



Enriching Education for Our Village

Late last year, the Incline Education Fund (IEF) was launched to support the Incline Village public schools in their effort to help students acquire the knowledge, skills and opportunities needed to reach their fullest potential.

The challenges toward that mission became amplified during the pandemic, and one issue in particular stood out: Not every Incline Middle School student had access to a laptop computer, a tool required for learning in the twenty-first century.

In fact, over one-third of our students had to share a device with a family member, making the challenges of remote learning even more difficult.

Incline Education Fund saw the need and made a commitment to raise the funds necessary to provide enough laptops for every Incline Middle School student.

Thanks to financial support from Incline's area REALTORS® and other benevolent community members, all those children will now have access to those essential devices. IEF ran a very successful "Tech Drive" and is now able to purchase 200 laptops for student use.

"This means a lot for us," says Incline Middle School Principal Kari Michael. "Many IMS families are just unable to provide a laptop for their children. A good many of these students were falling further and further behind. In turn, this was impacting the educational progress of all IMS students, every day."

To reach its fundraising goal, IEF approached Incline Village REALTORS® "Good Neighbor Committee" for support. IVR President Trevor Smith and Bryan Wallpe enthusiastically agreed to help and quickly made a video to explain the issue to their members.

Tahoe Lending Group Branch Manager Dave Colarchik and an IVR affiliate member learned about the project through that



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video and decided to pitch in. He proposed a challenge to the other IVR members by offering a \$15,000 match, in addition to the \$2,500 donation that he had already made.

That effort created a buzz within the IVR group and led to them bringing in a combined \$54,700, and to Incline Education Fund meeting its \$100,000 goal.

Kendra Murray, RCE CEO at Incline Village REALTORS®, says, "We are lucky to have been able to participate with IEF, IMS and the larger community in getting these essential laptops to our local students."

"Students need laptops the same way they need pens, pencils and papers. They are essential tools for learning in today's economy," Colarchik says. "Getting these laptops is an essential step for all students to have an equal opportunity to learn... It's teaching them how to fish."

Incline Education Fund believes that education is the best investment we can make in our community. By coming together to help give kids the tools they need to learn, it proves that, collectively, we can make a difference in our communities. It gives us optimism for further efforts to support our schools and to help build a better place to live.

For more information, go to
<https://www.inclineeducationfund.org/>

Incline Education Fund is a nonprofit organization focused on promoting academic achievement and skill development for Incline Village students and providing support for our parents and educators. IEF is building an endowed K-12 education foundation to provide long-term financial and leadership resources for our schools and community.

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