



## Celebrating 32 Years of Presenting the Hon Kachina Volunteer Award

### NEWS RELEASE

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **PAM GABER FOUNDER OF GABRIEL'S ANGELS CHOSEN AS A 2008 HON KACHINA VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENT**

#### **Pam and her dog Gabriel created a dog therapy program to reach abused children**

Phoenix.. Pam Gaber was burned out and tired from non-stop travel in a high paying job. So she quit, adopted a Weimaraner, named him Gabriel and began volunteering at Crisis Nursery. When Gabriel was a year old she dressed him up as Rudolph and took him to the Christmas party. Gaber watched the how the children responded to him an idea began to form that was to become Gabriel's Angels, a dog therapy program for abused children.

That was seven years ago and today the program that pairs pet teams and mistreated children is thriving. The goal is to teach the benefits of kindness and empathy rather than violence.

Research shows that children who are abused often grow up to be abusive adults. Because of Gaber's vision and determination, more than 50,000 abused children have learned core behaviors such as compassion, respect and nurturing with pet therapy teams. For her and dedication, Gaber has been chosen as a 2008 recipient of the Hon Kachina Award.

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Gabriel's Angels now raises almost \$750,000 a year. Today, more than 115 volunteer pet therapy teams visit more than 80 facilities in Phoenix and Tucson. Each team is trained and certified.

The goal is to provide consistency, instill leadership and model good values. After undergoing pet therapy, many children exhibit more confidence, cooperation and kindness, initial research shows.

"We are instilling behaviors in children they have never learned," said Gaber who still makes visits with Gabriel and her two other dogs. "It's so pure and simple. It's about developing trust with little children who are exposed to violence. Then they can begin the healing process."

*The Hon Kachina Council is a group of business and professional people, affiliated with St. Luke's Health Initiatives, who promote and support community volunteerism. The Hon Kachina Volunteer Awards is in its 32nd year of recognizing outstanding volunteer service and increasing public awareness on the importance of volunteering. More than 350 people have been recognized throughout Arizona for their volunteer service. This year nine recipients have been chosen to receive this prestigious award.*

*The Hon Kachina Council will present the Hon Kachina Awards at a black-tie optional dinner September 27, 2008 at the new ballroom at Camelback Inn-A JW Resort & Spa - 6:30 Reception 7:30 Dinner and Awards presentation. For tickets contact Pam Betz 480-905-1578 or betzco@cox.net.*

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