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Office of the Associate to the Superintendent

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Local Teacher Wins “Volunteer of the Year” Award

Tucson, AZ - Kathy Franklin, P.E. Teacher at Wilson K-8 School, was recently named Volunteer of the Year by the American Heart Association (AHA). According to the AHA, Ms. Franklin has volunteered for the American Heart Association as a coordinator for Jump Rope for Heart for over eight years. Throughout those years, she has helped to raise \$37,000 for the Association. This past year Wilson K-8 contributed \$4,300 to the Jump Rope for Heart event. Ms. Franklin has also volunteered for various other AHA events and fundraisers.

In the past, Wilson would have a jump rope team come in for a kick off celebration to encourage student involvement. Wilson implemented a community service component by having the students seek out donations from around the community. Wilson also created a “Wall of Honor” where students, teachers and parents could put a heart on the wall in honor of a loved one. This past year, the 7th graders at Wilson K-8 School coordinated the whole event and employed new activities to keep their fellow students enthused about the event.

In the 2007-2008 school year, more than 45,000 students at 109 schools in Southern Arizona raised more than \$250,000 for the AHA through the Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart programs. This school year (2008-2009) Jump Rope for Heart is celebrating its 30th Anniversary with more than 170 schools in Southern Arizona currently signed up to participate.

“It is wonderful that Ms. Franklin has been honored with this award. We are proud of her philanthropic achievements and we appreciate all of her hard work for both the Wilson community and for the American Heart Association”, says Wilson Principal Adrian Hannah. “Ms. Franklin truly does lead by example, and we feel her students are better off because they have her as an influence in their lives.”

“The American Heart Association is very grateful to have Kathy Franklin dedicate her time to coordinate Jump Rope for Heart. She helps spread an important message about heart disease and on a daily basis facilitates physical education. It is dedicated coordinators like her that make the program so rewarding,” said Theresa Rodriguez, Youth Market Director of the American Heart Association of Southern Arizona.

Wilson K-8 is one of the 22 schools and programs in the Amphitheater School District which covers approximately 110 square miles and provides a high-quality education to over 16,000 students in Northwest Tucson and Oro Valley.

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