



Media Contact:

Ryan Narramore, 602-633-8624 (w), 602-451-2328 (c), RNarramore@swhd.org

Thunderbirds Charities donates \$100,000 to expand services for young children with disabilities

Southwest Human Development to expand ADAPT Shop, open family resource center

PHOENIX (Feb. 6, 2014) – Following last week’s Waste Management Phoenix Open championship, Southwest Human Development, Arizona’s largest nonprofit dedicated to early childhood development, is proud to announce that Thunderbirds Charities has donated \$100,000 to support the nonprofit’s ADAPT Shop program.

The ADAPT Shop is a unique facility where parents can bring their young children with disabilities to receive customized products and support devices. A physical therapist works with each family in their home or at the ADAPT Shop to determine what equipment would be most helpful – such as custom foam seating and mobile scooters – and products are then designed and built based on the child’s individual needs.

“We are so grateful for the generous support of Thunderbirds Charities,” said Ginger Ward, CEO of Southwest Human Development. “This commitment helps us continue providing this incredible and much-needed resource for Arizona’s young children and families, expand the ADAPT Shop’s work space and create an on-site family resource center.”

Children who can benefit from the ADAPT Shop include those with cerebral palsy, spinal muscular atrophy, Down syndrome, seizure disorders and a variety of other conditions.

“The ADAPT Shop has opened up our world to possibilities that we weren’t able to see and we’ve been able to do things that we weren’t able to do before,” said Heather Magdelano, a mother of two who both have a rare disorder that impacts their sight, hearing and muscle development. “They’re now able to sit upright and interact with others thanks to the ADAPT Shop’s support and their vision.”

Since opening in 2011, the ADAPT Shop has helped more than 200 young children who have disabilities that keep them from being able to fully participate in everyday activities at home, with their friends and at school.

“As Thunderbirds, we work hard all year planning and executing the Waste Management Phoenix Open,” said Thunderbirds Big Chief Tom Altieri. “The real satisfaction, though, comes from the ability to give back to so many great organizations such as Southwest Human Development for their ADAPT Shop. It makes everything we do feel so worthwhile.”

To learn more about Southwest Human Development, please call (602) 266-5976 or visit www.swhd.org.

About Southwest Human Development

Southwest Human Development is Arizona’s largest nonprofit dedicated to early childhood development. Recognizing a child’s earliest experiences and relationships establish the foundation for all future development, Southwest Human Development’s more than 40 comprehensive programs focus on young children – ages birth to five – and their families in the areas of child development and mental health, Easter Seals disabilities services, Head Start and early literacy, child welfare and professional education. Founded in 1981, Southwest Human Development serves 135,000 children and families each year. Learn more at www.swhd.org.

About Thunderbirds Charities

Thunderbirds Charities is a non-profit organization formed in 1986 to distribute monies raised through the Waste Management Phoenix Open golf tournament. The Thunderbirds Charities Board consists of 15 board members from varying professional backgrounds. The mission of Thunderbirds Charities is to assist children and families, help people in need and improve the quality of life in our communities. The organization's giving is directed toward organizations based or with a significant presence in Arizona. For more information on the Thunderbirds or the 2014 Waste Management Phoenix Open, call the Thunderbirds office at (602) 870-0163 or visit www.wmphoenixopen.com.

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