

From: Dave Stark
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To: Dave Stark
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alameda REALTORS® Adopt Elementary Schools

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Pleasanton, California (March 3, 2019) – Teachers and students at three Alameda elementary schools have been adopted by local real estate professionals.

The Alameda INFORUM and Marketing Meeting (AIMM), a monthly meeting of real estate professionals, raised \$1,000 for the Alameda Education Foundation Adopt A Classroom program. The Bay East Association of REALTORS® Foundation contributed an additional \$500 to the effort.

Recently, a group of AIMM representatives and Alameda REALTORS® presented checks to teachers at Ruby Bridges Elementary, Haight Elementary and Maya Lin School.

Patrick Ignacio, 2018 AIMM Chair and member of the Bay East Association of REALTORS® Foundation, spearheaded the fundraising. Ignacio explained why AIMM and the Foundation got involved, “100 percent of the money goes directly to the teacher, that was key, we wanted to get the most effective use of every dollar we collect.”

Ignacio said their goal was to assist three classrooms. They not only met the goal but raised almost enough for a fourth. He said, “Each teacher was given a grant for classroom supplies, books, technology, anything and everything. One of teachers was brand new to the school district and had to supply a bare classroom.”

Vicki Sedlack, Alameda Education Foundation Executive Director, acknowledged this latest example of REALTOR® support for their programs. “I think REALTORS® and people affiliated with the industry really like to support schools and nonprofits like us who make our public schools stronger,” Sedlack said.

Adopt A Classroom has been supporting Alameda teachers for almost 20 years. Sedlack said all three of the teachers helped by the REALTOR® community work with special-needs students. “These are the type of teachers who are

unsung heroes and work with some of our most vulnerable kids.” Sedlack said the REALTORS® wanted to work with the teachers who needed help the most.

Leah Nishi, 2019 AIMM Chair said one of the teachers had no idea they would be receiving assistance from AIMM, “It was a first-year teacher in a special-ed class which doesn’t usually get acknowledged and she was thrilled.” Nishi said, “I was so happy we did this, and it was such a way to give back to schools. I felt really proud of the work we did and very proud to support this organization because the money goes directly to the teachers and there is no middle man and they can use it for what they think is best.”

Gina Adamson, a REALTOR® from Alameda, pushed AIMM to adopt a classroom with special-needs students. Adamson has a daughter with a learning disability and has witnessed firsthand the time and effort teachers with special-needs students put in. She adopted an entire class room herself through a \$500 donation. She said, “The money went to a special ed teacher as I requested, and she can spend it on anything she wants to help teach the children within that class. She was just over the moon with the money. Just to see the look on the teacher’s face when I gave her the check for \$500, it was amazing.”

Ignacio said AIMM has supported Alameda schools for years, and their efforts during 2018 was part of a tradition, “It was an accomplishment for the group and something visible, we can see where it goes. It’s not like other donations where you just write a check and you wonder where it goes. Physically being there, handing a check to a teacher, seeing them smile is phenomenal and well worth the time and effort.”

PHOTOS FROM THE CHECK PRESENTATIONS ARE AVAILABE ON REQUEST

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