



NEWS RELEASE

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FALL RECIPIENTS SELECTED FOR *MERIDIAN BANK COMMUNITY HEROES* PROGRAM

PHOENIX, Ariz. (November 10, 2011)—**Kassidy Schmidt** and **Nancy Herrington** have been named Meridian Bank's Community Hero for the months of September and October, respectively.

Schmidt's community efforts directly impact the homeless in the Phoenix area. Her giving has included basic food, clothing and reading materials to those struggling in our community. It was the death of Kassidy's father in late 2007 that was her turning point.

"I felt I needed to do something at a point in my life where I needed the support of others. Receiving that support inspired me to reach out to help others," Schmidt said. Schmidt is 17 years old and a junior at Xavier College Prep.

Schmidt's concept of "paying it forward" began in her pre-teen years. Since then, she has enrolled classmates and other young people to help with her volunteer efforts. It has not been an easy journey. Schmidt has been ill for three years, going through more than 6 surgeries and many hospital stays. In May 2011 she was finally diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos, a connective tissue disease. At present, Schmidt receives outpatient treatment for the Ehlers-Danlos 4 days per week.

"Kassidy Schmidt is an outstanding example of a true community hero. She provides an excellent example of the impact that young people can make in their efforts to help others," said Scott Schaefer, president of Meridian Bank. "We can all learn from her efforts."

Nancy Herrington, October's Meridian Bank Community Hero, is recognized for her consistent support and volunteerism for disabled veterans and military families. For the fourth consecutive year, Herrington created and coordinated a local "Make a Difference Day". The most recent event occurred on October 22nd. Over 150 volunteers worked on 6 different projects in the Valley, doing home maintenance and repairs for disabled veterans and military families.

"My whole life has been spent as a volunteer and it is something that I love doing and it just comes naturally," Herrington said. Her parents, both Air Force veterans, instilled volunteerism in her at an early age.

Herrington also started a basic home maintenance class for women that live in a local domestic violence shelter and are getting ready to move to a place of their own. Herrington teaches these women the basics of home repair and how to complete various maintenance issues that they might face when they live on their own.

"I am inspired by women who step out from bad situations to get their lives on track. I truly enjoy doing whatever I can to help them out," Herrington said.

Herrington is the owner of Mr. Handyman of the West Valley, which was named the 2009 Award winner by the Phoenix Business Journal for Volunteerism - "The Heart of Business, in the Immediate Need" category. The award recognized the company for helping those most impacted by the recession - whether through job loss, foreclosure, loss of health insurance, etc. Herrington encourages her staff to volunteer as well by offering them paid time off to complete volunteer projects. Herrington also volunteers and supports several local non-profits including Eve's Place, Habitat for Humanity, New Life Center and the Tri-City West Boys and Girls Club.

"We are pleased to have Nancy Herrington as our Meridian Bank Community Hero for October," said Scott Schaefer. "She has demonstrated a remarkable ability to make a difference in her community and, she has inspired and motivated others to volunteer as well."

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About the Meridian Bank Community Hero Campaign

The Meridian Bank Community Hero campaign recognizes everyday heroes throughout Arizona. To be a Meridian Bank Community Hero, one needs to be a game changer who has made a significant contribution in changing the world. A panel of judges from Meridian Bank and Cox Media selects the monthly hero, who is recognized for their accomplishments and awarded a prize package.

For more information about the Meridian Bank Community Heroes campaign, visit <http://www.meridianbankheroes.com>.

About Meridian Bank

Meridian Bank has been part of Arizona for 33 years and has the foundation of over 60 years in the banking industry. The bank has 8 locations in Arizona including Biltmore/Camelback, Fountain Hills, Gilbert, Glendale, Scottsdale, Phoenix/Central Avenue, Southwest Valley and Wickenburg (where it was founded). The bank provides a full line of personal and business banking services, delivered in a highly relationship-based manner.