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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Tucson Values Teachers and Walgreens Deliver Over \$100K in Supplies to AZ Teachers**  
*Two Week 'Tucson Supplies Teachers' Campaign Met Collection Goals; Help from Raytheon and Giffords*

**TUCSON, Ariz. (September 9, 2011)** – Non-profit Tucson Values Teachers and Walgreens stores throughout Southern Arizona collected supplies worth more than \$102,000 in the third “Tucson Supplies Teachers” campaign. The goal of the two-week supply drive was to stock classrooms and prevent teachers from having to buy school supplies with their own money. Starting Tuesday September 13, the donated school supplies will be distributed to all district, private and charter schools in Southern Arizona.

On Wednesday September 21, Southern Arizona Charter Schools invites the news media to El Parador Restaurant for their September meeting, at which Walgreens and TVT will be making a special appearance to deliver their designated donated supplies. The meeting will be held from 11:30am to 1:30pm. Guest speakers include Walgreens store manager and Tucson Supplies Teachers co-founder Bruce Orach, CEO of Arizona Charter School Association Eileen Sigmund, and several other significant members of the Southern Arizona education community.

*\*Please notify Alexa Itkin (media contact) if you would like to attend this meeting for unique photography and broadcast opportunities.*

Raytheon Missile Systems (RMS) also collected \$11,000 worth of school supplies in support of TVT's \$100,000 goal through the company's Inaugural School Supply Drive for Teachers. The RMS Rays of H.O.P.E. Committee, the Raytheon Women's Network and RMS Community Relations co-sponsored the drive.

“We were extremely pleased with the generosity of Raytheon employees in supporting teachers and classrooms in Southern Arizona,” said Colleen Niccum, director of RMS Community and Government Relations. “Hopefully our teachers are now more equipped so they can focus on teaching instead of worrying about basic school supplies.”

Additionally, a \$25,000 grant from the Tucson-based non-profit Community Finance Corporation kick-started the drive for the second consecutive year. During the campaign, the public donated \$35,000 worth of supplies (doubled from last year); Walgreens donated over \$26,000 of supplies and more than 1,560 packs of facial tissues; Vantage West Credit Union employees donated \$1,000 in supplies; and U.S. Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords' office also helped collect an additional \$700 worth.

From August 1 to 15, all Walgreens stores in Pima County, Sierra Vista and Nogales hosted collection boxes for the community to donate items such as notebooks, pencils and crayons. Walgreens' customers purchased items at the participating stores or brought in supplies from other locations.

“I am blown away by the generosity of our community and the willingness to provide supplies to our



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teachers in Southern Arizona,” said Jacquelyn Jackson, executive director of Tucson Values Teachers. “From large businesses like Walgreens and Raytheon to the thousands of people who donated notebooks and pencils, it shows that Southern Arizona truly values its teachers.”

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#### **ABOUT TUCSON VALUES TEACHERS**

Tucson Values Teachers is a regional initiative determined to prove that the Southern Arizona community should not just talk about the importance of improving education, but must unify in action to retain, recruit and reward K-12 teachers. The organization recognizes the critical role of teachers in the region and values the vital influence they have on Tucson's future. For more information, visit [www.tucsonvaluesteachers.org](http://www.tucsonvaluesteachers.org) or call (520) 327-7619.

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