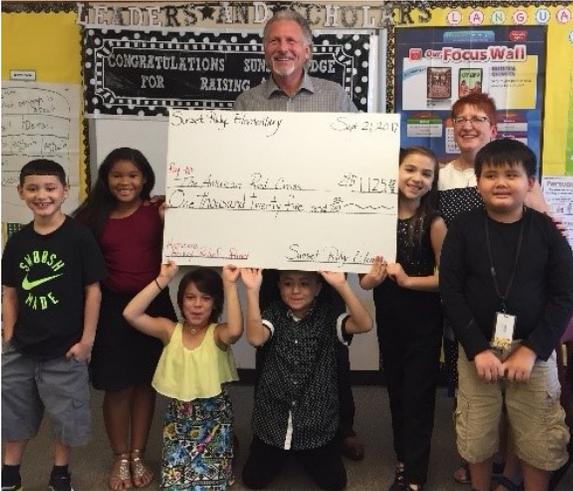




Pendergast School District's 4th Grade Class Receives Award



Pendergast School District 4th grade teacher, Julie Frentz from Sunset Ridge Elementary in Glendale, is passionate about teaching her students how they can make a difference in the lives of others. Julie and her class are being recognized by the Red Cross for raising \$1,300 for Hurricane Harvey relief efforts. The project grew out of a statement made by one of the students who said that they “were too young to make a difference.” Julie firmly believes, “Besides educating kids and teaching them the curriculum, it is my duty as an educator to teach them to believe they are capable of doing anything they set their minds to, and they are not too young to make a difference.”

Julie began the relief effort project by showing videos of Hurricane Harvey in Houston and also of the Red Cross and what they do. The students came up with the project on their own to do a coin drive and wrote their scripts, made signs and went into classrooms and talked about the importance of helping. They then set a goal to raise \$800. After the drive was completed, they exceeded their goal and raised \$1,325.

Brian Winefsky, Sunset Ridge principal, marveled at the efforts of the students and their teacher. “Everyday we teach the elements of the Be Kind program as part of character education. This is putting those words into action and we are so proud of the students and the way they truly brought awareness to helping others. We can’t wait to celebrate our students and Mrs. Frentz at the Heroes Breakfast, and we thank the Red Cross for nominating them and recognizing their efforts.”

Don Speck, Red Cross Chief Development Officer for Arizona, New Mexico and El Paso shares, “We had a huge outpouring of support during Hurricane Harvey, and when I got the call that Mrs. Frentz’ class wanted someone from the Red Cross to come out, I wanted to see firsthand and meet the class. I was so impressed with the excitement, the energy and the commitment that the students showed that it really inspired me to nominate them as the perfect example of the Good Samaritan Youth Award. The class showed what students can do. The money that they raised will go directly to the on-going relief efforts for Hurricane Harvey. The award will be presented at the annual Red Cross Heroes Breakfast on April 20, 2018 at 7:00 a.m. at the Omni Resort in Scottsdale. The public is welcome to register and attend.”