

ROTARY CLUB DONATION
TO
LA CASA DEL A RAZA

La Casa de la Raza is a non profit organization based in Santa Barbara, California. We have a small team of six individuals that work in conjunction with our board of directors. Our mission is to empower the Latino community through affirming and preserving Latino cultural heritage, providing an umbrella for services and advocating for participation in the larger community. This year has been especially hard as our community continues to deal with the effects of the pandemic. In previous years a large part of our funding came from events held in la casa. These events included things like traditional dances or cultural celebrations that brought the community together. Unfortunately, this year those events were not possible due to pandemic safety precautions. In accordance with the safety precautions, Casa de la Raza's team has been working tirelessly to meet the community's growing needs.

The need for mental health resources as well as rental, nutritional and technological assistance multiplied as isolation and job insecurity increased. Technology plays a crucial part in our ability to continue our services. Unfortunately, since many of our community members are technologically disadvantaged it has been harder for them to access the services they need. That is why The Santa Barbara Rotary Club's donation of electronic tablets is so greatly appreciated. This donation will have an immense impact on our community and influence the reach of Casa de la Raza's services.

With this donation, Casa de La Raza will continue bridging the equity gaps that exist within the community. La Casa's FRC (family resource center) has worked to give mental health education, and socio-emotional support, through weekly virtual support groups. This donation will not only make existing support groups more accessible, but it will also pave the way for The Techno-Cafe. The Techno-Cafe, is a new support group aimed at helping our community members navigate technology. Something as crucial as making an online appointment is quite difficult, when one has never had the chance to learn technological tools. We hope to give people agency through knowledge, as they learn how to access social services (find benefits, secure appointments, and file paperwork) and simultaneously find new ways of connecting with community and family.