



SANTA BARBARA
FOUNDATION
COUNTY CONNECTIONS

HELPING OUR YOUTH THRIVE



APRIL - JUNE 2018

**The Hancock Promise, Invest in Youth Grants,
Three Perspectives on Youth Development & More**



**A MESSAGE FROM
RONALD V. GALLO, Ed.D.**
PRESIDENT & CEO

It’s summer. A time that always seems to bring my thoughts to children. For our youngest residents, it can be an opportunity for extra time with family, to have out-of-the ordinary adventures, to travel or to learn new skills. A time for renewal, relaxation and fun. But summer also too often represents a very different set of experiences for many of our youth in Santa Barbara County. Periods of loneliness, boredom, physical and psychological danger, and lost opportunities for learning, building of self-esteem, and finding a wonderful mentor connected to, for example, a camp, sporting activity, art instruction, or academic remediation and/or advancement.

This experiential gap during the summer has a strong correlation to overall academic achievement and the development of strong, healthy, curious, connected and responsible adults, ready to take up leadership roles in their families and in their communities. It seems to us that it is just plain wrong to have such a severe disparity of opportunities among children in a county known for its connectivity and generosity of spirit, and that seeks to be truly empathetic, inclusive and resilient in these increasingly complex times.

The Santa Barbara Foundation has long supported efforts that invest in youth development because we believe that those investments accrue to the benefit of each child and to all of us. Children and young adults who feel wanted, who come to believe that they have value and skills and talents, and who are loved by family and their community, are likelier to succeed later in life in a myriad of important roles: partner, parent, employee, employer,

community leader, and perhaps most important of all, positive role model for the generation that comes next. That is the healthy cycle we must maintain in order to bring about, as I am fond of saying, “our best collective future.”

We are proud to share this issue of our quarterly report, as it focuses on youth development and the ways that the Santa Barbara Foundation has, through its partnership with excellent nonprofit organizations, increased positive opportunities and experiences for children and young adults throughout the county – not just during the summer months, but year round. You will find a listing of twenty recent grants to organizations throughout Santa Barbara County that are doing exceptional work with youth. Also within these covers, you will find a dialogue with community experts, including Superintendent of Schools Susan Salcido, Girls, Inc. of Carpinteria Executive Director Victoria Juarez, Santa Barbara School of Squash Executive Director Robert Graham, and Youth Interactive Executive Director Nathalie Gensac. Each have words of wisdom for us that I am sure will inspire you and leave you with the feeling that there are many encouraging signs that Santa Barbara County well understands our obligation to and the benefits derived from investing in our youth.

Hope this summer finds you seeking opportunities for new learnings, adventures and renewal.

Ronald V. Gallo
Ronald V. Gallo, Ed.D.
President & CEO

**THE HANCOCK PROMISE
RAISES ENROLLMENT**

In June 2018, The Hancock Promise opened its program to high school graduates in the Allan Hancock Joint Community College District. This district spans high schools from Lompoc to Santa Ynez, Cuyama and the Santa Maria Valley. Students from these high schools who immediately enroll at Allan Hancock College are eligible for free tuition and fees for one academic year, a savings of about \$1,200 per student. Additional services include priority registration, free tutoring, and other academic support. Although not the first community college to start a promise program, The Hancock Promise is the first program to focus on early outreach to elementary and junior high schools, promoting a college-going culture among students and their families.

“No other promise program in the state accomplishes what ours does with the Bulldog Bound program, and that’s making outreach to fifth through eighth graders a priority,” said Kevin G. Walthers, Ph.D, Hancock’s Superintendent and President. “Getting students excited about college at an early age will have ripple effects in their own families and in the whole community. The college is committed to changing the odds for our community. Bulldog Bound and The Hancock Promise are helping us accomplish our mission.”

In its outreach, the program holds events to showcase the campus, its programs, and promote student success, familiarizing students and families with the college. Already, there has been growth in first-time enrollments. Projections for fall 2018 show a 113% increase in first-time student enrollment over fall 2017. Allan Hancock’s Office of Institution Effectiveness also reported a rise of nearly 650 first-time students admitted to the college as of mid-July

2018. Students in the Lompoc area have shown the most interest in the program, where the headcount has increased by 53%, while there is a 39% jump among Santa Maria Valley students.

“The thought of free tuition is just really awesome,” said Matthew Taczala, who graduated from Maple High School (Lompoc) in May 2018. “It is really scary for me thinking about the cost, and it really put me off from college. But knowing that this program at Hancock will pay for the first year, that’s insane and totally changed my outlook.”

To fund this endeavor, the promise program launched a five-year, \$10 million campaign in December 2017. The Santa Barbara Foundation kicked off the campaign with a \$250,000 investment. Rabobank pledged a gift of \$1 million in early 2018. Support has also come from local organizations like the Rotary Club of Santa Ynez Valley and Santa Maria Kiwanis 4 Kids Foundation. To date the Hancock Promise has received gifts and pledges to an endowment totaling more than \$3.2 million.

“We must remove barriers so our students can succeed in higher education,” said Guy R. Walker, Vice President and Campaign Chair of the Allan Hancock College Foundation. “Over the next five years, our goal is to ensure, in perpetuity, that the Hancock Promise is here to support our students and our community. We are well on our way to that goal!”

PHOTO: Allan Hancock College Bulldog Bound program with students at their Public Safety Training Complex in Lompoc.



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS WITH SUSAN SALCIDO, COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



Susan Salcido's passion for working with the youth of Santa Barbara County comes from a lifetime of immersion and involvement in our communities. Salcido grew up in Santa Maria and later attended UCSB. She taught at Dos Pueblos High School, served as Assistant Principal at San Marcos High School, and as Principal at Santa Barbara Junior High School. In 2006, she joined the Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) and excelled in a variety of roles before being named County Superintendent of Schools in July 2017.

Dr. Salcido graciously agreed to share her thoughts with Jordan Killebrew of the Santa Barbara Foundation about some of the immediate challenges facing our youth, including school safety, a rapidly changing technological world, and how educators can meet the social-emotional needs of an increasingly diverse population of students.

Jordan Killebrew: Why are you passionate about what you do?

Susan Salcido: Santa Barbara County is a place I love. I love those whom we serve, and it is a privilege to live and work in a community that truly believes that all children can be successful when provided equitable opportunities. Education is the key tool for unlocking the door to opportunities. I am passionate about doing all I can to allow every single one of our children those opportunities for success.

We have diverse populations here in Santa Barbara County. My work as county superintendent involves being present in every city and district. There are tremendous differences from area to area — from rural to suburban, from low poverty to high wealth; cultures, languages and experiences are vastly different. The greatest commonality and need is for ALL students, no matter the differences, to receive not merely access, but also equitable instruction, programs, services, opportunities and open doors. The

proverbial ceilings should be broken for each and every child. This is what we want for our own children, and it is our children whom we serve throughout Santa Barbara County.

Jordan: What are the top three most pressing issues within youth development in Santa Barbara County?

Susan: Keeping schools safe is of the utmost importance for all of us. But we are in a new era and time—much different from what many of us adults experienced as students. Success in ensuring the safety of our children in our schools will involve partnerships among schools, children, families, community members, law enforcement, and legislators. The approach must be multi-faceted, systematic, and address short-term and long-term factors.

Second, we are preparing our children intellectually and academically for a dynamic, rapidly evolving world that is becoming increasingly complex and complicated. It is imperative that we educators continue to challenge ourselves and stay current on developing technologies so that we can effectively prepare our students for the world that awaits them when they enter the workforce. Beyond academics, we continue to prepare students for skills that are imperative for work environments that require collaboration, prioritization, critical thinking, time management, problem-solving, and more.

And finally, meeting the social and emotional needs of every single child is a priority. It is essential that we continue to develop ways that encourage healthy interactions with technology and social media. The data on technology's social impacts on youth is irrefutable. Some studies indicate as much as a 50 percent increase in clinical levels of depression amongst our youth, along with higher rates of feeling lonely or left out. Not

surprisingly, studies also show these troubling indicators coincide almost perfectly with the increased popularity of smartphones among adolescents. With the proliferation of technology, it is vital we provide young people with the tools to use that technology—and particularly social media—responsibly.

Jordan: What is something that you want people to know about our youth in Santa Barbara County?

Susan: Our students are reaching new heights and blazing new trails in our classrooms and beyond every day. They're partnering with local businesses and nonprofits to build tiny houses. They offer tax assistance to underserved communities. They develop emerging technologies for application in farming and agricultural practices. They're creating—from scratch—nonprofit organizations that help combat poverty and food insecurity. They run film festivals and put on dance performances that celebrate their rich cultural heritage. If someone wants assurances about the strength of Santa Barbara County, they need only inquire with their local schools—the true heartbeat of our community.

Jordan: What impact would you say youth development has on our community at large?

Susan: Partnerships in the community are essential for our youth to unlock their full potential. Santa Barbara County is fortunate to have educators, businesses, nonprofit and civic leaders working in partnership with our schools to provide the range of experiences that have such an enormous impact on young lives. An enriching education enables students to make a difference in the world they will inherit, value liberty, and have the courage to pursue what is right and what is good. We believe wholeheartedly in the value of partnerships within our community, and are grateful for the compassionate and caring community that truly help our youth thrive.

Jordan: How can our community do better to address the needs of our youth?

Susan: We must continue to offer individualized support to our students, with a focus on early prevention. In doing so, we support our students with the goal of giving every one of them an opportunity to succeed.

The importance of addressing the mental health needs of our youth cannot be overstated. One major challenge facing those trying to help is the fact that some consider the subject taboo. But together, we can change the discourse. We can be proactive rather than reactive, helping head off issues before they reach a critical mass. We can focus on awareness. We can listen closely and communicate carefully. While challenges are significant, local efforts are helping make a real difference.

Jordan: How do you think the Santa Barbara Foundation can better address the needs of our youth?

Susan: We understand that the call to serve never diminishes. We would love to see a continued expansion of services countywide. In particular, we have a growing population in north Santa Barbara County, including Guadalupe and Santa Maria. We also have important needs in rural New Cuyama. Given the growth in our county, we would love to see a continued expansion of services countywide.

PHOTO: Susan Salcido (right), with Dr. Diane Burton, and Laura Camp.



THREE PERSPECTIVES ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



DISCUSSING THE BIGGEST ISSUES FOR YOUTH IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY WITH THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

We asked three representatives of youth development organizations what they thought were the biggest issues for youth in Santa Barbara County, and how we could do better in addressing these issues. All three pointed out that most issues facing youth transcend geography, although the high cost of living in Santa Barbara County exacerbates the challenges facing low-income families.

According to its website, “In order to inspire girls and young women to be strong, smart and bold, **Girls Inc. of Carpinteria** seeks to empower girls and women to achieve personal, social, economic and political success. We strive to inspire critical thinking and progressive action in their lives. All programming is specifically designed to support this mission, to intentionally change girls’ lives and their world. In addition, our organization actively advocates for the elimination of gender barriers that limit girls’ options

and involves them as agents of community change.”

Executive Director Victoria Juarez raised three issues impacting youth development services in Santa Barbara County, noting that more and more families are working multiple jobs that, because of housing issues, often require long commutes, leaving little time for nurturing their kids during after-school hours. These kids also need more academic support, as only 1/3 of kids from low-income families read at grade level (however, she points out with pride that 2/3 of Girls Inc. kids read at grade level). Finally, kids need opportunities to develop healthy relationships with adults outside the family as well.

Juarez thinks we can do better by keeping our eye on the ball: “We need to remind children that we value them. Let every child – and teenager – know that whatever is going on in their lives, someone is going to be there for them.”

Juarez points out that many youth development organizations pursue the same goals: 1) Support the school district, 2) Help close achievement gaps, and 3) Provide safe spaces for kids to learn, explore, and grow. This is certainly true of the others we spoke to.

Launched 12 years ago, **Santa Barbara School of Squash** is a year-round sports and education program serving committed Santa Barbara youth (5th-12th grade) who qualify for the National School Lunch Program. SBSOS pillars include squash, academic tutoring, community service, enrichment opportunities, and mentoring.

According to **Executive Director Robert Graham**, “People think it’s a sports program, but it’s really an academic program first, a mentoring program second, and a sports program third. Our simple goal is to help these students graduate from high school. Students work on the sport, do homework with tutors, and make connections through mentors.”

“We need to remind children that we value them. Let every child – and teenager – know that whatever is going on in their lives, someone is going to be there for them.”

-VICTORIA JUAREZ

Graham added to Juarez’s list of issues, noting that he sees very poor diet and nutrition, compounded by lack of activity and exercise, degrading students’ academic and athletic performance. Graham also cited a sense of entitlement, lack of social skills (manners and etiquette required for working with others), and an addiction to cell phones as issues hampering the growth and success of our local youngsters.

Graham believes we can do better by seeking a lasting difference rather than just throwing money at short-term solutions, and warned that many in the county may not be aware of the challenges: “Santa Barbara does a really good job of hiding its problems.”

Youth Interactive provides programs focused on technology, entrepreneurship, and the arts, empowering children and teens to become self sufficient through the development of creative skills.

Executive Director Nathalie Gensac offered that kids need more agency and ownership in their education: “We need to ask for their voice, give them more responsibility, and make them part of the process of their own education. We need to listen to them and move with them.” She also sees a need to improve equity in access to opportunities in education and entrepreneurship.

But she was adamant about what she considers the biggest issue: “Quite frankly, the too-low minimum wage requires families to work three jobs, and that trickles down into less care for the next generation. That’s really the issue – people cannot earn enough for a proper family life.” Gensac feels we can do better by asking more questions and giving students more ownership of their education.

Speaking of “asking more questions,” philanthropist Eli Broad relentlessly asks one question of everyone he works with: “Is that the best you can do?” Here at the Santa Barbara Foundation, we ask the question of ourselves: “How can we do better?” Thankfully, many of the philanthropists and nonprofits with whom we work are also using this question as a means to continuous improvement, and coming up with innovative answers for the good of our communities.

PHOTO: Ten Girls Inc. of Carpinteria students showing off their artwork.



INVESTMENT IN YOUTH CONTINUES WITH 2018 GRANT AWARDS

The Invest in Youth community grant program awarded \$476,000 in grants to 20 nonprofit organizations that provide youth development programs in Santa Barbara County.

First offered in 2016 to support nonprofit organizations that provide critical developmental opportunities to young people, the Invest in Youth program in 2018 focuses on nonprofit organizations with in-school, out-of-school, after-school, or summer programs serving school aged children (grades K-12) and transitional age youth (age 16-24) who are in transition from state custody or foster care in Santa Barbara County.

“The Santa Barbara Foundation is deeply committed to ensuring that our next generation of leaders have access to educational opportunities and professional growth,” said Santa Barbara Foundation Community Investment Officer Guille Gil-Reynoso. “The Foundation supports organizations that work with young people to positively influence their development, helping them become confident, responsible, and productive adults, while providing valuable life and career skills that extend beyond youth programming.”

The foundation received 45 proposals from organizations across the county, ultimately selecting 20 grant recipients who were awarded up to \$25,000 each. These grant recipients have demonstrated a strong commitment to excellence and the ability to run successful youth development programs in Santa Barbara County.

Many of the selected organizations focus on expanding opportunities for leadership development, advocacy, and civic engagement, while others specialize in fostering healthy habits and improving social and mental well-being.

The Invest in Youth Grants Committee was comprised of nine individuals including Santa Barbara Foundation Trustees Reverend Randall Day (Rector of St. Mark’s-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church), Danna McGrew (CPA with Bartlett, Pringle & Wolf, LLP), Jennifer Murray (Financial Services Professional at Morgan Stanley), and Ginger Salazar (Brand, Marketing, and Strategy Consultant) along with five Foundation staff members.

"Throughout Santa Barbara County, insightful, resourceful, and adaptive organizations are rising up to promote the health of young people, aid their development as leaders, and help them achieve full lives."
-THE REVEREND RANDALL DAY

“To be concerned about our youth is right,” explained committee member Reverend Randall Day. “They and the communities they’re growing up in are seriously challenged. At the same time, we can be encouraged that, throughout Santa Barbara County, insightful, resourceful, and adaptive organizations are rising up to promote the health of young people, aid their development as leaders, and help them achieve full lives.”



2018 INVEST IN YOUTH GRANT AWARD RECIPIENTS:

- AHA!
- Boys & Girls Club of Santa Barbara
- Camp Fire Central Coast of California
- Central Coast CAUSE
- Central Coast Junior Golf
- Family Service Agency of SB County
- Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley
- Future Leaders of America
- Girls Inc. of Carpinteria
- Girls Inc. of Greater Santa Barbara
- Girls Rock Santa Barbara
- Just Communities Central Coast
- Los Padres Council, Boy Scouts of America
- Pacific Pride Foundation
- Santa Barbara Education Foundation
- Santa Maria Valley YMCA
- Santa Ynez Valley Therapeutic Riding Program
- The Los Alamos Foundation
- United Boys & Girls Clubs of SB County
- United Way of Santa Barbara County

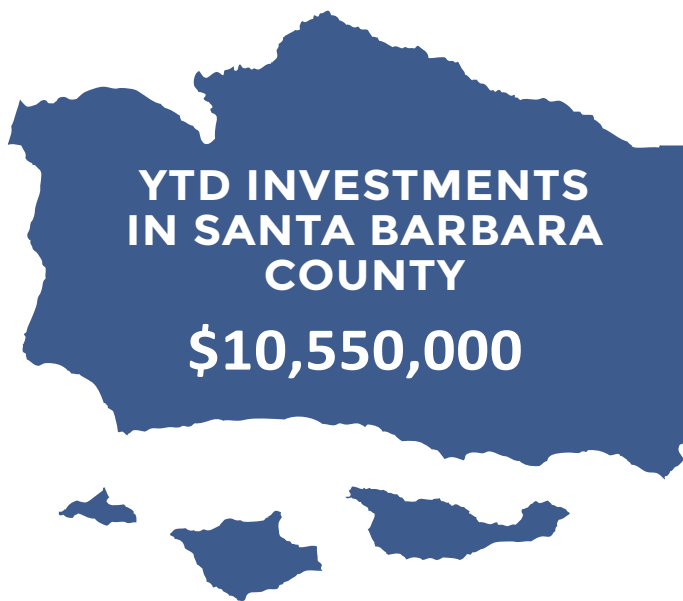
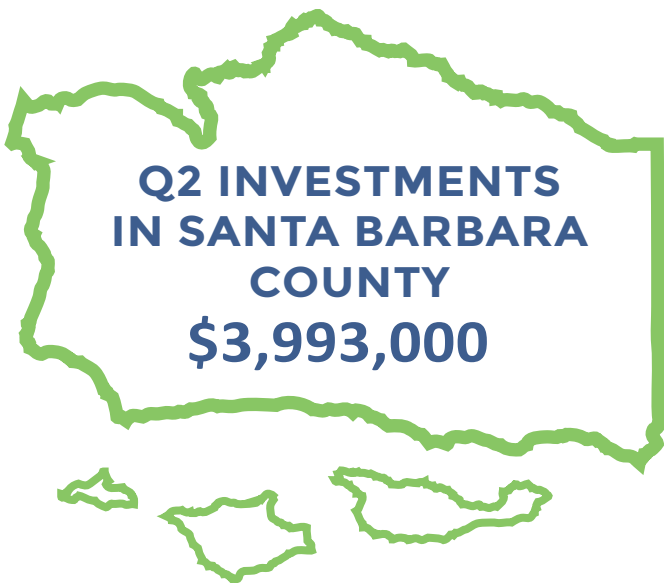
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2018 FLORO, FLEISCHMANN AND SPAULDING SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS!

This past May, the Santa Barbara Foundation recognized 48 outstanding graduating high school students from Santa Barbara County by awarding a scholarship to each student. These remarkable young leaders will be continuing their education at highly-esteemed universities across the country. We are excited to see what the future holds for this group of talented, driven students. By investing in our youth today, together we can build a **#BetterTomorrow**.

PHOTOS: Youth of Future Leaders of America in the top left. Below, nine Floro and Fleischmann Scholarship Award Recipients. From top left to bottom right, Layla Landeros; Ji-Soo Park; Mathew Kenneth Vitty; Makenzie Pond; Clarielisa Ocampo; Michi Hinders; Nicole Bastanchury; Michaela Freebourn; Abby Alano.



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*Data included in this report is unaudited.

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TICKETS AVAILABLE JULY 30

This year we will celebrate the 75th Man and Woman of the Year on September 5th, 2018! The Man & Woman of the Year awards honor extraordinary service and voluntarism in Santa Barbara. Past recipients of the award strengthened the community by mentoring children, caring for people in need, responding in time of disaster, and promoting education. The Man & Woman of the Year will be announced on August 15 and then celebrated at a luncheon on September 5 at the Coral Casino. Make sure to get your ticket(s) on July 30 as this event will sell out. Tickets can be purchased at SBFoundation.org/MW75. We hope to see you there!

A special thank you to our Premiere Legacy Gold Sponsor, Montecito Bank & Trust, Media Sponsor, Noozhawk, and Invitation Sponsor, Bryant & Sons, Ltd.

ON THE COVER

Students of Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria celebrate their achievements on graduation day. For any scholar interested in higher education, the cost is becoming increasingly expensive. The Hancock Promise has launched and is already seeing tremendous results. On page two, learn about their success in northern Santa Barbara County and how their program differs from others in the state.