

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2, 2008

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**SPARK AWARDS RECOGNIZE RESIDENTS'
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY**

GLENDALÉ, Ariz. –Glendale recognized neighborhood leaders and businesses that have contributed to their community and improved the quality of the city's neighborhoods with the Spark Awards. The awards, which were presented Saturday, are given annually to those individuals who 'spark' their communities into action.

The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Neighborhoods presented Spark Awards in the following six categories:

- Young Leaders on the Move: Students from the Interact Club at Mountain Ridge High School and were recognized for their community involvement as volunteers for a variety of local non-profits and with the city of Glendale Volunteer program.
- Business Support & Involvement: M&I Bank sponsored a new program called "A Brush With Kindness," which was coordinated by Habitat for Humanity. More than 150 of their employees participated as volunteers in the program by assisting needy homeowners with landscaping and exterior home improvements.
- Community Partner: A second-grade teacher at the Challenge Charter School, Bridget Schumacher, created a "Kids Care Club" at the school. The group grew to 100 students, ranging from second to sixth grades, who participated in many community service projects.
- Neighborhood Revitalization: The East Catlin Court Neighborhood Group Leaders have made substantial changes to better their neighborhood. From organizing a block watch party to completing neighborhood clean ups, this group has accomplished much in a short amount of time.
- Traditional Neighborhood Leadership: Two residents, Hans Rosenthal and Wayne Kumm, led the Mercer Lane Neighborhood Block Watch to obtain a small grant for a neighborhood block party and a large grant of \$50,000 to repairs sidewalks and install handicap ramps. Their leadership skills really benefited their neighbors.

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GLENDALE SPARK AWARDS

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- HOA Leadership: A resident of Maryland Manor Condominiums, Ellen Scott was chosen for demonstrating outstanding leadership in her homeowners association. She has single-handedly made several exterior improvements to the common areas and has built a sense of pride amongst her neighbors.

For more information, about the Spark Awards or how to become active in your neighborhood, please contact the Community Partnerships Department at (623) 930-2868 or visit the department's Web site at: www.glendaleaz.com/CommunityPartnerships.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: PHOTOS AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE WINNERS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.