

# Press Release



## Attention: Community Editor

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kathleen Toupin  
Fieldworks Events & Marketing, Inc.  
(480) 609-3978 office  
(602) 432-7272 cell  
[Kathleen@FieldWorksEvents.com](mailto:Kathleen@FieldWorksEvents.com)

### Tempe AZ Rotary Clubs present checks to charity

**Funds raised by the Rotary at their 4<sup>th</sup> annual Rotary River Rally, held April 12, 2003**

August 26, 2003, Tempe - At the Tuesday August 26<sup>th</sup> noon meeting of the Tempe Rotary Club, held at Monte's Casa Vieja Restaurant in Tempe, the Rotary made a formal check presentation of \$2,500 to Cox Charities and \$2,500 to the Children with AIDS Project of Arizona - funds raised through the volunteer efforts of members of the Tempe AZ Rotary Clubs at their annual Rotary River Rally event, held April 12, 2003.

2003 was the 4<sup>th</sup> year that the Tempe AZ Rotary Clubs have produced the Rotary River Rally and they are proud that they have been able to raise funds through this event to help support children's charities. The 2003 event included a Charity Golf Tournament, 5K Run/Walk and The Great Cardboard Boat Regatta®.

"We thank COX Communications for their support in making this year's Rotary River Rally such a success." said Jim Lemmon, past president of the Rio Salado Club and co-founder of the Rotary River Rally. "Not only did the event help raise money for charity, we were also able to reach out to the community and provide a fun, educational event."

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Over 100 cardboard boats participated, including entries from public schools, community colleges, youth groups, corporate teams, families and individuals. Many teachers have started using cardboard boat building as a lesson in design and construction, as well as teamwork.

In addition to providing a great community event that encourages education, the Rotary goal is to raise money to support children's charities. When they looked at COX Charities, it was a perfect match. COX Charities focus is on youth education and development, supporting such organizations as Boys & Girls Clubs and Junior Achievement. ([www.cox.com/phoenix/community](http://www.cox.com/phoenix/community))

Children With Aids (CWA), founded by a fellow Tempe Rotarian Jim Jenkins, helps children who have been infected / affected by AIDS or drug exposed infants who will require foster or adoptive families. Among other things, Rotary's support will help CWA create awareness about its national adoption program. ([www.aidskids.org](http://www.aidskids.org))

### **About Tempe Arizona Rotary Clubs**

Rotary volunteers donate countless hours of their time working with charities and youth groups, including helping kids learn engineering and teamwork skills as they build boats for the Rotary River Rally. Along with CWA and Cox Charities, their fund-raising efforts have supported organizations like Home Base, Friends of Orphans, Child Crisis Center of the East Valley and Every Kid Counts.

The five Tempe AZ Rotary Clubs have collaborated to produce the annual Rotary River Rally. 2004 will mark the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the event, to be held April 16-17 at Tempe Town Lake. This year's event will once again include a charity golf tournament, fun walk and advance boat preview, along with the boat races. Rotary volunteers will be putting on "Boat Building Clinics" at various locations during January, February and March. For more information, please see [www.RotaryRiverRally.com](http://www.RotaryRiverRally.com) or call (480) 682-9065.

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