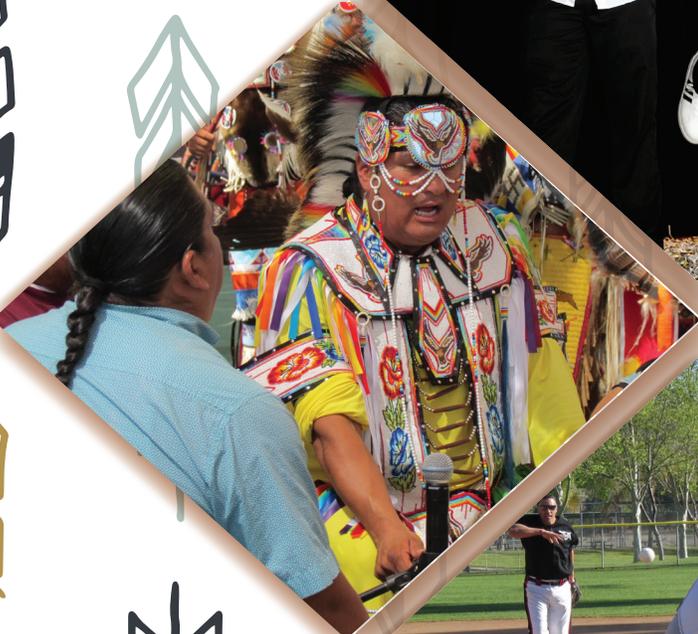


# YEAR OF INSPIRATION

2018



SOBOBA  
FOUNDATION





## *Mission*

The Soboba Foundation intends to support and enhance the wellbeing of Native Americans, promote and preserve the culture and heritage of the Tribe and support Tribal and community charitable and educational programs and activities.

## *Purpose*

The Soboba Foundation is a nonprofit corporation organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, as contemplated within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Review law) (“Code”), including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code.



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends and Supporters of the Soboba Foundation,

I am proud to say that 2018 marked yet another exciting and productive year. Since its inception in 2010, many individuals have worked hard to ensure that the Soboba Foundation has continued to grow into the success that it is today. I am very humbled to serve as the current President of the Foundation. I have seen firsthand the incredible services our organization provides throughout Indian Country, the San Jacinto Valley and beyond, and how that support has inspired others.

The Soboba Foundation's Board of Directors, staff and volunteers have worked tremendously hard throughout 2018. Early planning led to another incredibly successful charity golf tournament in April. The annual event was expanded to two days of action due to its popularity. With the terrific amount of support received from our friends and colleagues, we were able to raise enough funds to present 10 deserving nonprofit organizations with \$10,000 each for their programs.

Another popular and successful Soboba Foundation event was the 11th annual Lip Sync Contest. The sold-out audience was entertained by 11 nonprofits who practiced many hours in order to bring their A games to Soboba Casino's AC's Lounge to compete for thousands of dollars in prize money. Each participant received \$400 just for entering and the first-place winner of the contest took home \$5,000. A total of \$10,000 was awarded among all the performers.

With assistance from Soboba Casino, we were able to collect and distribute more than 6,000 toys for local organizations to distribute to needy families through the annual Soboba Toy Drive event.

Throughout 2018, the Soboba Foundation was able to provide eight different scholarships to Native American students, support 15 different California tribes, more than 15 different local schools and various other fundraising events and nonprofit organizations. All year long, we were truly able to "Give Back" to our local communities and inspire many lives in the process.

I would like to thank the Foundation Board, staff and volunteers for their inspiring dedication and diligence while working to improve the lives of others. I would also like to thank Soboba Tribal Members for their continued support in our endeavors. We look forward to providing the same type of support during 2019. It has been such a blessing to work with everyone who continue to make this organization a success. Thank you all again.

Geneva Mojado, President

# OUR HISTORY



The vision of the Soboba Foundation can be seen through its mission statement, which is to provide financial assistance for educational and charitable activities that preserve the cultural heritage of the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians and support Native American and local community programs. By striving to achieve this mission statement and overall vision of the Tribe, the Foundation can provide much needed assistance and funding to organizations and charities that need support. Since its establishment in 2010, the Soboba Foundation has been successful in achieving its mission and will continue to strive to continuously meet this goal year after year to ensure that this type of support is continued.

In its efforts to achieve the visions of the Tribe, the Foundation continues to offer financial assistance to Tribal organizations, nonprofit charities and other community organizations within Southern California. Specifically, the Foundation aims to support education, health, economic development, and special projects within Southern California.

The Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians allocates funding to the Soboba Foundation for charitable giving purposes that are distributed to various organizations or nonprofit groups. Organizations may apply for funding by way of an application submitted for funding consideration. These applications are reviewed by the Soboba Foundation Board of Directors. During their regularly scheduled meetings, the Foundation Board determines whether the request for funding falls within the funding priorities of the Foundation.

The efforts to achieve the mission and vision of the Soboba Foundation is driven by the commitment and dedication of the Soboba Foundation Board of Directors and staff. Although elections for new Board Members are held every two years, each new Board continues to move the Foundation forward while always keeping the mission and vision in mind.

# 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

The Soboba Foundation funded nearly 150 nonprofit organization events or programs in 2018. A diverse sponsorship list ran the gamut from a community concert series to a Tribe's traditional gathering. Many special project fundraisers to help nonprofits meet their demands for the coming year were supported by the Foundation. These events are also important to galvanize the community and perpetuate interest in causes for future generations to get involved.

The Foundation's funding priorities are focused on organizations that provide educational, health, economic development or special project services in San Bernardino and Riverside counties and to Tribal Governments and Tribal nonprofit organizations throughout the United States. Community-wide events that contribute to its economic development are most welcomed. Programs and events that benefit youth – either through education or sports – are also given priority.

Those who benefited from sponsorships of \$10,000 or more included The Friends of Valley-Wide Foundation for its annual "The Weekend" fundraiser and "Autumn Elegance"; American Cancer Society for its Relay for Life, Survivor and Caregiver Luncheon and other projects; and the Ramona Bowl Amphitheatre for its 96th season of North America's longest-running outdoor drama. The Foundation sponsored the following tribes' annual tournament fundraisers: Tachi-Yokut Tribe, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Tule River Indian Tribe, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians and the California Tribal Business Alliance's invitational presented by the Pala Band of Mission Indians.

The Foundation expanded its support for programs this year and expects 2019 to see more expansion in terms of the variety of programs it supports through requested sponsorships. The goal is to help as many organizations as possible contribute to a healthier, safer and happier community through its charitable activities.

# Lives Inspired

During 2018, many groups requested support for their programs or events that were used to inspire others, either through participation or through the mission and vision of the nonprofit. Several worthy groups were provided funds to maintain signature events throughout the year such as Historic Hemet Theatre for its Concert Series, San Jacinto Valley Eagles Football and Cheer program, American Cancer Society and Michelle's Place.

## *Michelle's Place*

Since 2001, Michelle's Place Breast Cancer Resource Center in Temecula has served more than 100,000 clients and recently expanded to be a center that helps people with any form of cancer.

***"Soboba is an amazing partner. Their support allows us to create new programs for cancer patients and continue serving those in need. We are so grateful for their continuous support."***

*Kim Gerrish,  
Executive Director  
[www.michellesplace.org](http://www.michellesplace.org)*



*March 17/18, 2018 – Riverside County  
District Attorney for Baker to Vegas Run*

The Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay brings together criminal justice partners from across California and beyond. The race honors those law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty.

***“The Soboba Foundation’s support helps us meet the costs of the race. Community support makes our participation possible.”***

*Gerald W. Fineman,  
Chief Deputy District Attorney and team captain  
[www.bakervegas.net](http://www.bakervegas.net)*

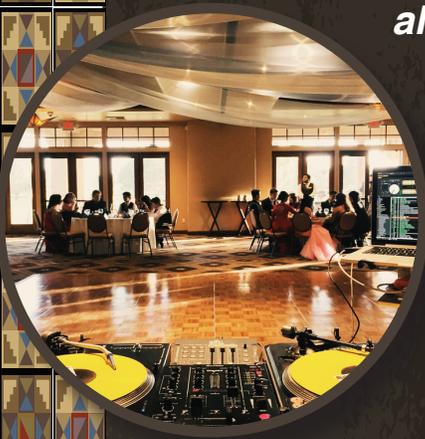


*April 21, 2018  
Helen Hunt Jackson College  
Prep High School Prom*

It is the school’s mission to prepare its diverse student body to be contributing members of a changing local and global society.

***“Our school community has been fortunate to receive funding from the foundation each year to host our prom at Soboba Springs. This financial support has allowed hundreds of students to participate in a high school tradition that may have otherwise been a financial hardship.”***

*Frank Green,  
Principal  
[www.hhjftlc.hemetusd.org](http://www.hhjftlc.hemetusd.org)*



May 19, 2018  
*EXCEED Celebration of Success*

The nonprofit provides quality, life-changing programs that enable adults with disabilities to transition to greater independence, employment and enhanced quality of life.

***“We are very grateful for the support of Soboba Foundation and for all they do in the San Jacinto Valley. Our Celebration of Success gives us an opportunity to recognize our clients that have overcome obstacles and made extraordinary efforts in reaching their maximum potential.”***

Sandra Aldridge,  
Marketing & Resource Development  
[www.weexceed.org](http://www.weexceed.org)



*June 16, 2018 – Theresa A. Mike Scholarship  
Foundation Fashion Show Fundraiser  
(Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians)*

This nonprofit honors the memory of a young woman and mother who tragically passed at the age of 23. It honors her commitment to developing a sense of cultural richness, history and future for the people of her Tribe.

***“Without the Soboba  
Foundation’s support, we would  
not be as successful as we have  
been.”***

*Leanna Thomas,  
Executive Assistant to Chairman Darrell Mike  
[www.theresamike.com](http://www.theresamike.com)*



*Summer of 2018*  
*American Indian Recruitment Programs*  
*Summer Program*

AIR's mission is the promotion and success of American Indians within education.

***"The Soboba Foundation's support has given the opportunity for our Native youth to participate in a meaningful program that challenges them to understand how culture can play a role in an active healthy lifestyle through Native games and food."***

Dwight K. Lomayesva,  
Executive Director  
[www.airprograms.org](http://www.airprograms.org)



# *July 14, 2018 – Take Back the Neighborhood Neil Winter Football Camp*

The primary mission is to give back to the local communities by offering camp instructions and coaching to youth. Partnering with 5 Star Pro Academy they support young scholar-athletes, giving them valuable leadership training in athletics, academics and life skills.

***“Soboba Foundation has been very instrumental in the growth and development of our organization in the Menifee, Lake Elsinore and Murrieta area. With their financial support we’ve had over 400 kids attend our annual summer (Neil Winter) camp.”***

Sherman Cocroft  
[www.TakeBackTheNeighborhood.org](http://www.TakeBackTheNeighborhood.org)



*August 25, 2018 – Smiles for Seniors  
Bowl-a-Thon fundraiser*

A nonprofit that provides emergency assistance and safety net services to struggling low-income senior citizens.

***“We are so very grateful for the support and friendship of Soboba Foundation throughout the years. We appreciate their compassion and look forward to our continued partnership and progress towards alleviating some of the suffering among the senior population in the Inland Empire.”***



*Catherine Serianni,  
Director  
[www.smiles4seniors.org](http://www.smiles4seniors.org)*

*October 6, 2018  
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  
Dinner in the Canyons*

Agua Caliente is grateful to receive support from the Soboba Foundation for this event and the annual Richard M. Milanovich Legacy Hike and 5k Run in March that provided funding for its Fellowship Program. Dinner in the Canyons is an annual charity event benefiting educational programs that share and preserve Native culture and History.

***“With this project, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians will continue to build on our legacy of a strong commitment to education in the region.”***

*Jeff L. Grubbe,  
Tribal Chairman  
[www.aguacaliente.org](http://www.aguacaliente.org)*



*November 2-4, 2018  
Camp Ronald  
McDonald Family  
Camp Reunion*



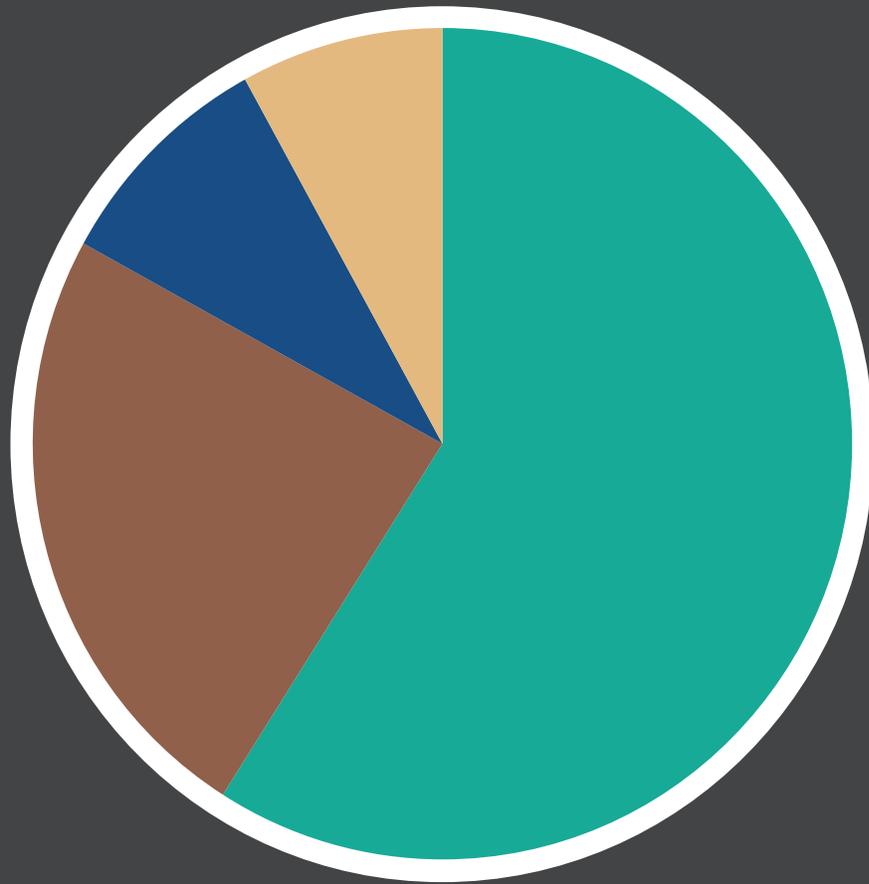
Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times creates a positive long-lasting impact on children with cancer and their families by providing fun-filled, medically supervised, cost-free, year-round camp programs.

***“Families navigating their child’s cancer journey often face considerable stress and isolation. The Family Camp Reunion is a fun, community-filled weekend for families whose children have aged out of Family Camp programming. They are invited to the reunion where they enjoy the opportunity to reconnect with friends they made at prior Camp sessions and even meet new ones. The staff, volunteers, and families served thank the Soboba Foundation for making this reunion possible.”***

Marlene Stang,  
Development Director  
[www.rmhcsc.org/camp](http://www.rmhcsc.org/camp)



# 2018 DONATIONS



■ COMMUNITY ■ EDUCATION ■ SPECIAL PROJECTS ■ HEALTH

# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Foundation Board would like to thank outgoing President Sally Ortiz and Treasurer Patrick Placencia for their dedication and service helping to make 2018 yet another exciting and productive year for the Soboba Foundation. The current Foundation Board, which were voted into office at the end of 2018, are:



**President Geneva Mojado** has served three two-year terms on the Soboba Tribal Council in the capacity of treasurer and secretary. She was raised on the Soboba Reservation, attended San Jacinto High School, Mt. San Jacinto College and UCR and graduated from San Diego State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice with a minor in Native American Studies. In addition to spending time with her two young children, she is a member of the Noli Indian School Board, Soboba

Foundation, Soboba Economic Development Corporation, Soboba Pow Wow committee and chair of the annual NIAA Softball Tournament. Geneva is currently employed with Riverside San Bernardino County Indian Health with Native Challenge as a Health Educator. Her passion is to work with the youth and become a positive role model.



**Vice President Dondi Silvas** was raised on the Soboba Indian Reservation, is the daughter of Charles “B-bop” and Yvonne Silvas. She is the proud mother of Joseph Burton, who plays professional basketball in Japan and grandmother of Joseph Charles Lee Burton. Spending time with family and friends is what she enjoys most. Sports was always a big influence on her while she was growing up and continues to play a big part in her life. She stays very active in the Soboba Vegas bowling league in Hemet and is an avid

sports fan who enjoys attending many sporting events. She has been a board member for NIAA (National Indian Athletics Association) softball committee and is past Project Coordinator for Ahmium Education Even Start Programs. Dondi has dedicated many years to supporting her son in achieving his dreams and goals. Now that Joseph Burton has fulfilled most of his goals and continues to keep working on them, his mom has the opportunity to get more involved with her tribe and sitting on the Foundation allows her to reach out and help others. Dondi enjoys attending events where she can reconnect with old friends and make new ones. She feels truly blessed to be part of the Soboba Tribe, which has touched so many lives by giving back.



**Secretary Michelle Modesto** was raised on the Soboba Reservation but moved when she turned 18. She is currently living in San Jacinto but is renovating a house on the reservation and looks forward returning soon so she can be surrounded by family and lots of home-cooked meals from her sisters. She wanted to join the Soboba

Foundation to become more involved in her community and to give back. Michelle also wanted to be part of something that attaches nothing but good deeds and positive vibes to the Soboba Tribe. She intends to focus her energy on building solid relationships with all the surrounding communities. As an accounting administrative assistant, she enjoys her job and all her co-workers at Tribal Administration. She has two children who are students at San Jacinto High School. Michelle enjoys watching her 15-year-old daughter, Avelaka, perform as a varsity cheerleader and her 14-year-old son, Brian, play on the basketball team. She is very proud of her talented and hard-working children.



**Treasurer Jacob Briones** was raised on the Soboba Reservation and has served on the Soboba Tribal Council and the Casino Development Committee. He enjoys giving back to the community and feels the Foundation is a great way to be involved. He is a tremendous advocate of sports and youth development and hopes to see the Foundation continue its support for these types of programs. Jacob has worked for the Soboba Fire Department since its inception in 2014. He is currently a Fire Apparatus Engineer and is working towards completing his company officer certifications while continuing his career goals in Rescue Operations. Jacob and his wife Faith are blessed with four children: Jacob, 20, a graduate of UTI with an associate's degree in occupational studies; Yawaywish, 16, who commits her time and efforts to softball and scholastics and is preparing for the United States Military Academy (West Point); Posuunyot, 14, who plays rugby and football; and, Huahnee, 11, who plays soccer and aspires to have a culinary arts career. Any spare time Jacob has is spent at the gym working on his personal health and fitness goals.



**Member-at-Large Monica Herrera** was

raised on the Soboba Indian Reservation and currently serves as Secretary on the Soboba Tribal Council. She has been a member of the Noli School Board and Enrollment Committee for several years. She has worked for the Soboba Casino and is a Licensed Cosmetologist. She currently works part-time as a Hair Stylist in between being a wife and proud mother of six. Her driving passion is the tribal and local youth. She has volunteered for both the Hemet and San Jacinto Unified School Districts and is an appointed Board Member to the Soboba Foundation. She strives to make a difference in both the Tribal and Local communities by giving back to those that have afforded her the opportunities to achieve her goals.



**Member-at-Large Isaiah Vivanco** is serving

his third consecutive term as Vice-Chairman and fifth overall for the Soboba Tribal Council and is a lifelong resident of the Soboba Indian Reservation. He previously worked for Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District for 28 years, before retiring in 2015 to dedicate all his time to the tribe. He enjoys playing Peon and watching his children sing and dance at Bird Singing gatherings. He also likes golfing and fastpitch softball. Isaiah was elected to the Soboba Foundation four years ago and currently serves as the Tournament Director for the Soboba Foundation & Soboba Casino Charity Golf Tournament. This event is the foundation's most successful fundraising activity. Isaiah has been on the NIAA softball tournament committee since its inception. He was recently elected by the 20 tribes that make up the Compact Tribes Steering Committee to serve on the executive committee in the capacity of Treasurer for the current CTSC, where he attends monthly meetings with the Governor's office. He serves as Tribal Liaison to the Soboba Economic Development Corporation. Isaiah would like to provide for the youth, who will be taking over the current leaders' efforts someday. He wants to be part of supplying them with a solid foundation that will help to ensure their prosperous futures.



**Member-at-Large Scott Cozart** has lived on the Soboba Reservation continuously since 1980. He has been a resident of Soboba and the San Jacinto Valley since 1959. Chairman Cozart is the son of Gloria Castello Cozart and Bruce Cozart. He attended San Jacinto schools, graduating from San Jacinto High School in 1973. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Operations with a focus

on Operational Management and Efficiencies from National University, San Diego. He and his wife Dee married in 1976 and moved back to the reservation in 1980 to raise their two sons, Jason and Justin. They have been blessed with six grandchildren as well. Scott is in his sixth term as a member of the Tribal Council, currently serving as Tribal Chairman for the third time. He is an Operating Engineer, having completed Operating School and Apprenticeship with Operating Engineers Local 12. Scott has worked as a contractor and in general construction with Cozart Construction. He served the tribe as interim manager for the Bingo operations and also as Interim General Manager for Soboba Casino. Chairman Scott was instrumental in developing the very first gaming contract to open Bingo operations for the tribe's first gaming facility.





## Contact

**ANDREW VALLEJOS**

*Sponsorship Coordinator*

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[www.soboba-nsn.gov/sponsorship](http://www.soboba-nsn.gov/sponsorship)

We want to thank everyone whose support made 2018 such an amazing year for the Soboba Foundation. Developing new relationships and strengthening our existing ones was a hallmark of this inspirational year. We fully expect 2019 to be another incredible year as we continue to benefit our communities in so many ways.