

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

August 10, 2008

Dear Editor,

“County schools on tight budgets”, was the Tribune headline for August 3.

To many, it’s a familiar refrain. I think back 20 years, when my daughter was in first grade and we were fighting against proposed cuts in elementary P.E., art and music. We lost. 15 years later, because of an enormous change in the property tax base, San Luis Coastal school district closed three neighborhood elementary schools and had to trim over \$10 million from the budget over a three-year period. Class-size grew. Support services dwindled. Fine arts and foreign languages took another hit.

Fortunately, there are those who continue look for solutions amid the rubble. For the past eight years the TEACH Foundation (The Endowment for the Advancement of Children) has worked to raise money for an independent, permanent endowment directly benefiting education in the San Luis Coastal school district. Teachers in any subject may apply for grants up to \$1000 to help fund special programs in the classroom, providing opportunities that students might not, otherwise, have. In just eight years the endowment has provided more than \$100,000 in opportunities for students in every subject and every grade level (theteachfoundation.org).

September 6, Tolosa Winery will sponsor a benefit for the TEACH Foundation. It’s a perfect blend of community support that is making a difference in our schools. Check it out at tolosawinery.com.

Judy Philbin, Board President
The TEACH Foundation