

MEDIA CONTACT:

Nelda Crowell

623.694.8277

crowelln@aol.com

or

Lisa Shanley

602.366.1215

lshanley@hardisondowney.com

Assistance League of Phoenix Recognizes hardison/downey for Contributing \$225,000 Toward Renovation of Facility for Operation School Bell

Old Church becomes new home for charity organization's offices and programs

Phoenix – (January 20, 2005) An old church, turned union hall, in Sunnyslope is now the new Assistance League of Phoenix Philanthropic Center -- a modern, vibrant place for children to learn and receive free, new school clothes, thanks to hardison/downey construction, inc., its subcontractors, and other community partners.

hardison/downey selected Assistance League of Phoenix, an organization that helps more than 20,000 individuals a year, as the company's annual charitable construction project for 2004. The Phoenix area general contractor donated construction services to the Assistance League for the renovation of the 7,912 square foot, two-story old building to house the charity's executive offices and serve as a distribution center for their Operation School Bell Program and six other projects.

hardison/downey worked with architects Walter Nelson and Ernie Hostetler to develop a budget of what the project would cost without donations. hardison/downey then solicited donations of labor, materials and monetary contributions from its subcontractors. Based on the amount of these donations, the project ended up going from a "street cost" of \$540,000 to an actual cost of \$325,000, a savings to the Assistance League of \$225,000.

"Helping the Assistance League make their dream of a new center a reality has been a great experience. We are especially proud of our subcontractors and their contributions to the project," said Bob Hardison, principal and co-founder of hardison/downey construction, inc. "Our annual charity construction project has been a hardison/downey tradition for 20 years. Every year, I'm amazed at how much this hands-on contribution touches the lives of our employees and the community."

All aspects of managing the renovation were handled by hardison/downey. The project included an interior and exterior remodel, framing and exterior stucco, and new electrical, plumbing, heating and air conditioning, carpet, paint and ADA compliant restrooms.

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“With this new facility, we can not only operate our projects more efficiently, but we also have space to expand our services.” said Faye Berk, president of Assistance League of Phoenix. “In addition, we will be able to enlarge the Thrift Shop in our other building at 7220 N. 7th St., creating more revenue to reach a larger number of individuals in need. It’s a win win for everyone, and we are grateful to the many contributors who made it possible.”

A dedication ceremony for the new Assistance League Center, located at 9220 N. 5th Street in Phoenix, will be held on January 21 from 3 to 5 p.m. Community partners being honored include hardison/downey, its subcontractors, as well as those who donated funds to cover the remaining costs and operating funds for three years into the future.

In addition to hardison/downey and architects Nelson and Hostetler, the group will honor Airpark Signs & Graphics, Benson Systems, Steven Brenden Studio, and Krause Interiors.

Major donors being honored for their contribution to the Capital Campaign are Arizona Community Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, Fry’s Food & Drug Stores, Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, Phoenix Suns Charities, and The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust.

In addition, employees of hardison/downey will volunteer at an Operation School Bell day on Thursday, January 27 at 10 a.m. at the new center. Employees will help children “shop” the aisles of free shirts, pants, socks and shoes to ensure they have appropriate clothing for the remainder of the school year.

Operation School Bell provides new clothing year-round to more than 3,000 children in the Valley each year. Each child receives a full school wardrobe including: pants, shirts, sweatshirt, underwear, socks, shoes, a backpack and a hygiene kit. The program’s mission is to provide appropriate school clothes, so kids are more likely to attend school, have good self-esteem and be successful in their studies.

hardison/downey construction, inc. opened in 1985 and operates both Shell and Renovation/Interior Improvement divisions. The Phoenix-based company currently has an annual volume of approximately \$85 million and specializes in Construction Manager at Risk Class A office, retail, restaurant, resort, multifamily, manufacturing, high tech, medical, laboratory and industrial distribution. For more information, visit www.hardisondowney.com.

Assistance League of Phoenix, with more than 300 members valley wide, operates seven philanthropic projects year round. Its other projects include more than 5,000 teddy bears annually for traumatized children, clothing for assault victims, mentoring for more than 9,000 children, college scholarships, blankets for the homeless, and layettes for needy new mothers. To volunteer or become a member, visit www.phoenix.assistanceleague.org

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