



EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT FOUNDATION

Special Needs Program --- Focus On Vision

Case Statement

The Focus on Vision Program was established in the 1998-99 school year in response to the many requests the Educational Enrichment Foundation (EEF) received to provide funds for eye exams and eyeglasses for students who had no insurance and whose families could not pay for these services. The beneficiary students – pre-K through 12, are children of low-income families who qualify for the free or reduced-fee lunch program.

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. Correction of vision problems, in particular, removes a significant obstacle to learning.

During the 2007-08 school year, we provided 445 eye exams and 427 eyeglasses for a total of 872 students we were able to help. We are fortunate to work with two business partners for this service – Dr. Jeffrey P. Lewis & Associates and Dr. Robert H. Mulgrew & Associates and Lenscrafters—Our per student cost is \$125 - \$40 for the exam and \$85 for the eyeglasses. Their very generous participation stretches our donor dollars. We receive feedback from school staff noting appreciation for how "user-friendly" the Focus On Vision Program is; we can usually have a child in a new pair of glasses within a week of the referral. We also hear from parents and from the students themselves, who tell us in very personal ways what a positive difference this service makes in their lives.

Raising funds to support Focus On Vision is a component of each 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 3rd St
Tucson, AZ 85716
eef@theriver.com
325-8688