



News Release

3030 N. 3rd Street

Phoenix, AZ 85012-3039

scfaz.com

Contact: Bruce Christian

Phone: 602.631.2810

Cell: 602.481.3764

btrethewy@scfaz.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Humanitarian of the Year Red Cross Honors SCF President, CEO

PHOENIX – The American Red Cross Grand Canyon Chapter presented SCF Arizona President & CEO Don Smith with its Humanitarian Award during a ceremony April 8.

“Always focused on providing sound counsel and leadership, Don continues to be a generous personal donor and strong community advocate for the Grand Canyon Chapter,” the Red Cross stated in a release announcing his award.

Smith served on the Grand Canyon Chapter’s Board of Directors from 2002-2007 and was the board’s chair his final two years.

“Throughout his time on the board, Don has helped the Grand Canyon Chapter move forward on the chapter’s strategic direction, including overseeing increases in fundraising and service delivery,” the Red Cross statement said. “Don has served on many chapter committees, including long range planning, public support and government relations.”

The Deborah King Humanitarian Award is presented annually to an organization and community leader that reflect the true spirit of the International Red Cross Movement, which embodies: impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary services, unity, universality and humanity.

Humbled by the selection, Smith said, “I should be giving an award to the Red Cross for allowing me the privilege to serve its humanitarian cause. It has provided me a much richer life over the past seven years.”

Since coming to Arizona in June 2000, Smith’s involvement set the example for all SCF Arizona employees to volunteer with community nonprofit organizations and to give generously to charities. Last year, more than 60 percent of the company’s 500-plus employees participated in the company’s Charitable Giving Program.

“It has been easy for me to fall in love with (the Red Cross),” Smith said. “It’s not about the institution, but the ideals for which it exists; citizens helping citizens, not because of a

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government entitlement or to make a profit, but because they care about each other.

“I’ve witnessed this through some of the most spectacular and horrifying times for the Red Cross and humanity,” he added.

Among specific incidents to which the Grand Canyon Chapter responded while Smith was on the board were the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, The Rodeo-Chedesky fire of June 2002, the Indian Ocean tsunami that hit Southeast Asia in December 2004 and Hurricane Katrina in August 2005.

“I spent two days at the shelter set up in Phoenix for the victims of Katrina, helping to administer debit cards to provide temporary resources for their travel to family or friends,” Smith recalled. “But mostly, I listened to their stories about the disaster, and their fear for loved ones they had not been able to locate.”

Aid during major disasters is just part of what the Red Cross does, Smith added. “There are everyday disasters that occur in Arizona, which require a helping hand with temporary shelter and food. In addition, the Red Cross acts as a facilitator to connect U.S. armed forces personnel with their families in times of crisis.”

The award is named after the late Deborah King, who became active with the chapter after moving to Arizona in 1965, and became a leader in the organization at the state, regional and national levels. She passed away in 2001.

Before coming to Arizona, Smith served as deputy secretary within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Department of Labor and Industry. He has more than 30 years’ experience in the insurance industry.

As a business and insurance industry leader, Smith serves on the boards of the National Council on Compensation Insurance, the American Association of State Compensation Insurance Funds, the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce Board and the Greater Phoenix Economic Council.

In receiving the award, Smith joins these previous winners:

- 2007 – Individual: Randi Knappenberger; Corporation: *The Arizona Republic*
- 2006 – Individual: Georgia MacDonough; Corporation: Intel
- 2005 – Individual: Katherine Forbes; Corporation: General Dynamics C4 Systems
- 2004 – Individual: Bill Bombeck; Corporation: Phelps Dodge
- 2003 – Individual: Todd Langley; Corporation: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona
- 2002 – Disaster Volunteers of Grand Canyon Chapter

SCF Arizona is the state’s largest provider of workers’ compensation insurance, serving nearly 67 percent of the state’s businesses, large and small.