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Press Release

For Immediate Release 07/08/2009

Prescott Jewish Foundation Awards Grants

Four local charities share more than \$29,000

Prescott, AZ - Four local charities were selected to be 2009 Community Grants recipients by the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Prescott. "In tough economic times, this type of funding is more important than ever for our community's network of social service organizations," said Gail Bleeker, chairperson of the Foundation's grants committee. In fact, the Foundation has increased its giving by 20% this year to the local charities in response to the economic needs of the community.

Grants were awarded to the following charitable groups:

\$10,000 - Hunger Relief Collaboration – A five member organization dedicated to providing hot meals and food supplies to those in need, consisting of: Common Ground, Church on the Street, Feed the Hungry, Granite Creek Pot Luck Ministry and CCJ Open Door. When told of the grant, Eddie Medford of Granite Creek Pot Luck Ministries said: "We didn't know how we were going to feed all these people this summer, and then we got the call about the Jewish Foundation grant. All of the Collaborative members were full of joy and were relieved." Gerry Garvey of CCJ Open Door added: "Having the Jewish Community Foundation grant is the best news we could have been given."

\$7,500 - Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Arizona (BGC) - A service organization committed to providing safe places for youth to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens. Casey Knight, Chief Professional Officer of BGC stated: "Thanks to the Jewish Community Foundation we now have the financial support we need to initiate our Family PLUS program. This unique program will give families the tools they need during these difficult financial times to help with problem solving, stress reduction, and improved communication skills."

\$6,650 - Trauma Intervention Program (TIP) – An organization that works closely with local police, fire, and hospital personnel, providing on-call 24/7 trauma counseling to survivors of tragedies. A portion of the grant will be used to fund a Therapy Dog Program for Yavapai County. Sue Rutherford, Executive Director of TIP commented: “This is great news for our community. This innovative program will be an excellent way to improve our services to the citizen and emergency personnel of Yavapai County.”

\$5,000 - Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity – Building new homes for low income working families in the quad-city area since 1989, Habitat for Humanity requested grant funding to assist in the building of its newest project in Chino Valley. The grant money will complete a kitchen in a new home being built for a single working mother with four children, one requiring special needs education and another with a hearing disability.

“For over 5000 years the concept of charitable giving to one’s community has been an integral part of Jewish tradition,” said Foundation president David Hess. “The Jewish Foundation is proud and honored to support these fine local organizations and agencies that provide such vital services to those in need throughout the greater Prescott area.” For more information about the programs of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Prescott, call 928-717-0016 or visit online at www.jcftp.org.