



## NEWS RELEASE – City of Cottonwood, AZ

---

### For Immediate Release

Date: April 2, 2012  
Contacts: Mayor Diane Joens 634-4112 [mayor@dianejoens.com](mailto:mayor@dianejoens.com)  
Cottonwood City Hall 634-5526 [djoens@cottonwoodaz.gov](mailto:djoens@cottonwoodaz.gov)

### *Cottonwood and Verde Village Multidimensional Cleanup Big Success*

Rain, sleet and hail did not stop community volunteers determined to help fellow residents during a big citywide cleanup in Cottonwood and Verde Village April 14. Pulling together volunteers from the faith community, nonprofit organizations, businesses and government, For Our City Cottonwood held a successful multidimensional community cleanup in spite of a cold and windy day.

For Our City Cottonwood is part of Care-Inc., a civic nonprofit organization serving the leaders of local government, faith, nonprofit and business communities by providing a safe place for discussion, implementation, action and service that brings solutions to the needs of people. The project, Looking Good Cottonwood, was chosen by Mayor Diane Joens who wants to encourage strong, vibrant neighborhoods and a clean, healthy city.

The City of Cottonwood participated by providing dumpsters and a collection site, staff members and two backhoe loaders. They also provided garbage bags for volunteers who cleaned up city streets and rights of way. City Manager Doug Bartosh reported that 15 dumpsters were filled to the max. “Our tonnage was right at 36 tons,” Bartosh said. City employees led by Cottonwood Development Services General Manager Dan Lueder worked all day, with volunteers from the Cottonwood Chapter Five house helping at the collection site in the morning, and volunteers from Passion City Outreach with Bobby Lopez helping in the afternoon. Besides Lueder and Supervisor Howard Harkey, Joe Sepulveda, David Ayers, Andy Helm, Javier Anguiano Sr. and Don Zanolli volunteered. Magistrate Judge Douglas LaSota sent community service workers to assist. Billy Tinnen volunteered with Citizens on Patrol (COPS). The Cottonwood Fire Department and Explorers also volunteered and cleaned out the wash by Home Depot and the Chamber of Commerce.

Yavapai County provided four dumpsters at the Verde Village Clubhouse. Supervisor Chip Davis reported that 104 vehicles were assisted in unloading household waste and four bins were filled. Yavapai County’s Youth Community Service workers assisted Verde Village Property Owners’ Association President Margaret Paddock in cleaning up the river area in Verde Village. “We had 40 kids with supervisors that cleaned the river walk,” Paddock said. “Everything was so well organized and the county workers were so nice as usual,” she added. Supervisor Davis also

sponsored a hazardous waste cleanup the same day at the public works yard on Cherry Road in Camp Verde. The county also provided a slash cleanup program at the Camp Verde Landfill that continues until June 1.

Volunteers met at the Evangel Worship Center on Mingus Avenue for both breakfast and lunch. Pastor Tim Hall and 20 volunteers from the church worked in shifts to feed the 125 volunteers. Pastor Hall received 300 trees and rose bushes from Home Depot as well as two large buckets of flower bulbs generously donated by Walmart to beautify the city. After the event, some leftover trees were donated to the Cottonwood Community Garden and Orchard. Food City donated six cases of water. Food was also donated by members of Evangel Worship Center and Randall's Restaurant.

Tae Kwon Do Unlimited helped Evangel Worship Center with donations of food for lunch, and many of the students and their families volunteered for the cleanup efforts. Cottonwood Oak Creek School District Barb U'Ren assisted, and students and parents from the school also helped with the cleanup. Boy Scout Troop 7021 was there to help.

Scott Taylor and family of Taylor and Sons Hauling and Chris Taylor and family of Taylor Waste provided invaluable services during the cleanup by donating their equipment, trucks and trailers to gather trash bags from roadsides throughout the city during the cleanup. They also hauled items cleaned up for elderly and disabled persons who had previously called for assistance.

Volunteers cleaned up city streets and also went to ten houses to help elderly and disabled people with their yard work. Catholic Charities Executive Director Carol Quasula set up the phone line for the purpose of Cottonwood and Verde Village elderly residents to call in for assistance. Mary Eichman checked for messages and called people back who needed assistance with their yards. Troll Worfolk drove through town assessing the needs of the elderly, made photos, and created assignments for volunteers on cleanup day. For Our City Cottonwood, Care-Inc. plans to continue this program in the future.

Area youth volunteers searched for people cleaning their yards and presented them with small gifts as a token of appreciation for keeping neighborhoods and the city clean. Bobby Lopez assisted the youth. Nic's, Casa Bonita and Jerona also contributed free meals for the winners.

For Our City Cottonwood Coordinator Mike Worden of Emmanuel Fellowship worked with the faith based community to bring all together in a spirit of collaboration and service to community. Faith based groups who helped were Evangel Worship Center, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, New Hope Church, Verde Valley Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas Episcopal, Emmanuel Fellowship, Cornerstone Christian Academy, Passion City Outreach and Mountain View United Methodist Church. Church volunteers from as far away as Prescott Valley and Gilbert pitched in to help. Church and community volunteers from Cottonwood, Cornville, Clarkdale, Camp Verde and Verde Village assisted. Paul Green of Immaculate Conception Church helped.

The Cottonwood Fire Department and Fire Explorers, Cottonwood Oak Creek School District, City of Cottonwood, Yavapai County, Verde Village Property Owners' Association, Chapter Five and Catholic Charities all donated service to the effort. Community organizer Sherry Twamley helped create media releases and posters.

The group is looking for volunteers who want to assist the community's elderly and disabled with their yard work and other outside home projects. People with questions may call Mayor Joens at 634-4112 or email her at [mayor@dianejoes.com](mailto:mayor@dianejoes.com), or Worden at 300-1320 or [mwperformance@hotmail.com](mailto:mwperformance@hotmail.com). Elderly or disabled residents who need assistance with their yards may call 634-4254 ext. 54175 to be placed on a list. Specific dates to assist have not yet been set, but For Our City Cottonwood, Care-Inc. will be meeting soon to discuss the next steps.