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**Action for Healthy Kids® and ALDI Team up to Support Schools and Communities in Southern California**

**CHICAGO - April 14, 2016** – Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK) and ALDI have partnered to invest in Southern California communities through AFHK’s [School Grants for Healthy Kids](#) initiative. The ALDI investment of \$175,000 will help 15 Southern California area schools to improve their overall wellness environments through grants and technical assistance during the 2015-2016 school year.

Funding supports the establishment or expansion of school health teams; implementation of school wellness programs to drive effective health initiatives utilizing AFHK’s [Game On](#) program to identify and target areas of need; and engagement of parents, community members and ALDI employees to promote wellness at school and at home. The ALDI-funded program will benefit more than 11,000 students at the selected schools where, on average, 71 percent of students are eligible for free and reduced meals.

ALDI is committed to supporting the communities it serves, and this landmark partnership is the first of many ongoing efforts to support local communities in existing and new markets as the grocery chain continues to grow. Since 2011, ALDI has worked with AFHK to help Chicago schools create sustainable changes that foster healthy behaviors. With its expansion to Southern California, ALDI will continue its commitment to help school-aged children receive vital nutrition education and physical activity tools that will empower them to choose healthy behaviors for a lifetime.

“Children spend the most time outside of the home in school, nearly 1,200 hours per year. Evidence shows healthy school environments not only foster healthy eating and physical activity habits among students, but also create a culture where kids are better prepared to focus and learn,” said Rob Bisceglie, CEO, Action for Healthy Kids. “We look forward to advancing the wellness of California schools and communities with the help and support of ALDI.”

Initiatives are wide ranging across elementary, middle and high schools, and may include refurbishing outdoor play spaces, piloting aeroponic school gardens, implementing farm-to-school programs, hosting physical activity initiatives (before, during and after-school) and nutrition classes for students and parents, and purchasing physical activity equipment. The following schools were awarded based on need and the strength of the proposed school wellness programming:

- San Geronio Middle School, Beaumont
- Bennett-Kew Elementary School, Inglewood
- Eastside Academy/Transitional Learning Center, Lancaster
- La Quinta Middle School, La Quinta
- 112th Street Elementary School, Los Angeles
- Glenfeliz Boulevard Elementary School, Los Angeles
- Palm Springs High School, Palm Springs
- Eugene Field Elementary School, Pasadena
- Moore Middle School, Redlands

- J.C. Boyd Elementary School, Rialto
- Loma Vista Middle School, Riverside
- Wells Middle School, Riverside
- Sierra Madre Middle School, Sierra Madre
- Olive Elementary School, Vista
- Inland Leaders Charter School, Yucaipa

“Our partnership with AFHK is an important step for us as we enter the Southern California market this year,” said Gordon Nesbit, Moreno Valley division vice president for ALDI. “We know that schools can play a vital role in promoting wellness within their communities, and we are excited to partner with AFHK to help create healthier places for Southern California’s children, as well as for our employees and their families.”

All ALDI-funded schools will participate in [Every Kid Healthy Week](#) (April 25-29) through events that will spotlight their wellness programs and accomplishments. The ALDI-funded grants are part of nearly \$1.7 million in School Grants for Healthy Kids awarded by AFHK nationwide in the 2015-2016 school year.

On March 24, ALDI opened eight of the 45 Southern California locations the grocer plans to open in 2016. The opening of ALDI stores in California marks a significant achievement in the company’s five-year strategic plan to open 650 new stores across the nation. By the end of 2018, ALDI expects to operate nearly 2,000 stores, enabling ALDI to offer its fresh, high quality groceries at everyday low prices to more than 45 million customers each month.

#### **About Action for Healthy Kids®**

Action for Healthy Kids® is a nationwide grassroots network mobilizing school professionals, families and communities to take actions that improve school foods, nutrition education and physical education for all students. With funding opportunities, expert technical assistance, and our flagship program, Game On, Action for Healthy Kids provides full support to schools and families to develop healthy school environments where children thrive. To learn more about the ways our 100,000+ volunteer network is helping to make Every Kid Healthy™, visit us at [www.ActionforHealthyKids.org](http://www.ActionforHealthyKids.org), on Facebook ([act4healthykids](#)) and on Twitter ([@Act4HlthyKids](#)).

#### **About ALDI, Inc.**

A leader in the grocery retailing industry and one of America’s favorite grocers\*, ALDI operates nearly 1,500 US stores in 33 states. More than 30 million customers each month save up to 50 percent\*\* on their grocery bills, benefiting from the ALDI simple and streamlined approach to retailing. ALDI sells the most frequently purchased grocery and household items, primarily under its exclusive brands, which must meet or exceed the national name brands on taste and quality. ALDI is so confident in the quality of its products, the company offers a Double Guarantee: If for any reason a customer is not 100 percent satisfied with any ALDI food product, ALDI will gladly replace the product and refund the purchase price. ALDI was honored with the 2015 Supermarket News Retail Achievement Award, recognizing the company for its ongoing business expansion and product evolution. For more information about ALDI, visit [aldi.us](http://aldi.us).

*\*According to a survey of US consumers conducted in April 2015 by Market Force Information.*

*\*\*Based upon a price comparison of comparable products sold at leading national retail grocery stores.*