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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS RELEASE

Alamogordo Public Schools Introduces the Tiger Care Center: A Beacon of Hope and Support for Students

Monday, November 6, 2023 - Alamogordo, NM – Alamogordo Public School District

Alamogordo Public Schools is proud to announce the opening of the Tiger Care Center, a compassionate and comprehensive space designed to provide essential resources and support to our students in need. The Tiger Care Center highlights our team's commitment to ensuring that every student is equipped for success in the classroom and beyond.

Lisa Patch, MSN, RN, NCSN, Executive Director of Health Services for Alamogordo Public Schools, emphasized the significance of this initiative, stating, "When we see children in need of basic necessities and are unable to assist, or we are digging in a garbage bag of donated items to see what is there, it can be disheartening for everyone. Now we have a respectful, clean place where the message is that education is important and you are important, so let's set you up for a successful year of learning and endless possibilities for your future."

The Tiger Care Center is a haven where students facing barriers to learning can be referred by school employees who recognize their needs. This remarkable facility offers a wide range of services, including clothing, coats, shoes, laundry facilities, and shower access. There is also a place for students to do homework while they are waiting and they have access to school supplies and hygiene products when needed. In emergency situations, a small food pantry is available to provide immediate support.

For special occasions, the Tiger Care Center has donated prom dresses and Halloween costumes, allowing students to partake in memorable school events. Additionally, the center is equipped with a social worker who can assist in applying for Presumptive Eligibility Medicaid, addressing medical needs, and facilitating access to dental care.

"The creation of the Tiger Care Center stands as a testament to our dedication to supporting our students and families who may face challenges with basic needs. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Health Services Department of Alamogordo Public Schools for their unwavering commitment to our community," shared Interim Superintendent, Pam Renteria.

The Tiger Care Center is conveniently located next to Stepping Stones Preschool, off 13th Street. It was established using funds primarily sourced from the McKinney Vento Act, which is aimed at supporting homeless students. The center's services have made a significant impact, in the 2022-2023 SY 180 students were identified as homeless, and since the Tiger Care Center opened at the end of July, APS has served over 150 students in those three months. The Tiger Care Center is not only for identified homeless students but also students in need, referred by APS staff. The number of homeless students fluctuates as families face challenging circumstances and subsequently regain stability.

Alamogordo Public Schools invites the community to join in supporting students and families in need by contributing gently used or new donations of clothes. Donations can be dropped off at The Hub, located at 805 E. 12th Street, directly across from the Post Office. Thank you so much to First Financial Group of America for the donation of \$3,600 to purchase new shoes, we are so grateful for your support of our students.

The Tiger Care Center symbolizes the community's dedication to the well-being of students, emphasizing that no child should face barriers to education due to unmet basic needs. It is a place where we come together to support our neighbors, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

The Tiger Care Center is by appointment only and made by calling the HOPE phone number at 575-430-0191. For more information about the Tiger Care Center or how to get involved, please contact the Alamogordo Public Schools Health Services Department at HOPE@alamogordoschools.org or 575-430-0191.

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