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CONTACT: Kimberly Larson, 623-930-2989, Public Information Office

CITY OF GLENDALE EMPLOYEES FOCUS ON VOLUNTEER SERVICE FOR 2013 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

GLENDALE, Ariz. – For many years, the city of Glendale has held an annual Valley of the Sun United Way campaign in which employees are encouraged to give back to the community through the local non-profit group, along with many other employers around the Valley.

Primarily, year after year, the campaign has solicited monetary donations, and the city of Glendale has historically been one of the top municipal campaigns in the Valley. This year, the group that made up the United Way executive committee decided to send a message to employees that focused on giving back through volunteering, as well. The committee, led by two executive directors and several employees representing every department citywide, coordinated various projects during the campaign period that employees could participate in.

“During these continuing challenging economic times, we felt that it was important to not simply ask our fellow employees for money,” said Executive Director of Water Services Craig Johnson. “We wanted to encourage employees to give back to our community in a new way, one that would get us in touch with various organizations that need volunteers and truly make a difference in Glendale.”

In total, this effort led to 178 employees providing 783 hours of volunteer service during September and October. The campaign kicked off with Project Connect, a United Way event held at Glendale Nazarene Church on Aug. 13, which coordinated services and resources for homeless and low-income Valley families and residents.

Additional projects included:

- Assisting with check-in, packing and delivering food at Hope for Hunger Food Bank
- Cooking dinner for and visiting with teens at Streetlight USA
- Painting a new business center at Gompers, which employs disabled individuals
- Knocking on doors and assisting residents install new smoke detectors with the Fire Department

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United Way Campaign
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- Assisting veterans with check-in and resources at the Stand Up for Veterans Event at Glendale Community College
- Moving furniture for residents at the Glencroft Retirement Community
- Helping with homework and playing games with children at the Boys and Girls Club after school
- Painting homes for low income, elderly or disabled residents during the Rock & Roll Paintathon

Additional fundraising activities for the United Way campaign included a picnic, various raffles, a bake sale and a bowling event that was open to the public. Many activities were covered by sponsor-funded donations, such as the picnic and prizes that were raffled for employees. The monetary side of the campaign garnered more than \$65,000 for the Valley of the Sun United Way.

For additional information about Glendale's employees, programs and services, visit www.glendaleaz.com.

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