

# Grant Helps Center for Children on Its Education Mission



**KUDOS/GIVING**  
Stephanie R. Glidden

**Las Patronas**, a La Jolla-based nonprofit, announced it awarded a \$16,657 grant to the **San Diego Center for Children Academy's** expansion project.

The money will go toward interior furnishings and teaching aids and equipment, including projectors, whiteboards and desks, for the two new classrooms at the academy campus in Kearny Mesa.

The school serves students with behavioral and academic challenges beyond what public schools can provide even in special education classes.

The academy enrollment has grown by nearly 50 percent during the last few years and will serve more than 100 students during the current school year, as well as its expected to grow in the coming years.

Founded in 1887, the San Diego Center for Children is in eight locations and hundreds of homes across the county. The center provides therapeutic care, specialized education and critical life skills to more than 1,000 children and their families. The center's academy, certified in 2005, is a fully accredited nonpublic school, which is funded by and works in partnership with local school districts.

**Moisés Barón**, president and CEO of the San Diego Center for Children said: "The new classrooms are essential in helping us meet the current and



San Diego Center for Children  
**Children participating in a trivia quiz in a classroom at the San Diego Center for Children Academy Kearny Mesa.**

future needs of our students." Visit [laspatronas.org](http://laspatronas.org).

Longtime journalist and Alzheimer's advocate, **Kristen Cusato**, has joined the San Diego/Imperial chapter of the **Alzheimer's Association** as associate director of communications. Cusato was in local television news for more than 20 years and was most recently communications manager for **Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute**.

Cusato brings a personal understanding of the struggle that patients and families of those affected by Alzheimer's experience after the loss of her mother to a related disorder.

"Taking care of her as she slowly went away was so incredibly hard,"

Cusato said. "My mother's disease gave me a passion and a purpose: to help others with dementia and their caregivers and to push for a world without Alzheimer's." Visit [alz.org/sandiego/](http://alz.org/sandiego/).

A team of students from the **University of San Diego** claimed victory at the **Deloitte FanTAXtic** case study competition by presenting the best analysis on a complex, issues-driven business tax case. The USD team won first place and received a \$10,000 institutional award, and students **Andrew Cole**, **Michael Diaz**, **Simon Finnie** and **Barbara Machado** each received \$2,000 in scholarship money.

The national finals were held recently at **Deloitte University**, **Deloitte's** landmark campus for learning and leadership development.

**Steve Kimble**, chairman/CEO, **Deloitte Tax LLP** said: "Students participating in this competition are getting real-world experience to prepare them for a career in tax, which requires a diverse skillset and innovative thinking. Visit [SanDiego.org.nt.sandiego.org](http://SanDiego.org.nt.sandiego.org)."

The **Helen Woodward Animal Center** announced that it received a donation from dog food manufacturer **Blue Buffalo Co. Ltd** of more than 33,000 pounds of dog food. Representatives from more than 20 animal rescue groups from across Southern California picked up 1,500 pounds each of the high quality pet food from the animal center.

The **Helen Woodward Animal Center** and **Blue Buffalo** have joined forces since 2013 to help other rescue organizations through far-reaching projects like the annual **Home 4 the Holidays Campaign**, which adopted-out more than 1 million pets over this past holiday season alone and the **AniMeals** program, which recently expanded to provide high quality pet food to wounded military clients with service dogs in need and other signature pet adoption awareness campaigns.

In related news, the center recently held its official groundbreaking for a brand new adoptions building. The construction of the new building marks the second phase in the **Campaign for Caring** — a multiyear mission to rebuild the 46-year-old **Helen Woodward Animal Center's** aging facilities. The plans include desperately needed improvements to its surgery suite, new exam rooms and kennels.

The project is important due to the growth and increase in the number of animals served today versus its founding. In 1972, 300 animals came through the center doors. Today, approximately 3,500 pets receive lifesaving medical care and placement each year. Additionally, the Animal Center now accepts 95 percent of its "orphan" pets from animal shelters around the country, all requiring physical and behavioral exams upon entry, as well as vaccinations and spay/neuter surgeries. Visit [animalcenter.org](http://animalcenter.org)

Send Kudos/Giving items to [sglidden@sdbj.com](mailto:sglidden@sdbj.com).

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## NONPROFIT PROFILE | Girl Scouts San Diego

### Organization

**Mission:** Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

**Founded:** 1912

**Address:**  
1231 Upas Street  
San Diego CA 92103

**Employees:** 98 full-time, 31 part-time, 170 seasonal/temporary

**Number of volunteers:** 11,200

Girl Scouts is the best leadership organization for girls, preparing them to unleash their inner "G.I.R.L." (go-getter, innovator, risk-taker and leader). Research proves that Girl Scouts' single-gender, girl-centered environment is key to creating success. Girl Scouts develop a strong sense of self, step outside their comfort zones, and build the bravery and resilience that comes from taking risks, learning from their mistakes and trying again. Compared to their non-Girl Scout peers, Girl Scouts earn better grades and have higher academic and career aspirations. They are also more likely to enter the business or STEM fields, where women are traditionally underrepresented.



**Website:** [www.sdgirlscouts.org](http://www.sdgirlscouts.org)

**Smartest move:** Choosing a life of service and marrying my amazing life partner.

**Misconception:** Some think that Girl Scouts is only about middle class girls and cookies. In fact, Girl Scouts has always been inclusive, preparing girls of all backgrounds to be business leaders (thanks to the cookie program), STEAM trailblazers (nearly all female astronauts were Girl Scouts), outdoor advocates (camp and high adventure) and community influencers (values and leadership skills). Girl Scouts has been filling the leadership and entrepreneurial pipeline since its very



**THERE IS POWER IN EVERY G.I.R.L.**  
Unleash it at Girl Scouts.

beginnings. It's no coincidence that all female U.S. secretaries of state, 80 percent of tech leaders, 76 percent of U.S. senators and 75 percent of governors are Girl Scout alumnae.

**Events:** April 13: Cool Women luncheon (honoring exemplary San Diegans and investing in emerging girl leaders), June 16: Girl Scout Gold Awards (our organization's highest honor), and Sept. 14: Urban Campout (San Diego's fun fundraiser for grown-ups)

**Wish list:** We want every girl to have access to Girl Scouting and its unlimited opportunities to develop critical life skills while exploring STEAM, the outdoors and entrepreneurship.

### Executive Spotlight

**Carol M. Dedrich, MBA, CFRE**  
CEO

**Birthplace:**  
Detroit, MI

**Education:** BA in Business and Organizational Management from Michigan State University, MBA from University of Arizona

#### Personal path to this organization:

Grew up as a Girl Scout. Desert Shield/Storm veteran who served as a Patriot Missile officer (Army Captain). Began working in the nonprofit world with United Way and the John Wayne Cancer Institute, then focused on youth development with the Fulfillment Fund and Girl Scouts Greater Los Angeles. **Downtime:** Earning my private pilot's license; exploring the world (and my new city) with my husband

**Favorite quote:** "The work of today is the history of tomorrow, and we are its makers." Girl Scouts founder Juliette Gordon Low

**Most like to meet:** Juliette Gordon Low, Amelia Earhart, Margaret Thatcher

**Favorite place for business meetings:** Girl Scouts' 13-acre headquarters in Balboa Park

**Current residence:** San Diego  
**Family:** Husband, Alex Nurse



For information about how to be included in the Nonprofit Profile, contact Dale Ganzow at [danzow@sdbj.com](mailto:danzow@sdbj.com) or 858-277-4832.