



Energy Center  
Phoenix

# energy center news

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Photo: Peter Jordan Photography



**Growing Together**

**PHOENIX AND ST. MARY'S BASILICA**

# St. Mary's Basilica

Vital part of Phoenix past and present

Photo: Peter Jordan Photography



St. Mary's Basilica in downtown Phoenix holds 850 people and features two cupolas, one designed to shed light on the altar below.

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE DOWNTOWN PHOENIX WITHOUT ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC BASILICA. As the first Catholic church in Phoenix, it traces its roots to 1881, the same year Phoenix became a city. The current building was constructed in 1914, just two years after Arizona became the 48th state.

Located at the corner of North Third Street and Monroe, the 10,000-foot Basilica is part of The Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix. The Diocese contracts district cooling service from NRG Energy Center Phoenix for both St. Mary's Basilica and the Diocesan administrative headquarters next door.

## Social Outreach a Calling.

Whether it's providing food boxes, distributing clothing or working with the poor, St. Mary's parishioners actively participate in the works of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Phoenix. In fact, in 1946, St. Mary's helped plant the seeds for what is now the society's Phoenix Diocesan Council that serves thousands of people in need throughout our area.

Although the mission-revival-style Basilica was originally constructed of brick and mortar, it was stuccoed with a light

cream façade just prior to Pope John Paul II's visit in 1987. The beautiful structure is home to daily mass and vespers, and features four recently restored bells that date to the 1930s. Ringing on the hour, before mass and vespers, and at weddings and funerals, the bells symbolize the Basilica's strong musical and liturgical tradition.

Inside the Basilica's doors, music from a new pipe organ fills the sanctuary. The church had been without a pipe organ for decades, but a fundraising campaign made the new pipe organ—custom-made for St. Mary's—possible.

It turns out that reliable district cooling service is vital to keeping the organ operating at its best. "The new organ is an important part of our worship experience," says Jerome Doris, Parish Manager. "So we want to be sure to carefully maintain it all year round. That means we must provide a constant 75 to 78 degree environment for the pipes so they stay in tune. We do that with district cooling from NRG Phoenix and some additional controls that we're installing."

NRG Phoenix is honored to have served St. Mary's Basilica since 2002.



Photo: Peter Jordan Photography

Franciscan Friars have staffed St. Mary's since 1885, serving parishioners, visitors and the community even before the current structure was built.

## Funds Raised to Help End Homelessness

AT NRG ENERGY INC.'S national employee meeting held this past April in Phoenix, more than business was on the agenda. So was providing help for the homeless.

In fact, together with a matching grant from NRG Corporate, individual employees raised \$40,000 and donated it to the Human Services Campus (HSC), a Phoenix-based nonprofit that helps the homeless overcome challenges and reintegrate into society.

"As NRG's business footprint continues to grow in Arizona, we want to do our part to contribute to the communities where our employees live and work," said Tom Doyle, President of NRG's Western region.

HSC operates on an 11-acre campus that brings more than a dozen agencies together in one place to help the homeless. By creating a "one-stop-shop" for services, HSC staff can walk clients from one agency to another, ensuring that newcomers receive the care and attention they need.

"More than 1,000 homeless men and women come to the HSC daily to meet

NRG Phoenix General Manager Jim Lodge (left), presented a ceremonial check representing more than \$40,000 from NRG employees to David Bridge, Managing Director, Human Services Campus (center), and Mike McQuaid, President, HSC Board of Directors.



Photo Larry Russell

their basic needs, but more importantly they gain access to case management, medical care, employment services, and supportive housing services and programs," said David Bridge, Managing Director, HSC. "With the generous help of community leaders such as NRG, the Campus uses the power of collaboration to create solutions to permanently and sustainably end homelessness."

To learn more about the Human Services Campus, visit [www.humanservicescampusaz.org](http://www.humanservicescampusaz.org).

## Making the Grade

CUSTOMERS CAN COUNT ON NRG PHOENIX to maintain and regularly test the system's chilled-water piping to ensure reliability.

Even before the first chilled-water pipes were put in the ground 11 years ago, we had a plan in place to keep them in optimal condition year-round. We continuously test for proper water chemistry to minimize corrosion and extend the life of the pipe.

Periodically we inspect the inside of the distribution system. We do that by inserting a special camera into the pipes either through an air vent or into pipes that have been added for system expansion. We take still images as well as video, then analyze the images to see if there are any

parts of the system that need adjustment or cleaning—and take whatever action is necessary to ensure the best possible chilled-water service.



Photo Mike Perfette

NRG Phoenix crews inspect the inside of a chilled-water pipe as part of our ongoing maintenance program.

## Serving and Helping Others to Serve

CAN YOU IMAGINE SERVING 550 PEOPLE FOR BREAKFAST AND 750 PEOPLE FOR LUNCH? That's what the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Phoenix does every day—mostly with volunteer help. It's a labor of love, and fulfills the organization's mission: to serve the poor and provide others with the opportunity to serve.

On May 16, 2012, employees from NRG Energy Center Phoenix helped serve breakfast and helped out at lunch. NRG Phoenix's volunteer effort was one of many held across the U.S. as part of NRG Global Giving Day, now in its fifth year. This year alone NRG Global Giving Day projects involved more than 1,000 employees. NRG Energy Center Phoenix LLC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NRG Thermal LLC, an NRG Energy Inc. company.

St. Vincent de Paul is an international nonprofit organization; its Phoenix Diocesan Council has been assisting central and northern Arizona families since 1946. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Laurie Bassett, Volunteer Coordinator, 602.650.6753, [LBassett@svdp-phx-az.org](mailto:LBassett@svdp-phx-az.org).



Photo Larry Russell

From left to right, Mike Perfette, Director, Operations; Jim Lodge, General Manager; and Mike Buter, Operations and Maintenance Manager, were three of nine NRG Phoenix employees who volunteered at St. Vincent de Paul May 16.



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**FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER**

## Invested in Phoenix

WITH MILLIONS OF DOLLARS of infrastructure in place and more to come, NRG Energy Center Phoenix is committed to being a partner with our customers and our community for the long haul.

When we started chilled-water system operation more than 11 years ago, we had three downtown Phoenix customers: Chase Field (then known as BankOne Ballpark), US Airways Center (formerly America West Arena), and the Maricopa County Security Building. Today we have more than 30 downtown customers, three plants and more than five miles of piping—and that doesn't include our systems in Tucson and at Arizona State University.

As the system continues to grow, NRG Phoenix continues to focus on customer service and an "old-fashioned" approach to doing business. It's important for us to know our customers and their specific needs, whether a hotel, a sports arena or an office building.

It's also vital for us to stay connected to our community through collaboration with the Phoenix Community Alliance, Downtown Phoenix Partnership and Building Owners and Managers Association Phoenix, to name a few.

Plus, we are dedicated to volunteerism, charitable giving and providing education to schools and civic groups on sustainable energy technologies and practices.

Truth be told, today's world is filled with automated phone banks, simulated voice messages and "phone-it-in" commitment to community. NRG Phoenix strives for

personalized—not simulated—customer and community service today and for decades to come.

Jim Lodge  
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Photo: CitySpace

## NRG Ice Rink at CityScape Now Open

On November 24, officials turned on the tree lights and opened the NRG Ice Rink at CityScape during ceremonies at "CitySkate Presented by NRG, Fox 10 and My 45." The rink, which will be open until mid-January, features real ice and is twice as large as last year. In fact, Central Avenue is closed to accommodate the bigger rink! Nearly 2.5 times more people attended the tree lighting ceremony this year than the rink's busiest day last year. This is the third year that NRG has sponsored the rink.