

SCOTTSDALE REPUBLIC

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SECTION SR

Scottsdale Healthcare mission grows

By Kate Nolan

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SCOTTSDALE — Scottsdale Healthcare's community health mission has gone global.

The World Health Organization tapped Scottsdale's largest employer to participate in Health Promoting Hospitals, an international network that focuses on

disease prevention and health promotion.

WHO is the health division of the United Nations.

Founded in 1993 to improve community health, the Health Promoting Hospitals network now has 650 hospitals, most of them in Europe.

Selected for its health activism in the community, Scottsdale

Healthcare is the second U.S. member of the network; the first, Memorial Medical Center, is a regional hospital in Johnstown, Pa.

Through the network, Scottsdale Healthcare will share its programs and learn about approaches elsewhere that may work here, said Sharon Heuer, manager of community health services. Scottsdale Healthcare

runs three hospitals in Scottsdale.

"We have health issues in our community. We have an obesity problem among kids, and a large demographic of older people. We're looking forward to finding out what's going on out there for seniors and for children who are struggling with obesity," Heuer said.

She said ample support through Scottsdale Healthcare Foundation and other donors has spurred innovation in Scottsdale Healthcare's community outreach efforts.

"We know we'll be spending significant money in the community. This designation helps us decide where those dollars will best be spent," Heuer said.