



Human Services Fair
“Putting the Golden Rule in Action”
Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer
May 28, 2009

Thank you Mary Jo for that kind introduction. I would also like to thank the Arizona Interfaith Movement and Dr. Paul Eppinger for the invitation to participate in today's Human Services Fair.

Today is a wonderful collaboration of community groups and organizations from around the valley coming together during these hard times to boost volunteerism.

There can be no doubt that community service and volunteering are essential to the true spirit of Arizona.

There is a tremendous sense of personal achievement and satisfaction when we find meaningful ways to contribute and give back to our communities.

Today in Arizona, there is a growing group of citizens who have made that commitment through non-profit and service programs such as AmeriCorps.

I mention AmeriCorps because last year throughout the country, their programs contributed more than 500,000 hours of service to local communities.

Arizona's national service programs engage more than 12,000 citizens in serving Arizona communities, and have received funding in excess of \$10 million from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Recently, Arizona applied for federal stimulus funds that will enable organizations to encourage more citizens to serve in their communities. This funding will help address critical community needs resulting from the current economic crisis.

Make no mistake, Arizona will use this temporary federal funding wisely.

Last summer, a national study revealed that as a result of work done by volunteer organizations, the number of volunteers in Arizona continues to grow – we're now at 1.1 million volunteers who contribute more than 182 million hours of volunteer service each year.

This is a remarkable achievement that demonstrates a great sense of social responsibility among Arizonans.

In Arizona, 23.9 percent of our residents volunteer in some capacity – many of them in programs involving tutoring, fundraising, collecting and distributing food and general labor.

Given these statistics, I am heartened to see the extent of compassion and dedication revealed by Arizona citizens, and I hope that the number of volunteers will continue to increase.

Nevertheless, despite all of the work being done by volunteers, there are still hundreds of volunteer positions that remain unfilled.

The reality is that as communities grow, so does the importance of being socially responsible.

I encourage those of you who are already volunteering to keep up the good work. Now, the challenge is to get our fellow citizens to take that important step toward also helping others.

There are limitless possibilities for becoming involved in volunteering and it's easy to find a volunteer opportunity that also fits into the time constraints of our busy daily lives.

No matter what the cause, the important thing is to identify a critical need in your community and find a way to work with a community-based organization, faith-based organization, or even your friends and family members to address that need.

If every person in Arizona volunteered just one hour a week, imagine what we could do.

I have been inspired to recognize those individuals who live by the Golden Rule and "treat others the way you would like to be treated."

So I created a program within my office for citizens to nominate and recognize those that exemplify such a commitment. My program is a simple, yet effective way for Arizonan's to reach out and say thank you.

By logging onto www.azgovernor.gov anyone can nominate a deserving Arizonan to receive a certificate of recognition with our Arizona Golden Rule Citizen Certificate program.

Living the Golden Rule can have a powerful effect on many people's lives. By positively impacting just one person, it may inspire numerous other people to treat others as they would like to be treated.

In closing, let me again thank the many organizations that are participating in today's Human Services Fair, and all the dedicated volunteers, for working together to develop innovative solutions to the issues our communities face.

Your display of generosity reflects positively on Arizona and is an inspiration to others.

Volunteering is absolutely vital to create stronger communities and to improve the quality of life of all Arizonans.

I sincerely hope that today's Human Services Fair provides a needed boost of volunteers for all communities here in Arizona.

Again, thank you.