



## Volunteer Phoenix Newsletter

### June 2019



*Hello Volunteer Community, and welcome to summer! This month we would like to announce the fourth season of the We're Cool Initiative, which brings together a collaborative volunteer opportunity. We'd also like to highlight two corporate partners, Home Depot and Vanguard for their commitment to volunteering and our great city. As always thank you for volunteering and creating a positive impact in your community.*

### [City of Phoenix We're Cool Initiative: Highlight and Opportunity](#)

In 2017, Maricopa County had 2357 documented cases of heat-associated illnesses and 179 deaths.

As a member of the Heat Relief Network, the City of Phoenix is doing our part to increase awareness of this vital service. An interdepartmental effort, the We're Cool project engages volunteer and non-profit organizations to spread the word across Phoenix. By partnering with organizations like the Salvation Army, Community Medical Services, The Phoenix Rescue Mission, and many others, we will work together to reach the communities that need this service the most. Additionally, by working together with Phoenix C.A.R.E.S., we are working to directly engage communities of people experiencing homelessness with water and heat safety distribution events.



To learn more about the Heat Ready Initiative or to volunteer contact AmeriCorps VISTA member Ted Hentschke at [ted.hentschke@phoenix.gov](mailto:ted.hentschke@phoenix.gov).

### **Corporate Highlight: Vanguard**



The City of Phoenix Human Services Department would like to thank Vanguard for their outstanding service to the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). They have provided 30 years of service to the VITA program. This year they went above and beyond by assigning additional computer space to the program which improved productivity and customer service. Last year's team was able to prepare 194 returns resulting in \$267,708 returned to city residents. This year due to the

Vanguard's leadership and your staff they were able to assist 272 clients resulting in \$300,989 in federal refunds! For more information or to volunteer with the VITA program contact Sanida Starr at [sanida.starr@phoenix.gov](mailto:sanida.starr@phoenix.gov).

### **Corporate Highlight: Home Depot**

Staff members from the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department assisted volunteers from Home Depot in planting three 25-gallon elm trees at Encanto park. Volunteers learned about the proper methods of tree planting and maintenance, while contributing to the city's tree shade master plan.



**City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Dept.: Tree Planting**



Saturday May 18, Cesar Chavez Park, Foreman I, Tommy Medina led the newly formed Santa Maria Blockwatch in their first “take back your park” event with a tree planting at Santa Maria Park. Over 20 volunteers were on hand at 7:00am from the neighborhood and Citizen Forestry to plant 25 trees in the park, 13 elm and 12 Bonita Ash. Forestry assisted in digging the holes on Friday and the volunteers placed, raked and staked the new trees, increasing the urban canopy and setting the stage for shade for future generations.