

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tucson, Arizona

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**SAMARITANS MOBILIZE TO FIND DECEASED YOUTH IN  
DESERT**

On Saturday morning a Tucson physician, Dr. Kristin Olson-Garewal and her son, Raj Garewal, succeeded in their search for the body of a young man in the Santa Cruz riverbed near Tubac. It was the third attempt by Tucson Samaritans to find the body, first reported to the group Tuesday evening by a migrant who came across it as he made his way north on foot. Sarah Roberts, a Samaritan who interviewed the man, contacted a Green Valley Samaritan, who relayed the information to the Santa Cruz County sheriff's office and was told that the U.S. Border Patrol would search the area on Wednesday evening. But Samaritan volunteers became concerned Thursday afternoon when no word had been received about the search. Volunteers Mike and Jean Kreyche spent a couple hours searching late Thursday, and Jean Kreyche returned to the area with Dr. Olson-Garewal and two other volunteers on Friday, but

their efforts proved fruitless. After getting further details from Roberts about the location where the man had said he first spotted the body, Olson-Garewal resumed the search Saturday morning with her son, who discovered the corpse about 10 a.m. in the Santa Cruz River about a half mile east of the Border Patrol checkpoint on Interstate 19. They called in the discovery to the Santa Cruz County sheriff's office, which responded immediately and removed the body.

Roberts said the man who made the initial report told her that when he discovered the body Monday morning it had already been partially mutilated by animals. Roberts described the man as visibly shaken about the discovery, mentioning that the deceased appeared to be a young man between 16 and 20 years old, about the age of his own children.

Founded 10 years ago, the Samaritans are people of conscience and faith who respond directly, practically and passionately to the crisis along the U.S.-Mexico border. The group provides food, water and medical aid to migrants in the Tucson sector of the borderlands, and works to humanize border policy.

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