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**\$5,000 Scholarships for Safely Surrendered Infants – Now Adults  
Makes College a Reality in Fall 2020**

*Former LA County Supervisor Don Knabe Sees His Dream Become a Reality for the First  
Two Scholars*

**LONG BEACH, CA** – Safely surrendered 18 years ago in Los Angeles County, two high school seniors have each been awarded \$5,000 scholarships to help them pay for college in the Fall. These students are the first of hundreds of Safely Surrendered infants who now have one more opportunity to succeed thanks to the generosity of so many.

“It is a dream come true for me to see college scholarships being awarded to two young women who started their lives as Safe Surrender babies,” said Former LA County Supervisor Don Knabe. “The first two scholarship recipients have already demonstrated in their short lives the courage their mothers showed in protecting them from abandonment. They have been driven by an insurmountable perseverance to succeed and have both committed to dedicating their lives and talents to helping other people.”

The scholarship fund, administered through the Long Beach Community Foundation, was established in 2014 while Knabe served as County Supervisor with the foresight that the fund would grow over time and benefit a countless number of individuals. Upon Supervisor Knabe’s retirement, many individuals and organizations acknowledged his service to the community and passion for this cause through generous gifts to the scholarship fund. LA County employees also make contributions to the fund through pre-tax payroll deductions. During 2019, the Don Knabe Safe Surrender Scholarship Fund was activated, providing scholarship opportunities for college-bound students who were surrendered within 72 hours of birth at Los Angeles County hospitals, police and fire stations.

“I am grateful to all those who contributed to the fund and I want to thank the Long Beach Community Foundation for their support in making my dream a reality. Every child deserves a chance,” said Knabe. “I am thrilled to support these youth through this scholarship and wish them both all the best in this next phase of their journey.”

All children safely surrendered in LA County are eligible for a scholarship. They must apply within three years from the time they turn 17 for the scholarship.

“Facilitating Don’s vision and watching it become a reality has been a highlight of my time so far at the Community Foundation,” said LBCF President & CEO Marcelle Epley. His consistent support of these youth, and encouragement for continual contributions created waves that will positively steer their lives now and well into the future.”

More than 180 babies have been surrendered in Los Angeles County since the program began in 2002. Community members are encouraged to contribute to these life-altering funds by making their own donation to the Don Knabe Safe Surrender Scholarship Fund at [www.longbeachcf.org/donate](http://www.longbeachcf.org/donate).

### **About the Los Angeles County Safe Surrender Program**

*A California state law was created in January 2001 that allows an infant to be safely surrendered voluntarily to a police, fire, or hospital facility, by a parent or person with lawful custody, within 72 hours of the birth. Despite the passage of this law, Don Knabe was alarmed by the number of infants that continued to be abandoned in dumpsters and other unsafe places. As an LA County Supervisor, he took steps to direct several Los Angeles County agencies to provide recommendations on how to improve the program. In 2002, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved the implementation of 12 recommendations to improve and promote the program. Since the Safely Surrendered Baby Law went into effect, 180 babies have been safely surrendered in Los Angeles County and welcomed into loving homes. For more information, please visit: [www.babysafela.org](http://www.babysafela.org)*

### **About the Long Beach Community Foundation**

*The Long Beach Community Foundation (LBCF) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, public organization. Locally, a team of four individuals manage 178 charitable funds totaling over \$54 million, which are pooled with \$3 billion in charitable funds through a 60-member team in Greater Kansas City. LBCF 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 charitable grants. LBCF's mission is to initiate positive change for Long Beach through charitable giving, stewardship, and strategic grant making 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 Gary DeLong, Vice Chair Robert Stemler, and Board members Michele Dobson, Bob Foster, Tony Gales, Mark Guillen, Donita Joseph, Annette Kashiwabara, Steve Keesal, Frank Newell, Suzanne Nosworthy, Kevin Peterson, and Judy Ross.*

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