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DROWNING PREVENTION COALITION CELEBRATES CONTRIBUTIONS OF WATER SAFETY ADVOCATES

For more than 20 years, the Drowning Prevention Coalition of Arizona (DPCA) has worked to reduce the number of child drownings and increase awareness of what all of us can do to practice water safety.

The work is collaborative and multi-dimensional with members doing all they can to provide families with the tools to protect their loved ones. Even though the effort is not made by any single person alone, there are individuals whose contributions lay the foundation for the work of others and deserve recognition.

Two awards were recently presented by the DPCA for outstanding work in the community:

- **Dr. Tim Flood and Arizona Department of Health Services**, was recognized with the **Corporate Award** for the important (and often unglamorous) job of tracking water-related incident data in order to provide comprehensive reports on the trends in drowning. This yearly report helps public educators develop targeted drowning prevention campaigns. It also enables organizations to compare rates against national numbers. *The Corporate Award is an annual accolade given to an organization that has committed to water safety and drowning prevention.*
- **Mike Tellef**, Peoria Police and Fire media relations, was honored with the **Linda S. Kirby WATER Award** for his big heart and passion for child injury prevention. His primary focus is water safety and has dedicated countless hours of his time to educate the public through events, media and community outreach, as well as serving as a resource and support for water safety advocates across the state. *The recipient of this special recognition goes to individuals who consistently hold up the tenants of the award: Willing, Attentive, Tenacious, Enthusiastic, Resourceful.*

“These individuals are highly respected in the water safety community and have supported efforts since the inception of the Drowning Prevention Coalition,” says Lori Schmidt, DPCA president. “It is our pleasure to honor Mike and Tim with these awards. Their contributions are immeasurable.”

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The Drowning Prevention Coalition, a community based organization comprised of parents, health and safety professionals and business leaders, exists to provide a forum to prevent drowning and near drowning through the promotion of education, legislative action and enhanced product safety. Check out our website at www.preventdrownings.org for more information.