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Rotary Club of Laguna Beach grant supports kelp forest restoration and environmental education

The Rotary Club of Laguna Beach has announced their grant award to Get Inspired (www.getinspiredinc.org (http://www.getinspiredinc.org)), supporting their work in educating students about environmental stewardship through hands-on science exploration. This funding will help Get Inspired continue with their educational programs which teach students to raise white seabass and abalone in classrooms for restoration along the coast. The organization's school programs have already made a significant impact, including restoring local kelp forests.



(https://stunewslaguna.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/rotary-club-1.jpg)

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Photos courtesy of Rotary Club

Rotary Club of Laguna Beach President Keith Matassa (on left), and President-Elect Sharon Plumley (on right) present grant award to Captain Nancy Caruso of Get Inspired

As part of the club's district grant program, which requires a service component, Rotary members designed and staffed Get Inspired's presentation at the 2024 Art + Nature event at the Laguna Art Museum. Rotarians provided supplies, face painting and guidance, leading two arts and crafts activities for the children attending.

Captain Nancy Caruso, marine biologist and founder of Get Inspired, shared: "Partnering with the Rotary Club of Laguna Beach has been a wonderful experience, not only did their grant fund our classroom education program, but their energy, creativity and support made the Art + Nature event engaging and fun for everyone involved."



<https://stunewslaguna.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/rotary-club-2.jpg>

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Rotarians assist participants at the Get Inspired Art + Nature event

Funding for district and community grants, including the grant for Get Inspired, is made possible through proceeds from the Laguna Beach Classic Car Show and Oktoberfest, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Laguna Beach. Additional 2024 grants include the donation of library books and dictionaries for third graders to schools in the Laguna Beach Unified School District, and to Friendship Shelter to support their efforts in addressing homelessness.

Each year, the club awards district grants to support local non-profits, with funds matched by Rotary District 5320, which supports 100 clubs across Orange County and south Los Angeles County. Local nonprofits interested in applying for district grants are invited to contact the club at info@lagunabeachrotary.org (mailto:info@lagunabeachrotary.org).

"We're thrilled to support Get Inspired's mission through our grant, which funds these unique, interactive classroom nurseries. Partnering with Nancy and her team at the Art + Nature event was incredibly rewarding, seeing kids learn about marine life and environmental stewardship while having fun is exactly what our club's service is all about," said Keith Matassa, Rotary Club of Laguna Beach president (2024-2025).

To learn more about joining or supporting the Rotary Club of Laguna Beach, visit www.lagunabeachrotary.org (<http://www.lagunabeachrotary.org>).

Visit www.rotary.org (<http://www.rotary.org>) and www.endpolio.org (<http://www.endpolio.org>) for more about Rotary and their efforts to eradicate polio.

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