In 2000 and 2003, Natalie and her husband, Kinko’s founder, Paul Orfalea, established the Orfalea Family Foundation and The Orfalea Fund now known collectively as the Orfalea Foundations. The Orfalea Foundations’ Mission is to support collaborative initiatives and entrepreneurial partnerships that promote educational development and sustainable solutions.

The Foundations’ facilitate proactive initiatives to intensify the community impact such as Aware & Prepare: A Community Partnership to Strengthen Emergency & Disaster Readiness in SB County; s’Cool Food: Creating a community of healthy children across Santa Barbara County; the Montana Yellowstone Expeditions Life Skills Programming, and the Outdoor Classroom Project which provides for physical activity, hands-on learning through peer interaction and multifaceted approaches to maximize learning success.

The Foundations’ continue to provide support in a more limited capacity within four areas of focus: Early Care, Education, Youth Development, and Critical Community Needs, as well as investing in programs that match these focal areas and have substantive value, promote healthy development, and build skills for success in learning and in life. The Foundations concentrate attention first and foremost on the geographic region of Santa Barbara County, and to a lesser extent California, national, or global projects. They have developed and maintain strong relationships with universities throughout California including Cal-Poly San Luis Obispo, University of Southern California and University of California, Santa Barbara.

Natalie Orfalea, as Founder and Chair, is involved in establishing the vision and strategy for the initiatives and will be joined by foundation representatives from the s’Cool Food and Aware & Prepare programs to field questions.