen	Whalen Family
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John and Shirley Carter	Arthur Gruendyke Memorial	Suzanne McNeely	Red Piano Marcie Kjoller Musical	Si Se Puede	
	Guadalupe Kids Come First	McOmie-Boyle	Doris C. Ribble	Jay and Sally Smith Honors	
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	Donald H. Harcourt Memorial		John Rindlaub		
	Robert F. Harris Memorial				



Kimberly Schizas has joined the Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors. A resident of Santa Barbara County for more than 50 years, she graduated from UCSB with a bachelor's degree in business economics and later earned a master's degree in public administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. For the past 30 years, Kimberly has been a partner in Wynmark Company, a local property developer whose projects have included Camino Real Marketplace, Girsh Park, Maravilla senior living community, and the Marriott Courtyard Hotel, all in Goleta. A former hospice volunteer, she has served on the Santa Barbara County Commission for Women, the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission, and boards for the Cancer Foundation of Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics, among several others.

IN MEMORIAM



Charles R. Greene, 1935 – 2026

Charles joined the Scholarship Foundation Board in 1983 and served as president in 1986-87. During his tenure as president, the organization hosted a Lambda Chi Alpha volleyball tournament fundraiser at Zuma Beach in Malibu.



Norm Habermann, 1933 – 2026

Norm was a Board member for 27 years, and served on various committees. In 2024, he was named an Emeritus Board Member in recognition of his lasting contributions to the Foundation's growth and success.



Vicki Hazard, 1946 – 2025

A Foundation Board member for 13 years, Vicki served on the Executive Committee for a decade. She had a special affinity for the organization's art scholarship program, and enjoyed advocating for participating student artists.

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* deceased

MISSION STATEMENT

The Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara inspires, encourages, and supports Santa Barbara County students to and through college, graduate, and vocational school by providing information, advising, and scholarships.



DONATE TODAY AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

The Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Our tax ID# is 23-7087774.



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