



Donna Kublin (right) is awarded Volunteer of the Year Award by GFWC North Valley Women's Club president Candace Kelling-Salzler (left)

At a luncheon on Saturday July 28th, the GFWC North Valley Women's Club Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Donna Kublin in recognition of her many civic endeavors benefitting the North Valley.

Donna is a founding board member and current President of the Arts Council of the North Valley (ACNV), a 501c3 nonprofit organization that seeks to nurture the cultural life and vitality of the community and to increase understanding and education of the arts.

With a move to Arizona five years ago, Donna, an artist herself, decided to focus on her interest in the arts. Recognizing the need for local fine artists to be able to exhibit their work in the new community, in 2004 she founded Stonemark Fine Arts and organized the first Festival of Fine Art at Anthem. This event served as a catalyst for the creation of the ACNV.

Donna has served on the Board of the Sonoran Arts League as well as recently serving on the Arizona Commission of the Arts grant panel. She is a volunteer for AZDance Group and supports other local arts organizations. She is working with the City of Phoenix and State Legislators to develop a plan for an arts venue in the North Valley. She was recently nominated for the Arts and Business Council of Greater Phoenix's award as Arts Advocate of the Year.

In addition to her many efforts to promote the arts in the community, Donna has volunteered at the Gavilan Peak School as a Chess Coach, and has assisted the Maricopa County Sheriff's North Valley Posse as an associate.

Donna has also served as past-President of the GFWC North Valley Women's Club. The GFWC focuses on improving the community through volunteerism. She has been involved with such GFWC projects as the campaign against Domestic Violence, the fundraising for the Maricopa County Sheriff's North Valley Posse, and the project to raise funds for the North Valley Regional Library.

In her ongoing support of Habitat for Humanity, Donna is on the committee for the November 2007 Habitat for Humanity Desert Foothills *Raise the Roof Gala* that serves as a fundraiser for property acquisition to benefit low-income families in the Desert Foothills area. The GFWC North Valley Women's Club is organizing a Gingerbread Build Day for families in conjunction with the Gala.

The volunteer of the year award is presented to the person who most represents the spirit of volunteerism in our community. Along with the recognition, the winner receives a cash award of \$250.00 to be given to the charity or civic organization of her choice. Donna Kublin has chosen the Arts Council of the North Valley's fund for Creative Arts Scholarship, Awards and Programs to be the recipient of this year's cash award.