The Sparks community welcomed Paul L. Foster School of Medicine students earlier this month at the 2nd Annual Be Wise — Immunize event organized by the TMA/AMA/EPCMS student chapter at PLFSOM on October 5th. Thanks to a generous donation from TMA, 41 immunizations were provided to 21 local children completely free of charge. Staff members from the El Paso Department of Public Health were on site to administer vaccines as part of the Caring for Children Foundation of Texas Inc., Care Van Program’s initiative to reach underserved children. The students kept the children smiling though, while they went from jumping in the bouncy zoo, to coloring in their new activity packets, to high-fiving the Be Wise mascot. The freshly popped popcorn courtesy of El Paso First Health Plans Inc. definitely had a role in easing the pain of vaccinations, too! “We were grateful to get a glimpse of this outgoing community. Through this experience, we were able to integrate our interests in community service with medicine, while strengthening bonds with community members,” said third year medical student, Azadeh Nasrazadani. The TMA/AMA/EPCMS student chapter at PLFSOM looks forward to hosting many more events in the future.

Be Wise — Immunize is a public health initiative of the Texas Medical Association. The program works with physicians, medical students, and TMA Alliance members to improve vaccination rates in Texas through education and hands-on immunization clinics. Be Wise — Immunize is made possible thanks to a grant from the TMA Foundation thanks to top donors, H-E-B and TMF Health Quality Institute, as well as gifts from physicians and their families.

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