

## CANYON VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BRIGHTENS THE HOLIDAYS FOR LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED

Canyon View Elementary School is spreading holiday cheer in the third year of their signature community service project, Adopt-A-Family. Through a local community partnership with the CODAC agency, each Canyon View classroom is paired with a family in need. Since November 20, classes have been collecting items from their assigned family's wish list of gifts and essentials. This is a student-driven community service event, with the Canyon View Student Advisory Board (SAB) leading the project, handling all tasks from communicating with students to organizing the donations and overseeing the drop-off process.

On Tuesday, December 15 at 8:15 a.m. in the Canyon View parking lot, students are delivering their boxes of donations to awaiting delivery trucks that will transport the goods to the 18 adopted families. Thom Melendez, the Director of Marketing and Development at CODAC, will be in attendance as well as SAB teacher leaders Allie Zitkus, David Phillips, and Josef Torres, school counselor Kristie Stevens and parents from the Family Faculty Organization.

"Our Adopt-a-Family project is about helping families who need support and providing them with items that will allow them to provide a happy holiday for their families," says Student Advisory Board president Priti Kari. "The Six Pillars of Character are taught throughout Canyon View Elementary, and the Student Advisory Board is excited to be leading our school community in this important project that helps us show that we are caring and responsible citizens."

Since the project's inception three years ago, 50 families have directly benefited from the Canyon View Adopt-a-Family program. Because surplus items are given to local men who are supported through the CODAC agency, the program has helped 75 families overall.

"Canyon View prides itself at putting students at the center of everything we do, so when Mrs. Stevens came to me with this idea, we felt this would be the perfect opportunity to increase the scope of our impact by involving our Student Advisory Board and make this a student-led, school-wide project," says Canyon View principal Rob Henikman. "Our students, teachers and parents all pulled together and have made it happen for the past three years. It's one thing to teach the Six Pillars of Character, but this project puts our lessons into action."

Canyon View Elementary School, in the Catalina Foothills School District, enrolls 389 students ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade. It is located at 5725 N. Sabino Canyon Road, just north of Sunrise Drive and across the street from the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area.

### ABOUT CODAC

The CODAC agency helps support the health, emotional, and physical well-being of local men, women and children who are in need (more detailed information can be found at <http://www.codac.org>).

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The Catalina Foothills School District is Tucson's leading educational choice for PreK-12, educating many students living throughout the greater metro area. District schools offer a dynamic curriculum that engages students in deep learning taught by highly competent teachers who are held accountable for learning results – 97.5% of CFSD students graduate and 94% attend college. A CFSD education prepares students to become responsible citizens in the global community.

