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SAN BRUNO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES FOURTH CLASS OF CRESTMOOR NEIGHBORHOOD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Foundation Awards $120,000 in Multi-Year College Scholarships to Outstanding San Bruno Students

San Bruno, California, May 15, 2019 – The San Bruno Community Foundation today announced the 2019 recipients of the Crestmoor Neighborhood Memorial Scholarship. In its fourth year, the Crestmoor Scholarship provides multi-year college scholarship awards to outstanding San Bruno students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the San Bruno community. The 2019 Crestmoor Scholars include Capuchino High School seniors Jasmin Bedolla, Shriya Jayanthi, Kathy Lin, Zarian Martin, and Zidane Mili; Capuchino High School/Skyline Middle College student Nicole Liu; and Skyline College students Valentina Carreno, Michelle Huang, and J. Enrique Martinez.

To finance the scholarship program, the Foundation is using a portion of the restitution funds resulting from the City of San Bruno’s settlement with Pacific Gas & Electric Company following the 2010 gas pipeline explosion that devastated San Bruno’s Crestmoor neighborhood. The Foundation created the Crestmoor Scholarship in 2016 in honor of the community members most directly affected by the disaster, especially the eight San Bruno residents who lost their
lives. The scholarship program ensures that the tragedy of September 9, 2010, is not forgotten and that the resiliency, teamwork, leadership, and commitment to community displayed throughout San Bruno in the aftermath of the explosion are honored in the annual recipients of the Scholarship. Since 2016, 33 deserving San Bruno students have received Crestmoor Scholarships.

This year the Foundation is awarding nine scholarships totaling $120,000. Headed to four-year colleges in the fall, Jayanthi (who will attend the University of Southern California), Lin (UC Berkeley), Liu (UC Berkeley), and Mili (Menlo College) will each receive a $20,000 scholarship ($5,000 a year for four years). Bedolla (who will attend College of San Mateo) and Martin (Cañada College) will each receive a $5,000 scholarship ($2,500 a year for two years). As transfer students, Carreno (who is headed to UC San Diego), Huang (UCLA), and Martinez (San Jose State University) will each receive $10,000 in scholarship funding ($5,000 a year for two years).

“The Crestmoor Scholarship invests in impressive young adults committed to giving back to the San Bruno community,” said Frank Hedley, President of the Foundation’s Board of Directors. “This year’s Crestmoor Scholars include social and political activists, police explorers, youth sports coaches, campus leaders, government interns, and accomplished athletes, artists, and musicians. We look forward to seeing these students pursue degrees in computer science, business, law, public policy, engineering, cognitive science, and other fields.”

This year, the Foundation received 68 applications for the Crestmoor Scholarship. In selecting the 2019 recipients from a competitive applicant pool, the Foundation’s selection panel evaluated, first and foremost, applicants’ demonstrated engagement in the San Bruno community, as well as their financial need, academic record, extracurricular activities, and examples of leadership, teamwork, and collaboration – important qualities that were displayed throughout the San Bruno community in the aftermath of the 2010 explosion and fire. Brief
biographies of the nine 2019 Crestmoor Scholars are attached as well as posted on the Foundation’s website at www.sbcf.org.

The Foundation will recognize the 2019 Crestmoor Scholars at its June 5, 2019, Board meeting at the San Bruno Senior Center, 1555 Crystal Springs Road. Community members are welcome to attend and will have the opportunity to meet the Crestmoor Scholars at 6:30 p.m. at a reception preceding the 7:00 p.m. Board meeting.

The San Bruno Community Foundation is the nonprofit organization created by the City of San Bruno to administer the $70 million in restitution funds received from PG&E after the devastating 2010 gas pipeline explosion in San Bruno’s Crestmoor neighborhood. The Foundation serves the San Bruno community by investing in projects, programs, services, and facilities that have significant and lasting benefits. Through making grants, leveraging partnerships, and taking advantage of other resources, SBCF assists and enables the community to maximize shared investments and realize their subsequent enhancements and benefits. For more information, visit www.sbcf.org.
JASMIN BEDOLLA: With interests in environmental science and astronomy, Jasmin Bedolla will begin her studies at the College of San Mateo this fall. A member of the Capuchino High School class of 2019 and motivated by a desire to service the community, Jasmin has been an active member of Latinos Unidos, organizing efforts to share traditional Latin cultural traditions with the broader community, and of Chance Club, which provides assistance to foster youth. Jasmin also served as a volunteer cabin leader for the San Mateo County Outdoor Education program, where she guided students to develop an interest in nature conservation while improving her leadership and communication skills.

VALENTINA CARRENO: As the first female president of Skyline College’s Computer Science club, Valentina Carreno has been a trailblazer, substantially growing the club’s membership, increasing female participation to 30%, organizing workshops to inspire local low-income youth to pursue interests in science, and hosting the Expanding Your Horizons conference for young women to learn about STEM careers. Valentina has also participated in an ASPIRES science internship, assisted educationally disadvantaged students seeking to excel in math and science at Skyline’s MESA center, and played on the college’s soccer team. Valentina will spend the summer at MIT in a hands-on research internship prior to enrolling at UC San Diego, where she will pursue a degree in cognitive science.

MICHELLE HUANG: Originally from Jakarta, Indonesia, Michelle Huang has become an active member of the Skyline College and broader San Bruno communities. She has served as a business peer tutor in the TRiO program for first-generation students, was elected senator as well as student organization and club liaison for the Associated Students of Skyline College, led the local chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and its community service activities, and was honored with the 2018 Peer Mentorship Award for her service in the Learning Center. For the 2018 Expanding Your Horizons conference, she created a forensic science workshop. This fall Michelle will transfer to UCLA, where she intends to study business economics.

SHRIYA JAYANTHI: After experiencing the inner workings of local government as an intern for San Mateo County Supervisor David Canepa, Shriya Jayanthi is considering a career in public policy. A scholar in Capuchino High School’s International Baccalaureate diploma program, Shriya has been an officer in the Interact Club, spearheaded a rally against sexual assault as a leader in the San Mateo Activist Coalition, participated as both an actor and a member of the stage crew in a variety of theater productions, worked as a peer tutor, and served as the San Bruno Chamber of Commerce’s first student ambassador. A musician and visual artist, Shriya will begin her studies at the University of Southern California this fall.

KATHY LIN: A member of the Capuchino High School class of 2019, Kathy Lin will begin her studies at UC Berkeley this fall. Ignited by her participation in the Global Glimpse summer program, Kathy gives back to the community in a variety of ways, most notably as a leader in the Interact Club – both at Capuchino and at the district level – the InspirAsian Club, Students in Action, and the Acts of Random Kindness Club. As a member of Capuchino Leadership, she organized an Oxfam Hunger Banquet, set up a College Pen Pal Mentorship Program, and hosted a Holiday Giveaway aimed to relieve holiday stress and show appreciation for students, staff and families. She has also served on the School Site Council, participated in the Jam Squad, and has worked as a tutor and babysitter.

NICOLE LIIU: Nicole Liu is excited to embark on an undergraduate degree at UC Berkeley this fall. An outstanding student at Capuchino High School and Skyline Middle College who has juggled community college courses during her final two years of high school, Nicole has been a leader in many arenas. At Capuchino, she served as secretary for the Interact Club, captained the varsity tennis team, and was an elected officer on the student council. She has been a youth leader at her church and worked as a lead instructor at Mathnasium. Nicole has also been active on the Skyline campus, working as a supplemental instruction leader at the Skyline Learning Center and as a student ambassador for the Career Services Center, participating in Model United Nations, and serving in the student Senate.

ZARIAN MARTIN: Sports and community service have been common threads throughout Zarian Martin’s life. With a strong work ethic, respect for his teammates and opponents, and a competitive spirit, Zarian played basketball for Capuchino High School all four years, while also volunteering as a youth basketball coach and summer camp coordinator at the San Bruno Recreation Center. Zarian has also participated in the San Bruno Police Explorer program. He will enroll at Cañada College this fall, with the goals of transferring to a four-year university to pursue a degree in sports management, obtaining an MBA, and eventually working in the area of professional or college sports.

J. ENRIQUE MARTINEZ: Spending his early childhood years in San Francisco’s Hunters Point and moving to San Bruno at age 10, J. Enrique Martinez has overcome personal and family challenges and is proud to graduate from Skyline College this spring. A graduate of Capuchino High School, Enrique has worked as a student ambassador for AmeriCorps, assisted elderly residents at Marymount Greenhills Retirement Center as a medical technician, and served as a voting precinct inspector during the 2016 general election. Passionate about writing, he has published poetry in Skyline’s creative writing journal. This fall Enrique will transfer to San Jose State University to study chemical engineering.

ZIDANE MILI: After graduating from Capuchino High School this spring, Zidane Mili will study business at Menlo College, with aspirations of continuing to law school. For the past four years, Zidane has participated in the San Bruno Police Department’s Explorer program, rising to the level of Assistant Commander and serving as secretary of the Police Explorer Youth Association. He has also volunteered as a homework tutor at the San Bruno Public Library, coached a Junior Giants baseball team, and served as youth leader at New North Church. This summer Zidane will participate in a mock trial program at Stanford Law School and intern in the district office of Congresswoman Jackie Speier.