



They're benefiting Christina-Taylor Memorial Fund

Pupils' photos promote hope

Andrea Rivera Arizona Daily Star | Posted: Thursday, May 12, 2011 12:00 am

Photographs snapped by fourth-graders at Prince Elementary School have been turned into greeting cards to raise money for the Christina-Taylor Green Memorial Fund.

A set of 29 photographs were used to make the cards, which depict the students' "Hope for America."

Students participated in the "Picture of Hope" project with award-winning photojournalist Linda Solomon in February, when they learned the fundamentals of photography and received disposable cameras and an assignment.

Solomon asked the students to photograph their hopes for America.

Fourth-grader Jose Casas stuck his head inside a doghouse to capture his vision for a better America.

Jose, 9, took a photo of a litter of puppies wrapped in a purple blanket.

"My hope for America is for families to be together and for everyone to have good dreams," his card reads.

He thought the litter of Chihuahuas best demonstrated a happy family.

Jose and the other young photographers saw their photos and greeting cards for the first time May 3 at a "Meet the Young Artists" reception at their school, 125 E. Prince Road.

A set of 29 cards with envelopes is \$20 plus tax.

Lexus of Tucson, Jones Photo and AlphaGraphics supported the project.

All proceeds from the sale go to the Christina-Taylor Green Memorial Fund.

Christina-Taylor, 9, was the youngest victim of the Jan. 8 Tucson shootings that killed six people and injured 13 others, including U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

Christina-Taylor attended Mesa Verde Elementary School, which, like Prince, is in the Amphitheater Public Schools district.

Each card displays a different photo and quote from the students.

"I'm happy. I thought my photo would work and now it's a greeting card," Jose said.

Dasani Wellington, 10, found his inspiration in a photo of Martin Luther King Jr. in his school library.

Dasani wants America to be free of conflict.

King "tried to make the world peaceful and get all of the whites and blacks together," Dasani said.

His card reads: "My hope for America is for a peaceful country."

Yajaira "Yami" Vega captured a "Community Donation Center" sign to depict her plea to citizens.

"My hope for America is that we will donate clothes and food to the poor," her card reads.

Seeing her card for the first time was a jubilant moment for 10-year-old Yami.

"I'm so excited that people all around the country can see my photo and see how we can help people," she said.

Solomon, who is recognized for her celebrity portraiture, has taught students how to express their feelings through photography since 1991, and said she has never seen images that moved her as much as those featured on the students' cards.

"I have never seen photos as wonderful, special and heartfelt as the photos that the students at Prince have taken."

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

where to buy cards

Go to www.picturesofhopetucson.com to order a set of greeting cards with envelopes. The cost is \$20 plus tax. Shipping is extra.

Contact reporter Andrea Rivera at arivera@azstarnet.com or 807-8430.