



## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The Goleta Education Foundation (GEF) was founded in 1989 to support the Goleta Union School District and was established as a 509(a)(1) in 1994. Our mission is to provide opportunities for educational excellence through a diversity of initiatives and robust community partnerships.

GEF, like so many other organizations, experienced myriad challenges brought on by the pandemic and a mid-year switch to distance learning in March of 2020. Our board members were stretched thin as they balanced ever-changing work and home expectations. Our annual fundraising events like The Lemon Run and Goleta's Finest were canceled. We had to pivot in our outreach for the Census, from in-person information sessions to formats that were more appropriate given the inability to host events in person. Though GEF secured \$65,000 in grant support through the Women's Fund for a state-of-the-art STEAM Lab, construction of the lab, which was supposed to be completed in summer 2020, has been temporarily put on hold. Many Goleta teachers were unable to utilize the funds from our Professional Development Scholarships and Innovation Grants.

In response, we looked inward to streamline and prioritize our key programs and evaluate how GEF could best serve the young students of the Goleta Valley. When schools first closed, we used our social media platforms to help spread the word about available discounted internet and how GUSD was providing breakfasts and lunches to those in need. With the beginning of summer break and without the usual summer camp offerings, we began a STEAM at Home social media campaign to introduce fun, enriching learning activities that could be completed with materials found around the house.

In response to the changing needs of educators and ongoing stresses of remote learning, GEF transitioned to a rolling application window instead of set due dates for our Innovation Grants and Professional Development Scholarships. Now, teachers and staff can apply for funds throughout the year rather than only during a specified window.

Looking forward, we are proud to announce the COVID Relief Fund, a collaborative effort to support the safety of GUSD students and staff as they return to school sites. While we were unable to host the annual Lemon Run, a celebration of community as well as a fundraiser, we are hopeful for the day when we can meet at Goleta Beach again.

2019-2020 Contributions to Our Community:

\$178,000

