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## First Wok holds fundraiser for schools

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First Wok Owner Jeff Lin, right, recently donated \$10,000 to the Farmington School District for a scholarship fund to benefit low-income straight A students. Pictured from left, Farmington Director of Business Services Don Eaton, Superintendent Matt Ruble, Farmington graduate and First Wok Ling Zheng and Lin.

Renee Bronaugh, Daily Journal

First Wok in Farmington will be holding a customer appreciation day to benefit the Central Backpack Program and also recently donated \$10,000 to the Farmington School District as a way to say thank you to the community for supporting them for 15 years.

First Wok Owner Jeff Lin said unless something changes, they will have to close down their Farmington location by February because the building they lease was sold.

“We will still service the area from our Park Hills location, but wanted to give back to the community as a thank you,” Lin said. “We donated \$10,000 to the Farmington School District to help provide low-income kids with scholarship money for college.”

Lin explained they will hand out a \$1,000 scholarship each year to a student the district selects who is a low-income, straight A student.

“We are donating the money as a big thanks to the community who have supported us for so many years,” Lin said. “In February we will lose our lease and will have to temporarily close down our Farmington location until we find a new location.”

Lin said they do plan to service the Farmington area through their Park Hills location and will be able to meet people at a business parking lot such as Walmart for deliveries. He stressed they are looking for a good location in Farmington to reopen their restaurant once they have to close down.

“In the past few years we have been supporting the community while the people have been supporting us,” Lin said. “We have done things for the church, Bible study, school supplies for kids and for many years we have raised money for the backpack program.”

He added that for the past few years they have held a fundraiser where all proceeds are donated to the program.

This Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., anyone who purchases a \$7 buffet will help support the Central School District's Backpack Program. Lin said they also plan to continue holding various fundraisers to help support the community.

"Last year we raised about \$2,000 and the last three years we have raised approximately \$7,500 for the program," Lin said. "We just want to show our appreciation to the community for supporting us for 15 years."

Lin said every year, starting next year, they should be able to hold a Farmington fundraiser to continue adding money to the First Wok Scholarship fund. The scholarship will start this school year and will be awarded in May sometime.

Farmington Superintendent Matt Ruble said they always appreciate anything that comes back to the kids and obviously a scholarship donation is right at the top of the list.

"We definitely appreciate them being a business of 15 years in the community and their generosity in giving back to the kids," Ruble said. "The counselors and the teachers do a pretty good job of recognizing which kids are hardworking and have a need. We are very thankful for this donation to help students with an opportunity to go to college."

Lin said he understands not being able to afford to go to college and just wants to help them get to where they want to go.

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Reporter