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Two Local Community Groups Leverage Resources To Increase Provision of Vocational Training

Phoenix, Ariz. – Maricopa Workforce Connections partners with The Rotary Vocational Fund of Arizona (TRVFA) to expand vocational training and certification opportunities for local residents. The first MWC/TRVFA scholarship will be awarded to, Renee Morton, this evening during the weekly meeting of the Ahwatukee Rotary Club at the Grace Inn (10831 S. 51st St., Phoenix, AZ 85044).

Morton attended job-readiness workshops at the MWC Gilbert Career Center where she was guided through the process of conducting labor market research and career planning. With guidance from a MWC Career Guidance Specialist, Morton identified a career path in the in-demand health care industry. The first steps in Morton's career plan are to become certified as a phlebotomist and a certified nursing assistant. MWC/TRVFA Scholarship funds will enable her to start classes at Pima Medical Institute later this summer. Upon receipt of certifications, Morton will seek employment in a hospital-based setting where employer-funded training is offered so she may continue working toward the goal of becoming a registered nurse.

"Each group, MWC and the Rotary, have specific criteria guiding the provision of training dollars, specifically targeting those with financial barriers to obtaining training," said Patrick Burkhart, Assistant Director, Maricopa County Human Services Department. "We were ecstatic to learn local Rotary regions' guidelines and limitations are similar to ours, bringing us to decide to work together to make a larger impact in our community."

Because TRVFA and Workforce Investment Act, MWC's federal funding stream, eligibility requirements are similar it is hoped that the number of individuals able to secure vocational certifications needed for viable employment will increase in the near future. Now that the foundation has been laid, the Rotary intends to expand the MWC initiated relationship to all One-Stops in the state to widen the distribution its Vocational Fund scholarships.

The entire process from recommendation to receipt of scholarship funds, will take between 30-45 days. The local Rotary Club will present checks to the training institution and will recognize candidates during weekly meetings. Much emphasis is put on the presentation as the local Rotary Club takes an active interest in the student.

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About MWC

Maricopa Workforce Connections (MWC) operates two full-service career centers in Maricopa County (735 N. Gilbert Road, Ste., 134, Gilbert 85234 and 1840 N. 95th Ave., Ste 160, Phoenix 85037). WC brings employment resources to county residents by offering a wide-range of personalized job seeker services, including assistance identifying financial resources for training opportunities in high-demand fields such as healthcare, high-tech manufacturing, IT, bioscience and advanced business services, which are vital to the growth of the region's economy. On-site services also include direct access to specialized employment services for youth and veterans. Program funding is provided by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

About TRVFA

The Rotary Vocational Fund of Arizona is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to assist qualifying individuals in obtaining financial assistance to further vocational studies and obtain certification. The Fund is used to provide scholarships to trade school students, associate degree students, welfare recipients and the working poor. TRVFA can grant qualifying applicants a one-time grant of up to \$2,000 to pursue study directly linked to job/vocational skill attainment.