



News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

Stefanie Contreras

Thanks A Million

Coordinator

(480) 895-5396

[scontreras@bashas.com](mailto:scontreras@bashas.com)

## **Bashas' Thanks A Million charity fundraising program helps Arizona schools, churches, non-profits**

(CHANDLER, Ariz.)—Sept. 15, 2005—Bashas' is helping Arizona families raise money for their favorite schools, churches and non-profits through its annual Thanks A Million for Friends and Neighbors Program.

Thanks A Million helps Arizonans to raise money for up to three of their favorite charities every time they shop at Bashas'. All shoppers need to do is link their Bashas' Thank You Card to their favorite charity's assigned five-digit ID number. Bashas' will donate 1 percent of the total sales linked to each group for up to a \$2,500 donation. Thanks A Million is available at all 80 Bashas' and Bashas' Dine stores statewide through March 31, 2006.

"Last year, Bashas' Thanks A Million program donated more than a quarter of a million dollars to Arizona schools, churches and non-profits," said Mike Proulx, Bashas' president. "This year, we hope Thanks A Million generates even more funds for the local charities that need them."

Several charities enrolled in Bashas' Thanks A Million program are currently assisting with disaster relief efforts for the Hurricane Katrina evacuees. These groups include local American Red Cross branches and United Way chapters.

Approximately 600 Arizona schools also are enrolled in Thanks A Million. Susan Delheim, who enrolled Esperero Canyon Middle School from Tucson, Ariz., said her school participates in Thanks A Million because it is an easy way to fundraise.

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**Bashas' Thanks A Million charity fundraising program helps Arizona schools, churches, non-profits – ADD 2**

“As with any public school, the budget at our middle school is stretched,” Delheim said. “The Thanks A Million program costs our group's participants absolutely nothing...all they have to do is grocery shop at Bashas' as usual. We viewed the TAM program as an opportunity we wanted to capitalize upon.”

Esperero Canyon Middle School earned the maximum \$2,500 donation from last year's Thanks A Million program. Delheim said the money raised by TAM will fund school necessities like library materials, large band instruments, math graphing supplies, headphones for the computer lab and staff development and training.

“I'm surprised more organizations don't actively promote their participation in the program,” Delheim said. “They let an opportunity for easy money slip by.”

For more information about the Thanks A Million program, or to see a list of participating nonprofits in your area, visit <http://www.bashas.com/charity>.

*Bashas' Family of Stores was founded in 1932 by brothers Ike and Eddie Basha, Sr. It is the largest family-owned supermarket in Arizona and the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest employer in the state. Bashas' is the 15<sup>th</sup> largest privately held supermarket chain in the nation. For more information, visit [www.bashas.com](http://www.bashas.com).*

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