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CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE WITH CAUSES THAT MATTER

SMS Compassion Fund

Sparks City Council Report – November 6, 2013

Following the tragic shooting event at Sparks Middle School, in coordination with the City of Sparks and Washoe County School District, the SMS Compassion Fund was established at the Community Foundation of Western Nevada. Launched within one day of the event, the Fund enabled caring citizens to make a charitable contribution to support the victims through the Community Foundation's website, by mail, and over the phone. The Fund was announced and press releases were distributed to media throughout the region on the day following the event.

Gifts began being received immediately with an initial focus on-line and by-phone, and checks being received daily within a couple of days. Several businesses and groups collecting donations and raising monies have cited the Fund and mentioned it in their promotion. The Foundation has had dozens of conversations with these businesses and groups. All gifts received have been receipted and acknowledged with letters/receipts sent to donors gratefully thanking them for their support. To date more than 100 gifts totaling more than \$14,000 has been received, with more gifts coming in daily and several groups raising funds that they have designated to the Fund.

By the end of the first week the Fund Agreement was in place and a committee of representatives from the City of Sparks, Washoe County School District, and other representatives working with the victims was appointed by the Foundation. By the end of the second week sufficient gifts had been received and the Committee acted swiftly to distribute most of the contributions to the three families most directly affected by the event, with checks being personally delivered. A second press release was distributed to the media to provide an update to the public, grateful thanks and public acknowledgement for the generous contributions received, and a call for additional contributions for the continuing needs of the victims.

The Foundation is tracking all gifts and donors and reporting this information to the Committee along with information about groups and businesses that have raised and are planning to collect charitable gifts in support of the SMS Compassion Fund. More than a dozen of these events are still underway. The Committee will continue to meet every Friday to receive updates on the Fund, on the status and needs of the victims, to recommend distributions from the Fund, and to ensure that the Fund is well administered.

Please note that the Foundation is charging no fee and is covering all correspondence, administration, staff time, and other expenses for this Fund, and will ensure that 100% of the gifts received will be distributed in a timely manner to support the needs of the victims.

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Confirmed to meet the highest standards in the field of community foundations