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MAYOR SCRUGGS SECURES NEW FUNDING PARTNER FOR GLENDALE'S *FROM THE HEART* PROGRAM

GLENDALE, Ariz. – Mayor Elaine Scruggs introduced the city's new *From The Heart* partner to community leaders today at a reception for representatives of non-profit agencies that provide essential services to Glendale residents.

The Gila River Indian Community will donate \$75,000 annually over the next three years – totaling \$225,000 – to Glendale's *From The Heart* program. The program provides services to the city's most vulnerable children, families and elderly citizens.

"*From The Heart* has made such an incredibly positive impact in our city and has helped residents get back on their feet when faced with life-changing events," Scruggs said. "I'm so delighted and thankful that the Gila River Indian Community has joined Glendale and our utility customers to provide us with the resources necessary to continue to assist residents during times of need."

When Scruggs was notified nearly two years ago that one of Glendale's main contributors to its *From The Heart* program would no longer be able to provide funding, she took it upon herself to find a new partner.

The mayor began reaching out to prospective funding partners. She personally met with representatives from the Gila River Indian Community to provide them an overview of Glendale's *From The Heart* program.

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Mayor secures new partner/add 1-1-1

Glendale's community program turned out to be a perfect fit with the Community's policies for awarding grants.

"*From The Heart* shares our priorities to support the most vulnerable citizens in our community," said Governor William Rhodes, representing the Gila River Indian Community. "We are proud to support these types of initiatives that make such a positive impact on local residents. The Gila River Indian Community is proud to be a partner with Glendale in such an important program."

Since starting in 1997, *From The Heart* -- largely funded by residents and businesses who add \$1 to their city utility bills each month -- has collected and distributed more than \$2.25 million to non-profit agencies in Glendale.

In the past, local agencies receiving *From The Heart* funds through a grant-application process have provided a myriad of services to residents. Some of the grant-funded programs have focused on the positive development of youth, while others helped deliver nutritious, home-delivered meals to the frail and elderly and provide emergency programs for victims of domestic violence and abuse.

Due largely to Scruggs' perseverance and the generosity of the Gila River Indian Community, *From The Heart* will be able to continue its mission of helping tens of thousands of residents in Glendale.

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