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## **GLENDALE VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE ECONOMIC VALUE OF MORE THAN \$2.5 MILLION**

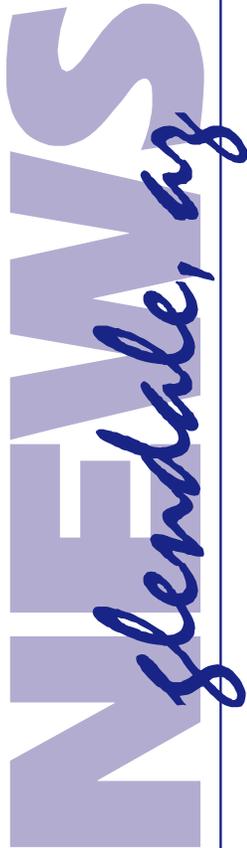
**GLENDALE, Ariz.** – As National Volunteer Week is celebrated across the country, the city of Glendale recognizes the multi-million dollar economic value volunteers bring to the community. Glendale has more than 1,400 volunteers city-wide who provide service to the city in the amount of more than \$2.5 million. That dollar figure is equal to the amount it would cost if the city had to pay for those services.

In the last four years, Glendale has quadrupled its number of volunteers and had a dramatic increase in the number of donated hours. For example, in 2005, volunteers donated 31,374 hours. Just a few years later, in 2009, volunteers donated 120,744 hours to the city.

Glendale's Human Resources Department receives an average of 50 applications a month from citizens requesting to volunteer for one time projects or long term programs. For the past 15 years, volunteers have assisted nearly every city department.

“These days there is more than a monetary value the city receives from hiring volunteers,” said Alma Carmicle, Glendale's Human Resources Director. “With the national unemployment rate still relatively high, many experienced job applicants are opting to volunteer in service to their community while looking for full-time employment.”

(more)



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## GLENDALE USES VOLUNTEERS AS KEY BUDGET HELP IN TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES

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The services provided by city volunteers include office support, data entry, recycling assistants, transit survey aides, code compliance inspectors, Glendale Greeters, being a mascot for the water conservation office, library duties, maintenance of the Xeriscape Garden, Sahuaro Ranch historic guides, animal care, Police Explorers, Police Pipers, Fire Cadets and the Fire Crisis Response Team.

"I've always volunteered, starting in my children's kindergarten class. I believe in giving back and it's fun," said Sue Berntsen, Glendale resident and Glendale Visitor Center volunteer. "I've met people from all over the world here at the visitor center and I learn something new everyday while volunteering."

"I originally chose volunteer activities that I felt would best fit my personality and life experiences," said John Edmonson, crisis response volunteer for the Glendale Fire Department. "However, through the years I have found my comfort zone greatly challenged while volunteering, and to my pleasant surprise the recipients of my involvement don't care what I know, just the fact that I'm there to help them. Glendale sincerely appreciates its volunteers and is always looking for opportunities to recognize their efforts."

In addition to Glendale's 1,400 volunteers who support 24 departments, there are approximately 2,000 other volunteers who throughout the year assist with community projects such as the annual Rock N' Roll Paint-A-Thon, National Family Volunteer Day, Serve Day and Earth Day. Plus, an additional 132 citizens volunteer their time and talents to Glendale's 20 boards and commissions.

For information about the city's volunteer programs, visit [www.glendaleaz.com](http://www.glendaleaz.com).

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