



# Santa Barbara County Education Office

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Susan C. Salcido, Superintendent of Schools

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## **Santa Barbara County Education Board recognizes donation to Welcome Every Baby**

At its regular board meeting on Thursday, Jan. 4, the Board of the Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) recognized Sandra Schoolfield and Jon Kechejian, who had presented a check in the amount of \$18,000 last September to the Welcome Every Baby (WEB) program of the County Education Office. The gift enabled four nurses to undergo training and certification in the Family Connects model at the Duke University Center for Child and Family Policy in North Carolina.

“Research shows that the single best predictor of positive outcomes for children is the coping ability of significant adults,” Schoolfield and Kechejian said. “We’ve followed WEB over the past four years and have been particularly inspired by the dedication of their small staff to this personalized, post-partum home visitation program and their tireless perseverance to keep this important program funded.”

The WEB program nurses serve approximately 1,000 newborns and their families annually. The program began in 2001, and has been operated under the County Education Office since January 2008. In partnership with the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department and Dignity Health Home Health, all families are offered a free, individualized home visit. Cottage Health System also began helping fund WEB in January 2012.

WEB nurses visit families in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, Goleta, the Santa Ynez Valley, and Lompoc. A WEB nurse visits the family in their home as early as three days after the baby is born. Each visit also offers support for lactation by an internationally board certified lactation consultant. The program is designed to help all newborns get off to the best possible start in life and aims to support families’ efforts to enhance maternal and child health and wellbeing.

“I’m glad I signed up for WEB,” said one mother who recently received a home visit. “I’m a first-time mom and really inexperienced. The WEB nurse gave me lots of tips and information. She also provided me with a lot of local resources.” Another mom added, “Despite having one older child, the WEB nurse told us many new pieces of information about baby care, juggling siblings, and local resources.”

“The WEB staff does an incredible job with this program implementation,” said Santa Barbara County Superintendent of Schools Susan Salcido. “However, it’s through partnerships and contributions like Sandy and Jon’s that help make the impact it has for so many families.”

The new training and certification that was made possible by this donation enables a second nurse visit at approximately one month post-delivery, where parents will be offered information and support on health care for the mother and infant, caring for the infant, home safety, and parental well-being.

Since becoming an SBCEO program, the WEB Nurses have visited over 10,000 Santa Barbara County families.

Families interested in learning more about WEB can contact Traile Eastland, RN at (805) 729-1593.

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***Contributed photo: WEB nurse pays a home visit to a new mother and her baby.***

