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Contact: Jordan Killebrew,  
Communications Manager, Santa Barbara Foundation  
[jkillebrew@sbfoundation.org](mailto:jkillebrew@sbfoundation.org); 805-963-1873

## Neighbors Show Lompoc Cares with Donation to Community Disaster Relief Fund

(Santa Barbara) During the April 12 Santa Barbara Foundation Board of Trustees meeting, representatives of *Lompoc Cares* presented a check for \$6,700 to the Community Disaster Relief Fund.

Conceived by former Lompoc Mayor Andrew Salazar, *Lompoc Cares* raised funds for South County residents – particularly those in the Santa Barbara and Montecito areas – who were displaced or otherwise harmed by the recent fires, storms and mudslides.

Salazar was inspired after reading how the Lompoc and Cabrillo High School student bodies joined forces to raise \$1,000, which they donated to Santa Barbara High School.

The Lompoc Valley Community Healthcare Organization collected donations on behalf of Lompoc Cares, and Executive Director Ashley Costa was on hand for the presentation:

“As the campaign comes to a close, I’m overjoyed the Lompoc community rallied behind the *Lompoc Cares* effort and helped to raise close to \$7,000 for victims of the fire and flood in South County. Our county can feel disconnected, but disasters are a strong reminder that what is truly important includes caring for our neighbors.”

Activated in the aftermath of an emergency, the Community Disaster Relief Fund supports nonprofit organizations that play a role in short-term and long-term recovery, providing services including emergency food distribution, immediate shelter and long-term housing, emotional and spiritual care, economic and rental assistance, education, healthcare, and more. “These nonprofits support individual victims and families directly and will need on-going funding assistance to expand

their services and evolve with the growing and diverse needs in the months and years ahead,” said Barbara Andersen, Santa Barbara Foundation Chief Strategy Officer.

According to Costa, “It creates a huge ripple effect on the non-profit sector, who are serving more clients due to the disasters and not receiving as many donations, ticket sales and event sponsorships at this time. Our goal wasn’t a large amount, but rather a large gesture to show that we are one community, we are good neighbors and Lompoc cares.”

Santa Barbara Foundation President Ron Gallo added, “Ultimately, all philanthropy is neighbors helping neighbors, and we’re honored that our neighbors in Lompoc chose the Community Disaster Relief Fund as the vehicle for their impact.”

**About Lompoc Valley Community Healthcare Organization:**

Lompoc Valley Community Healthcare Organization’s mission is to improve the health of the community by assuring local access to a coordinated system of health promotion, disease prevention, and treatment service.

**About Santa Barbara Foundation:**

Founded in 1928 and now the largest grant-maker in the county, the Santa Barbara Foundation’s mission is to mobilize collective wisdom and philanthropic capital to build empathetic, inclusive and resilient communities.

Over the decades, nearly every Santa Barbara County nonprofit organization and essential community project has benefited from the work of the foundation. From the funding of rest camps for undernourished children in 1934 to today’s groundbreaking work to support family caregivers, the foundation has grown and learned with the communities it serves.