



GF&R VOLUNTEER TIMES

CERT | Fire Corps | Community Assistance

Kim's Corner

By Kim Yonda

Gilbert Fire & Rescue
Volunteer Coordinator



Heroes, they come in all shapes and sizes. We each have our own vision of a hero.

Recently we hosted our Everyday Heroes Event; what an honor to meet so many families making a difference in the lives of children.

Many people contributed their time, energy and talents for this event to be the success it is. To each of you, thank you for creating magical moments for the families.

This month's edition focuses on event highlights shared from some of our Volunteers at the event. Their perspectives shared are heartfelt and are bound to make you smile.

Seize the day!

WE MADE A DIFFERENCE!!!

“BEST DAY EVER. That is how I can describe our Everyday Heroes event. After the hustle and bustle of setting up and some dancing entertainment (no need for the video evidence) the families started to arrive. As the first group of families walked in I saw each child's eyes light up and my heart was instantly warmed. As they worked their way around the fire station their excitement seemed to grow as they got to wear firefighter hats, built wooden toys, received stuffed animals and got to pick out their very own book to take home. Spring made not one, but two special appearances for the event and there were 25 bikes donated that brought big smiles to the raffle winners' faces. Santa was a big hit this year, the display that the students built was beautiful and the candy canes were a hit much to the parents chagrin. I heard rumors that some



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stuffed animal surgeries were preformed, we have superheroes of many talents! During the Zumba activity there was one

shy little girl standing away from the group, through much coaxing and dancing next to her I finally got a high five from her new stuffed bear-mission accomplished! The Gilbert Fire & Rescue Superheroes made such a difference. Our Superhero Coordinator deserves a round of applause for leading the way in helping us make a difference during the Everyday Heroes event.



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“A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove... but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child.” – Forest E. Witcraft

Looking forward to next year!”

- Megan Neibauer



A Note From Santa

Santa had a great perspective on the Everyday Heroes.

Most of the children stopped to see Santa on their way out and the smiles on their faces and

the gleam in their eye told the story of the experience each and every one of you gave to these children. An experience that will be something they remember for the rest of their lives. What a precious gift you gave to them.



But there were children there who gave a gift to us that will last for the rest of our lives.

I am sure you remember the children

who warmed your heart, but there was a special one that brought a tear to your eye.

Let me tell you about that special child that did that for Santa.

It was the very last family of the day on their way out of the event. It was a family of 3 children and 2 of the children ran up to Santa. The third child held on tight to her mom and was very frightened. She did come close enough to get her candy cane, but then immediately ran back to her mom. After a lot of coaxing she came close enough for her mother to get a picture. Santa was ready to accept that was as good as it was going to get. But just as Santa gave up hope this little girl ran over and gave Santa a huge hug.

I have never experienced a hug with more meaning than this one very special child gave. She brought a tear to Santa's eye and ended the day on such a high note.

My Christmas wish for you is that at some time during this day you had that special connection. It likely only lasted a second (mine did), but it is those one or two seconds that make all the effort you put in to this event worthwhile.

SPECIAL K₉ APPEARANCES: SPRING AND YODI



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This year's Everyday Heroes celebration had a new canine CERT volunteer to provide a friendly, tail wagging greeting to all our extraordinary families at the event. Yodi, a certified Animal Assisted Crisis Response (AACR) and registered Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) dog joined his owner/handler, CERT volunteer Marla Martella, to spend time with the children by providing some doggy comfort and hug time. Yodi was recently AACR certified after going through a rigorous screening and evaluation process and completing an intensive three day training program in

California which included training with the City of Orange Fire Department and training with TSA at the John Wayne Airport in Irvine. AACR dogs are qualified to respond as therapy dogs to crisis/disaster situations at the local, county, state and federal level. Yodi also works with at-risk children in several elementary schools, with reading programs in the libraries and in several medical facilities. Thanks, Yodi!

Spring made a special appearance this year at the Everyday Heroes event with her partner David Zehring. She demonstrated her skills in sniffing out the accelerants and finding the suspects of arson. Being the only Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives K₉ in the state is a tough gig, she certainly does it well!



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**Many Thanks to those who helped
make Everyday Heroes possible!!**

Campo Verde High School: Theatre Arts

Entrees On Route

Freeride Bike Company

GF&R Volunteers

Jared The Galleria of Jewelry

Kneaders Bakery & Café

Knocker Ball Scottsdale

Lowe's Home Improvement

Mary Kitz

Ryan Combs

Spring and her handler David Zehring

Teresa Auva'a with intensi-t group fitness

Terry Gray

The Bike Shop

Together We Rise- A leader in foster care innovation

Yodi and his handler Marla Martella

Zella's Pizza & Cheesesteaks



Interested in Weather?

Become a National Weather Service Storm Spotter!

A free training class will be held in Gilbert on Tuesday April 12th that will teach people how to properly identify and report significant weather phenomena and contribute to public safety. Even with sophisticated technology like radar and satellites, we still need ground truth information from trained weather spotters throughout the year. You will learn about how thunderstorms work, how to identify cloud features associated with microbursts and tornadoes, visually estimate wind speeds, and how your reports tie in to warnings and advisories issued by the National Weather Service (NWS). In addition, you will learn about all of the services available from the NWS. See below for details on time and location.

Adult volunteers are community minded individuals, who understand that they play an essential role in providing storm information to the National Weather Service. Anyone can be a spotter and we encourage those that like to pay attention to the weather to become involved.

In Arizona, the NWS Phoenix Office forecasts for Maricopa, La Paz, Yuma, southern Gila, and northwest Pinal counties. In southeast California, we forecast for Imperial and Eastern Riverside counties.

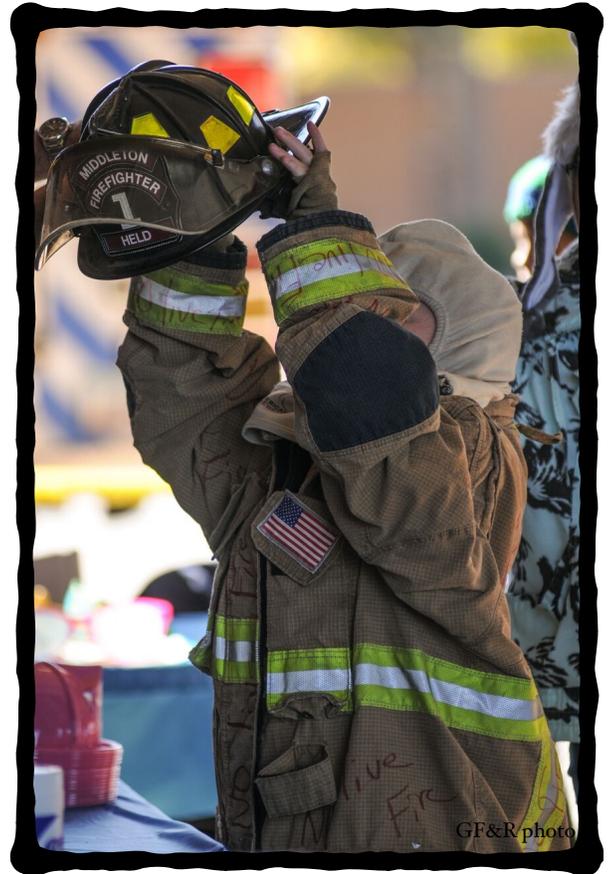
Time: April 12th 7 pm – 9 pm

Location: Gilbert Fire Dept. Administration
85 E. Civic Center Dr.

Registration: send email to kim.yonda-lead@gilbertaz.gov
or call 480-503-6357

Immediately following the presentation, completion certificates will be issued and program participation will be confirmed. If you have any questions, please contact Ken Waters or Austin Jamison at the NWS Phoenix Forecast Office – (602) 275-0073 (option 5) or visit weather.gov/phoenix and click on the link for “Skywarn” on the left hand side of the homepage.

APPLAUSE! APPLAUSE! APPLAUSE!
Special thank you
to everyone that
came out to the
Red Cross Smoke
Detector Walk!
APPLAUSE! APPLAUSE!



**Special Welcome to our new
GF&R COM251 Volunteers:**

Faunus Arden

Lauren Hargrove

Megan Neibauer

In Loving Memory



Bob Hoebermann

Gilbert Fire & Rescue Volunteer

1937-2015

Mark Your Calendars

February & March

February 3 rd	Volunteer Credential Renewal	3:00pm-7:00pm
February 18 th	Weinberg Boosterthon Race Day	8:30-11:15 & 1:45-3:00pm
February 15 th	Fire Administration Closed	
February 20 th	Volunteer Credential Renewal	8:00am- 12:00pm
February 20 th	COM251 Quarterly Meeting	9:00am-11:00am
March 5 th	Volunteer Appreciation Event	11:00am-2:00pm
March 10 th	Skills Stations	5:30-9:30pm
March 19 th	AZ Wall: Parking Assignment	9:00am-12:00pm



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