



# Flood Control District of Maricopa County

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## Flood Control District Brightens the Holidays for Head Start Students

PHOENIX (Dec. 17, 2008) – The downturn in the economy has not stopped one county agency’s employees from continuing their 12-year tradition of philanthropic support to underprivileged Phoenix children.

Today the Flood Control District of Maricopa County participated in their annual delivery of backpacks filled with school supplies to 280 Head Start students in the Murphy School District in south-central Phoenix.

District staff presented the backpacks to the students in a morning presentation at one of the schools. The children were also entertained by the antics of team mascots Howler from the Coyotes, who handed out knit gloves to the kids, and the Mercury’s Scorch who brought along rally towels for the students and gift bags for the teachers.

“Since 1997, District employees have ‘adopted’ these children as our own,” said Tim Phillips, the District’s chief engineer and general manager. “Support of the Head Start students adds a heartfelt human service component to our agency’s flood hazard mitigation community service.”

This year, the 180 District employees donated approximately \$2,000 to purchase school supplies, toys and hygiene products to fill the backpacks with items the students’ families may not otherwise afford. All purchases were made internally using employees’ donations with no connection to District funding or county budgets. Maricopa County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox continued her long-standing support of the Head Start students with a personal donation of apples and oranges.

The Head Start teachers received supplies for their classrooms along with an annual membership to Treasures 4 Teachers. This Tempe organization provides educators with low-cost, recycled and reusable supplies, books and arts/crafts items.

The District also partners with the private sector. Phoenix-based Dibble Engineering has helped the District support the Head Start students for the past seven years, recently donating three years’ worth of backpacks for the children.

Head Start is a national program created to increase school readiness and overall development of children in low-income families. The program provides free, high-quality early childhood education to children, along with adult literacy and parental skills components in an effort to promote school, learning and life-long success for the entire family.

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If you would like to make a donation to the Murphy Head Start program or have questions about the District's fundraising efforts, please contact Diane Smith at (602) 506-4440.

*The Flood Control District of Maricopa County is tasked to provide regional flood hazard identification, regulation, remediation and education to Maricopa County residents so they can reduce their risk of injury, death and property damage from flooding, while still enjoying the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains.*

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