

Catalina Community Services partners with Optimist Club to donate summer swim passes for Catalina youth

with grant from Saddlebag Notes Foundation

With a \$2,000 grant from the Saddlebag Notes Foundation, the Foothills Optimist Club of Tucson presented a check to Catalina Community Services to provide free summer-long swim passes for qualifying families to the Catalina Community Center. Representatives Wally Smith and Jim “Benny” Benson from the Optimist Club made a check presentation on July 12 for \$2,000 to Barbara McClure, Executive Director of Catalina Community Services. Also in attendance were Mike Mona, Catalina Community Center program manager, and Jan Johnson from Pima County Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission was instrumental in making the pass program possible. The presentation was a part of a kid-friendly pool party coordinated by all the partners, complete with snowcone machine, music and giveaways.

This is the second year the club has supported the program, and are doubling their contribution of last year’s amount of \$1,000. Optimist Club President Wally Smith stated, "As one of the club's major annual projects, the Foothills Optimist Club of Tucson is pleased to again partner with Catalina Community Services in supporting the Catalina Pool Pass Program." Past Immediate District Governor Benny Benson and local member added, “The Optimist Clubs’ motto is 'Bringing Out the Best in Kids' and this is an important way that we can support young people in our community.”

“Catalina Community Services values the tremendous support we have received from the Foothills Optimist Club of Tucson and Saddlebag Notes Foundation,” McClure stated. “It’s really wonderful to have partners who care about the community and desire to make a difference in our children’s lives.”

Catalina Community Services was established in 2000 and operates as a food bank, clothing bank, a senior center, and offers youth programs and community education for families and seniors in need in northwest Tucson, Saddlebrooke, Oro Valley, and Catalina.

Photo: (Standing in back row left to right: Mike Mona, Barbara McClure and Wally Smith.)

