

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — FEBRUARY 16, 2010**

## High school athletes give back to the community

DYSART SCHOOLS — Dysart School District high school athletes compete on the field or court but also take time to give back to the surrounding communities. Athletes from the Valley Vista boys' basketball team and Willow Canyon football team recently participated in service activities, giving back to the communities that support the district.

The Valley Vista boys' varsity basketball team cleaned up the front yard of a residence in Sun City West as part of the Pay it Forward program. The program matches local high school sports teams with Sun City West residents who need assistance in property upkeep to comply with local CC&R requirements. The team spent a Saturday morning pulling weeds, removing dead plants, raking and filling a dumpster with debris. Head basketball coach Mike Anderson said, "It's about being a servant. This is the time to take the opportunity and help someone else and learn what is important in life; building relationships and serving others."

Continuing the service model, the Willow Canyon football team, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and National Honor Society all participated in the Food Bank's citrus recovery program. Approximately, 90 students, athletes, coaches, teachers and parents attended the citrus gleaning on Saturday February 13. The group was able to pick and box 40, 383 pound of citrus from a local orchard. Spokesman, Chuck Tomaro said, "This was the largest one day total by a single group to date."

The Dysart School District is thankful that its student/athletes are willing to give back to the community that gives so much to them. Special thanks to the Valley Vista basketball coaches, Willow Canyon football coaches, Willow Canyon Football Booster Club and Mrs. Elizabeth Maki for their efforts in making the day a success.



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