



Arizona Spinal Cord
Injury Association

AZSCIA E-NEWS

November 2006

*"A monthly update
on the happenings
and upcoming
events in the
association."*

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Injury Association
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We're on the Web!
www.azspinal.org

Arizona Spinal Cord Injury Association matched with ASU Public Allies Participant

Arizona State University's Center for Non-Profit Leadership launched Public Allies of Arizona on October 20, 2006. Through the program 18 service minded young adults were placed with nonprofit partner organizations. The program is a part of a three year renewable grant from the Corporation for National Service and in partnership with the Public Allies National Office, in collaboration with Americorps.

Thirty nonprofit organizations competed to have an ally placed within their organizations. The young adults are selected for the program through a careful screening process and will receive training in professional and leadership skills. Once in a placement the allies will be responsible for a project designed to influence the community.

Through the program, the Arizona Spinal Cord Injury Association has been matched with Micaela Cheatham. Micaela is alum of Arizona State University with concurrent degrees in Sociology and Communication, with several years of volunteer experience through out the valley. Her role with the association will be the Community Outreach Coordinator.

Her project goal is to raise the profile of the Arizona Spinal Cord Injury Association, increase membership, and to promote community awareness of Spinal Cord Injuries. Micaela will be placed with the Association for a 10 month commitment.

When calling the office, please welcome Micaela as the newest staff member.

Phoenix Shelters in Dire Need of Blankets for Winter 2006

Central Arizona Shelter Services is presently collecting blankets in collaboration with Americorps, Arizona Spinal Cord Injury Association, and Public Allies of Arizona. This winter is predicted to be the coldest and wettest Arizona has seen in a decade. It is the valley's homeless that will be most directly affected by these conditions; as such CASS is requesting new blankets of any size. Sheets, baby blankets, throws, comforters, or quilts etc., are all acceptable and will be greatly appreciated. To make donations please contact Micaela Cheatham at 602-239-5929. Blankets will be accepted from October 15, 2006 – December 31, 2006.

Mission OSS – Operation Santa Support Toy

Drive

Arizona Spinal Cord Injury Association is sponsoring our 3rd Annual toy drive for the children of deployed soldiers. Our efforts will benefit the 164th Corps Support Group in Mesa, AZ. Mission OSS - Operation Santa Support toy drive will be from November 2, 2006 -December 19, 2006. The toys will be distributed to the children in late December 2006.

The unit deployed 61 soldiers overseas and they will be there for a year. This toy drive is for the many children that are left temporarily without a parent. Last year's toy drive was a tremendous success. It was also a moment of pure elation when the children received one new toy each.

The toys will be collected at our office, Arizona Spinal Cord Injury Association (AZSCIA), 901 E Willetta Street #2306 in Phoenix. The main cross streets are McDowell Road and 7th Street. Office hours are Monday-Thursday from 9:00AM - 4:00PM and Friday from 10:00AM -2:00PM. If you have any questions, please contact the office at 602-239-5929.

Phoenix Summit Challenge

November 19, 2006

Challenge *your* heart. Challenge *your* mind. Challenge *your* self.
Challenge Phoenix.

All-Access: *One Day, Four Wheelchair Accessible Trails, 4 miles, 9 hours. (8am - 5pm).* Explore the wheelchair and stroller-friendly trails of the Phoenix Parks! North Mountain, Papago Park, Rio Salado, South Mountain. **All-Access Challenge participants may call REI Paradise Valley 602- 996 - 5400 to register. \$35 Registration Fee. For more information, please visit <http://www.rei.com/stores/paradisivalley>.*

Voter Reminder

NOVEMBER 7th 6am-7pm - Thirteen hours that can change YOUR LIFE...

"Vote as if your life depended on it, because it does!" - Justin Dart –

For Election Day help, call Center for Disability Law 602-274-6287 or the Secretary of State Election office 1-877-The Vote or 1-877-843-8683

Check out <http://www.azdisabilityadvocacy.org> the Arizona Disability Advocacy Coalition (AzDAC) website to see your Legislator's 2006 voting record!

Trouble finding election information or don't have access to the internet? Contact David Carey, 602-443-0723 or Amina Kruck 602-443-0722.

Night Rescue Cards

Coordinate by LIFE, Inc., Phoenix Fire Department, Phoenix Mayor's Commission on Disability Issues, Super Shuttle, Total Transit

The Night Rescue program is designed to provide an emergency trip home for wheelchair users who may become stranded after accessible transportation's normal business hours. Depending upon location and destination, the hours of accessible service may vary. Plans should always include traditional transportation options such as the bus Dial-A-Ride or shuttle services whenever possible.

The night rescue program is available between 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. seven days a week for emergency use.

To activate the Night Rescue program, a call is placed to the Phoenix Fire Department non-emergency phone number (602-495-5555). The call will be connected to one of the transportation partners, Super Shuttle or Total Transit. They will then dispatch an accessible vehicle to arrive within one hour. The cost of this service is \$40.00 and billing is available.

These durable cards are about the size of business cards and are designed to fit in a wallet or purse so those who may need the program will have the info readily available. Anyone may request Night Rescue cards.

For further information please contact Donna Powers at LIFE, Inc., 480-222-4134 or dpowers@lifeaz.org.

Upcoming e-news information.....

If there is anything that you would like to share with your fellow members, please contact Vangie Mortenson. She will ensure that the information will be posted on the e-news.

THANK YOU!