



## **EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT FOUNDATION Special Needs --- Clothing Bank Program**

### **Case Statement**

EEF's mission is "providing resources to expand and enrich student learning in the Tucson Unified School District." One of the programs that accomplishes our mission is our Special Needs Program, which includes vision, hearing, clothes, shoes, and response to other special requests for help. All referrals for assistance originate with school staff – nurses, counselors, social workers, and other administrators—and are implemented through the same school staff. By providing assistance with some of these material basics of life, we help students feel more confident about going to school and demonstrate to our most vulnerable youth that there are people in the community and in their schools who care about their well-being and about their potential to succeed in school. Students receiving Special Needs assistance are those who qualify for the free or reduced fee lunch program.

EEF's Clothing Bank Program has a double emphasis. The first is to provide assistance to students attending uniform schools. Sixteen elementary and middle schools in TUSD with a total student population of 9,400 require the wearing of uniforms. These uniforms include navy blue or khaki bottoms with plain white tops. Plain white tops are a generic, multi-purpose item of clothing, easily acquired at a reasonable price, but the bottoms are specific and necessitate a special purchase, which can place a burden on low –income families. EEF provides the funds to purchase uniform pants, shorts and skirts for distribution to children who cannot acquire their own. EEF's second emphasis is to provide non-uniform clothing for students in need. A set of clothes typically includes 3 pair of underwear, 3 shirts, 2 shorts, 2 pair of pants, 1 sweatshirt and 1 jacket. A set may also include shoes and socks, but they would be paid for as part of EEF's Shoe Program. On average, a set of purchased items has a \$25 cost.

The TUSD Clothing Bank is not supported by TUSD general operating funds, except for a small budget that provides for odds and ends. All clothes distributed to TUSD's neediest students are either donated or purchased with donated funds. Several community groups, in addition to EEF, make small donations to support the Clothing Bank. Providing adequate and appropriate school clothing is very important part of EEF's Special Needs Program. We know from letters and calls we receive that students feel more confident about going to school as a result of these services. The less a student worries about such externals the better he or she is able to concentration on learning.

Raising funds to support the Clothing Bank Program is a component of each EEF Holiday Annual Appeal. Sustainable funding is provided by annual grant writing, individual donor designations, special appeals, EEF general funds and in-kind donations. EEF receives no government funding to support this or any other program, nor is EEF a part of TUSD's budget.

Educational Enrichment Foundation  
3809 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St  
Tucson, AZ 85716  
eef@theriver.com  
520-325-8688