

Mobile Comunidad requesting donations to continue offering free hot and cold lunches to all students at Fort Davis schools

FORT DAVIS – Mobile Comunidad, the social services outreach nonprofit organization, has provided free nutritional hot and cold lunches to all students of the Fort Davis schools since last school year, one to four days per week.

Jeanine Bishop, a founder of Mobile Comunidad, says that the organization urgently needs funding to continue this valuable program.

"This is the most impactful program we offer," she said. "But it costs us up to \$1,100 per week to provide lunches to approximately 80 students per day at either the elementary or secondary schools."

The schools do not have cafeterias and do not participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

Mobile Comunidad uses the nutritional guidelines and cost structure outlined in the NSLP for their meals.

which will allow them to provide donors with a receipt for tax deduction purposes.

Until that status is received in



Mobile Comunidad is seeking the coming weeks, their 501(c)3 status from the IRS, Mobile Comunidad (See page 2)

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can accept donations as a registered Texas nonprofit and provide retro-active tax receipts under IRS rules once the 501(c)3 designation is issued.

Mobile Comunidad will offer sponsor status to major donors of \$5,000 or more and will recognize them in social media posts and on their lunch concession truck.

"This is a great opportunity for local businesses to support our kids and let the community know that they recognize the value of this program," Bishop said, emphasizing that donations of any size will make a difference. "Fifty dollars will feed one child for one month."

Typical lunch menus include salad with grilled chicken, yogurt, healthful snack chips, fresh fruit, green beans, watermelon, waffles, baked chicken nuggets with mashed potatoes and gravy, and more.

Meals are planned and delivered by Joel Smith, lunch program coordinator, and are cost-effective at the NSLP amount of \$3.86 on average. Sodas and high-calorie snack foods are not part of the offerings.

Mobile Comunidad also delivers healthful snacks to both schools for students to choose from throughout the day. This program is in collaboration with the Food Pantry of Jeff Davis County. And secondary school students can continue to choose nutritional lunches from the Kids Pantry at the Jeff Davis County Library, a program of the West Texas Food Bank.

"We really need funding NOW to maintain the lunch program until we can apply for grants in a few weeks. Those grants will take time to be approved and funded, and we don't want to stop providing these lunches while we wait. We hope businesses sponsor this program at the \$5,000 level or higher and donors step up, knowing they will re-

ceive tax deduction receipts soon," Bishop said.

"Our operations at Mountain View Café at Mountain View Lodge fund this program to some extent. The community should be proud of supporting the school lunch program every time they dine there."

Mobile Comunidad operates the Café and Lodge as the location of the future Mountain View Hospitality Academy which, in conjunction with Cornell University, the University of Houston, and Saira Hospitality, will provide courses with certification in all aspects of hospitality careers for high school juniors and seniors, as well as adults. The Academy will serve the entire Big Bend/Transpecos region and is slated to begin operations in January.

Donations can be made to Mobile Comunidad online at mobilecomunidad.org, or by mailing checks to PO Box 1107, Fort Davis, TX 79734. Sponsorship opportunities can call 432-756-5522 for details.