

El Paso children share dreams through photo program

By Alex Hinojosa / El Paso Times El Paso Times

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Through a digital lens, 15 children from the Reynolds Home captured their hopes and dreams.

Some wanted to be athletes, so they photographed running shoes. Other wanted to become psychologists and took pictures of books. Yet others took pictures of houses because they want a place to call home.

On Friday, those hopes and dreams were revealed in the form of greeting cards as part of the Pictures of Hope program. The national program was founded in 2007 by renowned photojournalist and author Linda Solomon.

The cards will be sold at Rudolph Chevrolet, 5625 S. Desert Blvd., and the Reynolds Home, 8023 San Jose.

The proceeds will go toward the expansion of the Reynolds Home, a shelter for homeless women and children, said Dorothy Truax, director of the shelter.

"Right now, we have 10 to 12 families so we are expecting to take in about 20. The donations will allow us to help more families," Tuax said.

Pictures of Hope made its debut in El Paso through a partnership with Rudolph Chevrolet in September at the Reynolds Home.

At that time, 15 children were given digital hand-held cameras and then assigned to take pictures of their hopes and dreams.

After taking the photos, the pictures were sent to Solomon, who selected the best ones. The pictures are featured as part of the set of 15 cards that will be sold.

Rudolph Chevrolet donated funds toward the production of 500 sets of the selected cards. Each set will be sold for \$25.

"I think the photos reveal a true life lesson for all of us," Solomon said. "They are sharing values and showing us that sometimes we take for granted the most meaningful wishes. They don't wish for things that are trivial -- they wish for things that matter."

Daniela Castillo, 11, photographed an apartment complex. "Ever since we started living at the shelter, I wanted a home for my family," Daniela said. "I want this home to be pretty, clean and tidy and I want it to be big for my family."

Officials at Rudolph Chevrolet said they will continue to sell the cards until all of them are sold.

"The cards can be used anytime during the year, not just the holidays," said Chuck Fensch, spokesman for Rudolph Chevrolet.

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