

To: Area Media
Date: March 29, 2007
From: Yavapai Exceptional Industries
Re: Northern Arizona Vision and Hearing Loss Center Finds New Home
Contact: Jerry Williams, Prescott Charities, 928-533-5554



Prescott Charities Assists NAVHLC Expansion

Prescott, Arizona – After seventeen years in their original home on Washington Avenue in Prescott, Northern Arizona Vision and Hearing Loss Center is now at home in their own new centrally located headquarters at Gateway Mall while they concurrently launch a \$1,000,000 campaign to build a new state-of-the-art center. Prescott Charities, the benefactors behind so many local charitable organizations, is making the relocation to an eventual new facility possible in part through their distribution of funds held in trust for the young organization during the the Center's formative years.

Prescott Charities has funded a number of local building projects in the past three decades, providing bases of operations for such not-for-profit organizations as Yavapai Exceptional Industries, Antelope Point Industries, The Church on the Street Men's Shelter, and Prescott Child Development Center (PCDC). Prescott Charities' next project is a home for developmentally disabled women, which will complement a men's home, "Washington Hills," completed in 2005. Interested donors wishing to sponsor a bedroom or a wing may contact Prescott Charities for more information at the number mentioned below.

In 1982, Mel Clack teamed up with Prescott Charities to create a place that would serve the area's visually impaired population. Known then as the Prescott Center for the Blind, the program was housed in a building constructed adjacent to Yavapai Exceptional Industries, (originally called the Rehab Center). In addition to providing support to Prescott's visually disabled, the Center for the Blind also housed the Lions Club Newspaper Drive.

Prescott's growth over the past two and a half decades resulted in a need for more space than the original site could provide. The organization first known as the the Blind Center had broadened its initial vision, both in response to a burgeoning population as well as an expanded program focus. Today, the Center serves those with hearing limitations as well as the blind, and to meet the needs of its present clientele, the renamed Northern Arizona Vision and Hearing Loss Center began combing the area for a new temporary location to be used while construction is under way on the planned new permanent location.

Thanks to careful stewardship of funds earmarked many years ago for future growth and development of Mel Clack's goals, the Center is now situated in a location that is conveniently accessed by the entire Tri-City community. Careful stewardship by founder Russ Rusing and the Prescott Charities Board, funds originally donated in trust for the Center have resulted in the amassing of this considerable sum of \$390,000. In tribute to the original donors who funded this endowment so many years ago, NVAHLC has been able to build on their commitment to meeting the needs of the area's visually and hearing challenged.

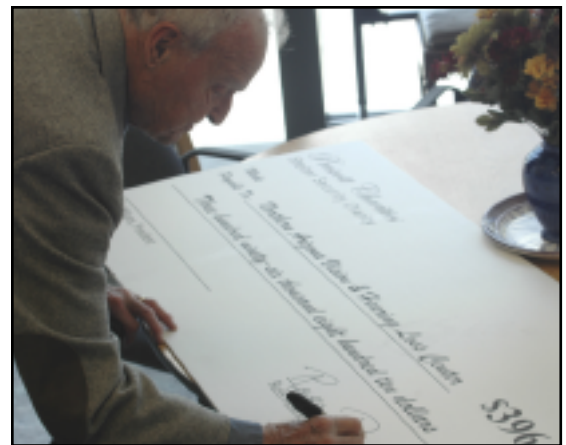
"It was a long and difficult decision to vacate our offices at 440 N. Washington after 17 years and relocate to Gateway Mall but we needed to make the forward move in order to realize our founder's dream," says Christine Chernis Brandt, the NVAHLC's Executive Director. "Mel Clack always wanted a state-of-the-art building for the visually and hearing impaired of the area. We wish our former landlords much success in the future and are sure another appropriate organization will enjoy the space."

The vacancy on Washington Avenue is now being eyed by Yavapai Exceptional Industries along with other area non profits. "YEI! grows at approximately 7.5% a year while Prescott's population grows at 3% a year," remarked Brad Newman, Executive Director of YEI! He further commented, "Space is the Place!" The Prescott Charities Board of Directors is currently reviewing applicants wishing to utilize that space and will make a "best use" determination in the coming months.

Any qualifying non profit is welcome to tour the vacant space and make a leasing proposal to Prescott Charities, PO Box 10517, Prescott, AZ 85302 or call Jerry Williams at 928-533-5554, Russ Rusing at 928-445-4708, or Lloyd Benson at 928-445-8127.

For more information on Prescott Charities, call 928-533-5554. For more on YEI!, contact brad@yeiworks.com or visit their website, www.yeiworks.com. Northern Arizona Vision and Hearing Center's site is at: www.visionhearinglosscenter.org/

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Russ Rusing signs over \$396,000.00 Endowment Fund, raised by Prescott Charities to benefit the area's vision-impaired, to Northern Arizona Vision and Hearing Loss Center, and wishes them well in their new Gateway Mall location. Mr. Rusing also announced the Arizona Children Association will be occupying the space Prescott Charities had previously provided the Center formerly known as The Blind.