



PRESS RELEASE

Poway Unified School District

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PUSD Foundation Announces ‘Project Know and Grow’ Initiative to Boost Free Meal Service, Bridge Digital Learning Divide

(Poway, CA) – The Poway Unified School District Foundation announced today a fundraising initiative, ‘Project Know and Grow,’ to address urgent District needs that arose immediately after schools were closed in response to the COVID-19 health crisis.

Superintendent Marian Kim Phelps identified the needs as continued meal service for children in the community, and devices (including internet connection) for every PUSD student to participate in distance learning.

When schools closed on March 16, PUSD committed to serving meals to any children in the community who needed food, regardless of whether they were PUSD students or if eligible to receive free or reduced meals. To date, the District has served over 120,000 free meals, and will continue to do so until further notice. Additionally, the District was able to distribute 7,500 Chromebooks to students and families in anticipation of the start of distance learning on April 6, 2020.

“There are still families that are without access to a device or internet at home, yet Poway Unified is the lowest-funded school district in San Diego County. We need the community’s help ensure equity for our students. In addition, the District is only reimbursed by the federal government for a small percentage of the free meals we are serving, and the District is operating at an unsustainable loss,” Kathleen Porter, Executive Director of the PUSD Foundation, said.

The community can help bridge the digital divide and feed more children during the COVID-19 pandemic with a tax-deductible gift of their choice. Below is an example of what the gift will achieve:

- \$6 will feed one child breakfast & lunch for a day
- \$30 will feed one child breakfast & lunch for a week
- \$120 will feed one child breakfast & lunch for a month



- \$250 will provide a WiFi hotspot to a student without internet access
- \$250 will provide a Chromebook to a student
- \$500 will provide both a Chromebook and WiFi hotspot to a student

“No child should have to worry about going hungry during these difficult times,” Superintendent Phelps said. “I have also made it my mission to ensure that all 36,500 PUSD students are digitally connected now, and into the future. Your generosity will make a direct impact on our community, and I want to thank you in advance for your consideration. Both Kathleen (Porter) and I are proud to be a part of a community that comes together and supports one another during this crisis.”

There are two easy ways to make a tax-deductible donation (Tax ID# 54-2098945):

1. Via credit card or PayPal, at the Foundation
website: <https://www.powayusd.com/Departments/CareerTechnicalAdultEd/pusdf/Donate/Make-a-Donation>
2. Via check, mailed to Kelly Hamm, PUSD Foundation Secretary: [13626 Twin Peaks Road, Poway, CA 92064](#)

The PUSD Foundation would like to thank our partners, The Fiske Family Foundation and Northrop Grumman for already contributing a combined \$66,000 to the Project Know and Grow campaign.

About the Poway Unified School District Foundation

The mission of the PUSD Foundation is to provide funding, resources, support, and opportunities for District activities and programs in order to expand and enrich the educational experiences of K-12 students, including but not limited to: STEM, music, and career technical education programs. The PUSD Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

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