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## **New 'Finding My Shoes' community service event gives shoes and sleeping bags to Phoenix homeless**

**PHOENIX** – Brenda Combs, founder of “Finding My Shoes,” has announced the next community service event will take place on Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009, from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the St. Vincent de Paul Phoenix Dining Room, 1075 W. Jackson Street in downtown Phoenix.

The December “Finding My Shoes” project is the second event hosted this year which helps provide the simple necessities to a growing population that do not have a warm place to sleep this winter. Volunteers will give donated shoes, bedding and personal hygiene products to the homeless population of downtown Phoenix following breakfast service at St. Vincent de Paul's.

“The overwhelming success of our first event in September inspired me to reach out to our community and find a way to continue our cause to give to those that don't have the means to provide for themselves right now,” said Brenda Combs, founder and organizer of Finding My Shoes. “We greeted and talked with hundreds of men and women who lined up to get a warm cup of coffee, hot breakfast, take a shower and walk away with new personal care items and a pair of gently used shoes. We could not wait another year to help the displaced, so we are hosting another event in December.”

Local celebrities, community and business leaders have volunteered to secure donations and raise awareness of the event. Sponsors and volunteers include Phoenix Rescue Mission; Grand Canyon University; Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Phoenix; Dunkin Donuts Arizona franchises; Adaptive Technologies, Inc.; and Artful Thinkers.

**EVENT DETAILS:**

**WHAT:** Second “Finding My Shoes” community service event of distributing shoes, water, bedding and care packages with hygiene products to the homeless.

**WHEN:** Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009  
7 a.m. – 10 a.m.

**WHERE:** St. Vincent de Paul Phoenix Dining Room  
1075 W. Jackson Street, Phoenix

**WHO:** Volunteers from Arizona businesses, charity organizations, learning institutions, churches and community members. Lead volunteers include:

- **Brenda Combs**, a former homeless person who found her way back to becoming a teacher, author, motivational speaker, honoree as Arizona Woman of Inspiration by Phoenix Mercury and she is now working on her EdD at Grand Canyon University.
- **Carrie Stoudemire**, mother of Phoenix Suns player Amar'e Stoudemire
- **Renee Morgan Brooks**, singer and actor

**WHY:** Brenda Combs founded “Finding My Shoes” as a result of her experience living on the streets for nearly a decade. She knows the worst of mankind through horrible physical abuse and the controls of drug dependency. She has triumphed through the discovery of education and charitable giving. Brenda has chosen shoes as the primary source of her giving because it wasn’t until someone stole her shoes while she slept in an alleyway that she had reached her “bottom”. Read more at [www.brendacombs.com](http://www.brendacombs.com).

### **About Brenda Combs**

Brenda Combs is an active community member and the Ambassador of Inspiration & Achievement at Grand Canyon University. A noted author, motivational speaker and educator, Brenda tells her story and uses her recognition to bring together teams to work with her in producing charitable events that create an awareness of a struggling population – the homeless. Through a variety of sponsored donation drives she organizes, Brenda Combs is dedicated to working tirelessly to ensure the homeless are not forgotten and have the basic items to survive while living on the streets. She depends on a host of generous volunteers and sponsors including local businesses, community leaders, business leaders, schools, churches and non-profit organizations. For more information about Brenda Combs visit [www.brendacombs.com](http://www.brendacombs.com). Follow Brenda at [www.tinyurl.com/brendacombsfanpage](http://www.tinyurl.com/brendacombsfanpage).

### **About St. Vincent de Paul**

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international non-profit organization dedicated to serving the poor and providing others with the opportunity to serve. The Phoenix Diocesan Council has been assisting central and northern Arizona families since 1946. Programs include services for the homeless, medical and dental care for the working poor, charity dining rooms, thrift stores, a transitional housing shelter and general assistance for individuals in need.

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