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GLENDALE CIVIC CENTER INSTALLS STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY FOR GUESTS WITH HEARING LOSS

GLENDALE, Ariz. – The Glendale Civic Center has installed an FM System to enhance the quality of sound for hard of hearing clients. The award-winning city-owned conference center received a Deaf and Hard of Hearing grant with partial funding from the Arizona Community Foundation (ACF).

The new technology incorporates hidden wireless antennas in the ceiling that transmit signals to small handheld receivers so the sound in the room goes directly into hearing aids. The result is the elimination of background noise creating clear communication with speakers, musicians and presentations.

“We believe this is a great asset to the services we provide at the conference center and can assist us in delivering a quality experience for our guests,” said Mario Rochin, Civic Center General Manager. “We couldn’t have done this without the Arizona Community Foundation and for that we are grateful.”

For hard of hearing guests, this new service is free of charge and allows them to wear a neck loop (like a necklace), an ear hook or a small set of headphones to receive the signal directly into their hearing aids or their ears. According to the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing, more than 700,000 Arizonans have hearing loss and the installation of technology like this in public buildings is a growing trend.

“As Deputy Director for the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing, and a resident of the city of Glendale, I am pleased that our city is leading the way in demonstrating communication accessibility for all citizens,” said Carmen Green.

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The \$17,000 partial funding grant from Arizona Community Foundation includes the purchase and installation of the system. Established in 1978, ACF is a statewide family of charitable funds supported by thousands of Arizonans. Last year, ACF and its affiliates distributed more than \$41 million in grants and scholarships in Arizona and across the country. For more information about ACF, visit www.azfoundation.org.

The city of Glendale's TV station, Glendale 11, captured the positive reaction of users as they tested the new technology, demonstrating the ease and functionality of the system in a special video available on air, online and on the city's YouTube channel. In addition the video was produced with closed captioning to expand the audience of intended users of the new FM System, members of the deaf and the hard of hearing community. Click here to watch the story: <http://youtu.be/vGWhYWsj-94>

"This technology demonstrates that the Glendale Civic Center is accessible to everybody," said Michele Michaels, the Hard of Hearing Specialist for the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing who assisted in testing the system. "The Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is very happy that you've done this."

The Glendale Civic Center, located in Glendale's historic downtown, is an award winning venue, voted in 2012 and 2013 as the number one conference center of its size by Ranking Arizona: The Best of Arizona Business. The venue offers nearly 40,000 square feet of rentable space for government, business, and social events, and is the largest public meeting conference center in the West Valley. For more information about the facility, including a video tour of the facility, go to www.glendaleciviccenter.com or call (623) 930-4300.

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