

## News Release



# ADOPT-A-POOL-FENCE PROGRAM HELPS PREVENT CHILD DROWNINGS

**PHOENIX (June. 10, 2008)** – With the recent drownings and near-drownings occurring in the Valley, the United Phoenix Fire Fighters Association and Valley of the Sun United Way want to remind the community about the Adopt-a-Pool-Fence Program. The proactive program provides families throughout Maricopa County with a donated pool fence, offering a physical barrier between their children and their backyard swimming pools. Low-income families who do not have a pool fence are asked to fill out an application, by visiting [www.saverkids.org](http://www.saverkids.org) or calling **602.631.4843**. Applicants need to meet the following criteria:

- A child six years of age or younger must be living in the home
- The home must be owner-occupied
- Families must demonstrate financial need
- Special circumstances will be considered

“The Adopt-a-Pool-Fence program has been an effective way to prevent child drownings, and we hope to install many more pool fences,” stated Rich Bauer, Director of Community Programs for the United Phoenix Fire Fighters Association. “But in addition to installing a pool fence there are other safety measures families should be aware of: a proper fence barrier must be up to code and in proper working order to be effective; check the latches to make sure they are self closing and self latching; look around for rust and for gaps under the fence and never prop the fence open.”

The Adopt-a-Pool-Fence Program was started in 2003 by the United Phoenix Fire Fighters Association as an effort to prevent child drownings. Since then, the program has donated more than 300 pool fences to families in need.

The program was integrated into the FireStar Fund after Valley of the Sun United Way and the United Phoenix Fire Fighters Association secured a \$250,000 grant from the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust as a way to expand the program. The FireStar Fund is a partnership that brings together several community organizations that are dedicated to making our local neighborhoods and communities stronger. FireStar partners include Valley of the Sun United Way, the United Phoenix Fire Fighters Association, the Stardust Foundation, the City of Phoenix Fire Department, the City of Phoenix Mayor's Office and the Office of the City Council.

The United Phoenix Fire Fighters Association and Valley of the Sun United Way hope to increase awareness of the program so families in need receive the protective barrier to keep their children safe.

It is the mission of the United Phoenix Fire Fighters Association, to protect and improve the quality of life in our communities through Community Partnerships, Community Service Programs and Fire and Life Safety Education. Saving Lives Through Prevention.

Valley of the Sun United Way is focused on addressing the issues that matter most in our community. Partnering with businesses, organizations and individuals, Valley of the Sun United Way improves lives and delivers meaningful results throughout Maricopa County. To learn more about Valley of the Sun United Way, visit [www.vsuw.org](http://www.vsuw.org).