

From the President *Jennifer Sanchez*

On behalf of A Stepping Stone Foundation, I would like to personally thank our past President Bev Carroll for her commitment and dedication to our cause. Under her leadership the organization raised more than \$600,000 while significantly increasing its presence in our community. Over the past 25 years, A Stepping Stone has helped more than 1,500 families, impacting several generations.

My six years in board service has been incredibly rewarding and fulfilling and it is now my honor to serve as the President of our organization. Our focus will always remain on our mission and core values -- "Providing stepping stones to create success through education for children and families who have limited opportunities." Along with diligently attending to the families we serve, we will work together to expand the board, increase our volunteer base, create new streams of revenue and launch a highly effective awareness campaign.

Without the unparalleled dedication of our amazing staff and volunteers, along with the support of our community, we could not continue to advance our critical mission. A Stepping Stone plays such a significant role in our community and we can all be extremely proud to be a part of this effort. I look forward to a wonderful year and thank you in advance for your commitment and enthusiasm as we provide A Stepping Stone for the families we serve.

A Stepping Stone Featured on ABC's Secret Millionaire



We hope you caught the episode of ABC's Secret Millionaire on August 11th. It featured Millionaire Jay Deutsch and three local non-profits in Phoenix. Jay donated \$50,000 to A Stepping Stone Foundation as part of the show's finale. The show was taped in October of 2011 and the check was delivered just a few short weeks afterward. THANK YOU Jay and thank you ABC!

Local Community Nets \$50,000 For A Stepping Stone at 2013 Cena y Serenata



This past February 300 guests dined and danced their way through a special night to benefit A Stepping Stone Foundation children and their families.

Former parent, Josie Gutierrez, spoke to the crowd about her own journey from a mother who needed her GED to a professional teacher with her Master's Degree in Special Education.

Special thanks to all our major sponsors: **APS, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, Helios Education Foundation, Molina Fine Jewelers, Wells Fargo Private Bank, Urias Communications and Cox Communications.**

at&t Grant to Help Kids Stay in School

at&t awarded a \$16,500 grant to A Stepping Stone in support of our Stepping Into College initiative including support for college scholarships to be awarded this spring at our annual dinner, and for our job training program.

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Thunderbird School of Global Management students recently helped A Stepping Stone navigate a change project. From the left: Tina Rubin, Megan Seivert, Swachhand Srivastava, Spencer Pearce, and Adam Hansen.

FOOTNOTES

As we begin another program year, I write with renewed vigor to thank you for and tell you about the good work you help us do in our local community. Without YOU, our supporters, *nothing* could be done at A Stepping Stone. As most of you are aware, our three programs are funded entirely from your donations, grants and in-kind gifts.

This past program year (2012-2013), A Stepping Stone served a total of 38 families (77 individuals) with pre-school, adult education, parenting and home visiting during the entire school year. See scholarship count to the right.

A BIG thank you goes out to the group of Thunderbird School of Global Management MBA candidates who, as part of a change project, helped us move forward toward a real change. See their picture above.

One short-term victory of that change project was that we have many recent test scores of former Stepping Stone Foundation students who are currently enrolled in elementary school (K-3) in the Alhambra School District. These results show a clear advantage to students who attend our program (six months or more)

over their site and district peers. See our website at: asteppingstone.org/testimonials (and click on the link 3/4 down the page).

Other noteworthy program accomplishments include:

- Eighty-five percent of our parents in ESL moved up one or more levels in English. At the time this went to press, two of our parents tested ready to take their GED exams.
- Awarded 26 Billie Gannaway Scholarships to former preschoolers wishing to attend post-secondary education.
- Hired two former preschoolers who worked part-time as paid interns to build work experience.

We have a few very exciting opportunities before us. We have been in conversation with the good folks in Gila County about bringing our pre-school plus family literacy to areas of high need in the Miami-Globe area. More on the blog!

You are so special and important to us.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

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Important Medicare Information

Individuals who are eligible for or are currently on Medicare **AND** Medicaid (in Arizona AHCCCS) may qualify for additional financial aid that they may not be aware of. Based on income levels, programs are available to help pay Part B premiums and Part D prescription drug co-pays.

There are also additional benefits offered by different insurance companies that are not covered by Medicare but are of significant value to people who need some dental, vision and hearing insurance. Medicare does not provide coverage in these three areas, but some coverage is provided under the different plans offered by the carriers. The standard Medicare coverage is the same regardless of the insurance company. It is up to the individual to choose which plan best suits their needs.

These are all Medicare Advantage plans available to all individuals who have or are eligible for Part A **AND** have Part B coverage. They are offered at no cost to those who qualify. Those who are Medicare and Medicaid may qualify for additional financial aid based on income levels as mentioned above.

Those on Medicare and Medicaid may switch their plan at any time during the year. First time enrollees to Medicare may choose a plan up to 90 days before turning 65. Those individuals who are current Medicare recipients and do not fall under the conditions above may only change programs during the Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) from October 15th through December 7th.

For more information or to inquire about participation in an outreach event, please contact John Stamatakis, licensed agent, at (480) 845-7888.

A special thanks to John for providing our photo booth at Cena y Serenata 2013 (see p. 1).

Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow

Two long-time board members, Michael E. Hensley and Con Englehorn retired from A Stepping Stone Foundation after each had served our children and families for a decade or more. Both have agreed to serve on our new and evolving Resource Council which will act as a go-to resource for new board members and other active volunteers.

Con has been instrumental in our development projects including Murphy and Fowler start-up family literacy programs. Con was Vice President of the Board in 2008.



Mike was Board President from 2002-2006 and chaired and co-chaired many of our fundraising events. One of Mike's lasting legacies will be his skill of asking the hard questions and pushing the Foundation beyond its comfort zone for program expansion and increased Board-sponsored fundraising.

Lead teacher Fran Smith who began her Stepping Stone teaching in the fall of 2009, and who taught preschool for many years before her Stepping Stone tenure, has retired. She looks forward to trips to be with family in Hawaii and promised to help us out in any way she could.

Assistant Teacher, Veronica Dozal who began her Stepping Stone years at the Granada site and then taught with Mrs. Smith at Westwood has also resigned so she can work year-round in a career shift.

We wish all these good people the best of luck in their new endeavors and look forward to having them continue to support A Stepping Stone children and families in their new roles as supporters.

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to the following supporters for their donations to A Stepping Stone Foundation for the ***past Fiscal Year*** (July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013). **Names in bold represent a one time monetary gift of \$1,000 or more.**

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asteppingstone.org/blog

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Carmen Sanchez, Grandmother of Jennifer Sanchez	

Cena y Serenata 2014 March 15th!

~Celebrations~

In Honor of Rev. William O. Smith's Work
 Diane and Gary Tooker ~ Happy Anniversary!
 In Honor of John and Linda Pape
 Happy Birthday to John Pape!
 In Honor of Alaine and Richard Steuk



Once again our presenting sponsor APS and local Celebrity Frank Camacho hosted this annual dinner dance at the Arizona Grand where 300+ guests enjoyed the talents of local performers. See page 1.

