



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, July 9, 2020

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TUCSON VALUES TEACHERS' ANNUAL SUPPLY DRIVE OPENS JULY 15 *PreK-12 Southern Arizona Teachers Can Register to Receive a Gift Card for School Supplies*

TUCSON, Ariz. – Tucson Supplies Teachers, an annual supply drive run by Tucson Values Teachers (TVT), is scheduled to open July 15 to PreK-12 teachers in Southern Arizona. Teachers will be able to sign up for a chance to receive a gift card by visiting www.TucsonValuesTeachers.org. New this year, teachers will be able to select their preference in receiving a gift certificate to Jonathan's Educational Resources or an Amazon gift card. Registration opens July 15 and closes September 30. PreK teachers are now also eligible to register for this program.

Tucson Supplies Teachers is the largest school supply drive in the region, occurring every summer, 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 \$1.1 million worth of school supplies since its inception in 2009.

Andy Heinemann, Chief Executive Officer for Tucson Values Teachers, said, *"This year offers unique challenges for teachers who already spend upwards of \$500 of their own money on school and classroom supplies. With the need for increased PPE and safety supplies, as well as learning items specific for virtual instruction, Tucson Values Teachers has decided to provide teachers the option of an electronic gift card to Amazon or a gift certificate to Jonathan's Educational Resources. We are committed to supporting teachers and local businesses like Jonathan's and are excited to announce a new local business sponsor—Ell Group!"*

Ell Group, a real estate and insurance firm located in Tucson, is led by former TVT board member, Jeff Ell. As a sponsor of the 2020 Tucson Supplies Teachers supply drive, Ell Group will contribute \$100 for every house sold between July 15 and September 30. Ell Group is committing to a minimum contribution of \$2,500 for this year's supply drive. Teachers are also eligible for a special year-round offer from Ell Group. The firm will pay \$500 towards closing costs for any local teacher who sells or purchases a home through the Ell Group team.

"I have been a proud supporter of Tucson Values Teachers since this critical non-profit formed back in 2008," said Jeff Ell, associate broker of Ell Group at Keller Williams Southern Arizona. *"Quality teachers are the most valuable resource we have in our community, and education is the key component to economic development and a thriving region, state and country. The school supply drive has always been near and dear to my heart because it is something tangible we can provide to teachers and students to improve the learning environment. It saddens me every time I hear a statistic about how much money teachers are spending out of their own pockets for classroom supplies. Thank you TVT and valued partners for your continued efforts to support our incredible educators!"*

Community members and businesses interested in contributing to the 2020 Tucson Supplies Teachers supply drive can make a secure, [online donation](#) or they can visit www.TucsonValuesTeachers.org for more information.

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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.