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July 29, 2018

Dear Friends...

Many of you missed a heart-warming experience at the Scottsdale Stadium this last Wednesday. More than 1,000 Scottsdale school students visited the City of Scottsdale's *"Covering the Bases: Back to School"* event. Each child left the stadium with a new backpack filled with school supplies, a pair of running shoes, and new pants, shirts, socks, and undergarments. And each one left with a smile!



Can you remember when you were a child, the thrill of returning to school with a new pair of shoes or a new box of crayons? Giving children the tools needed to do well in school both academically and socially is critical to their well-being. *"Covering the Bases"* gives more than just school supplies; it gives confidence and support when it is needed most.

Officially, the event is sponsored by the City of Scottsdale and Scottsdale Community Partners, but it has grown to involve many other non-profits, civic, faith, and business organizations...plus a great number of dedicated volunteer individuals.

The Scottsdale Charros play a major role (hence the name, *"Covering The Bases"*). The Police Officers of Scottsdale Association (POSA) and the Fire Department both get involved. Scottsdale Unified School District provides food for all the kids and volunteers. Honor Health's "Neighborhood Outreach Access to Health" (N.O.A.H.) provides hundreds of dental screenings, immunizations and well-child exams with a team of professionals committed to high-quality care.

There's a harsh reality in our community: *Not everyone is enjoying the good life!* According to the 2010 census, about 8% of Scottsdale's residents live below the poverty line. There are over 6,500 low-income students in the Scottsdale Unified School District alone. Scottsdale Community Partners (known until last year as *Concerned Citizens for Community Health*) was incorporated in 1975 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit to raise money for the social service needs of low-income families.



The monetary and in-kind fundraising of Scottsdale Community Partners is critically important to the work of your City's Human Services Division. Together, they partner to provide assistance to Scottsdale youth, families, and seniors who find themselves in crisis situations. Scottsdale Community Partners fully funds food, transportation vouchers, prescription co-pay assistance, and rent and utility assistance to hundreds of families and thousands of individuals each year. During the holidays, Scottsdale Community Partners sponsor the "Adopt-a-Family" and "Adopt-a-Senior" programs. All their programs enable residents to rise above their current situation and find stability, hope, and confidence.

The organization was the creation of Frances Young, who is also credited with starting Vista del Camino Community Center. Frances worked tirelessly for forty years to create a safer, healthier, more productive community, embracing all people and advocating for their quality of life. While serving on the city's Human Services Commission, Frances also helped start "Scottsdale Cares," the City's utility bill donation program that supports a variety of human service programs. Initiated in May 1995, Scottsdale Cares has received over \$1 million from residents donating just one dollar per month on their water bill.

Until her death in 2009, Frances was fondly known as the "*Mayor of South Scottsdale*". Proudly, her legacy lives on with Scottsdale Community Partners. Her daughter, Rosemary Karlin, serves as Treasurer of Scottsdale Community Partners today.

You'll hear me talk a lot about partnerships and working together. After all, that defines our community much more than the arguments that pull us apart. "*Covering The Bases*" is an excellent example of a partnership between individuals, the City, non-profits and the business community...all working together to make Scottsdale a better place.

If you weren't able to share the smile on the faces of a thousand kids last Wednesday, you can still be a part of something good; make a tax-deductible

donation to <https://scottsdalecommunitypartners.org/> and help prove Scottsdale is a community that cares. You too could have a smile!

David N. Smith
Scottsdale City Council
[2018 Candidate for Re-election](#)
(480) 369-7482

Re-elect David N. Smith to Council

Committee to Re-elect David N. Smith to Council,
8711 E. Pinnacle Peak Rd. PMB #152, Scottsdale, AZ 85255-3517