

# 3, 2, 1... ROCKETS Blasts Off Into 2015-16 Year



**ABOVE:** Anne Trauter, JLP president; David Skinner, HDR VP/Southwest Area operations manager; Lara Lennaman, JLP director of operations; and Kelly Kaysonopheth, 2014-15 JLP communications team leader, accept a \$9,350 award from the HDR Foundation.



**LEFT:** Lauren Dickey, 2014-16 ROCKETS chair, demonstrates a sample experiment at the Teacher Launch Seminar on April 11. Fifty-six educators attended the Seminar, translating to a potential additional 1,735+ children reached by ROCKETS programming.

**RIGHT:** During select First Friday events, ROCKETS hosts science-based themed classroom events in the JLP Classroom at the Children's Museum of Phoenix to an average of 300 children and their family members per evening.



ROCKETS, or Raising Our Children's Knowledge by Educating Through Science, is a JLP signature program and is a theme-based program that promotes early childhood development of science skills. ROCKETS provides hands-on science activities, supplemented with math lessons, to at-risk children in Maricopa County to help foster problem solving, critical thinking and exploration skills that are critical to future academic success.

In 2014-15, ROCKETS continued its mission by working with more than 2,100 children through its monthly programs at the Children's Museum of Phoenix, in which the JLP has a designated classroom.

At the fourth annual ROCKETS Teacher Launch Seminar, which was hosted on April 11, 2015, 56 preschool and early elementary school teachers in Maricopa County participated in a half-day training seminar that provided non-stop, hands-on science activities. The Seminar this year was led by Miss Science™ (Sherri Smith-Dodgson), who is a STEM advocate, media personality and former educator.

At the Seminar, teachers are empowered to find creative ways to integrate science into their daily lesson plans. With the attendance at the Teacher Launch Seminar, ROCKETS has a potential to bring science, math and reading skills to an additional estimated 1,735+ children — making a lasting impact on a student's education for years to come.

On May 13, 2015, the HDR Foundation presented ROCKETS with a \$9,350 grant to continue its programming for the 2015-16 JLP administrative year. The HDR Foundation is an extension of HDR, Inc., which is an international architecture, engineering and consulting company with offices in Arizona. JLP member Kelly Kaysonopheth, who works at HDR, was the employee sponsor of the grant.

"We really appreciate the support of the HDR Foundation on our ROCKETS program," Anne Trauter said. "With this grant, we can continue working with children in Phoenix and inspire them through science."

ROCKETS has been a signature program of the JLP since 2010.



## JLP Hosts Screening Event on HPV Awareness

CONTRIBUTED BY BLAIR COE SCHWEIGER

The JLP participated in the coordination of a nontraditional prevention partnership which provided a unique opportunity to improve health. In efforts to reduce the risk of HPV-related cancers, through HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) vaccination awareness, the JLP, Genesis City (a program for disenfranchised youth), Arizona Oncology, The Arizona Partnership for Immunization (TAPI), Scottsdale First Church of the Nazarene and the Arizona Immunization Program Office collaborated on screening the powerful documentary *Someone You Love: The HPV Epidemic* which chronicles the journey of five women as they battle HPV-related cancers with a resounding message of the need for increased awareness of HPV-related cancers and the vaccine that reduces the risk of this cancer that kills close to 250,000 men and women around the globe each year.

The screening was held on April 9, 2015 at Scottsdale First Church of the Nazarene. Approximately 60 people attended and had the opportunity to dialogue with a panel

including; an oncology nurse practitioner, a pastor, an HPV cancer survivor and a public health nurse following the screening. In addition to the documentary, two HPV cancer survivors representing the Southwest Chapter of the National Cervical Cancer Coalition staffed an information table and answered attendees' questions. Exit surveys revealed that 100% of those who completed the surveys would vaccinate their child against HPV and close to 90% will be sharing what they learned about HPV cancers and prevention with others.

The dialogue with the panel following the screening helped answer questions and dispelled myths, brought facts to the forefront, and a sustaining member of the JLP issued a call to action for the community to continue to educate the community about



vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases. Bringing diverse partners together in a house of worship created a safe and respectful environment for spreading knowledge about the sensitive subject of cancer and opened minds and hearts about protecting our children's futures from HPV-related cancers through vaccination.

If you would like to know more about hosting a screening or are interested in helping to educate the community, please contact JLP member Blair Coe Schweiger at [bmschweiger@gmail.com](mailto:bmschweiger@gmail.com).

