

Press Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Andy Heinemann, Chief Executive Officer, 520-327-7619

WILLIAM AND MARY ROSS FOUNDATION DONATES \$100K FOR TUCSON SUPPLIES TEACHERS

Final month for teachers to register for a chance to receive a \$50 gift certificate

TUCSON, Ariz. –Tucson Values Teachers (TVT) received a \$100,000 donation from the William and Mary Ross Foundation to support Tucson Supplies Teachers, an annual supply drive for Southern Arizona teachers. The drive, which began in July and will end on Sept. 30, offers \$50 gift certificates to Jonathan's Educational Resources for PreK-12 teachers in Pima, Cochise, and Santa Cruz counties. Eligible teachers can sign up for a chance to win at www.TucsonValuesTeachers.org.

Tucson Values Teachers has raised more than \$125,000 for the supply drive; in addition to the William and Mary Ross Foundation donation, TVT received a \$10,000 donation from Desert Diamond Casinos & Entertainment, \$5,000 from Ventana Charitable Foundation Fund, and \$4,000 from JPMorgan Chase Bank. Other funds have been donated by local community members.

Andy Heinemann, Chief Executive Officer for Tucson Values Teachers, said, "We are so appreciative of the William and Mary Ross Foundation for their support of local educators. Thanks to their \$100,000 donation, we are able to provide \$50 gift certificates to Jonathan's Educational Resources to 2,000 local teachers. The outpouring of support by businesses and community members is a good reminder that our Southern Arizona community values our teachers and wants to set them up for success in their classroom. We encourage all eligible educators to sign up for Tucson Supplies Teachers before it ends on Sept. 30."

Anyone still interested in contributing to the 2021 Tucson Supplies Teachers supply drive can make a secure <u>online donation</u> or they can visit <u>www.TucsonValuesTeachers.org</u> for more information. One hundred percent of the donations for the Tucson Supplies Teachers campaign will go toward the purchase of gift certificates for teachers.

Tucson Supplies Teachers is the largest school supply drive in the region and the only regional supply drive that directly invests in teachers and allows educators to shop for their specific needs. Tucson Supplies Teachers has delivered more than \$1.2 million worth of school supplies since its inception in 2009.

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Tucson Values Teachers (TVT) is a business and education partnership focused on helping schools and districts attract, retain and support the very best teachers for every PreK-12 classroom in Southern Arizona. The organization recognizes the critical role teachers play in student achievement and the vital influence they have on Tucson's future. It does this work by raising public awareness of the value of the teaching profession while providing programs that benefit teachers economically and professionally. For more information and to support TVT, visit tucsonvaluesteachers.org or call (520) 327-7619.