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## **Region Named One of Best Intergenerational Communities in U.S.**

**PHOENIX (February 11, 2014)**—The Greater Phoenix region has been named one of the best intergenerational communities in the country. MetLife Foundation and Generations United have [announced](#) that the Maricopa region will receive one of four MetLife Foundation/Generations United America’s Best Intergenerational Communities Awards. The awards are designed to heighten awareness of the importance an intergenerational approach plays in building strong, supportive communities. The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Regional Age-Friendly Network submitted the application for the competition on behalf of the region.

“We are honored to receive this distinction,” said Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, a champion of the local efforts. ““We have many assets that allow us to bring together people of all ages, including volunteer programs, intergenerational centers and decades of successful approaches to connecting generations,” he said.

“MetLife Foundation understands the value of programs that encourage generations to work together for the benefit of the entire community,” explained Dennis White, president and chief executive officer of the MetLife Foundation, which provided a grant for the program. “We applaud the four communities selected to receive the 2014 Best Intergenerational Communities Award.”

On March 25, 2014, representatives from Greater Phoenix will join representatives from the other recognized regions in an awards ceremony on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. The ceremony will take place from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the Cannon House Building in room 121.

Donna Butts, executive director of Generations United, congratulated the Greater Phoenix region for earning the designation. “It takes a great deal of effort and forward thinking to create a community where members of every generation want to live,” said Butts. “Greater Phoenix has worked to ensure its residents enjoy a vibrant, meaningful place to live, are treated with respect and care, and have ample opportunity to work together for the betterment of all.”

The region’s application included information and testimonials from a number of sources, including the Arizona Community Foundation and Communities for All Ages; Arizona Museum of Youth; ASU; A.T. Still University; Benevilla; Central Village; Duet; Experience Matters; Golden Gate Community Center; Hope Village; local high schools; the MAG Regional Age-Friendly Network; Oakwood Creative Care; Rio Salado Community College; Tempe Community Action Agency; Tempe Community Council; Tempe Neighbors Helping Neighbors; Valley METRO; and Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust. The cities of Glendale, Phoenix, Scottsdale, Surprise and Tempe also provided information for the application.

“This award speaks to the deep commitment we have made in each of our communities to connect people of all ages,” said Goodyear Councilmember Joanne Osborne and chair of the MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee. “Each city and town owns a piece of this award. Through the Regional Age-Friendly Network, we are coordinating and maximizing what each community has to offer. The goal of the network is to connect older adults with people of all ages in their communities.”

The other award recipients are the communities of City of Parkland, FL; Reston, VA, and Village of Shorewood, WI. A blue-ribbon panel of judges selected the winning entries from among a host of applicants from across the country.

**About the MetLife Foundation:** *MetLife Foundation was created in 1976 to continue MetLife's long tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. Today, the Foundation is dedicated to advancing financial inclusion, committing \$200 million over the next five years to help build a secure future for individuals and communities around the world. MetLife Foundation is affiliated with MetLife, Inc., a leading global provider of insurance, annuities and employee benefit programs, serving 90 million customers. Through its subsidiaries and affiliates, MetLife holds leading market positions in the United States, Japan, Latin America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.*

**About Generations United:** *For nearly three decades, Generations United [www.gu.org](http://www.gu.org) has been the catalyst for policies and practices stimulating cooperation and collaboration among generations, evoking the vibrancy, energy and sheer productivity that result when people of all ages come together. We believe that we can only be successful in the face of our complex future if generational diversity is regarded as a national asset and fully leveraged.*

**About the MAG Regional Age-Friendly Network:** *In partnership with municipalities, nonprofit agencies, faith-based entities, community groups, and residents, the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) is coordinating the Regional Age-Friendly Network. The purpose of the network is to identify opportunities to more effectively connect people aged 65 years plus with people of all ages in their communities. The network supports the development of pilot projects, a corresponding website, and training events. Funders include local champions such as Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust and national partners including the Pfizer Foundation and Grantmakers in Aging as part of Community AGEnda as well as the MetLife Foundation and Partners for Livable Communities through the City Leaders Institute on Aging in Place. More information on the network can be found at [www.Connect60Plus.com](http://www.Connect60Plus.com).*