

# Proclamation

## March of Dimes March for Babies Day September 10, 2011

*WHEREAS, the mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality; and*

*WHEREAS, premature birth is the leading cause of newborn death and premature births are increasing at an alarming rate; and*

*WHEREAS, in 2010 more than 141 of the more than 1,817 babies born in Yavapai County, Arizona were born preterm. In an average week 5 babies will be born prematurely and 11 will die before their first birthdays. One in eight babies born in Arizona are born more than three weeks before they are due; and*

*WHEREAS, babies born prematurely are at higher risk for lifelong disabilities and chronic illnesses including cerebral palsy, vision and hearing impairment, physical and mental disabilities and respiratory conditions such as asthma; and*

*WHEREAS, there is no known reason why about 50 percent of these babies are born too soon. The March of Dimes is determined to find answers to reduce the rate of preterm births. Research breakthroughs funded by the March of Dimes, such as surfactant treatment to help preterm babies with underdeveloped lungs to breathe, are already saving the lives of countless babies who were born prematurely; and*

*WHEREAS, the March of Dimes advocates for health care coverage and public health issues that impact maternal and child health, and funds education and programs across Arizona to increase awareness of the warning signs of preterm labor, and provides grants for programs to improve birth outcomes; and*

*WHEREAS, the March of Dimes has a 74 year history of success in funding research to improve public health, starting with the development of the polio vaccine that has eradicated the threat of the disabling and deadly virus in the U.S. and nearly every other part of the world; and*

*WHEREAS, Prescott Valley volunteers and contributors have played an important role in helping to give Arizona's babies the best chance for a healthy start in life by supporting the March of Dimes.*

**NOW THEREFORE, I, Harvey C. Skoog, Mayor of the Town of Prescott Valley, Arizona, do hereby declare September 8, 2012 as: "March of Dimes March for Babies Day"**

*In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Prescott Valley to be affixed this 23rd day of August, 2012.*

Attest:

*Diane Russell*  
Diane Russell, Town Clerk

Mayor

*Harvey C. Skoog*  
Harvey C. Skoog, Mayor

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Town of Prescott Valley

Geographics