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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CITIES AND TOWNS SAVE MILLIONS THROUGH VOLUNTEER TIME AND EXPERTISE**

*Volunteer Week Highlights Efforts across Arizona*

**PHOENIX (April 23, 2012)**– As National Volunteer Week wrapped up on April 21, Arizona’s cities and towns showcased outstanding volunteer programs that have successfully saved local taxpayers millions of dollars.

Volunteers provide a wide variety of skills to city governments, including working with police helping victims of crime and in auxiliary positions, aiding parks, recreation and library programs, and assisting with programs for seniors.

“While Volunteer Week is a good time to show our appreciation for the men and women who give their time and talents to city and town programs, the truth is they show up throughout the year to give back to their communities,” said Clarkdale Mayor Doug Von Gausig, president of the Arizona League of Cities and Towns. “Volunteerism is a worthy thing in its own right, but it also saves local taxpayers millions of dollars in manpower and expertise.”

Highlights of volunteer efforts around Arizona include:

- In Chandler, more than 1,000 volunteers rolled up their sleeves and took on various neighborhood beautification projects as part of Live Love Day on April 21. Started in 2007, Live Love Day is a collaboration between the city’s Neighborhood Programs Division and a nonprofit that focuses on helping neighborhoods.

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## **2-2-2/ Volunteerism**

- Volunteers for the Sierra Vista Police Department, part of the nationally recognized Volunteers in Police Service Program (VIPS), donated more than 10,794 hours in 2011 and have saved more than \$189,000 for the year. The city of Kingman also utilized the VIPS program, which accounted for more than 5,057 man hours of police service, saving the city tens of thousands of dollars.
- Scottsdale's volunteer corps is more than 1,000 strong and worked nearly 140,000 hours in 2011, the equivalent to 67 full-time positions and a savings of \$2.8 million to the city. With truly something for everyone, one program includes 200 teens working side-by-side with city staff, while adult volunteers help in community services, libraries, parks, the Sonoran McDowell Conservancy, as well as the police and fire departments.
- Glendale has saved more than \$2.5 million with the help of more than 1,000 volunteers. In addition to cleaning up neighborhoods and parks, landscaping, and recycling, Glendale volunteers also reshelve library books, give tours and fix electronics at the Glendale Adult Center.
- Apache Junction has saved more than \$710,000 in the past year through volunteerism. Volunteers provided more than 33,260 hours, equivalent to 16 full-time positions. Those positions included uniformed police auxiliary volunteers, staff at the city's Paws and Claws Care Center, victim assistance and Adopt-A-Highway programs.

### **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](http://www.azleague.org).

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