



The City of Glendale would not be as great as it is today if it wasn't for the participation and dedication of volunteers. Much of what we have accomplished as a city has been because of the willingness of our community leaders to dedicate their time and talents. These leaders have inspired others by example and through their dedication to make our city the best that it can possibly be.

In light of current economic conditions, it is more vital than ever to have volunteers who are willing to donate their time and effort. The amount of time that is dedicated and the number of services that are made possible by Glendale's volunteers is really quite astonishing. Through the city's two volunteer programs, the Glendale Stars and Community Volunteers, we had a total of 3,582 volunteers serve 120,744 hours for a service value of \$2.5 million!

The Glendale Star program consists of 1400 long term volunteers who serve as staff support for 24 city departments. The community volunteer program is made up of 2,182 volunteers who serve on various community projects such as the annual Rock N' Roll Paint-A-Thon, National Family Volunteer Day, Serve Day and Earth Day. In addition to these programs, we also currently have 132 people who volunteer their time and talent to our 20 Boards and Commissions.

The safety of our citizens is always at the top of our priorities. Our public safety departments have benefitted greatly from the dedication of our volunteers.

The Glendale Police Department's Victim Assistance Program is dependent on helpful, caring volunteers who are willing to dedicate their time for the needs of others. Citizens also dedicate their time to the Glendale Citizens Police Academy. Recently, the Police Department also had their first graduates of the Teen Citizen Academy, which consisted of 27 teens who expressed an interest in law enforcement careers.

The Fire Department Crisis Response Team has also been a longtime benefit to our community. Recently, the team received two awards for the program's success, the *National Association of Volunteer Programs in Local Government* award for *Innovation* and *The Estrella Community College and Maricopa Community College Foundation* award for *exemplary achievement, community success and support for education*.

There are so many more city departments, programs and services that are made possible by the use of volunteers, and we could not do any of this without them. I want to just mention a few of the programs and departments that are most reliant on generous citizens. Volunteers at

the Glendale Adult Center assisted in serving over 26,000 Meals-on-Wheels. Seven Adult Center volunteers teach Basic Computer classes to nearly 700 adults. The Glendale Visitor's Center Volunteers assisted 16,122 walk in visitors from all over the world and assembled 10,558 travel packets. At Sahuaro Ranch, volunteers helped with five special events, a summer camp and gave tours of the historic main house to nearly 7000 visitors.

The Glendale Libraries have volunteers who help out with the Business and Recession Response programs. Teens now volunteer their time at the libraries answering basic computer questions. Over 50 volunteers helped the Water Conservation Office put on the third annual Glendale Green Festival with more than 1000 attendees. Friends of the Garden volunteered 1217 hours of work in 2009.

Next week, in celebration of the Centennial, the City of Glendale will honor those leaders who have contributed the most lifetime volunteer hours. These five incredible individuals have truly inspired others and set an example through their service:

- Jennie Burrel, Library volunteer with 11,000 hours
- Mary Harris, Library volunteer with 7,550 hours
- John Edmonson, Fire volunteer with 6189 hours
- Bob Guitierrez, Library volunteer with 6125 hours
- Gordon Howard, Library volunteer with 5263 hours

I want to thank these five individuals for dedicating so much time over the years to making our city a better place. I also want to thank all of you who dedicate your time to our community through volunteer work and also through service on our Boards and Commissions. You are the backbone of our city and I want you to know how much I value and appreciate your service.

Anyone who is interested in volunteer opportunities can call 623-930-2297 or [\(Click Here\)](#) for much more information about our volunteer opportunities. [\(Click Here\)](#) To learn more about serving on the City of Glendale's Boards and Commissions.

Thank you taking the time to read my "Glendale Bulletins". Please contact me at (623) 930-2260 or mayorscruggs@glendaleaz.com, if you have any comments or questions. I strive to provide the most timely information and best possible service to you, the citizens of Glendale. I sincerely appreciate your feedback.