



TAHOE DONNER GIVING FUND MEET MARIELA – GIVING BACK IN A BIG WAY



three-year graduate program while staying rooted in her community. Through her work, she is supporting individuals and families across the region – contributing to the health and well-being of the very community that supported her.

Mariela shares: “In my current role with Placer County Health and Human Services, I have had the opportunity to support a diverse range of individuals within our community. Additionally, my bilingual abilities have proven to be a valuable asset, allowing me to better connect with and serve clients. I strive to foster a welcoming environment where individuals feel safe seeking help and feel seen, heard and understood.”

Mariela has appreciated being back in her home community: “Working within my community has been a meaningful accomplishment, and I am eager to continue building my career here. I am deeply inspired by the region’s natural beauty and the strength of its people, and I find great fulfillment in giving back to a place that has shaped me. I am sincerely grateful for the strong support system that has guided me throughout my journey.”

Mariela’s journey reflects the power of investing in local students – and the lasting impact that investment can have. When we support education and opportunity, we help ensure that Truckee remains a place where people can grow, contribute and give back in meaningful ways – strengthening our community for years to come.

If you’d like to be part of this effort, we invite you to support the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund. Every gift stays local and helps build a stronger Truckee community – today and for the future.

This summer, as part of the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund’s *Together for Truckee* giving effort, we’re highlighting what it truly means to invest in our community. When we support local students, we’re not just helping them achieve their goals – we’re investing in the future of Truckee. And often, that investment comes full circle.

Mariela’s story is a powerful example of that impact: From 2015 through 2026, the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund has provided 95 scholarships to deserving students from the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District. In 2019, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, we were able to present the first IMPACT awards to four students, including Mariela. Mariela received a \$50,000 scholarship, which helped finance her undergraduate degree in psychology and the start of her master’s degree in social work.

Mariela started out by earning her AA degree from Butte Community College. From there, she transferred to California State University, Chico and graduated a semester early in December 2022. In 2024, Mariela began her graduate studies in social work at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Mariela now works for Placer County Health and Human Services at their Carnelian Bay office. As a valued employee, she was able to transition from full-time to part-time, allowing her to continue her

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COMMUNITY.**



The Tahoe Donner Giving Fund Committee is chartered by the Tahoe Donner Board of Directors to carry out the mission of the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund: to inspire generosity and charitable giving among Tahoe Donner members to support deserving programs and youth in the greater Truckee Community.

The Tahoe Donner Giving Fund is administered as an affiliate fund of the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, EIN 68-0416404. All contributions are voluntary, irrevocable, and are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Tahoe Donner Giving Fund grants and scholarships are made through the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation’s annual review process.

The Tahoe Donner Giving Fund Committee thanks our founding partner, Elements Mountain Company, who has supported the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund since its inception in 2014, and the anonymous Tahoe Donner member who has generously funded the IMPACT Scholarships each year since 2019.

