We improve lives by mobilizing our county’s best resources – our people, our knowledge, and our desire for change and improvement. As a leader and partner, the Santa Barbara Foundation (SBF) convenes people and organizations to solve our communities’ most pressing issues. Our goal is to harness the intellectual and philanthropic resources available and invest in programs and partnerships that uplift our neighbors in need of support.

As Santa Barbara County faced the COVID-19 crisis beginning in March 2020, our communities needed us more than ever. That is why we partnered with our donors, other local funders, community organizations, nonprofits, businesses, and local governments to address our county’s greatest needs.

This COVID-19 Impact Report highlights some of the ways that SBF helped to respond to the pandemic, while collaborating with our partners to meet the changing needs of Santa Barbara County residents impacted by COVID-19.
SANTA BARBARA FOUNDATION
COVID-19 RESPONSE
NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

CO-LEADER OF
36
FUNDER
COVID-19
COLLABORATIVE

245
NONPROFIT COVID-19
RESPONSE GRANTS

$1.5
MILLION
SUPPORT FOR
SMALL BUSINESSES

$39 MILLION
FOR COVID-19 RELIEF

34
COVID-
RELATED
SMALL
CAPACITY
BUILDING
GRANTS
(SCBG)

11,000
PPE PIECES
THROUGHOUT
THE COUNTY

36
NONPROFIT COVID-19
RESPONSE GRANTS

$4.1 MILLION
NONPROFIT
COVID-19 RESPONSE
GRANT SUPPORT

COLLABORATIVE COLLECTIVELY INVESTED
RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

LAUNCHING A COVID-19 DISASTER RESPONSE FUND

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, SBF acted quickly, while remaining nimble and flexible in order to adapt to the ever-changing unknowns. In March 2020, we launched a COVID-19 disaster response fund aimed at providing responsive support for the organizations and individuals with the greatest need in our county. That fund (coordinated through SBF’s Community Disaster Relief Fund), ultimately raised and deployed $5.8 million to nonprofits and individuals in partnership with the members of the COVID-19 Joint Response Effort for Santa Barbara County.

COLLABORATING FOR GREATER IMPACT

The Santa Barbara Foundation partnered with the United Way of Santa Barbara County (UWSBC) and the Hutton Parker Foundation to lead a countywide funders’ collaborative that has grown to 36 members, known as the COVID-19 Joint Response Effort for Santa Barbara County (CJRE). To date, the CJRE has collectively mobilized nearly $39 million to support nonprofits, individuals, families, school districts and small businesses throughout Santa Barbara County.

COVID-19 RESPONSE GRANTS TO NONPROFITS

With a grants committee including UWSBC, Hutton Parker Foundation, VOAD and Aware and Prepare, the fund distributed 245 nonprofit grants totaling more than $4.1 million over 65 grant cycles. We received and reviewed 385 grant applications requesting nearly $9 million in support. For the first several months of the pandemic, COVID-19 Response Grants prioritized organizations that were meeting emergency needs and adaptive services. As we shifted into long-term recovery efforts, we continued to focus on those areas, while also prioritizing requests for operating support. This shift resulted in a steady stream of applications and grant distributions in 2021.

In addition to the COVID-19 Response Grants to nonprofits, the COVID-19 disaster response fund has supported the United Way of Santa Barbara County in their efforts to provide direct financial assistance to individuals and families adversely affected by the pandemic. The COVID-19 disaster response fund distributed over $2.2 million towards UWSBC’s Individual Assistance Grant program, which ultimately granted more than $143.3 million (as of the date of this printing) to over 4,750 eligible households struggling to pay rent, utility bills, and other essential expenses.

RESPONDING WITH MORE THAN DOLLARS

The Foundation’s response to the pandemic has involved so much more than dollars and grant programs. We have shown up to meet community members, share resources, write stories, create webinars, celebrate successes and volunteerism, and coordinate cross-sector collaborations. We also leverage resources through funder partnerships and provide valuable donor education opportunities, such as our Coffee & Conversations events and other sponsored convenings.
SELECT NONPROFIT GRANTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Amidst all of the needs we heard about from our social sector, SBF and our partners were there to help. Below are some examples of nonprofit efforts and collaborations that were supported through 65 cycles of COVID-19 Response Grants, all while the Foundation continued to administer our wide range of existing Community Grant Programs (Behavioral Health and Health Care, Food, Shelter and Safety), address our additional priority areas (Workforce Development, Child Care), and provide capacity building support for the Santa Barbara County social sector.

FOODBANK OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

"The Foodbank is ready to ensure that all of Santa Barbara County has enough healthy food to eat in the face of this crisis. For the two years since the Thomas Fire and Montecito Debris Flow, we have been preparing for just such an emergency by developing our countywide Disaster Feeding Plan."

— JUDITH SMITH-MEYER, MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER AT THE FOODBANK

LATINX & INDIGENOUS MIGRANT COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK FORCE

"Our efforts are grounded in social justice principles and we seek to center the voice and leadership of Latinx and indigenous migrant communities. The COVID-19 Joint Response Effort provided wonderful and critically needed support to the Task Force so we could jump-start this work."

— DR. MELISSA SMITH, DIRECTOR OF HEALTH EQUITY INITIATIVES AT UC SANTA BARBARA AND INTERIM COORDINATOR FOR THE TASK FORCE

COVID-19 RESPONSE GRANTS TO SMALL BUSINESSES

SANTA BARBARA BETTER TOGETHER FUND

In partnership with Deckers Brands and local municipalities, the Santa Barbara Better Together (SBBT) Fund was created as a committee-advised field of interest fund at SBF. Through the SBBT Fund, the Foundation has granted over $1 million to 132 small businesses in Carpinteria, Goleta, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and Unincorporated Areas of Santa Barbara County. Grants were utilized to support the cost of re-opening, rent and other expenses impacting small businesses.

"We are so fortunate to receive this support in Carpinteria. The COVID-19 pandemic has been tremendously challenging for our local businesses, and [the SBBT] grant program is a wonderful example of generous community members and businesses providing for other businesses in need."

— WADE NOMURA, MAYOR OF CARPINTERIA

ELAINE F. STEPANEK FOUNDATION RESTAURANT FUND

The Elaine F. Stepanek Foundation Restaurant Fund, a committee-advised fund at SBF, provided financial assistance grants to small, independently-owned dine-in restaurants in the City of Santa Barbara and the Santa Ynez Valley. This fund distributed grants to 71 restaurants totaling $500,000, and was made possible by Dan Gainey, President of the Elaine F. Stepanek Foundation.

EMERGENCY BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Looking towards recovery and rebuilding, the Foundation partnered with the County of Santa Barbara to offer Emergency Business Assistance Program (EBAP) Grants. The program provides financial assistance to small and microenterprise businesses adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is an ongoing grant program utilizing funding via the CARES Act, and will continue to work with local small businesses into 2022.

203 COMBINED COVID-RELATED SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS
TOTALING OVER $1.5 MILLION

Data for all small business grant programs updated as of October 31, 2021.
As the pandemic began to greatly impact Santa Barbara County in the spring of 2020, SBF witnessed a need for Personal Protective Equipment to keep health care and other essential workers safe. Stephanie Roberson, Operations Manager at SBF, stepped up to coordinate a PPE Project in collaboration with MOXI, The Wolf Museum of Exploration + Innovation, UCSB, Bucket Brigade, and other community local organizations. Since March 2020, Stephanie has distributed over 11,000 PPE pieces to organizations that needed them throughout the county.

As many nonprofits struggled to adapt to the realities of COVID-19, SBF’s Collaboration for Social Impact (CSI) was there to help. The CSI supported the Santa Barbara County social sector in myriad ways throughout the pandemic, such as offering Small Capacity Building Grants (SCBG) to help organizations adjust to their new reality, providing a broad inventory of COVID-19 Santa Barbara County Nonprofit Resources, and facilitating webinars and trainings on topics such as business continuity planning, board governance, financial literacy and adaptive leadership.

**SELECT WEBINARS OFFERED THROUGH CSI IN 2020-21**

- Business Continuity Planning for Nonprofits
- Managing Transitions in a Difficult Time
- Grassroots Fundraising
- How Nonprofits Can Access Stimulus Funds
- COVID-19 & Nonprofit Employers: What You Need to Know
- Board Governance in Uncertain Times
- Nonprofit HR Concerns During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Courage & Bringing in New Dollars in the Face of Crisis
- Adaptive Leadership Practices Panel
- Board Recruiting in 2020
- PPP Loan Forgiveness Webinar with SBA Expert
- Post-Pandemic Workforce Roundtable

**PARTNERING TO PRODUCE PPE**

As the pandemic began to greatly impact Santa Barbara County in the spring of 2020, SBF witnessed a need for Personal Protective Equipment to keep health care and other essential workers safe. Stephanie Roberson, Operations Manager at SBF, stepped up to coordinate a PPE Project in collaboration with MOXI, The Wolf Museum of Exploration + Innovation, UCSB, Bucket Brigade, and other community local organizations. Since March 2020, Stephanie has distributed over 11,000 PPE pieces to organizations that needed them throughout the county.

**RECIPIENTS OF FACE-SHIELDS VIA THE PPE COLLABORATION:**

- Alexander Gardens
- Alpha Resource Center
- Alto Lucero Transitional Care
- American Indian Health & Services
- Atterdag Care Center
- Dr. Mike Berkeley
- Buellton Medical Center
- Buena Vista Care Center
- CALM
- Community Health Centers of the Central Coast
- Country Oaks Care Center
- Community Partners in Caring
- Dentists Offices in Santa Barbara/Ventura
- Deveroux Foundation
- Domestic Violence Solutions
- Dr. Richard Stein DDS
- FMC Santa Barbara Community Dialysis Center
- Fountain Square of Lompoc
- Friendship House
- Garden Court on De La Vina
- Garden on Hope
- Good Samaritan Shelter
- Heritage House
- Hillview Residence
- Hillside House
- Integrated Care Clinic Dental
- Jewish Federation of Greater SB
- Los Robles Care Center, Ojai
- Magnolia and Primrose Care Homes
- Marian Regional Medical Center
- Merrill Gardens
- North County Rape Crisis Center
- Salvation Army SB
- Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics
- Pacifica Senior Living
- PathPoint
- Sanctuary Centers
- Sansum Clinic
- Sansum Diabetes Research Institute
- SB County Jail
- SB/Ventura County Dental Society
- SB County Department of Veteran Affairs
- Santa Barbara & Lompoc Artificial Kidney
- Santa Maria Veterans Clinic
- Santa Ynez Tribal Health Clinic
- Sarah House
- Showers of Blessing
- The Californian of Santa Barbara
- United Cerebral Palsey
- United Way Home For Good Street Outreach
- Veteran’s Homes of Lawrence & Ventura
- Villa Maria Care Center
- Vista Del Mar Hospital
- VNA Health
- Wilshire Community

“The SBF, we make connections and provide resources for those in need, and this project was no different. I will always be grateful for the opportunity to work with UCSB, MOXI and all the community partners to support our health care workers in this small but critical way. Thanks to the generosity of our partners, we were able to distribute over 10,000 face shields in less than a month and a half during the early days of the pandemic.”

— STEPHANIE ROBERSON, OPERATIONS MANAGER AT THE SANTA BARBARA FOUNDATION

PHOTO: Stephanie Roberson, Operations Manager at SBF and coordinator for the PPE Project, models a 3D printed face shield.

SBF DISTRIBUTED

11,000

PPE PIECES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY
WHAT’S NEXT?  
RECOVERY & REBUILDING

The COVID-19 Joint Response Effort successfully sunsetted in July 2021 after 15 months of local pandemic relief work. Grant committee members, including representatives from Aware and Prepare, VOAD, Hutton Parker Foundation, United Way of Santa Barbara County and the Santa Barbara Foundation, met weekly for 65 cycles to distribute funds to nonprofits. Thanks to their leadership, and many generous donations from individual donors, corporations, family foundations, and government agencies, $5.8 million was distributed in 2020-21 through the response fund in support of individuals, families, and nonprofits. Beginning in July 2021, SBF moved into a new phase of grantmaking and collaboration focused on Recovery & Rebuilding support.

COVID-19 DISASTER RESPONSE FUND DISTRIBUTED

$5.8 MILLION
TO NONPROFITS, INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

“We are incredibly grateful to our philanthropic community and funding partners who came together over the past year and a half to support nonprofits and community members throughout Santa Barbara County during this challenging time,” said Jackie Carrera, President & CEO of SBF. As the Foundation and our partners shift from our COVID-19 Joint Response Effort to more long-term community recovery and rebuilding, we seek to build upon the strategic partnerships that were formed in the face of this crisis. We will continue to support our social sector, working families and vulnerable populations, and small businesses through our program areas and other strategic partnerships, such as the Emergency Business Assistance Grant Program, which will provide grants to Santa Barbara County small businesses in partnership with the County of Santa Barbara.

THANK YOU TO OUR INCREDIBLE PARTNERS

Today, as we look towards recovery and rebuilding, we thank you - the incredible members of our community - for stepping up as donors, leaders, partners, and volunteers when our county needed it most. We would also like to offer a special thank you to the generous members of the Santa Barbara County COVID-19 Funders’ Collaborative, including:

Anonymous (6)  
The Ann Jackson Family Foundation  
Audacious Foundation  
Jane & Paul Orfalea  
Brittingham Family Foundation  
BP Moser Trust  
Cottage Health  
City of Carpinteria  
City of Goleta  
City of Santa Barbara  
City of Santa Maria  
County of Santa Barbara  
Deckers Outdoor Corporation  
Elaine F. Stepanek Foundation  
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G.A. Fowler Family Foundation  
Hazen Family Foundation  
The Henry E. & Lola Monroe Foundation  
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Lewis-Towbes Family Fund  
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Living Peace Foundation  
Manitou Fund  
Mosher Foundation  
McCune Foundation  
The Muzzy Family Foundation  
The Natalie Orfalea Foundation & Lou Buglioli  
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Tony and Kyra Rogers Foundation  
Santa Barbara Foundation  
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The Towbes Foundation  
United Way of SB County  
Wood-Claeyssens Foundation  
Yardi Systems  
Zegar Family Foundation
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Thank you to the following donors for their generous support of the COVID-19 disaster response fund at the Santa Barbara Foundation.

$100,000 - $499,999
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The Center for Living Peace Foundation
Tony & Kyla Rogers Foundation
Towbes Foundation
UniHealth Foundation
Zegar Family Foundation

$50,000 - $99,999
Anonymous
Brenton Foundation
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City of Goleta
Craig Hawker & Athena Philipides
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Henry E. & Lola Monroe Foundation
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Linked Foundation
Mosher Foundation
Ryan & Sarah Muzzy
Solomon & Cleo Hill
The California Wellness Foundation
The Robinson Foundation

$10,000 - $49,999
Ann Jackson Family Foundation
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$500,000+
NOTE: Donors are listed alphabetically and categorized by donation amount.
$500,000+
Anonymous
Hutton Parker Foundation
Wood-Claussen Foundation

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