

1n10's H.E.R.O.E.S.

By Staff

PHOENIX - 1n10 announced the formation of a new program. Developed by A. Beck, coordinator for 1n10, "Helping to Educate about Responsibility to Others by Engaging in Society" (H.E.R.O.E.S.) is designed to encourage youth to participate in community service projects.

"I find that for many teens and young adults, heroes are everyday people that they know and admire. The H.E.R.O.E.S. program at 1n10 recognizes those little things we do that mean so much to someone else. By engaging in society through community service and volunteer activities, young adults at 1n10 are taking responsibility for the communities in which they live and are giving back in true hero fashion."

On June 24, the program kicked off as 1n10 youth participants and volunteers joined the Prudential Eagles, Prudential's employee association of GLBT employees, at St. Vincent De Paul Dining Room. There the two groups worked together preparing food for a thousand people in need.

Prudential's Brian Stranghoner organizes many of the Eagles community service projects, something he says Prudential backs a hundred percent. "Prudential values the diversity of all their employees. We are always looking for projects within the community. We really wanted to work with 1n10 and thought this would be something the youth might find fun and worthwhile."

For Donald Tillman, a 1n10 participant, the day was fun, but also an eye-opener. "When they told us we were feeding a thousand people it really put it into perspective. It's good St. Vincent is here and all these people donate their time."

Pam Weir, another 1n10 participant, has been very active in community service most of her young life. "For me, life is about touching as many people as possible. If cutting zuchinnis is what's needed, that's what I'll do."

For longtime 1n10 volunteer and former coordinator, Babe Caylor, the turnout for the day was inspiring.

"For the youth to be able to participate with the Eagles and be part of something bigger than themselves is wonderful. They are seeing firsthand that poverty and homelessness is not something that only exists in other countries. These young people are showing those who are working alongside them that youth, whether they are gay or straight, contribute to the community."

1n10 participants will be able to accumulate community service and volunteer hours through the end of the calendar year and top community contributors will be rewarded with a cash prize. "I feel that LGBTQ youth do not get the kudos they deserve for being well-adjusted, productive and caring members of our communities. LGBTQ youth are resilient, strong and ready to make the world a better place. At 1n10, we prefer to call them H.E.R.O.E.S.," exclaimed Beck.

If your organization has a community service project for youth at 1n10, or if you would like to learn how you can help support the H.E.R.O.E.S. program, please contact Beck at 602-475-7456 or [coordinator@1n10.org](mailto:coordinator@1n10.org).

This could go in a shaded box:

'N Touch News will award the top three youth who have accumulated the most hours with a \$500 scholarship. We are hoping that others will also contribute money so that more youth will be able to receive a scholarship.