

**Real Gift Foundation**  
**Solano School Playground Project**

The Real Gift Foundation (TRGF) is committed to impacting the lives of the over 12,000 homeless children attending schools in Maricopa County in direct, positive and meaningful ways. Activities include organizing programs to provide health maintenance and health care services, food and clothing, school supplies, holiday assistance, educational programs and similar services. TRGF is committed to as many people as possible participating in the opportunity and privilege it is to make a difference in the life of a child.

TRGF will be installing 3 desperately needed playgrounds at Solano Elementary School, one of six schools in the Osborn School District. Located at the corner of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Missouri, Solano has a diverse student population which reflects that of the entire district.

The student body is 3% Asian, 16% Black, 59% Hispanic, 13% White and 10% Native American. Last year, 72% of Solano's students qualified for Free lunch, 10% for reduced lunch. A family of 4 qualifies for Free lunch with a yearly income of \$26, 845. Sadly, many of the families are larger and live on much less.

All of the schools in the Osborn district provide valuable services to their students including school supplies; personal hygiene items; medical care through the Osborn/St Joseph's Health Partnership; health and dental screening; school uniforms, food boxes and referral to Family Promise, the Bridge Program and other housing assistance programs.

Solano School's current playground equipment dates back to the 60's and 70's. Much of it is in disrepair, and because it is so old the parts needed are not even available. Several of the structures have been repaired so many times they are no longer safe for the children to play on. There is currently only one fully functioning play area in a school that needs five to accommodate the student population.

Play is a very important part of a child's learning and development. Besides reducing the risks associated with childhood obesity, physical activity is important for other reasons. Regular physical activity helps children build and maintain healthy bones, muscles, and joints; builds lean muscle and reduce fat; prevents or delays the development of high blood pressure; reduces feelings of depression and anxiety; and may, through its effect on mental health, increase students' capacity for learning.

The Real Gift Foundation received a generous donation from Brown & Caldwell to make this project possible. TRGF is inviting community participation and donations to help support this project becoming a reality. For more information or to donate, please contact TRGF at 480.315.0600.