

by Scott Hoover

# Lifestyle Change

## Arrowhead Martial Arts breeds Black Belt Excellence

**There are many types of life altering moments.** It may be the birth of a child, a long-awaited promotion or just meeting the special someone who you want to spend your life with.

For Michael Tippett, owner of Arrowhead Marital Arts Academy and a certified 5th Degree Black Blet, it was the fear of not being able to protect his family or others in the need of help in a time of crisis.

"I was trying to rescue an innocent baby from two men who were arguing with each other with knives in their hands outside of my apartment," he says. "It was then I realized that I did not have the skills to even defend my own family, let alone help this baby. It was that night I decided to begin his journey into the martial arts."

For more than 28 years now, Michael has been sharing the martial arts with children and adults and since 1995 at Arrowhead Martial Arts in conjunction with his wife Lisa. Together, they have built a growing and successful business that they now are expanding into the city of Surprise.

### Teaching More

For many adults and children, choosing a sport is predicated by one's skills and desire to play; however, martial arts is different—it teaches a lifestyle not just a skill set.

"We are teaching life skills that can be used for the student's entire life," says Michael. "Principles such as modesty—being humble, courtesy—being polite and respectful, integrity—doing the right thing always, self-control—learning to master your own impulses, and perseverance—never giving up and indomitable spirit—never wanting to give up. We don't just talk about these principles but we use our 'Six' Task Character Development Program to have our students take action and apply these principles into their lives daily.

"We also teach all our students how to set a goal, take the action steps to achieve a goal and then once achieved, how to reset that goal," continues Michael. "We teach this to our students as they progress through our belt ranking system. Our students are taught how to focus and concentrate as they participate in the entire class using disguised drills to guide them. It can be hard to teach this in other sports. Ultimately, the martial arts is a way of life to be carried with a person no matter where they go and to help the student become a better citizen for the rest of their lives."

### Arrowhead & Surprise Martial Arts

Owners: Michael (5th Degree Black Belt) and  
Lisa Tippett (3rd Degree Back Belt)

Locations:

20165 N. 67th Avenue, Glendale (623) 937-9032  
15459 W. Bell Road, Surprise (623) 556-0371

www.azkidsandsports.com



"We consider ourselves life coaches and use the martial arts as a tool to transform our student's lives." —Michael Tippett

Although both sites will offer classes for both children and adults, Michael says watching the children grow and change is what inspires him to keep growing his business.

"Without a doubt, the children is what inspired us to want to open other locations—so we can reach and help more students gain confidence, focus, and self-control," he says. "Teaching students to learn how to defend themselves without violence is an added bonus. To be able to take a child that is being picked on at school and give them the gift of confidence is priceless."

Michael said the decision to open a second facility in Surprise, was an easy one to make.

"It is a growing community with the need for a quality martial arts program," he says. "This is what we have heard over and over from parents who live in Surprise and have joined our Glendale Academy. We've enrolled a lot of students from Surprise who were unable to continue with their training due to increased traffic on the West side of the Valley. It was taking parents way too long to get to our academy with the increase of stadium traffic and it seemed like a natural transition to open in this area."

For parents looking for a martial arts academy, either in or around the Glendale and Surprise areas, Michael asks only for a chance to teach your children.

"Enrolling in our Academy is an investment into your child's future," he says. "We teach your child how to be successful in a positive environment. We do not label a child. Each child is an individual and encouraged to progress at their own level—not the same level as the superstar who may be standing next to them. With the support from the parents we will change your child's life for the better. We encourage parents to sit and watch their child's journey into excellence." **K&S**