



2019 UPDATE

SANTA BARBARA UNITED

Building Better Futures Together

IN THIS ISSUE | 2019 FUN IN THE SUN, CARPINTERIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP, RED FEATHER BALL, AND MORE.

FUN IN THE SUN 2019 WRAPS UP

Smarter summers build brighter futures in 300 students & 200 parents

United Way of Santa Barbara County's **Fun in the Sun** (FITS) summer learning program had another successful summer. This marked a summer of new surprises and old favorites for FITS and its 300 young scholars who spent the season participating in educational activities, including expanded partnerships that introduced them to mechanics, wildlife, robotics, and the water treatment process.

Each summer, the six-week FITS offers participants a fun learning environment with a daily emphasis on literacy, including reading and writing, science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM), physical activity, financial literacy, service learning, educational field trips, character education, and more.

FITS combats summer learning loss, which disproportionately affects students from low-resource neighborhoods who often do not have access to affordable high-quality summer learning opportunities. More than 200 parents also participate in their own specialized family support curriculum. This year's FITS sites included Solvang Elementary, El Camino Elementary in Goleta, Franklin Elementary in Santa Barbara's Eastside, Harding Elementary in Santa Barbara's Westside, and Carpinteria Middle School.

This summer through a newer partnership with Bici Centro, students in the Passion Pursuits junior high curriculum learned about mechanics by fixing up old bicycles at the Bici Centro workshop. They were thrilled to learn that they could take the bicycles home. Passion Pursuits allows junior high school aged participants to pick a subject to learn in depth.

The Natural History Museum loaned several taxidermy specimens for students to learn about different animals and species. Students learned about predators with leopard and bear hides. Students learned about owls by examining an owl taxidermy specimen and dissecting pellets to discover what they eat. The scholars even worked with animal skulls to see their unique features.



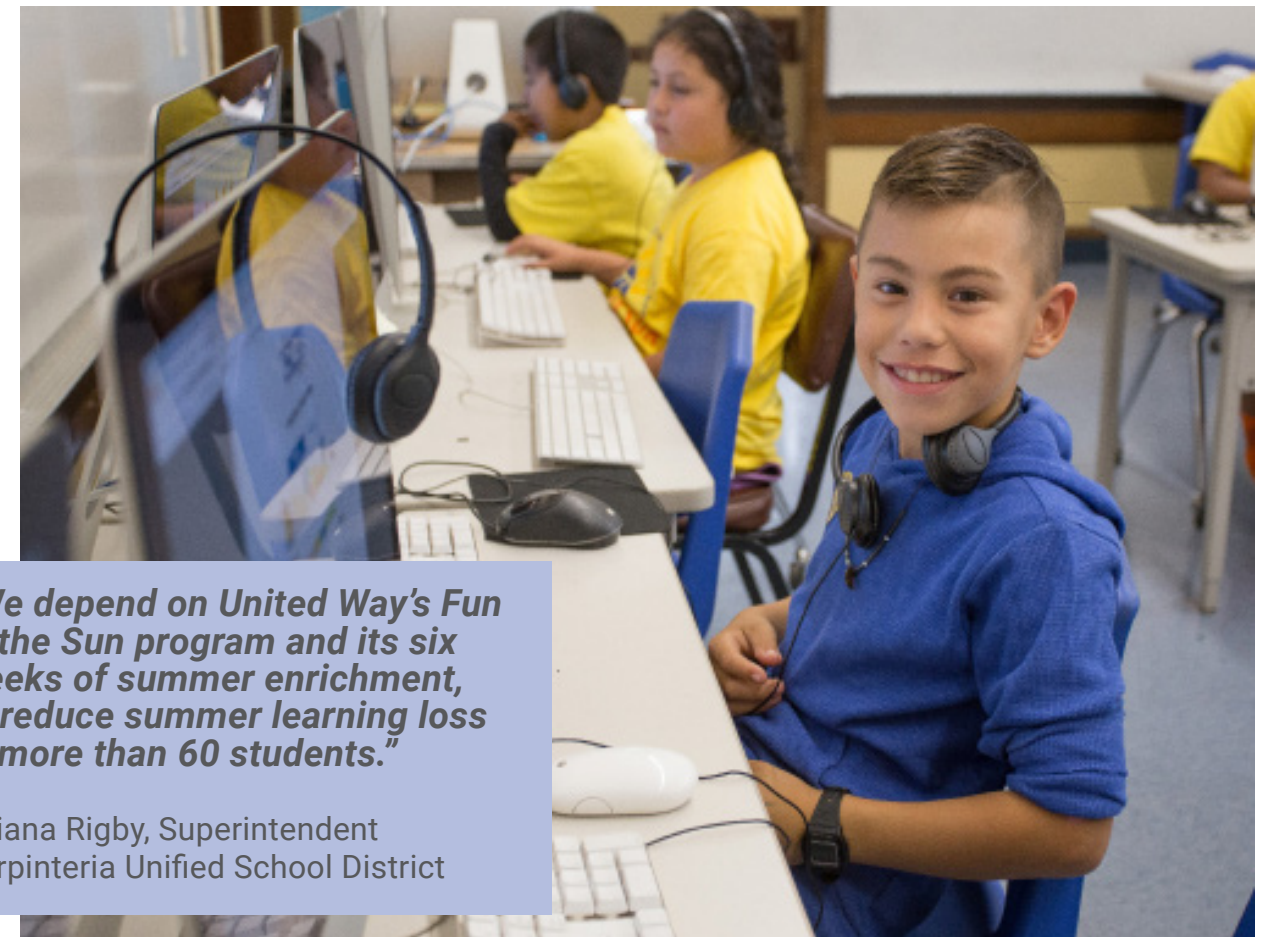
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Also new for 2019, FITS scholars participated in robotics lessons, learning about mechanics, engineering, and practicing critical thinking skills through fun with robots. In addition, Goleta Sanitary District provided tours of their water treatment facility and hands-on lessons about water recycling to the scholars.

The summer also saw the return of many FITS favorites, including the FITS Olympics, meeting with mentors in the Lunch Bunch program, and a special concert at the Music Academy of the West. FITS's long-term partners at the Assistance League of Santa Barbara helped meet basic needs for families by outfitting scholars in new clothes and swimsuits for the school year, providing additional literacy curriculum to keep students engaged, and providing valuable water safety lessons by sponsoring swim programming.

To deliver Fun in the Sun, it takes the support of more than 80 service delivery partners, 25 funding partners, and more than 600 community volunteers. Thank you for your support to make the summer 2019 program a success. To learn more about Fun in the Sun and how you can make a difference in the lives of more children and families, please visit www.unitedwaysb.org/fits.



"We depend on United Way's Fun in the Sun program and its six weeks of summer enrichment, to reduce summer learning loss in more than 60 students."

- Diana Rigby, Superintendent
Carpinteria Unified School District



FUN IN THE SUN
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

EXPANDED CARPINTERIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP

Big happenings in Carpinteria Unified School District with United for Literacy expansion

A program that you made possible this year was an expanded and enhanced partnership with Carpinteria Unified School District (CUSD) to provide additional early educational opportunities and literacy development curriculum to Carpinteria students in pre-k to 5th grades. This is UWSBC's fourth district-wide implementation of United for Literacy services.

UWSBC and CUSD's primary shared goal is to help ensure that all CUSD students reach critical 3rd grade reading benchmarks when "learning to read" becomes "reading to learn". CUSD students will have more access to early education programming and online reading improvement tools to ensure that they are on track to graduate high school on time.

This partnership provides a suite of literacy support services, including access to books, Kindergarten Success Institutes for children in pre-k and kindergarten, online individualized literacy tools for pre-k to 5th grade students, and Fun in the Sun summer learning for 3rd-6th graders.

All of UWSBC's United for Literacy programs utilize Lexia Reading as part of the curriculum. Lexia is a research-based foundational skill-building literacy program (i.e., phonics, basic vocabulary, word recognition, and comprehension). The program continuously monitors progress to keep students working on material appropriate to their skill level. Teachers, principals, parents, and UWSBC's Certified Reading Specialists work closely with students in person and have access to reports (available 24/7) that inform changes.

Educators use the program as part of a larger blended learning model that combines digital tools and traditional teaching methods within a classroom. Students in small groups rotate through classroom "stations" with Lexia, group instruction, and independent work. It also works well both during school time and out-of-school-time settings, such as Kindergarten Success Institutes, Fun in the Sun summer programs, and other CUSD before/after school programs.

UWSBC and CUSD believe that with a district-wide implementation, larger-scale progress on grade-level reading goals will be seen and could significantly improve the futures of thousands of children and families.

It takes the support of an entire community to make programs like the CUSD United for Literacy partnership a success. Special thanks to donors and supporters: James S. Bower Foundation, Procore, and Diana Rigby, CUSD Superintendent.

To join the campaign to provide UFL services in CUSD, please visit www.unitedwaysb.org/donate.



NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Art Merovick and Patrice Ryan have been appointed to the United Way of Santa Barbara County Board of Directors



Art Merovick:

Most recently, Art was the Cancer Foundation's Development Director. Art also has extensive experience in education and is the former headmaster of Laguna Blanca. He is also active on the boards of Sansum Clinic, the Santa Barbara Public Library Foundation, and the Cancer Foundation. He has a particular interest in helping develop United Way's educational initiatives.



Patrice Ryan:

Patrice was the Vice President of Human Resources at Cottage Health for 16 years before her retirement in 2018. She was the United Way workplace campaign manager at Cottage for many years. Patrice is interested in helping advance United Way's literacy initiatives through her new role on the Board.

Please join us in welcoming Art and Patrice to UWSBC's Board of Directors!

RED FEATHER BALL 2019

Benefitting United Way Educational Programs

The Red Feather Ball is expected to raise about \$300,000, which benefits United Way's Fun in the Sun and United for Literacy programs. Our dedicated volunteers will be fundraising right up until this year's event on **Friday, October 11** at the Coral Casino of the Four Seasons Biltmore Resort.



Earlier in the summer, the Event Committee members also dedicated time to volunteering with Fun in the Sun through the Lunch Bunch volunteer mentorship opportunity.

Committee members enjoyed sharing lunch and conversation with the Fun in the Sun scholars at the Franklin Elementary School site.

This year's Event Committee includes:

Honorary Chair, Merryl Snow Zegar; **Chairs** Belle Hahn, Shari Liu, and Amber Ortiz; **Auction Chair** Rosemary Mutton; Sarah Argyropolous; Xorin Balbes; Baret Boisson; Alice Brophy; Mimi DeGruy; Kendra Feshbach; Marc Gelinias; Erin Gianni; Julie Barber Henderson; Chloe K. Holmes; Hollye Jacobs; Laura Macker Johnston; Leslie McFadden; Lily Phillips; Laura Lewis Shelburne; Kirsten VanBrunt; Carol Anne Werner; Nance Wheeler; Sam Zodeh; and Yasmine Zodeh.

Thank you to our outstanding committee members for all of their hard work to build better futures in Santa Barbara County.

For tickets and event information, visit www.unitedwaysb.org/redfeatherball.

Sponsors listed on back cover.

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Heritage Club News

The Heritage Club honors forward-thinking individuals choosing to improve the lives of children, families and seniors in our community, by including United Way in their estate plans. More than 30 members gathered at La Cumbre Country Club for the 34th annual Heritage Club luncheon, sponsored by Kayne, Anderson, Rudnick. Maryan Schall and Earl Damitz were honored. For the complete event story and photo album go to www.unitedwaysbgift.org/HeritageClub.



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We are pleased to be a resource in your planning process. Please contact us if we can run a proposal or be of assistance to you.

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This information is not intended as tax, legal, or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Consult your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation.

WOMEN UNITED

Women United and Enterprise Rent-a-Car team up for Backpack School Supply Drive



In keeping with their focus on school readiness, Women United launched a backpack and school supply drive in July to help ensure that more Harding School students were able to start the school year with necessary tools for the year ahead. To support and expand the effort, Enterprise Rent-a-Car joined the drive collecting supplies from their employees.

In total, the backpack school supply drive provided 50 backpacks jam-packed with school supplies to children at Harding School. These students were identified in partnership with Harding School and Family Service Agency to ensure that families most in need received the school supplies.

Thank you to our outstanding volunteers from Women United and Enterprise Rent-a-Car for their hard work to build better futures!

Women United is planning more exciting and engaging activities for the next year and needs dedicated individuals like you.

For more information and to view the calendar, please visit www.unitedwaysb.org/women-united.





United Way
of Santa Barbara County

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UNITED WAY OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PRESENTS

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