



The CARE Foundation

**Contributing
Academic
Resources to
Education**

Supporting all Capistrano Unified Students



Working together, making a difference.

The CARE Foundation unites the schools, communities, and businesses to help make a difference by creating better opportunities for children in our community, building a brighter future for our region.

Founded in 1992, our organization, along with faithful donors in our community, have raised over \$2,000,000 for students, teachers and schools while providing much needed resources to enrich student learning experiences that fall outside the district's budgetary reach, including \$1,000,000 for Class Size Reduction in 2008, and more than \$100,000 in teacher grants in 2007.

The CARE Foundation is the only non-profit organization which raises funds for all 58 schools and more than 51,000 students in the Capistrano Unified School District encompassing 195 square miles in south Orange County, including 33 schools recognized as "California Distinguished Schools" and 11 schools recognized as "National Blue Ribbon Schools."

Grants from the CARE Foundation allow our teachers to invigorate students' minds by stimulating creative thinking with advanced methods and technologies. We hope to inspire our students by giving them the resources they need to go above and beyond.



Technology in Education: Preparing Now for the Future

The CARE Foundation is launching the first district-wide technology initiative to improve technology in every classroom and impact every student.

Orange County is one of the most tech-savvy counties in the nation. Much of Orange County's economy is built on a thriving industry of research and technological development. Children of today have a greater technical literacy than any generation in history, and our nation's students reap the benefits of our tech-filled lifestyle.

Here in South Orange County, education thrives as well. The Capistrano Unified School District's graduation rate is 95.5%. That's 15.8% above the state average!

Given our dynamic combination of technology and education, the CARE Foundation will be bringing hands-on technology knowledge to each elementary, middle, and high school in the District.

Our efforts will include providing resources to ensure that classrooms are retrofitted with the latest technologies, for use in computer labs, classrooms, libraries, and science labs. We feel that technology should be made available for our students in a variety of subjects, including arts. Our technology initiative will focus on enhancing our existing programs to include a broader study of arts that are technology-based.

Technology incorporation for students means higher test scores, new learning perspectives, and the skills our children need for real-world success.

Our goals are to provide...

- More computers, so each child can experience a high-tech, interactive, hands-on learning environment
- New and updated computer labs at each school
- Software to support today's evolving curriculum
- Incorporation of technology in our arts programs, such as graphic design, videography, and other arts that are technology-based
- Updated teaching resources, including document cameras and LCD projectors to expand teaching capabilities
- Installation or updating of wireless networks to accommodate the number of computers needed as a result of increases in student population.

Success in today's competitive world depends upon technical literacy, and we believe all children deserve this dynamic incorporated into their educational development. Our goal is to foster creativity in our children by supporting innovation in our schools and education methods.



There has never been a more critical time to improve our schools

Education budget cuts are being felt though out the state and Orange County is no exception. Capistrano Unified School District has been unable to prevent its schools from sharing in California's steep economic downturn:

- California public schools and colleges have lost \$17 billion in funding during the past 2 years, with an additional \$2.4 billion in cuts proposed for this coming year
- Education has received a disproportionate share of California's expenditure reductions
- California ranks 46th in per-pupil spending

Since 2007, Capistrano Unified has been forced to cut \$66.2 million. In the 2009-2010 school year alone, CUSD has suffered budget cuts of \$35.2 million, with additional \$33.9 million projected to be cut before June 2010.

What could these massive cuts mean for our students?

- Increased class sizes and elimination of programs
- Layoffs of teachers, administrators, librarians, custodians, and counselors
- Shorter school year

Among such concerns lies the desperate need for technology upgrades across the entire school district. The schools of Capistrano Unified are now faced with...

- Lack of computers. Many students share computers because there are not enough working ones
- Aging computers, many of which are over 10 years old
- Outdated software that does not support the current curriculum
- Non-existent wireless capability. Older schools do not have wireless capability so students are dependent upon limited computer lab time
- Outdated teaching tools. Many classrooms still utilize overhead projectors

As a result, the education and future of our children is in jeopardy. It is imperative that the CARE Foundation take the lead in ensuring our children's education does not suffer.



Inspiring students to reach their potential

Given today's budget constraints, private dollars are essential to helping the cost of education. The CARE Foundation consists of education, business and community leaders who have created public/private partnerships with the schools and businesses to focus on one goal: our children's future.

The technology updates for the district are extensive and state and federal grants will not cover the needs. The Foundation's goal is to fund hardware and software improvements to offset the district's costs and allow them to focus on funding necessary infrastructure updates.

Our simple and practical approach to addressing budget shortfalls is strengthened by the support of caring sources, both individual and corporate. We have had tremendous success with local fundraising and partnerships resulting in additional resources for our schools while maximizing exposure for our business donors. These relationships have given business and education leaders alike a sense of community with the common desire to help our students.



Your investment will last a lifetime

The CARE Foundation's grants are made possible by the donations from caring sources, both individual and corporate that so graciously empowers the Foundation to reach its full potential in shaping the lives of our children.

As a foundation, we are focused on developing new donor relationships and encouraging a philanthropic spirit for the benefit of our community. The CARE Foundation and our children are reliant on the generous support of outstanding individuals and corporations from every setting. Your support allows our schools to offer a breadth of programs that would otherwise be unavailable due to budget shortfalls.

You can be the catalyst for change in this world. Generosity like yours can bring immediate and long-term results, and can help bring the children in our community one step closer to the realization of their dreams. We at the CARE Foundation are tremendously thankful to all those who would graciously help us make today a better day for our children, and help make a better tomorrow for our world.

Your investment can change a child's future.

Be a part of our community. Visit us online at www.cusdfoundation.org