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Fire Chiefs 5K Walk/Run raises \$4,000 for charity

By Elizabeth Jackman

The Arizona Fire Chief's Association (AFCA) presented a check for \$4,000 to the 100 Club of Arizona Tuesday morning at Peoria Fire Station No. 1.

The money was raised from the registration fees at the AFCA's First Annual Emergency Services 5K Fitness Challenge Oct. 4. Registration was \$20 per participant and all proceeds were donated to the 100 Club of Arizona, a non-profit organization that supports public safety officers and firefighters in times of tragedy.

There were more than 150 runners and medals were awarded to each of the top three over all runs and walks.

Peoria Fire Department Deputy Chief and AFCA President Larry Rooney presented the check along with AFCA Executive Director Ron Dennis.

Rooney chose the 100 Club as the recipient of the event proceeds because it is an organization that is always there for Arizona's firefighters and their families.

"The 100 Club steps up to take care of what needs to be done and to reach out to those who are in need," Rooney said. "They are there to protect the families of firefighters in the same way firefighters are always there to protect the community."

Executive Director of the 100 Club Sharon Knutson-Felix said the organization is grateful to be chosen as the recipient of the donation, especially coming from a public safety association.

"I always appreciate the chief and command level executives supporting the 100 Club," Knutson-Felix said. "It really sends a message that they care for their people and they know the 100 Club will be there for them during hard times."

The 100 Club of Arizona provides financial assistance to public safety officers and firefighters when they are seriously injured or killed in the line of duty. It was started in 1968 and has given more than \$3.3 million in financial support to Arizona's men and women who stand behind the badge.

For more information, visit their Web site at www.100club.org or e-mail info@100club.org.

Reach the reporter at ejackman@star-times.com, or 623-847-4615.

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Left to right: Glenn Jones, Peoria Fire Department emergency preparedness coordinator, Hope Bratton, Peoria Fire Department Administrative Assistant, Larry Rooney, Peoria Fire Department Deputy Chief and Arizona Fire Chief's Association (AFCA) president, Sharon Knutson-Felix, 100 Club of Arizona executive director, Bev Fuller and Rachel St. Moritz, 100 Club of Arizona public relations, and Ron Dennis, AFCA executive director.

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