The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians has been a generous contributor to the community since the beginning. The Chumash ancestors even had a word for it – ‘amuyich – which means generosity in Samala, the tribe’s native language.

Over the years, the tribe has also played a significant role in the philanthropic arena, donating millions of dollars to a wide variety of non-profit organizations through its Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Foundation. In addition to funding a myriad of community projects that benefit the entire community, the tribe also provides volunteers through Team Chumash for a number of non-profit organization projects and donates hundreds of cases of bottled water for special events in the community.

The tribe established the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Foundation on a basic principle: to build partnerships in the community and work collaboratively to make the community a better place to live and work. Implementing the collaborative nature of this philanthropic approach has resulted in a number of programs that have enhanced the lives of residents throughout Santa Barbara County and beyond.

A few of the Foundation’s donations include:
- Donating iPads to school children in an effort to expand technology access throughout the largest elementary school in the Lompoc school district.
- Donating $50,000 to Channel Islands Marine & Wildlife Institute to help the organization rescue, rehabilitate and release stranded marine mammals.
- Donating annually to the Santa Ynez Valley People Helping People organization to help with emergency and short-term social services.

For the past decade, the tribe has also hosted its annual Chumash Charity Golf Classic where the proceeds from the tournament go to well-deserving local charities. Since it was launched, the tournament has raised more than $1 million.

Through its Foundation, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians has donated more than $20 million to hundreds of groups, organizations and schools in the community and across the nation as part of the tribe’s long-standing tradition of giving. These donations have been consistent with the heritage and values of the tribe.