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CONTACT: Michael Young, PIO, 623-238-0179

## DONATIONS FOR BABY SHOT PROGRAM TOP FIRE DEPARTMENT'S WISH LIST FOR SANTA THIS HOLIDAY

**Glendale, Ariz.** — Due to recent changes in healthcare reform, the administrative funding for the Glendale Fire Department's Immunization Program, which was provided by the Maricopa County Childhood Immunization Partnership, has been discontinued and the city is now seeking community assistance to obtain new funding.

The immunization program, also known as the baby shot program, is an extremely valuable initiative that serves to prevent illness in our community and educate families regarding the importance of immunizations. In 2012 and 2013, the program provided 1,224 immunizations to 350 children at no cost to the families.

Management of the Baby Shot Program requires funding to cover the cost of the immunizations and to pay the nurses and firefighters who administer the immunizations. Historically, funding for these costs has been provided from two sources: Vaccines for Children's Program (VFC) and Maricopa County Childhood Immunization Partnership.

The VFC Program graciously provides funding for the purchase of the immunizations. The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program is a federally-funded program that provides vaccines at no cost to those who otherwise may not be vaccinated because of inability to pay. A child is eligible for the VFC Program if he or she is younger than 19 years of age and is one of the following: insured through AHCCCS, Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, American Indian, or Alaska Native. Financial support from the VFC Program is continuing, without issue.

The Maricopa County Childhood Immunization Partnership was providing Glendale's program with a reimbursement of \$25 per child and no maximum limit to cover the personnel costs associated with administering and documenting the immunizations. Financial support from this partnership has been discontinued and needs to be supplemented. The entire Baby Shots Program is at risk to be discontinued by the end of the year if no new funding sources are identified.

If you would like to partner with the Glendale Fire Department and provide financial support for this vital community resource, contact Casey Clark at [CClark@glendaleaz.com](mailto:CClark@glendaleaz.com) or call the immunization hotline at 623-930-2414.

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