

PHOENIX MISSION

To **Save** Lives, To **Rescue** Lives, To **Serve** Lives, To **Change** Lives
www.phoenixrescuemission.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ballard Spahr Law Firm and Safeway partner with the Phoenix Rescue Mission to host community water drive

Phoenix – As temperatures continue climb beyond 110 degrees, the homeless population becomes vulnerable to dehydration, heat stroke and in severe cases – death. The Phoenix Rescue Mission partnered with Ballard Spahr Law Firm and Safeway to collect a truck-load of water Saturday, July 18, 2009 from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Safeway grocery store located at 7th Street and Glendale Avenue. The Mission is asking the community to help keep the homeless hydrated this summer by donating a case of bottled water to the cause.

“There are more homeless on the streets today than just a year ago and water donations to all agencies that assist the homeless are down compared to previous years,” said Jerry Sandvig, Executive Director of the Phoenix Rescue Mission. “As a community we must do everything in our power to ensure the Summer of 2005 is not repeated.”

In 2005, more than 50 homeless men and women perished on the streets due to dehydration. Since then, the Phoenix Rescue Mission and many other human service agencies have stepped up their efforts to hydrate the homeless. The Phoenix Rescue Mission Hope coach travels area streets distributing bottled water, sack meals, and clothing to those in need. The Mission is also part of the City of Phoenix Heat Relief Network acting as a respite site, hydration station and distribution hub for getting bottled water to agencies who do heat relief across the Valley. According to the Arizona Department of Health services, deaths among the homeless population were greatly reduced last summer. Donations of bottled water will ensure this trend continues.

Unfortunately, the same report indicated more that 50 home-bound senior citizens perished last year due to dehydration. The Mission is striving to serve and reduce the number of seniors suffering from heat-related causes by broadening out efforts to include home visits and wellness checks.

Water supplies are critically low. The Phoenix Rescue Mission anticipates distributing 4,000 bottles of water a week if current weather forecasts are any indication; we need your help today to keep our heat relief program operating throughout the summer. [Ballard Spahr law firm](#) is hosting a water drive this week at their corporate offices to kick-off our efforts to fill the Phoenix Rescue Mission truck full of water on July 18, 2009. For more information on how you can get involved, visit our web site at www.phoenixrescuemission.org.

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About Phoenix Rescue Mission

Founded in 1952, Phoenix Rescue Mission provides food, shelter, chapel and other services to the homeless and working poor people of metropolitan Phoenix. Hundreds of hot meals are served daily, showers and clean clothing are available, 180 beds provide shelter for men nightly, and clothing and food boxes are given to families in need. A 12-month, spiritually-based addiction recovery program is available for up to 20 men at one time. For more information, visit www.phoenixrescuemission.org.