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For Immediate Release

San Diego Women's Foundation Grants Over \$273,000 to Early Education Organizations

Contact: Jeanette Giovannello, Beck Ellman Heald (jeanette@behmedia.com)

SAN DIEGO, CA – The San Diego Women's Foundation (SDWF) has announced its Cycle 23 Community Partner Grant Recipients. SDWF granted \$273,090 in unrestricted funding to seven nonprofit organizations working to address disparities in early childhood education, particularly in promoting kindergarten readiness. The organizations help children become “kindergarten-ready,” better equipped to meet educational milestones, and less likely to drop out of school or experience other adverse outcomes in life.

Through the contributions of the foundation's members and the community, SDWF will award grants to **Monarch School Project** (\$25,000), **Episcopal Community Services** (\$29,090), **Guitars in the Classroom** (\$30,000), **Solutions for Change** (\$30,000), **Logan Heights Community Development Corporation** (\$45,000), **The Healthy Early Years Clinic at SDSU's CEED** (\$54,000), and **Palomar Family Counseling Service** (\$60,000). The grants are awarded for a 12-month period beginning on July 1, 2023.

SDWF Executive Director, Stephanie Cook, shared that “We are honored to be partnering with these seven phenomenal organizations, and look forward to seeing the impact of our partnership for youth from under-resourced communities.”

[Monarch School Project](#) is a trauma-informed and strength-based community where students can persevere through the trauma of homelessness that has affected them and their success in education. Nearly 300 students from kindergarten through 12th grade attend Monarch School each day and are provided with a holistic education designed to meet their academic, social, emotional, and life skill needs.

[Episcopal Community Services](#) provides health and human services in the areas of homelessness, mental health, substance use disorder treatment, and early childhood education. The organization's children's services aim to meet the educational, emotional,

social, health, and nutritional needs of children ages 0-5 and their families through family and community engagement programs, parenting education opportunities, child developmental screenings, services for children with disabilities, services for pregnant women, behavioral health services, referrals, and other comprehensive developmental services. Its programs currently serve more than 2,000 families in San Diego each year.

[Guitars in the Classroom](#) brings hands-on music for general education teachers to become song leaders for learning. Members from the organization train public school teachers across the country to sing, play, write lyrics for learning and lead hands-on music with elementary students. Each year, they train over 15,000 teachers, reaching about a million students each school year with integrated music making for literacy, math and all other subjects. They serve students during their most formative years when foundational skills in speaking, reading, writing and thinking as well as interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence can grow quickly.

[Solutions for Change](#) addresses root causes of poverty and dependency, and equips people with the skills, knowledge and resources to permanently solve their challenges and transform their life. It blends affordable housing, education, employment training, career pathways and personal development all within one cohesive program. The organization educates, equips and inspires students to take their lives back, provide employment training and career pathways to sustain themselves and their families, and empower the community.

[Logan Heights Community Development Corporation](#) serves the residents of Greater Logan Heights, a primarily Spanish speaking area that faces a lack of resources on many fronts. The organization's pre-school and youth empowerment services help children who experience socio-economic challenges by fostering each one's creative, intellectual, social, physical, and moral growth in a STEAM academic-rich atmosphere. It also offers prevention and intervention programs for school-age youth who are at risk of entering the juvenile justice system or need academic, mental health, or family support services.

[The Healthy Early Years Clinic at SDSU's CEED](#) offers low-cost therapeutic services for young children and their families experiencing mild to moderate distress. The clinic provides treatment from a relationship-based approach that recognizes the crucial role of parents and caregivers in early attachment relationships and healthy developmental trajectories.

[Palomar Family Counseling Service](#) provides an array of affordable and professional clinical family counseling and mental health services. It offers several youth programs which provide counseling to address challenging behaviors and improve school readiness, coaching and support to improve parent-child relationships, and a full continuum of services to ensure family stability.

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About the San Diego Women's Foundation:

Founded in 2000, The San Diego Women's Foundation connects, educates and inspires women to come together in collective philanthropy. The contributions and talents of the 200+ SDWF members have resulted in over \$5 million in grants that have been awarded to over 100 nonprofit programs, touching thousands of lives in and around San Diego. For additional information, visit www.sdwomensfoundation.org.