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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 16, 2016

## STRONG START TUCSON ANNOUNCES BROAD LIST OF EARLY SUPPORTERS

Organizations join with Local Leaders in support of a Campaign to Improve the Lives of Children in our Community.

Tucson, AZ, December 16, 2016– The Strong Start Tucson Citizen’s Ballot Initiative Campaign has picked up early support. Momentum has already begun to build only one month after the official kickoff event.

“The YWCA of Tucson and Southern Arizona proudly endorses this local effort to provide access to high-quality preschool for Tucson’s families as a means to empowering women who are reentering the workforce, particularly small business entrepreneurs. High-quality preschool is more expensive than sending your child to college and many families simply cannot afford it. Strong Start Tucson is one more way we can help level the playing field for women in business,” said YWCA CEO, Kelly Fryer.

Strong Start Tucson is a city-wide ballot initiative campaign that seeks to create an opportunity for all children to succeed. The initiative seeks to provide financial assistance for Tucson’s three and four-year-olds to attend high-quality preschool. With a dedicated funding source, 100% of Tucson’s families with three and four-year old children will be eligible to apply for tuition assistance. The fund will be sustained by increasing the city’s sales tax by half a cent. Strong Start Tucson Campaign organizers plan to bring this initiative directly before Tucson voters in the November 2017 elections.

“High-Quality Preschool gives every child the opportunity to become an active learner, form relationships, and develop the social skills necessary not only for life-long learning, but to become a contributing member of the community,” says Mary Jane Cera, Director of Kino School. Visionary cities, counties and even some states across the country recognize the value of preschool to promote children’s success, reduce poverty and improve the economic climate of a region.

Penelope Jacks, Community Leader and Committee Chair, states, “We are delighted to have so many early supporters. This is more than a campaign. It is a movement! Strong Start Tucson seeks to create a better future for children because all children deserve the chance to reach their full potential. Let every child shine!”

Strong Start Tucson is a political action committee in support of a citizen’s initiative to create a fund that will enable 100% of Tucson’s eligible three and four-year-old children to receive preschool tuition assistance.

The following organizations and businesses have already endorsed Strong Start Tucson:

Arizona Child Care Association (ACCA)

Literacy Connects

Arizona's Children Association - The Parent Connection

Make Way for Books

Casa de los Ninos

Outer Limits School

Child & Family Resources, Inc.

Pima Area Labor Federation

Children's Action Alliance

The Sandbox Early Childhood Learning Center

The Drawing Studio

SAZAEYC - Southern Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children

Early Childhood Development Group

Small Miracles

Fix It Pro

Southern Arizona Grandparent Ambassadors

4<sup>th</sup> Ave Deli

UFCW Local 99

KinderCare Education

United Way's First Focus on Kids Coalition

Kids First Preschool – Pima

YWCA of Tucson and Southern Arizona

Kino School

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Penelope Jacks at 603.6911 or email at [penelope@strongstarttucson.org](mailto:penelope@strongstarttucson.org).

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