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ABA Architects Leads the Way in Pledging Pro Bono Hours

TUCSON—ABA Architects leads the way in pledging pro bono hours through the "1% Program" (formerly "1% Solution"). As of mid March 2008, ABA Architects is one of 324 firms nationwide, one of two firms in Arizona, and the only Tucson firm, to have publicly pledged their time through the "1% Program" website (www.theonepercent.org).

In its 31 years ABA has a long history of donating a minimum of one percent of their time and has donated up to six percent in one year. Most recently ABA Architects contributed a portion of their services in the completion of the new Ronald McDonald House and La Frontera Inc., two not-for-profit organizations in Tucson. Another client the firm has provided in-kind services is San Miguel High School. The third phase of construction at this private school is nearing completion in time for the schools' first graduating seniors.

The "1% Program" is a national program launched in 2005 by Public Architecture (a non-profit organization) that challenges architecture firms to pledge one percent of their billable hours to pro bono work. According to the program, one percent of a normal eight-hour work day is 4.8 minutes, which over the course of a year equals 20 hours. If every architecture professional in the U.S. dedicated just 20 hours annually, it would add up to 5,000,000 hours each year—the equivalent of 2,500-person firm working full time for the public good. Over 100,000 hours were pledged in the program's first two years—representing an estimated \$10 million in donated services. The program also connects architects and design firms with non-profit organizations for pro bono work.

Local non-profits that may need assistance with master planning or other architectural services are invited to contact ABA Architects at (520) 881-4512 or by e-mail: SLinson@aba-architects.com. Visit online at www.aba-architects.com.

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