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LONG BEACH
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

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Long Beach Community Celebrates 20 Years of Fostering Philanthropy

Founder Skip Keesal Honored & Announcements Unveiled



Long Beach, CA – The Long Beach Community Foundation (LBCF) celebrated many benchmarks on Thursday, June 2 and among them, a nod to 20 years of initiating positive change for Long Beach through charitable giving, stewardship and strategic grant making.

Originating from an idea at a Long Beach Estate Planning & Trust Council meeting, to a dinner at the 555 with community leaders to discuss how an organization could support nonprofits in town, LBCF was initially formed in 1996 as an affiliate of the California Community Foundation and later began independent operations. “Focusing on the charitable needs of Long Beach and facilitating philanthropy has been our mission since the beginning,” said Board Chair Jane Netherton who welcomed the crowd of over 100 [Founders](#), Board members, and donor and nonprofit clients on the top floor of Keesal, Young & Logan.

LBCF Founder, Attorney Skip Keesal, was honored for his philanthropy and thanked the Foundation for its powerful impact on the community, “the Long Beach Community Foundation is the perfect conduit for all philanthropic giving.”

With \$27.3 million in charitable funds under management and a record \$2.1 in grants distributed last year, LBCF celebrated milestones and alluded to what the next 20 years might look like. “We are the established, trusted and sought after organization for all charitable giving,” said Marcelle Epley, President & CEO, who made several announcements during the evening including:

- ✓ 17 new funds secured in 2015
- ✓ 10 new nonprofit & charitable group funds in the last eight months including: the Long Beach Historical Society, Long Beach Boys & Girls Club, Long Beach Rescue Mission, Precious Lamb Preschool, Safe Surrender Employee Contributions, Meals on Wheels West, Friends of the Long Beach Municipal Band, Long Beach Camerata Singers, SPIRITT Family Services, & Woman Shelter of Long Beach.
- ✓ A three year Strategic Business Plan
- ✓ A record \$2.1 in grants distributed
- ✓ The sale of a \$3.275 million home, which proceeds will be distributed to charity
- ✓ The convening of hundreds of professional advisors, donors and private charities
- ✓ A new mobile friendly [website](#) & updated brand

Among the elected officials present was Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, who announced that 143 babies have been rescued as part of his Safe Surrender program. These youth will attend college with the support of a scholarship fund managed by LBCF.

About Long Beach Community Foundation:

The Long Beach Community Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, public organization with over \$27 million in assets and 120 charitable funds. It was established in 1996 to make strategic grants to nonprofits, and assist individual donors with their philanthropic goals today and through planned giving. Fees charged to manage funds at the Foundation are invested directly back into the community in the form of discretionary grants. LBCF's mission is to initiate positive change for Long Beach through charitable giving, stewardship, and strategic grantmaking with a vision of being the preeminent steward of endowments serving the needs of Long Beach in perpetuity.

LBCF operations are led by President & CEO Marcelle Epley and oversight is provided by Board Chair Jane Netherton, Vice Chair Gary DeLong, and members Blake Christian, Michele Dobson, Bob Foster, Randal Hernandez, Donita Joseph, Annette Kashiwabara, Steve Keesal, Frank Newell, Judy Ross, Robert Stemler, and Judy Vander Lans.