

GFWC Anthem Women's Club

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Domestic and Dating Violence Awareness Raised

Boxes and boxes of needed items were brought to the Anthem Community Park during Halloween Howl to benefit area shelters and training centers that support victims of domestic violence. Information packages were handed out, as were Hershey Kisses to remind teens not to tolerate dating violence through a campaign called *KISS OFF*.

Anthem, November 1, 2004 - The General Federation of Women's Clubs – GFWC Anthem Women's Club organized this donation and information drive as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

"Several teens asked for information on dating violence. They were very concerned for friends who were being hurt in relationships and unable to get away from them," said Donna Kublin of the GFWC and drive organizer. "Giving them information on how to find help empowered us all."

"Many people were eager to take the information packages provided by the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, commenting about people they knew who were in violent homes."

Wendy Tinkelenberg from the Sojourner Center loaded up her truck with the donated items. Fortunately, her husband Matt has a remodeling business and is used to packing up lots of boxes on his truck.

The Sojourner Center provides a safe haven from domestic violence through various programs including: residential, children's, early intervention, victim and legal advocacy and case management. 24-Hour hotline number (602) 244-0089.

Fresh Start assists women who are striving for emotional and financial independence through programs such as Women in Transition, Domestic Violence Victims Not In Crisis, and Underemployed Women. (602) 252-8494.

Part of what made this a successful community effort was the use of Linda Rehwalt's moving van. Linda owns the Rehwalt Group, realtors, and provides this van to her customers and charitable causes.

John Sefton, Anthem's Manager of Parks and Recreation, presented the proceeds from the Haunted House totaling \$535 to the GFWC to benefit domestic violence shelters and training centers.

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The GFWC Anthem Women's Club supports locally based volunteer activities and is open to any woman older than 18. The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the North Valley Regional Library and all are welcomed.

For more information, call Valerie Davis, President (623) 551-2045.

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