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PRESS RELEASE

Wheelhouse Credit Union Presents Inaugural D. Cruz Gonzalez Memorial Grant to Cesar Chavez Elementary School in Southcrest

Grant to Provide Camp Scholarships to Students, School Supplies, Library Books & Other Materials

Inaugural Award Presented During Wheelhouse Employee Campus Clean-Up Day

San Diego, CA – August 15, 2023 – [Wheelhouse Credit Union](#) (Wheelhouse) recently awarded its first annual D. Cruz Gonzalez Memorial Grant to Cesar Chavez Elementary School, a Title 1 school in Southcrest. The \$5,000 grant, established to honor the legacy of former Wheelhouse Board Chair Daniel “Cruz” Gonzalez and his lifelong commitment to volunteerism in underserved communities, will be awarded annually to an initiative or organization that positively impacts the lives of San Diegans.

“We are proud to celebrate Cruz’s legacy by awarding this grant in his name. His selfless commitment to helping those who need it most is a model and inspiration for all of us and reflects the values that Wheelhouse brings to our San Diego community,” said Wheelhouse President/CEO Lisa Paul-Hill. “Our goal is to use this grant to continue his great work and make a difference in the lives of individuals in our underserved communities. We can’t think of a better recipient for our first grant than Cesar Chavez Elementary School. Principal Santos and all the amazing educators and staff reflect the ideals that Cruz dedicated his life, and we are honored to support the school.”

Cesar Chavez Elementary School is located in the San Diego Promise Zone, which is home to some of the most disadvantaged and underserved communities in San Diego County. The grant reflects a direct investment in the youth of the Southcrest community, providing 5th grade students with the opportunity to attend Cuyamaca Camp, run by the San Diego County Office of Education. Funds also will be used to purchase student classroom supplies, library books, materials for the school’s garden, PE equipment, and supplies for its sensory room to support the mental and emotional health of students.

The grant was presented during a campus clean-up event as part of a “community giveback” day for Wheelhouse, with its employee team joining the Cesar Chavez Elementary School Student Council and volunteers from Northgate Market to help get the school ready for the upcoming year.



Gail Glutting (left), Wheelhouse Credit Union Supervisory Committee Secretary, and Wheelhouse Board Director, Bob Lawrence (right) award the credit union's first annual D. Cruz Gonzalez Memorial Grant to Cesar Chavez Elementary School Principal Francisco Santos (center).

About Wheelhouse Credit Union

Wheelhouse Credit Union (formerly San Diego Metropolitan Credit Union) is a federally insured, state chartered credit union founded in 1934 serving more than 32,000 community members in the greater San Diego area. Wheelhouse is "San Diego Made and Proud," providing a full suite of consumer banking services and a comprehensive set of Energy-Efficient and Solar Loan products for the conscientious San Diegan. The Credit Union is committed to helping its Members succeed while supporting initiatives that help San Diego thrive. Please visit wheelhousecu.com for more information, or follow the Credit Union on Instagram®, Facebook® and Twitter®.

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