

Arizona Rock Products Association

# Sunshine Acres Children's Home Emergency Access Road Improvement Project

## ARPA-AGC partner to provide roads for Children's Home

### Project Stats:

- Nearly \$425,000 donated including time, materials and money
- 42 companies
- 6,000 tons base course
- 3,000 tons asphalt
- Full time crew

The plight of Sunshine Acres was brought to the attention of the Arizona Rock Products Association (ARPA) and the Arizona Chapter Associated General Contractors (AGC) by member Jeff Whiteman of Empire Machinery (Mesa). A benefactor of the home for some time, Mr. Whiteman was leading the effort to build the new girls home and was determined not to let the mandate for road improvements become a

stumbling block. The dilemma of the Home was shared with the AGC Philanthropy Subcommittee and the boards of directors of both associations, who took immediate steps to help. By joining forces, ARPA and AGC were confident that materials, equipment and manpower could be rounded up and donated to build the required improvements.



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Achen-Gardner Engineering, LLC  
 Brooks Engineers & Surveyors, Inc.  
 Brown and Caldwell  
 Cactus Transport, Inc.  
 Canyon State Oil Co.  
 Chevron Products Company  
 Empire Machinery  
 Ergon Asphalt Products, Inc.  
 FNF Construction, Inc.  
 Fiesta Trucking Company  
 Graef Construction, Inc.  
 Hanson Aggregates of Arizona, Inc.  
 Hanson Pipe and Products  
 Heritage Trucking, Inc.  
 Hunter Contracting Co.  
 International Surfacing Systems, Inc.  
 Interstate Transportation  
 Koch Asphalt Solutions Southwest  
 M.R. Tanner Construction  
 Maricopa Ready Mix  
 Markham Contracting Co., Inc.

Mesa materials, Inc.  
 MRM Construction Services, Inc.  
 National Construction Rentals  
 New West Materials, LLC  
 Otto Trucking  
 Paramount Petroleum Corporation  
 Pro Pipe  
 Pulice Construction, Inc.  
 Rinker Materials  
 Road Jammer Machinery  
 Royden Construction Co.  
 Specialty Contractors of AZ, Inc.  
 Sun State Rock and Materials  
 Sundt Construction, Inc.  
 Sunland, Inc.  
 Sunstate Equipment Company  
 Temcon Concrete Construction Co.  
 United rentals Highway Tech.  
 Vulcan Materials Company  
 WEBE Equipment Rental  
 Wheeler Construction

## Sunshine Acres Children's Home

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Your Roads...  
Your Homes...  
Your Future...

*For nearly 50 years, the Arizona Rock Products Association (ARPA) has been providing representation for over 55 member companies involved with the production of aggregates, asphaltic concrete, ready mix concrete, asphalt, lime products, and portland cement. Our members, along with over 85 associate members providing related transportation, contracting, and consulting services, make ARPA one of the most influential public and private policy advocates in Arizona today.*

For years it has been referred to as the “Miracle in the Desert.” A desolate expanse of cactus, sagebrush and sand located 10 miles northeast of Mesa in 1953, today Sunshine Acres Children’s Home is a thriving oasis for children who are separated from their parents who are either unwilling or unable to care for them — a loving environment designed to help them establish long-term relationships with stable parental figures. For almost 50 years Sunshine Acres has primarily been financed by private donations; the Home does not receive any financial support from the Federal, State or City Governments for the care of the children. The original compound was resurrected from the remnants of an abandoned boarding school — a ramshackle collection of three abandoned buildings housing 12 small bedrooms, a dining room and kitchen, and one-room schoolhouse. Through the loving and often hard-pressed efforts of Vera (“Aunt Vera”) and Jim Dingman, their family and staff, today Sunshine Acres houses more than 60 children in their tiny “community” of group homes, a dining hall, a multi-room school, medical facility, church, agriculture center, recreation facilities, administration building and on-site housing for support and relief staff.

## Ribbon Cutting/Block Party Celebration

Not everyone feels that a new road is cause for celebration. To many of us it’s just another sign of progress, a “given” that comes along with the taxes we pay. Not so for the kids at Sunshine Acres Children’s Home. For the first time in their 49 year history, they now have paved access to replace the rutted dirt and gravel roads winding through the 100+ acre complex in Mesa. Today the residents of Sunshine Acres are enjoying smooth roads, perfect for roller skates and skateboards, thanks to the generosity and hard work donated by 42 members of ARPA and AGC. The new roads were

dedicated at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, December 13, 2003. Sunshine Acres Director Carol Whitworth, representatives of the City of Mesa, members of the Arizona State Legislature, contractors participating in the project and the children living at Sunshine Acres will be on hand for the event. Following the formalities, members of AGC and ARPA will host a holiday block party for the kids and staff of Sunshine Acres. The festivities will include a barbeque lunch, games, holiday craft activities, horse and carriage rides, and more.



Sunshine Acres residents get ready to cut the ribbon to enjoy their newly paved roads and block party