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Food Drive for Children First Academy a Success

Outreach from local business to children and their families during Summer Break

Phoenix, AZ – Nationwide Vision recently sponsored a food drive for Children First Academy of Tempe and Phoenix during the month of April. The outreach from the community spoke in volumes. The Tempe and Phoenix campuses received 9,000 pounds of non-perishable food items that will provide three meals a day for children and their families during the summer break.

According to the Department of Health & Human Services, nearly 1,900,000 Arizonans—(30%) are considered “working poor” in a family of four with an income of \$39,220 or less. Requests for food assistance is one of the most common calls received at Community Information & Referral hotline.

The statistics are staggering of Arizonans who receive emergency food of which doesn't include homeless families.

- 41% are children & seniors
- 30% were households headed by single parents with children under 18
- 47% of the families have annual incomes of \$10,000 or less
- 42% of the households have someone who is working
- 28% reported having to choose between buying food and paying for medical care
- 41% reported having to choose between buying food and paying for utilities
- 83% are United States Citizens

Diane Fernichio, Assistant Principal at Children First Academy is all too familiar with these statistics, especially when it comes to working with homeless children and their families.

“Every summer we struggle to meet the needs of our families for food boxes. Donors are on vacation and busy with their own summer plans. Our food pantry gets depleted, yet families still need help. Al Bernstein, the President of Nationwide Vision, asked how they could help us. He rallied his management team and produced amazing results! We have been blessed with a great friend in Nationwide Vision and are grateful for the continued support, said Fernichio.



The local company has always been very committed and passionate about community involvement. Laura O'Neill, Frame and Merchandise Buyer for Nationwide Vision played a strong role in managing the participation of all 64 offices to support the drive. Getting patients involved as well was critical to the success of the food drive.

“Our first annual Children First Academy’s food drive was a huge success, thanks to all of our offices and patients that went above and beyond to help out with such a necessary cause. I am so proud to work for a company that supports the local community and encourages its employees to do the same!” exclaimed O’Neill.

About Children First Academy

Children First Academy is the nation’s largest school for homeless and underprivileged children with two campuses located in Tempe and Phoenix, AZ. It is an open enrollment public charter school that serves homeless and at risk kindergarten through seventh grade students. For more information, visit their web site at: www.childrenfirstacademyaz.org.

About Nationwide Vision Laser & Medical Eye Centers

Nationwide Vision Laser and Medical Center, (Nationwide Vision) was founded in 1985 and is headquartered in Chandler, Arizona. As the leader in eye care solutions and largest optical retail in Arizona, Nationwide Vision is a full scope practice that specializes in providing comprehensive eye care, medical ocular disease management, laser vision correction, and premium products to Arizona residents. For more information, please see: www.nationwidevision.com

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