



### **For Immediate Release**

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## **BestCompaniesAZ Honors the Best Places to Work in Metro Phoenix, Arizona**

St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Southwest Human Development, Sterling Home Mortgage, Evergreen Devco Inc., and Universal Tracking Solutions rank #1 in their category.

**Phoenix, Arizona, December 12, 2008** - BestCompaniesAZ LLC and The Phoenix Business Journal hosted the sixth annual Best Places to Work in the Valley program Thursday, December 11, 2008, honoring the best companies in Metro Phoenix based on employee satisfaction survey results.

For the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center topped the extra-large company category coming in at No. 1; Southwest Human Development was No. 1 large company; Sterling Home Mortgage took the top spot for midsize companies; Evergreen Devco Inc. grabbed the highest spot on the list of small companies; and Universal Tracking Solutions was the No. 1 micro company.

Rankings were based on employee opinion surveys analyzed by Quantum Market Research of Omaha, Neb., the exclusive research partner for "Best Places to Work" competitions in 40 U.S. cities.

Launched in 2003, the "Best Places to Work" program ranks Valley companies on various elements of employee life, including workplace environment, leadership direction, trust in senior leaders, culture, management effectiveness, among other criteria. "Despite the economic downturn, we had a record breaking number of applicants this year, representing a 50 percent increase in the number received last year", said Denise Gredler, President & Founder, BestCompaniesAZ.

Rounding out the top five in each category:

- **Extra-Large Companies (more than 3,000 employees):** St. Joseph's Hospital & Medical Center, John C. Lincoln Health Network, American Express, Bashas' Family of Stores, and Banner Health.
- **Large Companies (250-2,999 employees):** Southwest Human Development, Harrah's Ak-Chin, CB Richard Ellis, QuikTrip Corp, and Pulte Homes.
- **Midsize Companies (100-249 employees):** Sterling Home Mortgage, Adolfson & Peterson Construction, McCarthy Building Cos. Inc., Infusionsoft, and FireSky Resort & Spa.
- **Small Companies (50-99 employees):** Evergreen Devco Inc., Homeowners Financial Group USA LLC, Eide Bailly LLP, Telesphere, and IMH Real Estate Financiers.
- **Micro Companies (10-49 employees):** Universal Tracking Solutions, Arizona Weddings Magazine and Web site, Rose Law Group, United Parking Systems LLC, and Peralta Trail Elementary School.

A special "Best Places to Work" section, including the complete list of finalists in all five categories, is featured on [www.BestCompaniesAZ.com](http://www.BestCompaniesAZ.com) and will be published in the Dec. 12 issue of the Phoenix Business Journal. For complete list of current and past winners and details on the Best Place to Work program and other Arizona award programs, visit [www.bestcompaniesaz.com](http://www.bestcompaniesaz.com).

### **About BestCompaniesAZ**

BestCompaniesAZ, LLC, is a human resources consulting and employment branding firm dedicated to helping companies strengthen and promote great workplaces. Services include employee opinion surveys, best practice benchmarking, HR assessments, employment branding and recruitment advertising/marketing services for Arizona's Best Companies. For more information, visit [www.bestcompaniesaz.com](http://www.bestcompaniesaz.com) or call 480-545-5151.

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