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**STUDENTS AT 31 UNITED WAY PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS RECEIVE
HOLIDAY FOOD GIFTS AT FIRST-EVER DRIVE-THRU EVENT
SPONSORED BY HARVEY NAJIM**

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS (December 14, 2017) – Students at San Antonio Independent School District’s Sarah King Elementary School and nearby Rhodes Middle School received the gift of food today, thanks to United Way’s [Family-School-Community Partnership](#) and underwriting from Harvey Najim.

Over a two-week period, food “presents” will be distributed to **all** students at 31 United Way Family-School-Community Partnership schools in San Antonio, South San, Northside and Harlandale ISDs. Students will present a voucher to receive 50 pounds of nutritious food to share with their families during holiday break, including water, healthy snacks, bread item, produce, canned dried fruit/vegetables, and a protein item.

Attending a distribution event today at Sarah King Elementary, Harvey Najim, founder of the Harvey E. Najim Foundation and former United Way Board of Trustees chair, said, “I am pleased to support this very special project. During this season of caring, providing food to kids who otherwise may not have adequate food is especially important for our families and the community,” said Harvey Najim.

While some children ask for toys and games during the December holidays, many of the city’s youngsters are more concerned about sustenance for themselves and their siblings while not in school. For children lacking food at home, a two-week holiday break is a long time to go without school breakfast and lunch.

For many kids, those meals are the only ones they will eat all day. Everything changes during school holidays, when the burden falls on financially challenged parents to provide three meals a day. Families already on a razor-thin budget have to struggle even further during the holidays.

The Family-School-Community Partnership has provided needed services to the community since its establishment in 2006. With a long tradition of distributing holiday food gifts to students, the Partnership introduced the drive-thru format for the first time this year. Community partners include San Antonio, South

San, Northside, and Harlandale ISDs; Family Service Association, AVANCE-San Antonio, Presa Community Center and United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County.

“In every community there are hungry students,” said Najim. “Through this sponsorship, we’re able to send the children home with food to provide hearty meals over the holiday break. It is a clear message that San Antonio cares about the most vulnerable among us,” he added.

Food distribution will continue through December 15 with help from Family-School-Community Partnership “parent elves,” school officials, the San Antonio Food Bank and United Way representatives.

“Being able to feed kids is part of creating a level playing field, because kids can’t learn or focus when they’re hungry,” Najim said. “We keep that going during holidays to take the pressure off families. We know that for many children of low-income families, the holidays are a season of inactivity and isolation, which can take a steep toll on learning and succeeding in school.”

United Way is the largest private investor in health and human services programs in San Antonio and Bexar County. United Way brings people together through its partner agency programs, the 2-1-1 Help Line, and other community work that prepares children, strengthens families and neighborhoods, helps students succeed and provides safety net services to those in immediate need of food, clothing, shelter and disaster services.

For information about United Way visit www.unitedwaysatx.org or call (210) 352-7000.