



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## HELP IS ON THE WAY FOR LOCAL TEACHERS

*The San Diego Foundation Offers Over \$60,000 in Assistance with Teachers' Fund*

The San Diego Foundation announced today the launch of the 2008-2009 San Diego Teachers' Fund program. In light of looming cuts to the state's education budget, the assistance that the Teachers' Fund program offers resource-strapped teachers is a welcome relief. Though few would dispute the importance of providing our children with the highest quality of education, school funding is still in jeopardy. Year-after-year teachers reach deep into their own pockets to provide students with the resources they need to succeed.

The Teachers' Fund provides much-needed assistance to dedicated San Diego County public elementary and high school teachers. Since 1995, The Foundation has distributed approximately \$750,000 in teacher grants. This year, more than \$60,000 in grants is available.

"The San Diego Foundation's Teachers' Fund program is making a difference in the lives of students one classroom at a time," said Carmen Herrera, Chair of the Teachers' Fund Committee.

Two distinct programs comprise the Teachers' Fund: the K-6 program and the Arts in the Classroom program. The K-6 program is aimed at helping new teachers, with five years of experience or less, build their classroom resources through mini-grants of up to \$2,000 for innovative projects. Research shows that a major problem facing our educational system is the high drop-out rate among new teachers in their first few years, when they become discouraged with their lack of classroom resources.

Recognizing that art funding is often insufficient or lacking, The San Diego Foundation created the Arts in the Classroom program in 2001, providing funding of up to \$1,000 to high school art teachers. One teacher used a \$900 grant starting a program for students to create ceramic art pieces for sale, then donating the profits to a nonprofit organization that feeds the hungry.

Applications for both programs are available online at [www.sdfoundation.org/teachersfund](http://www.sdfoundation.org/teachersfund). Applications must be submitted by 5:00pm, Monday, April 28, 2008.

As seen in the news and across the country, the need for funding programs that help educators is overwhelming. Although we reach many teachers through our programs, there is always an additional need. If you would like to make a contribution to the Teachers' Fund or would like more information, please call (619) 814-1343 or email a member of the Teachers' Fund team at The San Diego Foundation at [teachersfund@sdfoundation.org](mailto:teachersfund@sdfoundation.org).

### **About The San Diego Foundation**

Founded in 1975, The San Diego Foundation is a broad-purpose community foundation helping individuals, families and organizations carry out their charitable plans, with the common goal of improving the quality of life in the greater San Diego region, now and for generations to come.

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