



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UNITED WAY & THE DIAMONDBACKS TEAM UP FOR LOCAL YOUTH

TUCSON, AZ (March 19, 2010) – United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona (UWTSA) is partnering with the Arizona Diamondbacks to provide a special day at the ballpark for local youth. On Sunday, March 21, 200 youth ages 7-16 will have the opportunity to get an autograph from a Diamondbacks player prior to the team's spring training game against the San Francisco Giants. Each youth will receive two tickets to the game and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Participants are allowed to bring one item to be signed.

"United Way is thrilled to join forces with the Arizona Diamondbacks to provide local youth with a day at the ballpark and the chance to meet some of MLB's most popular players," said Candace McIntosh, Director of Resource Development and Training for United Way. "

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United Way and the Diamondbacks are also providing six local youth with a special career-exploration opportunity. Six members of the Kino Youth Advisory Board will be learning about a professional sports franchise by experiencing it in person in the shadow of a Diamondbacks staff member. The youth will learn about the different careers available in professional sports and how their textbook learning can be applied in the real world.

"This is a unique opportunity for these teens to see what goes on behind the scenes of a professional sports team," said McIntosh. "They will also get hands-on experience; doing anything from selling tickets to helping the grounds crew."

"The Diamondbacks are thrilled to offer these young men and women the chance to gain real-world experience in a very safe and comfortable environment," said Bonnie Faircloth, Manager of Spring Training Operations for the Diamondbacks. "We hope to provide these teens with knowledge about future careers, while also promoting scholastic achievement and future goal-setting," she added.

The six teens were selected by members of United Way's Young Leaders Society. Interested applicants took part in a mock interview process that included resume writing, a face-to-face interview and a written essay.

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**About United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona**

*United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona is working to advance the common good, creating opportunities for a better life for all by focusing on the three key building blocks of **Education, Income and Health**. United Way is dedicated to creating long lasting community change by addressing the underlying causes of the most significant issues. Our focus areas include: helping children and youth achieve their potential, promoting financial stability and independence, and improving people's health. Living United means being a part of the change. **Give. Advocate. Volunteer. LIVE UNITED.** For more information about United Way, please visit [unitedwaytucson.org](http://unitedwaytucson.org).*

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