

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tempe Aid to Women Center Gets New Ultrasound

Knights of Columbus Provided Donation to Pay for Essential Tool

TEMPE – During a recent ceremony held at the new Tempe Aid to Women Center, Most Reverend Thomas J. Olmsted, Bishop of Phoenix, joined Tom Kalisz, Arizona State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus; and Joe Kendra, Executive Director for the Aid to Women Center, to dedicate a new ultrasound machine for the facility. Local Knights and center Staff joined Bishop Olmsted in the blessing of the new ultrasound machine. Bishop Olmsted congratulated the fundraising efforts of the Knights, and thanked center staff for their dedication in truly helping local pregnant women.

According to Executive Director Kendra, they opened this second center, located at 1849 E. Baseline Road, next door to the Tempe Planned Parenthood, to provide women with options and support. Information on their website, <http://aidtowomencenter.org>, indicates that at this and their original location, 1328 E. Apache Boulevard, they offer resources and compassionate care for those facing planned or unplanned pregnancies. Their list of services includes pregnancy testing, ultrasound checks, well-women examinations, STD screening, education for men and women, IUD removal, prenatal care, post-abortion examinations, and family planning.

The fundraising efforts of the Knights of Columbus in Arizona in combination with a 50% matching grant from the Supreme Headquarters of the Knights in New Haven, Connecticut, made the purchase possible, stated Knights of Columbus State Deputy Tom Kalisz. “We, the Knights, are grateful for the work done by the Aid to Women Center in caring for women during their pregnancy and the help they provide to make lifesaving choices and provide needed resources at a critical point in a woman’s life,” said Kalisz.

Kendra praised the Knights and their effort to respond quickly to their need, “It had previously taken over three years of fundraising to purchase our last ultrasound machine. However, we asked the Knights of Columbus for help, and within only a few months, the AZ Knights of Columbus raised the money.”

State Deputy Kalisz explained that many Knights Councils and Assemblies in Arizona helped contribute half of the money needed for the purchase. He added, that through the Knight’s Ultrasound Initiative local efforts are doubled by a matching donation to cover the second half needed to buy the machine.

We have included a report of the project in a recent update of the Knights in Action web page at <http://www.kofc.org/knightsinaction>. The report will appear online only; it will be visible on the Knights in Action homepage for approximately one month, after which time it will be available in the Knights in Action online archive for approximately three years. The web page offers the fullest, most current view of how geographically diverse K of C units serve their communities on a local level.

The Knights of Columbus is the World's largest Catholic family fraternal service organization. It was founded by Father Michael J. McGivney, an Irish Priest, in 1882. Working under its founding principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism, the Knights boast nearly 2 Million members worldwide. Last year K of C members donated \$185.6 million in donations and 75.6 million hours of service provided worldwide. Arizona ranks in the top ten, in charitable works among the Knights of Columbus.

For additional information, contact John S. Garcia, State Public Relations Director at telephone (602) 525-4424. Visit the Arizona State Council website for more information: www.kofc-az.org.