

Capturing Hopes of Tucson: Program helps local kids snap photos of dreams, goals amid COVID-19 pandemic



 August 14, 2020  5:38 pm Anthony Victor Reyes

CORONAVIRUS COVERAGE, LOCAL NEWS, NEWS, TOP STORIES

TUCSON (KVOA) - A photo can be worth more than 1,000 words. But can it capture the hopes and dreams of a child?

Since 2010, the Pictures of Hope Program has made this their goal. For the last 10 years, the program provided Tucson youth a digital camera and the opportunity to run around town to capture their heartfelt hopes.

Each year, participating children snap inspiring photos that are then displayed at a place, such as the Tucson Museum of Art, for all members of the community to see.

While the COVID-19 pandemic presented the world with major complications with gathering together, Linda Solomon and the rest of the program organizers and volunteers did not let this virus get in the way of capturing the hopes of 15 children in still images this year.

"We are all going through a challenging and frightening time," Solomon said. "It is so very important to give young people the opportunity to express THEIR feelings."

According to organizers, the Pictures of Hope Program teamed up with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson to offer the program virtually.

This year, volunteers from the Tucson community helped guide the 15 kids through a virtual lesson on Zoom.

In accordance to years past, the kids still received a digital camera donated by Walgreens. The kids then traveled around the community to take their pictures and write a letter sharing their "Hopes for America."

"We are very excited to be partnering with Linda Solomon and virtually collaborating in the Pictures of Hope program with Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson Club members," said Debbie Wagner, CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson. "This experience is going to spark

our youth's imagination and virtually link them to mentors who will reinforce that it is possible to achieve their dreams.”

The photographs can be viewed in the slideshow located at the top of the story. They can also be viewed at bgctucson.org.

For more information about the program, visit lindasolomonphotography.com.



Anthony Victor Reyes

Anthony Victor Reyes is the lead digital content producer at News 4 Tucson. The award-winning journalist previously worked as a community reporter in Jasper County, Iowa.