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MAM TO DISTRIBUTE 500 FILLED BACKPACKS TO MILITARY CHILDREN

Back to School Mission Kicks Off at Sanderson Ford in Glendale at 7 a.m., Saturday, August 8th

PHOENIX – Military Assistant Mission (MAM), an Arizona-based nonprofit which provides financial and morale support to military families, is holding its annual Back to School Mission this Saturday at Sanderson Ford on North 51st Avenue in Glendale, with the support of its sponsors, Sanderson Ford, National Bank of Arizona and New Horizon's Computer Learning Centers. The drive will begin at 7 a.m. and end at 1 p.m.

"Every summer MAM organizes a drive to collect school supplies for the children of Arizona's military service men and women," said Marc Boehm, MAM Director. "Through the generous donations from our sponsors and donors, these much-needed school supplies are given to military children to ensure they are able to start school with the same supplies as their civilian classmates."

This year, National Bank of Arizona employees donated school supply packs to fill close to 500 backpacks.

"I am very humbled by the generosity and giving spirit shown by NBAZ Associates," said Mark Young, National Bank of Arizona CEO and President. "Every summer we hold a supply drive and even though we are all working remotely this year, we were still able to rally together to help so many kids get off to a great start this school year."

The coronavirus crisis has changed the daily lives of all of us, especially kids as many are going back to school virtually this month. However, this doesn't mean the need for supplies is any less. In fact, after posting the registration link online, MAM received over 150 sign ups in just the first day.

"Just as all businesses are observing the recommendation to social distance and wear appropriate PPE, all of our 25 volunteers will be doing the same as we hand out backpacks this year," explained Boehm. "We also switched from having an in-person event to holding a drive through donation station for parents and kids to pick up their backpacks. Our goal is to keep everyone healthy and safe at our event this coming Saturday."

In addition to the supplies provided by National Bank of Arizona, New Horizon's Learning Centers donated a ruler to be included each backpack and Sanderson Ford is giving every child a full, clear face shields for kids to wear when in-person learning begins later in the school year.

Since inception, Military Assistance Mission has provided financial support and morale aid to current Arizona active duty military, their families, and post 9/11 Purple Heart recipients regardless of overseas deployment status.

"Our MAM board of directors, staff and volunteers work hard every day to give back just a fraction of what our service men and women have given and sacrificed for our freedoms," said Boehm. "The ability to give back to these deserving families would not be possible without the help of great supporters like our event sponsors."

To learn more about the Back to School Mission event and all the other MAM programs offered throughout the year, please visit <u>azmam.org.</u>

About Military Assistance Mission

<u>Military Assistance Mission (MAM)</u> aims to provide financial and morale aid to our current Arizona active duty military, their families, and Post 9/11 Purple Heart

Recipients, regardless of overseas deployment status. Through generous and widespread public support and collaborative team of exceptional staff and volunteers, we aspire to become the provider of choice for emergency financial and morale assistance.

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