



Gulf of Catalina Gray Whale Preservation and Education Foundation Announces Generous Support from Rainbow Sandals Foundation



(Dana Point, CA - August 16, 2025) The Gulf of Catalina Gray Whale Preservation and Education Foundation is deeply grateful to the Rainbow Sandals Foundation for their outstanding generosity. We were honored to welcome Jay “Sparky” Longley, founder of the Rainbow Sandals Foundation, and his family as they joined us to present their donation in person. As one of our very first supporters, the Rainbow Sandals

Foundation has been essential in helping us pursue our mission, and we are proud to celebrate this long-standing partnership.

Our foundation is committed to bringing students face-to-face with the wonders of the ocean and the incredible gray whale. Through our unique hands-on programs, students in grades 3 to 5 experience marine life up close—from interactive school assemblies to unforgettable field trips between September and May. Every class that joins us receives an on-campus assembly, creating a comprehensive and meaningful marine education experience.

Under the leadership of Captain Todd Mansur, our Education Director and Board Member, students gain valuable knowledge about local marine ecosystems. Our goal is to encourage environmental responsibility and inspire the next generation of ocean advocates while connecting students with passionate professionals in the field.

Mike Hansen, President of the Gray Whale Foundation and son of Dana Wharf Sportfishing and Whale Watching founder Don Hansen, envisions a future where every child can experience the magic of a whale watching trip—just as he did growing up. “Experiential learning is the most effective way to instill environmental stewardship,” said Hansen. “My dad spent his life giving back to this community, and through the foundation, we can continue his important legacy.”

Because of caring donors like the Rainbow Sandals Foundation, our foundation can offer marine field trips to students who might not otherwise have the chance. Jay “Sparky” Longley and the Rainbow Sandals Foundation share our vision and encourage others to join in supporting us so we can reach even more children with transformative, on-the-water experiences.

To learn more about our mission or to donate, please visit <http://graywhalefoundation.org>).

To learn more about Rainbow Sandals Foundation, please visit: <https://rainbowsandalsfoundation.org>

Teachers or schools interested in booking a field trip can contact our Field Trip Coordinator, Lisa Phillips, at surfnphillips@aol.com.

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