



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, July 13, 2017

Interfaith Community Services, 2820 W. Ina Road, Tucson, AZ 85741 www.icstucson.org

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ICS Seeks Donations of Backpacks and School Supplies to Help 1,100 Children in Need

The new school year brings added challenges for families struggling to make ends meet. Interfaith Community Services (ICS) is asking for the community's help to get children in need in grades K-12 ready to go back to class for the 2017-2018 school year. Through its "Gifts of Love" program, ICS is collecting donations of school supplies to distribute to families experiencing hard times. Requested donations include backpacks, binders, notebook paper, spiral notebooks, scissors, glue sticks, rulers, folders, and markers. A list of needed supplies by grade level is available at www.icstucson.org.

The Gifts of Love program allows a child to go to school with confidence, supporting their academic success. ICS Social Services Director Terri Patt-Smith explains: "The families that turn to us are striving to meet their basic needs—food, housing, medical care. Back-to-school supplies can cost \$100 or more per child, and these families just cannot afford it. Children are embarrassed when they show up at school without the things they've been asked to bring." ICS's Gifts of Love helps position children to start the school year with the tools they need to learn and succeed.

ICS hopes to assist more than 1,100 students with supplies this year. Donations can be dropped off Monday through Friday from 9am to 4pm at the ICS northwest office at 2820 W. Ina Road or from 10am to 2pm, Monday through Thursday at the ICS eastside office at 8701 E. Old Spanish Trail.

ICS will distribute free backpacks and school supplies to the public during three distribution events:

Northwest Office: 2820 W. Ina Road, Tucson on Wednesday, July 26, from 9am till supplies last

Eastside Office: 8701 E. Old Spanish Trail, Tucson on Wednesday, July 26, from 9am till supplies last

Southside Volunteer Office: 6740 S. Santa Clara Avenue, Tucson on Saturday, July 29, from 9am – 11am

ICS is able to help a maximum of three children per family. A birth certificate or immunization record is required if child is not present. Supplies are limited and distribution is first come, first served.

About ICS: Interfaith Community Services helps those in financial crisis find self-sufficiency through the ICS Food Banks, emergency financial assistance, personalized case management and job search assistance programs and enables seniors and disabled adults to stay independent at home with transportation and mobile meals. ICS offers compassionate support by connecting more than 750 volunteers, 100 diverse faith community partners and caring donors with Pima County's most vulnerable residents. ICS has received Charity Navigator's highest rating of four stars for seven years in a row for its fiscal responsibility and transparency. For more information, go to www.icstucson.org or call 520-297-6049.