

Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits

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NEWS RELEASE

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**Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits
Installs Board of Trustees and Leadership Council**
Community Leaders from Across the State Join the Alliance

(December 19, 2005 Phoenix, Arizona) – The Incorporating Board of the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits announced today that it is expanding its numbers and introduced 16 leaders from across the state to be the founding members of the Board of Trustees of the Alliance.

In addition, a partial “inaugural” Nonprofit Leadership Council was announced, the other half of the Alliance’s unique two-part leadership structure. More members of the Council will be announced in January. The Leadership Council deliberates and makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees about Alliance membership and member services and programs, the Alliance advocacy and public education efforts, changes to the Alliance Bylaws, and other issues referred by the Board of Trustees.

“We are thrilled at the caliber of individuals in our leadership,” said Angela Melczer, Chairperson of the Alliance’s Board and Deputy Director of Girl Scouts/Arizona Cactus-Pine Council. “We are joined by some of the most innovative nonprofit leaders, long-time supporters of the nonprofit sector from business and government, and true advocates for the work of nonprofits in our communities.”

The Alliance is also inviting nonprofit organizations, individuals and corporations to become “Charter” members by the end of 2005. Several nonprofits have already signed on as Charter Members, and the Alliance expects to have at least 20 organizations on that list in early 2006.

“The enthusiasm of nonprofit leaders, from executives to board members, for the Alliance has been inspiring,” said Alison Rapping, CEO of the Alliance. “Every day, we are asked by someone in the sector about how they can get involved. We are excited to be providing a vehicle to give voice to the great work of the sector and a channel to leaders and decision makers in our state.”

The new leaders of the Alliance will begin working in January to launch the first suite of services and programs for members. The Alliance plans to announce its 2006 membership program and services in February.

“It is critical that our program be built with the same wisdom and creativity that is at the heart of so many organizations in our state,” said Patrick McWhortor, President of the Alliance. “The fact that this cadre of talented people is willing to step up and help us suggests that the time is right for the Alliance to launch.”

The members of the founding Board of Trustees (in alpha order) are: Robert Ashcraft, ASU Center for Nonprofit Leadership & Management; Bruce Astrein, Community Member/Incorporating Board Member; Tom Avery, Camp Fire Greater Arizona Council; Marisue Garganta, St. Joseph’s Hospital & Medical Center; Todd Hornback, DMB Associates, Inc.; Hilary Juel, Intel Corporation; Tomas Leon, Youth On Their Own/Southern Arizona Alliance of Nonprofits; Angela Melczer (Board Chair), Girl Scouts Arizona Cactus-Pine Council; Tony Motola, United Phoenix Firefighters Association; Marc Osborn, R&R Partners; Ruth Osuna, Local Initiatives Support Corporation Phoenix Office; Cathy Tisdale, American Red Cross Grand Canyon Chapter; Kay Whitaker, Flagstaff-Coconino County Public Library/Nonprofit Resource Center of Northern Arizona; and Jeff Williamson, The Phoenix Zoo. In addition, Jacky Alling of the Arizona Community Foundation will serve in an advisory capacity.

The 14 members of the partial “inaugural” Nonprofit Leadership Council (in alpha order) are: Carl Brown, Youth Count; Deb Bentlage, Greater Sedona Community Foundation; Madeline Coil, United Way of Yuma County/Yuma Area Nonprofit Institute; Sam Campana, Audubon Arizona; Sam Chavira, United Phoenix Firefighters Association; Patricia Leach, HomeBase Youth Services; Michelle Lyons-Mayer, ASU Center for Nonprofit Leadership & Management; Anne Maley, Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation; Marsha Modrell, Hozhoni Foundation; Sandi Perez, Social Venture Partners of Arizona; Stephanie Small, Free Arts of Arizona; Tresa Thomas, Southeast Arizona Behavioral Health Services; Teresa Wellborn, Advanced Nonprofit Solutions/Southern Arizona Alliance of Nonprofits; and Emma Wharton, Grand Canyon Youth.

The first charge of the new Nonprofit Leadership Council is to recruit additional members across the state, ensuring that the Council represents its geographic communities and reflects the diversity of all communities and nonprofits in Arizona.

*The Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits (Alliance) is a new statewide nonprofit membership association of, by and for Arizona’s nonprofits with a mission to **enhance the well-being of the people and communities in the state by serving, supporting, protecting and promoting***

Arizona's nonprofit sector. The Alliance enjoys strong support through nonprofit capacity-building initiatives of the Arizona Community Foundation and the Arizona State University Center for Nonprofit Leadership and Management. The Alliance is a member of the National Council of Nonprofit Associations. Find more information about the Alliance online at www.arizonanonprofits.org.

For additional information, contact Alliance President Patrick McWhortor at (602)432-3715 or patrickm@arizonanonprofits.org.

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