



THE CONNECTOR CONNECTION

CONNECTORS ON-SHIFT HOURS

Weekdays:

- A-Shift 6:45 AM – 12 Noon
- B-Shift 11:45 AM – 5 PM
- C-Shift 4:45 PM – 10 PM

Weekends:

- S1-Shift 7 AM – 2:30 PM
- S2-Shift 2:15PM – 10 PM

A Word from Eric & Warren

We can't believe its 2011!! The New Year brings new challenges and new opportunities. There are so many activities that will engage and "test" Connectors. Watch your e-mails for all the exciting announcements.

Once again we can't say enough about all of your efforts, hard work and dedication to this program. If not for each of you, we would not exist. Thank you for another outstanding year!

- Eric Brunyer x4692
- Warren Sprecher x3664

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Holiday Adopt-a-Family

In spite of a third year of difficult economic times, the citizens of Mesa showed true Christmas Spirit this year! The volunteer center was overflowing with toys donated to the Annual Adopt-a-Family Program, even after Christmas Day.

Once again, we partnered with Mesa Public Schools to find qualifying families for the program. A total of 72 families were adopted this year, benefiting 269 children.

Thanks to The East Valley Firefighter Charities, Local 2260 for hosting their annual toy drive in conjunction with K-Mart. We want to thank the following: Phi Theta Kappa and Psi Beta from Mesa Community College's Red Mountain Campus, Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, CMC Steele Co., and Fountain of the Sun for donating their collected items to our cause. For the third straight year we were very fortunate to have the Arizona Wing of the Commemorative Air Force sponsor a toy drive that helped support our cause. Once again we had the support of Chick-fil-A where they held the 'Adopt a Child' program, at several of their East Valley locations. This year we received significant monetary donations from Wal-Mart and Taco Bell. These funds were used to purchase additional items to help round out the donations to the adopted families. Thank you to all of the fire crews, dispatchers, and day staff for taking in all of the items at the fire stations and fire department offices. Thank you to the Mesa Fire Department Connectors for picking up, sorting through, and delivering thousands of toys throughout the entire program. All donated food items were taken to Paz de Cristo and United Food Bank to aid those in need during this holiday season. We appreciate the help of Denise Carney and her daughter who sorted and organized the toy donations on a nightly basis, making the gift selection easier for all of the adopting families.

Finally, because of the vast amount of donated toys received, we were able to help outside agencies in need such as: Andrea's Closet, Care Partnership, Maricopa Medical Center's Pediatric Unit, East Valley Child Crisis Center, and Cardon Children's Medical Center.

Connector Hired!

Congratulations to Michael Selzam on his employment with Buckeye Fire Department. Best of luck!!

Milestones

Congratulation to Kyle Perkins on 5 years of service as a Connector!

Congratulation to Chris Smith on 5 years of service as a Connector!

Happy Birthday Connectors!

January 2011:

- 1/4 - Christina Hasler
- 1/6 - Tracy Becker
- 1/7 - Michael Kesner
- 1/11 - Justin Hirshberg
- 1/16 - Chris Garcia
- 1/18 - Jen Gomez
- 1/23 - Ian O'Neill, Brett Galusha
- 1/28 - Christine Rees

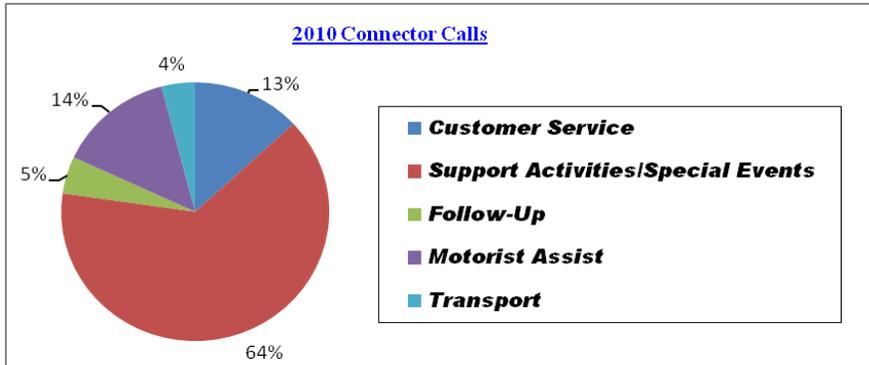
February 2011:

- 2/1 - Howard Turley
- 2/2 – John Blaise
- 2/5 - Tawney Aguilar
- 2/6 – Beki Dodd
- 2/8 – Jason Richards
- 2/15 - Brian Pemberton
- 2/19 – Paul Mallory
- 2/26 - Casey Christensen

March 2011:

- 3/2 - Marc Shumway
- 3/3 - Jacqui Dart
- 3/4 - Scott McGregor
- 3/5 – Sterling Brown
- 3/9 - Trace Leggett, Eric Okalski
- 3/16 - Lawrence Ferguson
- 3/18 – Vince Rowley
- 3/24 - Allison Fuwa
- 3/25 – Amanda Pina

Best Birthday Wishes!!!



In 2010 Connectors ran over 4,800 calls, representing an increase of 40% from 2009. This represents five years in a row that we have surpassed the 3,000 call mark, and the first year that we have performed more than 4,000 calls. As shown above, nearly 3/4 of these calls were to assist with support activities/special events and assist stranded motorists. A significant increase in volume was in the Support Activities/Special Events, 64% in 2010, up from 55% the previous year. Connectors volunteered a total of 20,051 hours in 2010, up 17% from 2009.

New Evacuation Strategy – Offer Them Food!

I went on a call during the last big storm that we had here in the valley. Wind had knocked down 14 high voltage power lines and landed them into more than 30 homes. Connectors were assigned to about 12 homes and asked to ensure that the owners were evacuated and stayed evacuated. The staying evacuated part was much more time consuming than I had initially anticipated. Despite the live high voltage power lines on, or in some cases in people’s homes, most of the homeowners insisted that they should be allowed to stay in their homes even as the rain came down. We spent the next 3 hours walking up and down the neighborhood urging the homeowners to stay out of their homes. From an outsider’s view this seems completely insane, though I would dare any homeowner to put yourself in those people’s shoes. As night began to fall people were still adamant about staying in what could be a potential high voltage house fire. Thankfully a basic human need started to take hold, the need for food. The Incident Commander told me that we should tell the people that the shelter that had been set up had plenty of food. Instantly the ride to the shelter was accepted and the laps on foot around the neighborhood could end. In retrospect I learned from this experience that trying to get people to listen to reason during times of stress requires tolerance and above all, patience. And that when all else fails, feed them!

-Tim Murphy, Lead Connector

Welcome New Connectors

In November of 2010 we graduated another class of Connectors. Here they are!



Nick Barnett



Chad Craig



Trevyn Crosser



Carlos Gonzalez



Aren Lara



Brandon Liniger



Lucas McIntyre



Justin Norman



Brendon Norton



Trevor Ott



Christine Rees



Martin Samaniego



Dave Stakebake



Luke Sullivan



Tyler Thompson



Loretta Traficano



Cesar Urena