Community Scholarship Program

Providing opportunities for local students to achieve their higher education dreams

$3 Million
Distributed in scholarships since 1988

600+
Scholarship recipients

74%
First-generation college students in 2026

66%
of scholarship funds are 4-year awards

Help Students Pursue their Educational Goals

Since 1988, the Community Foundation's Scholarship Program has awarded more than $3 million to over 600 students from Santa Cruz County.

Provide Need-Based Support
Supporting scholarships for low-income students means they spend less time working, incur less debt, and dedicate themselves more fully to academic coursework and internships.

Help in Accessing Aid & Paying for School
We offer students access to a financial aid expert to learn how to negotiate colleges' aid offers, maximize the public funding available, and minimize reliance on private loans.

Build Thriving Communities
Supporting local students helps grow our local workforce, ensuring it can meet the needs of tomorrow's employers.

Sofia, Cynthia & Jesus pictured above, with scholarship donor Penny, are just three of the many college students helped by Community Foundation scholarships as they become the first in their families to attend college. Awardees typically receive between $2,500 and $20,000.

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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Support Education & College Access

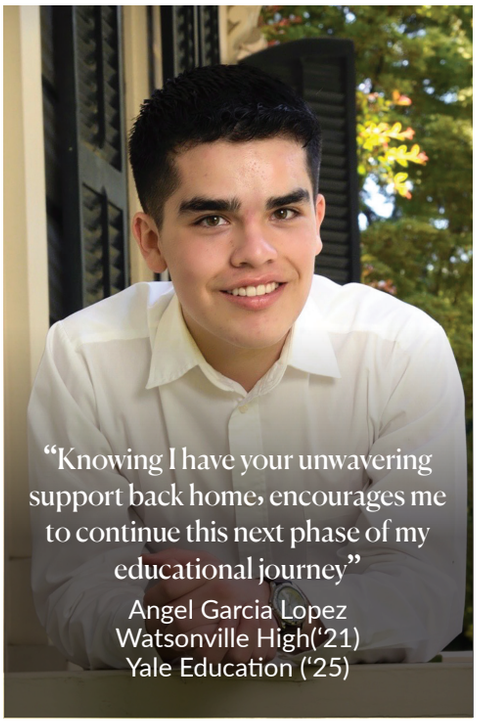
at Community Foundation Santa Cruz County

The Santa Cruz County Scholarship Endowment fund exists to benefit students of our region forever. It provides you, your business, family, or friends the option to support the higher education costs facing local students, without needing to administer a small scholarship fund or foundation on your own.

In 2009, Camira Powell graduated from Santa Cruz High and won the Community Foundation's R.H. Beel Memorial Scholarship.

That award, along with scholarships and financial aid from Stanford, meant Camira was on her way to take on the world. She earned an MBA and is now a VP at a global PR firm in New York.

The Beel Scholarship is one more than 50 awards the Community Foundation offers every year.



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