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## **GLENDALE'S TEDDY BEAR DAY EVENT DRAWS RECORD DONATIONS FOR CHARITY PROGRAMS**

*Fun day of activities also promotes community service organizations*

**GLENDALE, Ariz.** – Glendale's Teddy Bear Day event, held in downtown Glendale on Saturday, Sept. 12, drew more than 800 people, and brought in event-record donations for two different programs.

One focus of the event was a teddy bear donation drive to benefit the Glendale Fire Department's Trauma Teddy program, in which first responders in Glendale are supplied with teddy bears in their response vehicles to help calm children in emergency situations. This year, about 550 bears were collected, which far exceeded the previous high of 300 bears, a record for the event's 11-year history.

In addition, the event collected funds for Arizona Search Dogs, who were on site during the day doing demonstrations for visitors. Arizona Search Dogs is a nonprofit (501c3) organization that trains, certifies, and develops Canine Search Specialist teams to be mobilized with USAR (Urban Search and Rescue) task forces and to assist state and local jurisdictions in urban and wilderness search and rescue activities. Donations reached \$1,500 for the group during Teddy Bear Day.

"We've loved celebrating National Teddy Bear day in Glendale for years. The community involvement in this event is growing each and every year and knowing that the Glendale Fire Department will have wonderful bears to give to children in a time of crisis, well, that just gives me warm fuzzies," said Valerie Burner, owner of Bears & More and event chair. "Girl Scout Troop 2636 did a 24-hour challenge to sell 100 bears, and they exceeded that by 28! The fund raiser for Arizona Search Dogs is something we work on year round, partnering with a few of my business neighbors helped us raise a record amount for them this year, too."

To see photos from the day of the event, check out the online photo album on [Flickr](#). For additional information on downtown events and promotions, visit [www.visitglendale.com](http://www.visitglendale.com).

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