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Health Department Receives Grant to Support Asthma Prevention in Schools

Eau Claire, WI, January 24th, 2018 – The Health Department recently received a \$500 grant from the Shopko Foundation to support asthma trigger prevention in schools. The funding will help purchase plastic totes for elementary classrooms in the Eau Claire Area School District. Classroom materials that aren't stored in a container with a lid easily attract dust, a major asthma trigger. Strong odors, pets, and mold are also asthma triggers.

Asthma is a serious and sometimes life-threatening disease. Unfortunately, asthma is very common for Wisconsin children. On average, in a classroom of 30 children, 3 are likely to have asthma. Many children also go undiagnosed with asthma but can still be affected by the same triggers as someone diagnosed with asthma. Among those with asthma, 1 in 3 children have uncontrolled asthma. 1 in 2 children miss school because of asthma attacks and symptoms.

“Kids spend a large part of their day at school. We want to make sure that their classroom promotes good health,” says KT Gallagher, Environmental Health Supervisor.



The Environmental Protection Agency has shown that schools that assess and control asthma triggers in the classroom have reduced rates of school absenteeism and increased student performance.

“We are excited to partner with the Health Department to create a healthier environment for our children to learn in,” says Carrie Hallquist, ECASD Safety Coordinator.

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About the Shopko Foundation

The Shopko Foundation supports accredited schools and 501(c)3 organizations. Grants are awarded throughout the year to support programs which further the Foundation's purpose of promoting the health and education of Shopko teammates and customers.

Founded in 2004 the Shopko Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation operated exclusively for charitable purposes. To maximize its impact, the Foundation has a narrow focus on areas of giving that support the health of Shopko customers, teammates and communities. The Foundation also recognizes that education is fundamental to an individual's health and functionality in society. Funds support established non-profit organizations with a proven record of success in maintaining solid, critical programs or innovative new organizations and programs supported by established non-profits or successful leadership. The Foundation issues grants to support organizations or programs that help citizens of all ages maintain or improve their physical health and help students succeed in school and become self-sufficient adults. For more information, visit www.shopko.com/foundation.

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