



MESA WEST ROTARY BUILDS BRIDGES

McKinney Vento

OUR EFFORTS: 12TH GRADE STUDENTS

- **Homeless** students are those who lack a fixed, regular, adequate nighttime residence

Motels, Hotels and trailer parks, campgrounds

Emergency or transitional shelters

Park benches, public spaces, abandon buildings, bus or train stations

- **UNACCOMPANIED** – meaning no parents or legal guardian

WHAT IS: MCKINNEY VENTO HOMELESS ACT OF 1987

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- The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987: As it relates to Public Schools
 - Ensures **homeless children transportation** to and from school free of charge, allowing children to attend their school of origin (last school enrolled or the school they attended when they first became homeless) regardless of what district the family resides in.
 - It further requires **schools to register homeless children** even if they lack normally required documents, such as immunization records or proof of residence.
 - **Local school districts must appoint Local Education Liaisons** to ensure that school staff are aware of these rights, to provide public notice to homeless families (at shelters and at school) and to **facilitate access** to school and transportation services.^[14]
 - Staying in their original school is important for mental health, stability in an unstable environment and **high school graduation**

DID YOU KNOW? WITHOUT A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA



\$20,241

Average Income



12%

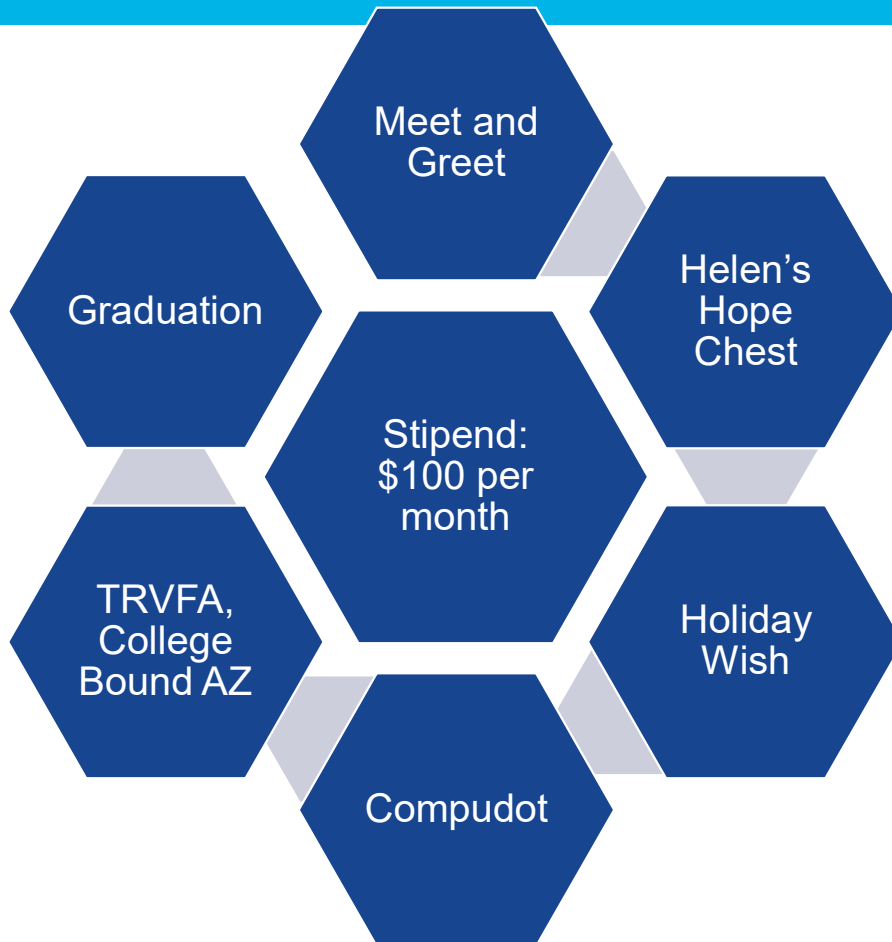
Unemployment



63

Incarceration
Rates

ROTARY BUILDS BRIDGES



8 out of 9 graduated High School

- Westwood HS: 5
- Dobson HS: 1
- Mountain View HS: 1
- Red Mountain HS: 2

ROTARY BUILDS BRIDGES: MCKINNEY VENTO – LAST YEAR

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To help our most vulnerable youth learn there is HOPE in the World

1. Stipend – Earn pp to \$100 per month for Attendance & A, B, C paid out after graduation **Why?** To give a little financial aid to students that are homeless and unaccompanied when they graduate
2. **September:** Meet and Greet – Mentors meet the students selected for the program. Introduction to the Program, review goals and expectations and why there were selected. Share a meal, give out a blanket. Collect Holiday Wishes. **Why?** Build trust
3. Helen's Hope Chest – Our students can shop by appointment and pick out up to 5 outfits, 2 times during the program. Work with Nancy McMurray for appointment. **Why?** To give dignity to our homeless and unaccompanied 12th graders.
4. Computot: Through Helen's Hope Chest – they have approved a laptop to the students to keep. **Why?** To enable connection after high school.
5. **December:** Holiday Wish Program: Fulfill our students Wishes for the Holidays. **Why?** Fulfilling an unexpected wish from Rotarians is both a gift to us and to demonstrate we care about them individually.
6. Follow Up: Transition to TRVFA, College Bound, The Mesa Promise, Career **Why?** To help bridge them to their next journey in life
7. **June:** Celebration – Provide stipend cash for Graduation in June/July at a Club Meeting.

OUR STARFISH



Braly Morales: Ben U
Emma Gotzinger: ASU

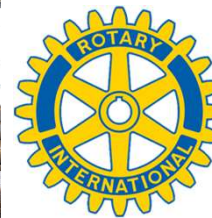
Meet and Greet

- Rotarians meet the selected students at their school
- Build trust and relationship
- Present Program binder
- Give out Rotary Blanket
- Define expectations: High School Graduation
- Option for sharing – general open ended questions
- Collect Holiday Wish Lists



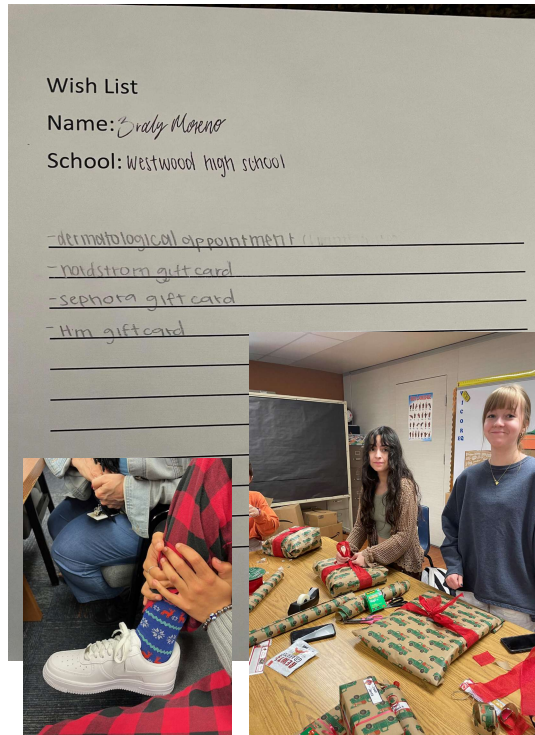
Helen's Hope Chest

- Qualifications: Homeless vs Foster/Kinship
- 2 times per year and Birthday
- Up to 5 outfits each
- HYC will transport the students
- Janice Walker, “Your teenage students were kind, polite and I had to tell them to go get more.”
- Comments from Students:
“There were no price tags”
“They treated me with respect”
“I could pick out anything I needed”



Holiday Wish Program

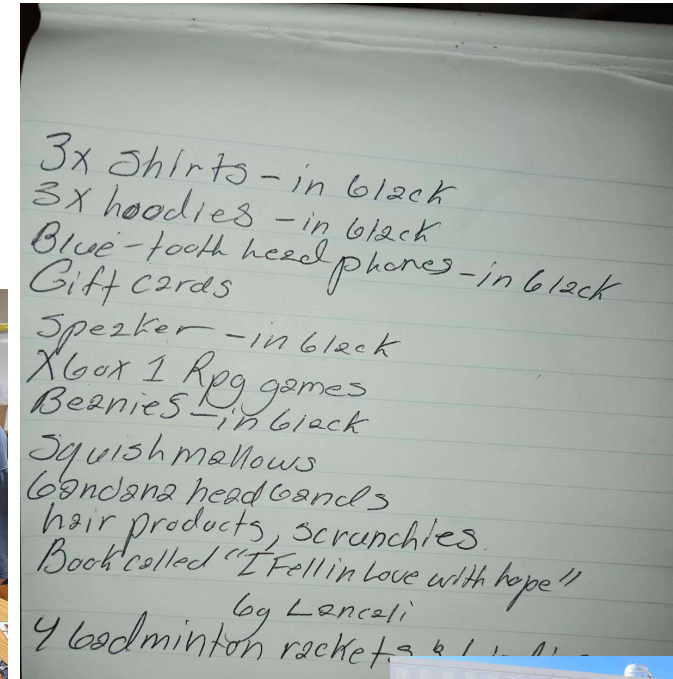
- Note: Most students was never asked for a wish list before
- Thank you to: Mesa Rotary, Valley Remodeling, and JIT Moving
- Mesa West Rotary members signed up to purchase items and brought them to the Club (2 weeks)
- Santa Shopper volunteer was Shelly
- Wrapping was done by: Westwood HS Interact Club



Wish List

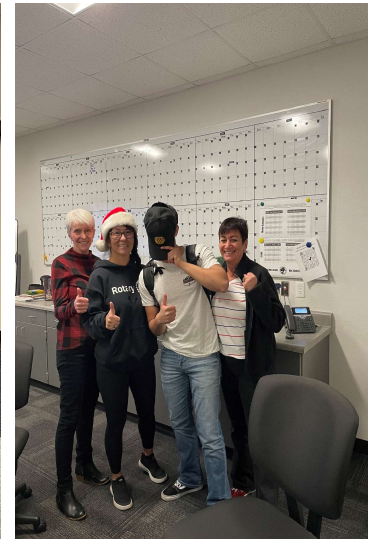
Name: Adam Smith + GF
 School: Red Mountain

Basketball, Pokemon, Bey blades, Pens, markers
Shoes, Nike Apparel, NBA socks, NBA player shirts and Jerseys
compression shorts 2-3, earbuds/headphones, candles, blankets.



Holiday Wishes: Delivered

- Delivered to each Student their Holiday Wish.
- “Wow, I did not know you were going to get me everything”
- “No one has ever done this for me before”
- Tears of joy from every student



GUEST – PROGRAM SPONSOR

Justin Hart, JIT Moving

MPS – MCKINNEY VENTO

Lisa Grant

Beatriz Lopez

McKay Smith

MESA WEST ROTARY COMMITMENT

2024 2025 – 10 students

Need 10 Mentors:

1. (In Person): Meet and Greet: Build Trust, share program objectives, collect Holiday Wish List
2. Connect with student via email/text to offer support
3. Work with Social Worker for distribution of stipends each month
4. Work with Homeless Youth Connections for rides to Helen's Hope Chest
5. Gather and facilitate Holiday Wish List to include wrapping
6. (In Person) Delivery of Holiday Wishes
7. (In Person) Preparing for Graduation: Understand what's next and your student's opportunity: Community College, Collegebound AZ, Computdot classes, TRVFA
8. After Graduation: Rotary Club Visit