

# City CONNECTION

July 8, 2015

A Weekly Publication for City of Phoenix Employees

Meet this week's featured employee, **Riann Balch, Human Services Program Coordinator**. View her Doing What Matters video at [www.phoenix.gov/phxtv/phxtv-media/video/2892](http://www.phoenix.gov/phxtv/phxtv-media/video/2892)

## **Head Start recruitment continues**

The city of Phoenix Human Services Department is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Head Start Program and is now recruiting children for the 2015-16 school year.

The center-based Head Start program is looking for children 3 or 4 years old and parents of children with special needs to apply.

Head Start offers children from diverse backgrounds active learning activities, nutritious meals and snacks, health screenings, and disabilities- and mental-health services.

The involvement of parents in education, program planning and operation is an important part of the Head Start program. Through that involvement and other training activities, parents are able to gain skills to help them secure employment.



Families must meet federal income guidelines for family size to be eligible to enroll.

For more information about recruitment, visit [phoenix.gov/headstart](http://phoenix.gov/headstart) or call 602-262-4040.

Since 1965, Head Start has been the premier model for providing children an opportunity for success and more than 31 million children have benefited from its comprehensive services.

## **Phoenix leadership in water conservation**

Our actions speak louder than words when it comes to water use. Whether we are engaging directly with customers or they just see us out and about on the job, we have an opportunity to show leadership in water conservation efforts to the residents of Phoenix.

Why is this important? We live in a desert, and water is incredibly precious. Phoenix has [enough water to use](#), but we [never have enough to waste](#).

Please take a moment to reflect on how your day-to-day work tasks can be used to inspire water consciousness. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Use a [reusable water bottle filled with tap water](#).
- Take action - watch for and report:
  - Landscape water leaks on city property; and
  - Leaky faucets, fountains or running toilets in city facilities (a running toilet can waste more than 50 gallons of water each day!)

- Learn more and discuss:
  - Educate yourself and others about [water efficiency and conservation](#). Here are [100 ways to conserve](#).
  - Organize an employee campaign to find leaks during [Fix-a-Leak Week](#).

Phoenix is a leader in conservation. Over the last 20 years, residential water use has decreased by roughly 30 percent. Our goal is to help customers embrace a desert lifestyle. Please remember that you can show leadership in this area as a proud city employee every day that you are at work.

### **Phoenix Sister Cities named best overall program in the U.S.**

[Phoenix Sister Cities](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating and enhancing global connections, has received the 2014 Best Overall Program in the United States for a city with a population of more than 500,001 from [Sister Cities International](#). This is the ninth time in Phoenix Sister Cities' history that they have been honored with this award.

The award recognizes sister city programs that demonstrate outstanding accomplishments in advancing the goals and mission of the sister cities movement. Criteria for the award is based on the overall program, including level of activity of all sister city affiliations, for its diversity, content and scope of exchanges, programs and activities; use of its volunteer base; budget and funding sources; and the program's impact on the community.

"Phoenix Sister Cities opens a world of opportunities for our residents by showcasing our community internationally," said Mayor Greg Stanton. "The city of Phoenix is proud to have a globally recognized program that is dedicated to enhancing the lives of our residents and visitors with programs that span business, education, arts and culture."

"In addition to numerous other awards from Sister Cities International over the years, it's exceptional to note that this is the ninth time in the last 20 years that Phoenix Sister Cities has received the 'Best Overall Program' award," said Ralph Marchetta, board of directors chairman, Phoenix Sister Cities. "The staff and dedicated volunteers who work year-round to plan and execute the high quality events and programs Phoenix Sister Cities is known for are to be commended."

Through more than 50 events, exchanges, and activities during the year, Phoenix Sister Cities is being recognized for sustaining and increasing participation in youth and education programs, creating economic development initiatives, strengthening municipal cooperation for the mutual benefit of Phoenix and its sister cities, playing an active role in the development of arts and culture events and activities, and sustaining PSC's inclusion of people with disabilities in programs and exchanges.

"It is an honor for us to recognize Phoenix Sister Cities as 'Best Overall Program,' for this year's conference," said Mary Kane, president and CEO, Sister Cities International. "The impact they are making in educational, economic and cultural exchange is a model for international cooperation world-wide. Phoenix Sister Cities continues to raise the bar for themselves and for sister city organizations across the world."

"We are thrilled to be honored with this award for our efforts to continually improve our organization and increase the reach of our events and programs," said Paula West, president and CEO, Phoenix Sister Cities, Inc.

The award will be presented at the Sister Cities International Annual Conference awards banquet, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota this year, on Saturday, July 18.

### **PEOPLE**

Leave donations are currently being accepted for **Amanda Anchondo** in the Aviation Department; **Lizbeth Duncan** and **Nancy Gonzalez** in the Human Services Department; **Michelle Ruiz** and **Franchele Vallejo** in the Street Transportation Department. Submit leave donations through eCHRIS.

*City Connection is published every week for city employees by the Communications Office, 12th floor, Phoenix City Hall, 200 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85003. For more information about the publication or to submit story ideas, email [contactus@phoenix.gov](mailto:contactus@phoenix.gov).*