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CITIES, TOWNS TAP VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE RESIDENTS, SAVE MONEY
Taxpayers Save Millions with Robust Use of Dedicated Volunteers

PHOENIX (April 25, 2013) – As National Volunteer Week is in full swing, Arizona’s cities and towns are showcasing their robust volunteer programs that engage residents, serve community members and save taxpayers millions of dollars.

Volunteers enlist their time and energy to city governments in a wide variety of ways, from working with fire departments to test and install smoke detectors, assisting police to help crime victims to supporting other key departments, such as libraries, parks and code-enforcement.

“Volunteers are critical silent partners in ensuring municipal governments stay efficient and best serve their residents,” said Clarkdale Mayor Doug Von Gausig, president of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns. “National Volunteer Week is the perfect opportunity to show how much we appreciate their assistance, time and talent.”

Below are just a few of the many examples of city and town volunteer efforts throughout Arizona:

- Casa Grande organizes what it calls the “largest volunteer-driven fire prevention program in the state” each October, when more than 300 volunteers fan out across the city to replace batteries or install smoke detectors in hundreds of homes. Last year, more than 800 homes were impacted.

- Oro Valley may be small, but they boast a big volunteer program. In fact, the town has almost as many volunteers as full-time employees (270 volunteers compared to 327 FTE’s). Each year, those volunteers donate more than 35,000 hours in a variety of areas, such as historic preservation, water resource planning, community investment and public safety.
Chino Valley has more than 300 volunteers in the Recreation, Library, Animal Control, Senior Center, Police and Code-Enforcement departments. Last year, the town tracked 7,000 hours of volunteer time, and estimated that library volunteers alone saved the town $50,000 in salaries.

Fountain Hills recently hosted a fun evening to celebrate the volunteer service provided by its over 750 “JACKPOT” volunteers. At the event volunteers were greeted by the Town Manager, Ken Buchanan, who welcomed and thanked them for their service. In addition, Mayor Linda Kavanagh also expressed her great appreciation for the many hours of volunteer service given from a team of over 700 residents.

Glendale’s national “Serve Day” will include nearly 200 volunteers from various churches, schools and organizations. Volunteers will complete several community projects including: painting homes, cleaning up empty lots, painting house numbers on the curbs, delivering food to those in need, and painting the gymnasium at a local school. For the city, “Serve Day”, now in its 8th year, would not be possible without volunteer support.

Chandler has a group of 676 volunteers who contributed more than 20,000 hours of service at the City’s four libraries during this last year. Library volunteers perform a variety of duties, including teaching adult language and computer literacy groups, leading story times and book clubs, and delivering books to homebound community members. Several volunteers were honored for reaching milestones in their volunteer tenure ranging from five to twenty years, and presented with service pins by Chandler Public Library Manager Brenda Brown.

Apache Junction’s 1,407 community volunteers logged 38,073 hours last year, saving the city more than $800,000.

Mesa recently honored its volunteers with a proclamation from Mayor Scott Smith, who recognized the 233,644 volunteer hours of service in 2012.

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3-3-3/City and Town Volunteer Programs

- Last fiscal year, Phoenix’s volunteer corps was over 28,000 strong, contributing 580,000 hours of their time to various city departments – a value of $12.7 million to taxpayers! So far this year, Phoenix has logged 21,000 volunteers who have worked 300,000 hours. Even Mayor Greg Stanton donned a purple jacket this week to join the Sky Harbor Navigator program, which enlists 400 volunteers to direct airport travelers and answer their questions.

About the League:
The League of Arizona Cities and Towns is a voluntary association of all the 91 incorporated cities and towns in the state of Arizona. It provides policy and legislative advocacy, information and inquiry services, along with publications and educational programs to strengthen the quality and efficiency of municipal government. It was founded in 1937 to serve the interests of cities and towns and to preserve the principles of home rule and local determination. For more information, visit www.azleague.org.

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