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NEWS RELEASE

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THE ENERGY BEHIND VOLUNTEERISM IN QUEEN CREEK IS 2005 HON KACHINA VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENT

Mary Gloria started Pan de Vida to serve the needs of low-income children, the elderly, the hungry and the homeless.

(Phoenix Arizona)... Three mornings a week, Mary Gloria crawls out of bed to serve a hot breakfast to 45-65 day laborers. A native Arizonian and mother of 17 children, Gloria has been volunteering since her children were small. In the beginning there was the PTO and church involvement, then she turned her energy to other community needs while she made plans to retire and devote her life to Pan de Vida. First she wrote a business plan, and then she solicited funding, learned how to write grants, approached potential donors, met with community leaders and visited homes of those needing service. Her incredible tenacity and thousands of hours of volunteer service has earned her a Hon Kachina Volunteer Award.

According to Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr, "Mary operates on energy and commitment. She is a leader because she is already working on a solution while others are still seeing only the problem" Mary developed the Queen Creek senior program, is helping to start an after school program. She recruits volunteers to visit and transport homebound seniors and disabled citizens to doctor appointments, provides low income folks with food items, helped to form a clothing bank, volunteers with Valley of the Sun United Way and contributes to every community event.

Gloria also demonstrates great courage and compassion by tackling controversial issues such as the politically unpopular Day Labor Center

"We are building a new community and the town is struggling with infrastructure but I don't care how good the streets and sewers are, it takes the social infrastructure, heart, a conscious and love to make this a nice place to live says Debbie Gomez, Parks and Recreation Director of Queen Creek.

Gloria is not part of the volunteer effort in her town; she's at the center of it. In her own words, "I can't imagine sitting in front of a television and living other peoples lives when there are so many wonderful people to meet and so much to do."

The Hon Kachina Council is a group of business and professional people, affiliated with St. Luke's Health Initiatives, who promote and support community volunteerism. The Hon Kachina Volunteer Awards recognize outstanding volunteer service and increase public awareness on the importance of volunteering. Each year nine recipients are chosen to receive this prestigious award. This year the Hon Kachina Council will present the Hon Kachina Awards on September 24th, 2005, at the Camelback Inn Resort and Spa.