

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Perkins Coie and Push America collaborate to maximize the impact of their grant awards to Whispering Hope Ranch Foundation

SCOTTSDALE, Az, April 6, 2013 – Whispering Hope Ranch Foundation (WHRF), a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing transformational experiences that foster hope and healing for children with special needs, recently received grants totaling \$10,000.00 from the Phoenix law firm of **Perkins Coie and Push America**, a fraternal service organization.

Perkins Coie provided matching funds for a \$5,000 grant from Push America, resulting in a unique opportunity for both organizations to collaborate on a service project to enhance accessibility at Whispering Hope Ranch.

Thirty-five members of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity will converge on the ranch as part of Push America's *Give-A-Push Weekend* to complete a project that will expand accessibility to a currently unused portion of the 45-acre camp facility, as well as a number of other much-needed maintenance projects. In keeping with WHRF's priority of maintaining full accessibility to all program areas, the newly accessible area of the property, commonly known as Teepee Village, will host a variety of activities during camps for children who face myriad challenges. The additional program space also opens the possibility for the foundation to add new amenities and programs such as an adapted challenge course and cultural events.

"It was a wonderful opportunity for Perkins Coie to leverage the grant awarded by Push America to Whispering Hope Ranch Foundation. The collaborative nature of this project, including the volunteer labor provided by Pi Kappa Phi, maximizes the contributions of everyone involved to the benefit of the

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children with special needs served by Whispering Hope Ranch,” said Jodi Feuerhelm, a partner at Perkins Coie and WHRF board member.

This is not the first time the Perkins Coie has supported WHRF. Last year, the law firm donated six aquatic wheelchairs utilized at the camp’s fully accessible splash pad. These aquatic wheelchairs provide a means to get soaked and to soak in the fun –something children are not able to do in costly power wheelchairs used for everyday mobility. The splash pad is not only a camper favorite, but also proved invaluable in providing an effective manner to cool down on warm summer days for the many children served by WHRF who experience difficulty regulating body temperature due to their medical challenges.

“Magical things happen at Whispering Hope Ranch that extend beyond our borders,” said Mary Clark, Executive Director of Whispering Hope Ranch Foundation. *“The connection that happens between a child and an animal—both of whom have special needs—as well as those experiences and connections that occur human to human. The feeling of belonging when friendships are formed with others who face similar challenges. The sense of community forged. The gifts from Perkins Coie and Push America are about creating an environment and providing the opportunity for that magic to happen.”*

Whispering Hope Ranch Foundation collaborates widely with organizations in Arizona’s special needs community, providing summer camps for children facing myriad challenges at a beautiful, 45-acre mountain sanctuary outside of Payson, Arizona. More than 60 animal residents that were born with anomalies or were abused or abandoned or suffer from chronic conditions reside at the ranch. The heart of the Whispering Hope experience lies in the healing bond that grows between the campers and these gentle animals. While WHRF partners with organizations that bring children and teens from throughout the state, roughly 90 percent of our participants come from Maricopa County. Built from the ground up to accommodate those with special needs, the ranch exceeds ADA standards. For more information about Whispering Hope Ranch Foundation, call (602) 266-2216 or visit www.whisperinghoperanch.org.

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Perkins Coie, founded in 1912, has more than 900 lawyers in 19 offices across the United States and Asia, providing a full array of corporate, commercial litigation and intellectual property legal services to a broad range of clients. Frequently recognized for its leadership in the legal profession, the firm also has an extensive, successful community service program that supports and promotes community service activities for attorneys and staff.

Push America is a non-profit organization founded in 1977 as the national philanthropy of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity with the purpose of instilling lifelong service in its members and enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities. Through programs of all kinds, participants display Push America's four core values (abilities, teamwork, empathy and integrity) while serving others.

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