

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Payson Community Kids Inc. is a 501(c) 3 Non-Profit Organization that serves underserved children and their families residing in Payson, Arizona. The organization consists of Board of Directors, an all-volunteer team with full and part time employees serving over 350 children. Since the inception of Payson Community Kids Inc. (PCK) in 1998, we have registered tremendous growth in the number of kids attending the program averaging 150 every afternoon and our database for the year 2015 has 357 kids participating in the program for free, albeit the limited resources. Our program targets children ages six to eighteen in Payson Unified School District.

After school programs helps in keeping children safe and out of trouble by providing important educational and developmental settings during those critical hours when normal school sessions end for the day. Most of the children we serve are unsupervised after school because their parents have to work while others are being affected by family drug issues which is a big problem in our community.

We have developed various strategies that involves providing food, clothing, Art classes, Reading and homework assistance, occasional financial needs as well as opportunities for social interaction and educational activities. We envisaged by incorporating these strategies in serving our children, they will develop confidence and self-esteem, healthy nutrition, good reading skills, high academic achievements in subjects like math and sciences as well as give them a safe environment free from risky activities during those critical hours. Our evaluation report for 2015, presents a positive outlook in terms of quality and excellence. The number of kids attending the program also increased to 357, total number of books and articles read was 3,949 and 10,620 healthy meals were served. The level of reading for kids attending PCK was relatively higher and our efforts in promoting literacy in partnership with Rim Country Literacy Program (RCLP). We are a recipient of the Heroes of Public Education (HOPE), awarded to us by Payson Unified School District and also the 2016 finalist for best Non-Profit Organization in Rim Country.

## **Mission**

The mission of PCK is to promote healthy growth and development for Payson's children and their families, and to encourage their positive participation in the community and society in general.

In order to achieve our mission we provide assistance with food, clothing, and occasional financial needs, as well as opportunities for social interaction and educational activities all for free. Services are aimed at meeting basic material needs and encouraging the development of positive self-esteem and responsibility.

Our consolidated facility allows for small classes and activity groups, recreation/playing ground, availability of a library, and daily use of a kitchen. Our staff includes more than 10 volunteers with good background check clearance, providing plenty of the individual attention kids need.

## **Program Goals**

- To offer opportunities for children to explore their interests and creativity
- To nurture academic excellence, emotional and social skills and physical health in a safe environment.
- Build skills that support academic achievements and raise children expectations and confidence.
- Promote leadership and community engagement in children.
- To involve parents, partners and the community in general to support our goals.

## **Program Objectives**

- Our children will achieve academic growth through the literacy and homework assistance activities.
- Enrich our children in creative and performance arts.
- Our children will grow socially through our team building activities.
- Our children will develop emotionally through our health and recreation programs.
- Children will feel safe and secure while being supervised by a competent and caring staff.
- Our community will benefit in a positive manner as we teach children caring and responsible behaviors.
- Our children will develop good health and nutrition habits through snack and health supervision provided by PCK