

Office of Communications

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MOORE LOVE, DISTRICTWIDE PHILANTHROPIC INITIATIVE, REACHES NEW FUNDRAISING SUCCESS WITH NEARLY A QUARTER MILLION

Moore, Okla. – Moore Public Schools (MPS) students, staff, parents/guardians, and friends united as one fundraising powerhouse to help fight hunger, heal hurts, and find cures. In its third year, the districtwide philanthropic initiative more than doubled the amount raised last year.

Collectively, the 35 schools and administrative offices raised more than \$240,000, for this year's four recipients. The donations will be given to recipients within the next two weeks, amounts will be: The Oklahoma Regional Food Bank, \$55,000 – fully funds this year and provides additional funds for 2020-2021; Moore Faith Medical Clinic, \$60,000; Soonerthon, \$60,000 – all donations will be given to the Children's Hospital; and Ally's House, \$60,000.

"Due to selfless hearts and compassion to help others – our schools were able to give back to four recipients who have given so much to our schools and community. This is nothing short of extraordinary and is a testament of how our community unites to help each other," said Dr. Robert Romines, Superintendent of MPS.

Not only did students, staff, families, and volunteers contribute – this year, many area businesses and organizations joined efforts and donated for the 2020 Moore Love recipients.

Superintendent Romines attributes the remarkable success of this year's campaign to the students who collaborated fundraising efforts with feeder pattern schools (elementary and junior high schools that advance students into a specific high school based on location) and made events fun and memorable. Another encourager to raise funds is a friendly competition within the elementary schools, junior high schools, and high schools, with trophies awarded to the sites that raised the most funds.

For the 2019-2020 school year, the recipients were selected through an application and interview process. Leadership students from each of the three high schools and their advisors were asked to lead the interview process and select the recipients.

- **The Oklahoma Regional Food Bank:** in collaboration with MPS, much-needed food items are provided for the, "Backpack for Kids," program to feed approximately 700 elementary students during the evening and weekends. There are also food pantries at many junior high and high schools for the older students. *Website: www.regionalfoodbank.org*

- **Soonerthon:** University of Oklahoma student-leadership group who raise funds throughout the year for the Children's Hospital. The Soonerthon committee also provided mentorship throughout the school year to Moore Love student officers, teaching fundraising and event planning. All funds raised with Soonerthon go to the Children's Hospital. *Website: <http://www.ou.edu/sga/cac/events/soonerthon>*

• **Moore Faith Medical Clinic:** a free health clinic within the Moore community that provides medical attention to individuals who may not have insurance or financial means for healing. Medical professionals from Moore and surrounding cities volunteer at the facility once a week, with no charge to the patients. *Website: moorefaithclinic.org*

• **Ally's House:** an organization established in 2004, that provides financial support to families dealing with pediatric cancer. To date, Ally's House has processed more than 1,200 financial assistance applications. The assistance helps ease a portion of the family's financial stress during treatments for various needs such as: prescriptions, medical expenses, transportation, housing, utilities, clothing, and food. *Website: allyshouse.org*

This is the third year for Moore's districtwide philanthropy. The district raised more than \$115,000 in February 2019. In MPS there are approximately 25,000 students, 2,500 staff, and 35 school sites.

Participation continues to grow as news spreads of the districtwide effort to give back to organizations that specifically help students and families within the MPS community. Organizers are already preparing for the next school year's application process. Applications for 2020-2021 recipients will be available on the mooreschools.com website in April, with interviews to occur during the summer.

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Final assembly pictures available upon request. Check presentations and school celebrations will begin Friday, March 6, and go through Friday, March 13. Media invited to attend, please contact Dawn Jones for more information.

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