

Press Release



Attention: Community/Non-Profit Editor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kathleen Toupin
Fieldworks Events & Marketing, Inc.
(480) 609-3978 office
(602) 432-7272 cell
Kathleen@FieldWorksEvents.com

Tempe Pappas School for children of homeless families named beneficiary of the 5th Annual Rotary River Rally

February 23, 2004, Tempe - The Tempe Arizona Rotary Clubs are proud to announce that they have chosen the Tempe Pappas School for the children of homeless families to be the beneficiary of the 5th annual Rotary River Rally, to be held this year on April 16th and 17th at Tempe Town Lake. Each year volunteers from the Tempe Rotary Clubs produce this event, featuring The Great Cardboard Boat Regatta®, to raise money for children's charities in Tempe. Past beneficiaries of this event include the Children With Aids Project, Hunger Plus, Unlimited Potential, Sunshine Acres Children's Home, Friends of Orphans, Child Crisis Center of the East Valley and Every Kid Counts, to name a few.

"Helping Tempe Pappas School really fits in with our mission, in a number of ways," said Jim Lemmon, co-chair of the Rotary River Rally and Vice President of the Tempe School Board. "Not only do we want to raise money to help kids with this event, we also want to help kids learn." Building a cardboard boat that teams can actually get into and paddle along a 200 yard race course on Tempe Town Lake is not just a fun project, it's also a great way to help kids relate Math & Science skills to a practical application.

The students at Tempe Pappas School will be using their education to build a boat to race in the Regatta. They will also be helping out by selling soda and water at the event. "It's great to involve them this way, empowering them to help raise money for the school by participating in an event like this" said Ben Arredondo, Deputy Maricopa County School Superintendent and Tempe City Councilman. "We are also really grateful to have a community that cares about the future of these children and appreciate everyone's efforts to help raise funds for the new Tempe Pappas School due to open June 2004."

T.J. Pappas School for Homeless Children

The Thomas J. Pappas School was founded in 1989, beginning with just 8 children and held at the shelter. Today there are three T. J. Pappas schools - Phoenix Pappas Regional Elementary School and Middle School, and Tempe Pappas Regional Elementary School. The mission of Thomas J. Pappas School is to develop within all students the leadership qualities to fulfill their roles as responsible citizens of a changing world, providing an equitable education that promotes inquiry, positive decision-making, effective communication, cultural appreciation, and life long learning experiences, as well as providing enrichment opportunities to curtail homelessness. For more information see www.tjpappasschool.org or call (480) 557-6211.

5th Annual Rotary River Rally

The Great Cardboard Boat Regatta® is part of the 5th Annual Rotary River Rally, to be held the weekend of April 16-17 in Tempe, Arizona. This event is FREE to spectators and there is a nominal charge for boat entries. This event is fun for all ages! In 2003, over 10,000 spectators cheered as they watched over 100 cardboard boats race. This included entries from public schools, community colleges, youth groups, corporate teams, families and individuals. Participants not only practice and learn valuable design and engineering skills, they also learn firsthand the value of teamwork. For more information, please see www.RotaryRiverRally.com or call (480) 682-9065.