



For Immediate Release

**Larry H. Miller Dealerships Hosts Holiday “Share the Warmth” Coat Drive to Keep Arizona School Children Warm Throughout the Winter**

*Now – December 12, dealerships collecting new, gently used outerwear for K-6 students in Phoenix and Tucson Title 1 schools*

**PHOENIX (Nov. 18, 2022)** – Twenty percent of Arizona’s children live in poverty, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation 2022 [KidsCount data](#). When children are living in poverty, seasonal clothing like winter coats and hoodies become luxury items. Couple the void in warm clothing with an inability to pay a utility bill to keep heat running, and children end up missing school because of health issues like pneumonia or underperform when they are present in school. In response, [Larry H. Miller Dealerships](#) announced today an expansion of its existing holiday coat drive, to include all 12 Arizona dealerships across Metro Phoenix and Tucson through a partnership with Valley of the Sun United Way in Phoenix and United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona.

Over the course of two years, Larry H. Miller Dealerships has hosted a winter coat drive at its three Avondale dealerships, collecting more than 840 winter coats for children within the Avondale Elementary School District. Now through Dec. 12, however, the group has expanded the drive to help even more children through a holiday “Share the Warmth” coat drive campaign, reaching K-6 students in Title 1 schools near the Metro Phoenix and Tucson dealership locations. This campaign is part of Larry H. Miller Dealerships “Driven for Good” initiative, a giving program aimed at uplifting the communities in which the dealerships do business.

“All children deserve the comfort that comes from a winter coat,” said Robert Smith, customer relations manager, Larry H. Miller Hyundai Peoria. “While we don’t get snowfall in Phoenix and Tucson, our nights and mornings are quite cold, and nowadays, many families are having to make tough choices between basic needs like paying for groceries over a coat or a utility bill. We hope this month-long campaign serves to warm the hearts of children in our community.”

This holiday season, Larry H. Miller Dealerships is encouraging its employees and the public to help fill a vehicle at each of its 12 dealerships across Metro Phoenix and Tucson with new and gently used (must be clean) winter coats, lightweight jackets, and hoodies for K-6 students across Arizona to stay warm during the winter months.

“We’re honored to partner with Larry H. Miller Dealerships on the ‘Share the Warmth’ coat drive campaign,” said Melissa L. Boydston, Ed.D, senior vice president of community development and engagement at Valley of the Sun United Way. “Our organization is always looking for solutions to ensure that every child, family and individual in our community is healthy, has a safe place to live and has the opportunity to succeed in school, in work and in life. This partnership and shared mission among multiple organizations provides a real impact for children and their families this winter.”

Valley of the Sun United Way works with a network of 53 school districts across the Valley and United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona partners with 10 school districts. United Way will identify Title 1 schools in each of the cities where the dealerships are located so that the donations are distributed directly to children in need in those communities. The “Share the Warmth” coat drive campaign will end on Dec. 15, when a caravan of Larry H. Miller Dealerships vehicles filled with winter coats, lightweight jackets and hoodies will deliver the donations to one of the Title 1 school locations in Phoenix and Tucson.

“Our community thrives when we LIVE UNITED. Our ability to impact 1 in 4 members in our Tucson community relies on uniting people, ideas, and resources,” said Tony Penn, President and CEO, United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona. “This collaboration with Larry H. Miller and our sister United Way in Phoenix shows the power of working together in service to our community.”

#### **‘Share the Warmth’ Drop-off Locations:**

**Larry H. Miller Ford Mesa**, 460 E. Auto Center Dr., Mesa, AZ 85204

**Larry H. Miller Nissan Mesa**, 2025 Riverview Auto Dr., Mesa, AZ 85201

**Larry H. Miller Dodge Ram Avondale**, 10101 W. Papago Fwy., Avondale, AZ 85323

**Larry H. Miller Chrysler Jeep Avondale**, 10055 W. Papago Fwy., Avondale, AZ 85323

**Larry H. Miller Volkswagen Avondale**, 10205 W. Papago Fwy., Avondale, AZ 85323

**Larry H. Miller Hyundai Peoria**, 8425 W. Bell Rd., Peoria, AZ 85382

**Larry H. Miller Dodge Ram Peoria**, 8665 W. Bell Rd., Peoria, AZ 85382

**Larry H. Miller Toyota Peoria**, 8633 W. Bell Rd., Peoria, AZ 85382

**Larry H. Miller Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram Surprise**, 13165 N. Autoshow Ave., Surprise, AZ 85388

**Larry H. Miller Dodge Ram Tucson**, 4220 E. 22nd St., Tucson, AZ 85711

**Larry H. Miller Chrysler Jeep Tucson**, 7800 E. 22nd St., Tucson, AZ 85710

**Larry H. Miller Volkswagen Tucson**, 900 W. Auto Mall Dr., Tucson, AZ 85705

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**About Larry H. Miller Dealerships**

Larry H. Miller Dealerships operates more than 55 dealership locations under 17 automotive brands in seven western states. The group has 12 Arizona locations, including nine in Phoenix and three in Tucson.

For more information about Larry H. Miller Dealerships, please visit [www.lhmauto.com](http://www.lhmauto.com).

### **About Valley of the Sun United Way**

Valley of the Sun United Way envisions a community where every child, family and individual is healthy, has a safe place to live and has every opportunity to succeed in school, in work and in life. As we work with our community, corporate and nonprofit partners to implement our five-year plan for [Mighty Change](#) by 2026, Valley of the Sun United Way will put all of its efforts toward reaching *Bold Goals* for Maricopa County in health, housing and homelessness, education and workforce development. Join us at [www.vsuw.org](http://www.vsuw.org)

### **About United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona**

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona is building a thriving community by uniting people, ideas, and resources. As we celebrate a century of service, we continue to respond to our community's needs, transform individual lives, and bring long-lasting, systemic change to the community by focusing on the key, underlying issues. We fight for education, financial wellness, equality, and healthy communities for every person in Tucson and Southern Arizona from birth to end of life. Our role as community convener enables us to form strategic partnerships, mobilize the best resources, and be the catalyst for needed, positive change. Learn more at [www.unitedwaytucson.org](http://www.unitedwaytucson.org)

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