



GUADALUPE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM (GES) IN KANSAS CITY, MO IS AWARDED GRANT FROM GENYOUth's COVID-19 EMERGENCY SCHOOL NUTRITION FUND

Grant Will Help Local School Nutrition Professionals Provide Essential Resources and Equipment to Feed Their Students During Pandemic School Closures

Kansas City, MO (May 26, 2020) – Guadalupe Educational System has been selected as the recipient of a **\$4,000** grant from GENYOUth's COVID-19 Emergency School Nutrition Fund. The grant is part of a nationwide campaign by GENYOUth, alongside America's dairy farmers and other partners, to support schools in providing essential nutrition to students during Coronavirus pandemic school closures.

There are currently 124,000 schools closed across the country, impacting 55 million students, yet the majority of those public schools remain open for feeding purposes. Federal funding continues to support school feeding programs for the 30 million students who rely on school meals daily, but additional funding is crucial to provide schools with the necessary resources and equipment as they adapt to new means of delivering healthy meals to our nation's children,

"The need for distributing and delivering school meals has never been more important for kids that rely on the nutrition they provide, including dairy, which is an accessible source of protein," said dairy farmer Nathan Roth of Mountain Grove, Mo. "Hats off to our schools, including nutrition professionals, bus drivers and volunteers, who are all involved in ensuring students are getting the nutritious foods they need."

"We are grateful for the grant that we received during this pandemic. Because of the grant we have been able to upgrade necessary equipment in our kitchens. This funding helped us increase the capacity of our facilities and because of this we are able to provide meals to many in the community that relied on school meals as their daily source of nutrition. Our organization and our community thanks GENYOUth for this support," said Ruchi Nanayakkara, Director of Food and Nutrition Services for Guadalupe Centers.

Recognizing the urgent need, GENYOUth's COVID-19 Emergency School Nutrition Fund launched on Monday, March 30, to help schools maintain continuity in the school meal program by inviting schools to apply for up to \$3,000 to purchase equipment and resources urgently needed to get healthy meals distributed and delivered to youth and families. While schools traditionally serve meals within the school building, they now are in urgent need of equipment and resources for cold storage of perishable items (milk/dairy, fruits, vegetables, proteins), transportation, single-serve packaging, and safety and sanitation tools to provide meals through non-traditional means. Over 10,000 schools have applied for grants nationwide.

To support this unprecedented need, GENYOUth launched a national movement, "For Schools' Sake – Help Us Feed Our Nation's Kids!" This is a national call-to-action for corporations, foundations, athletes, influencers and individuals to raise their hands with urgency and compassion to support the COVID-19 Emergency School Nutrition Fund. They are spreading the word to help feed the need #ForSchoolsSake by making a donation at www.genyouthnow.org and by posting pictures with their hands raised in support for school nutrition professionals and volunteers on their social media channels.

Donations to GENYOUth's Emergency COVID-19 School Nutrition Fund can be made at genyouthnow.org/donate or by texting "SCHOOLS" to 20222



About Midwest Dairy

Midwest Dairy® represents 6,500 dairy farm families and works on their behalf to build dairy demand by inspiring consumer confidence in our products and production practices. We are committed to Bringing Dairy to Life! by Giving Consumers an Excellent Dairy Experience and are funded by farmers across a 10-state region, including Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. For more information, visit MidwestDairy.com. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and find us on [Facebook](#) at Midwest Dairy. For relevant conversations about issues and trends in the dairy community, listen to [Dairy on the Air](#).

About GENYOUth

GENYOUth is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that creates healthier school communities. We convene a network of private and public partners, including Fortune 100 companies and foundations, to raise funds for youth wellness initiatives that give youth the inspiration, motivation and programs to be healthy high-achieving students. GENYOUth's flagship program, Fuel Up to Play 60, enrolls over 73,000 U.S. schools, reaching over 38 million students. Our school nutrition grants increase access to healthy school meals among food insecure students. NFL FLAG-In-School is GENYOUth's fastest growing program with over 20,000+ school communities reaching over 11 million students while AdVenture Capital brings out the entrepreneurial spirit and creativity of students with the support of corporate mentors to solve real world problems. For more information about GENYOUth, visit www.genyouthnow.org or contact Eric Slutsky, Director of Integrated Communications, at eslutsky@genyouthnow.org.