

**Make a Difference Day:** Nearly 2,000 local volunteers will be getting dirty to help the community. They are participating in more than 75 projects across the City of Mesa Saturday, Oct. 27, as part of National Make a Difference Day from 7 a.m.-noon. Residents, neighborhood groups, local businesses, church groups and City of Mesa employees have registered to volunteer for a variety of beautification and cleanup projects. Examples of service projects include cleaning yards and painting houses as part of the Neighbor Helping Neighbor Program, cleaning up parks and alleys, distributing fire safety information and painting walls and curb numbers. There will also be community partnership projects which include working in The Rose Garden at Mesa Community College and washing the donation trucks at United Food Bank. Last year, volunteers worked 5,257 hours during the one-day event with a projected cost savings of \$112,289 for the City. Grants are still available for Make a Difference Day service projects. Each City grant includes one landfill pass or a Home Depot gift card for up to \$100 for project-related tools and materials. The application deadline is Thursday, Oct. 18 at 4 p.m. Apply online at <http://www.mesaaz.gov/volunteer/madd.aspx>. Make a Difference Day is the most encompassing national day of helping others. Held annually on the fourth Saturday of October, millions of Americans are rallied into a single day of action to help change the world.