

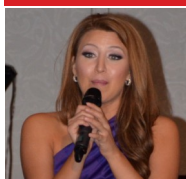
## *From the President* *Jennifer Sanchez*

As board President of A Stepping Stone Foundation I would like to extend my personal thanks to all of our sponsors, to my fellow board members, to A Stepping Stone's wonderful staff and most importantly, to the parents and children we serve. Without the combined dedication and labors of everyone involved, we would not be able to provide the multi-generational educational opportunities which make A Stepping Stone so important and valuable to the Valley of the Sun.

I have seen firsthand the impact that A Stepping Stone Foundation makes in our community. I have seen parents walk together with their children to our schools, ready to do the work necessary to create a supportive learning environment that will help their children succeed. I have seen our students as they emerge from class, a happy glow of accomplishment and excitement on their smiling faces. I have seen firsthand how creating opportunities for the parents and children in our normally underserved populations can break the cycle that leads to limited education and lifelong struggle. But, mostly, I have seen those smiling faces...and that's all you need to see to know that A Stepping Stone Foundation makes a difference.

Through your support, you have helped place even more smiles on the faces of children in the Valley. And on behalf of A Stepping Stone Foundation, we thank you.

## Local Community Nets \$50,000 For A Stepping Stone at 2014 Cena y Serenata



### To the left:

Master of Ceremonies, Allison Rodriguez from ABC Channel 15 greets our guests.

### To the right:

Mariachi  
Tierra Bella



### Cena Y Serenata 2014

was a resounding success; our guests dined and danced their way through a special night to benefit A Stepping Stone Foundation children and their families.

Each year we count on this event to provide funding for our model program which in turn transforms local children and families to experience both early educational success and the parent supports needed to provide that success.

A tremendous thank you to the planning committee and our event co-chairs, Jennifer Sanchez and Frankie Jo Rios.

A very special thanks to all our sponsors! Our major sponsors were:

**APS-Presenting Sponsor, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, Cancer Treatment Centers of America, Cox Communications, Helios Education Foundation, Molina Fine Jewelers, Wells Fargo Private Bank, and a special thanks to Urias Communications.**

*Please hold the date for our*  
**2015 Annual Cena y Serenata on:**  
**MARCH 28, 2015 5:30 PM**  
**at the Tempe Marriott Buttes**

## GRANT THANK YOUS!

Thanks to TWO separate three-year grants from **Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation** and the **Bob and Renee Parsons Foundation**, A Stepping Stone's model preschool hosted by Westwood Elementary in Alhambra School District and our expansion efforts in Gila

County hosted by Miami Unified School District are firmly planted in the future. The Marley Grant supports program from Spring 2014-Spring 2017. This classroom opened this fall with 15 families enrolled. Our first visit was postponed due to rain. The Parsons Grant supports program over the same time period in support of our model program in Phoenix.

## FOOTNOTES

What an incredibly positive and upbeat year 2013-2014 was for A Stepping Stone Foundation!

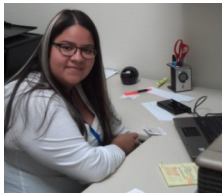
**You**, our donors and friends, have continued your important support for our children, their families and our Billie Gannaway Memorial scholars.

This year's highlights include a program expansion statewide, thanks to strong partnerships with First Things First-Gila County and Miami Unified School District (MUSD) and the Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation. This fall 15 families began quality full-time childcare and early learning at the Miami Unified High School campus.

This expands our capacity from 35 families to 50 statewide. On paper this sounds like such a small thing.

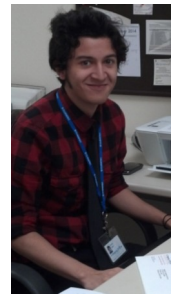
However, it means that 15 additional families with one or both parents who never completed high school or who are learning English will be served. Their young children will enter kindergarten ready to learn and their parents will be much better prepared to

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ABOVE: Gabriella Reyes (ASU Business Graduate 2014) and A Stepping Stone preschool Granada 1994-1995.

We welcome two new interns, Gabriella and Kevin; both of whom attended A Stepping Stone preschool programs.



RIGHT: Kevin Gamez (Apollo High School Graduate 2014) and Stepping Stone preschool Granada 2000-2001.

support them. These are children who, statistics warn, would be **less** likely to: complete high school, avoid law enforcement intervention and achieve an income potential equal to their affluent peers. Studies support that if children and their parents receive the support they need in these crucially important early years, their outcomes will be more positive.

It also means each child will receive a minimum of 500 hours of quality preschool over the course of one school year and their parents will participate in a minimum of 190 hours of adult education, home visiting and parenting workshops. Studies tell us and our own programmatic experience supports the fact that long-lasting change is more likely with longer and more frequent contact with families.

Below are children from our MUSD expansion project.



## **A Stepping Stone Board**

### ***President***

Jennifer Sanchez

### ***Vice President***

Adolfo Maldonado

### ***Secretary***

Jeanne Davis

### ***Treasurer***

Judith Brengi

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(Past President)

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Carla Howard

Melissa Ogea

Dr. Laida Restrepo

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Cynthia Gattorna  
[cindy@asteppingstone.org](mailto:cindy@asteppingstone.org)

### ***Program***

#### ***Coordinator***

Paulette Harshberger

### ***Office Administration***

Gabriella Reyes

Kevin Gamez

### **Office Contact**

**Tel: 602-843-8281**  
**[info@asteppingstone.org](mailto:info@asteppingstone.org)**

## Meet our New Board Members

### **Dr. Leslie Barakat, MD, CIGNA**

A Stepping Stone Foundation's mission spoke to me because I see, every day in my practice with my families, the positive impact of providing early childhood education and instilling a love of learning right from the start. I wanted to be a part of an organization that values working in partnership with the whole family to provide a strong foundation for children's futures.



### **Dr. M. Laida Restrepo, PhD, ASU**



Preschool and family training are the best ways to improve academic achievement in at risk families and change the cycle of poverty. I feel that A Stepping Stone does that and treats everyone with respect and dignity. I hope to help obtain grant funding to ensure the program is sustainable. I also hope to provide valuable input to the scholarship program, the evaluation of the program and resources for the preschool program.



### **Melissa Ogea, Axway Inc**

I was invited to attend A Stepping Stone board meeting as a guest and was immediately impressed with the kindness and sincerity of the people on the board. These folks were really there out of compassion for the children and families the foundation serves! Then when I visited the preschool classrooms and saw the children learning and smiling, that sealed the deal. I had to be a part of it. I am proud of the programs we provide for families in need. We are helping to build better futures for individuals and that benefits the entire community.

### **Carla Howard, Avnet Inc**



It's easy to get excited about the high quality preschool education A Stepping Stone Foundation provides to the three and four year old children our organization serves. What makes this program truly special is the focus on education and coaching for the entire family. One of the many reasons I am proud to be a board member is the knowledge that our children will have the educational support they need to be successful long after they leave our program.

## Christmas Angels

A Stepping Stone Foundation is proudly sponsoring the Christmas Angel program for our preschool children and their families once again.

Imagine the excitement these children will feel as they receive their presents! You also will rejoice as you realize how good it feels to put smiles on these children's faces that otherwise might not have presents. This year we have close to 50 families, many of whom are in great financial need with two to five children.

Angel Tags representing the wish lists of all our preschool children and their siblings 12 and under will be available beginning Sunday, Nov. 16 through Dec. 7th on the Angel Tree at Shadow Rock Church, 12861 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Phoenix.

**You may also call Beverly Carroll, Project Chairman, at 623-694-9191**

**Guidelines for gifts:** Every child should receive a toy, a book, and an article of clothing. Limit spending to \$50 per child (tag) to ensure that all recipients' gifts are somewhat equal. Sorry, we cannot handle large items such as bikes. Each tag will contain the complete guidelines.

The Angel Tree will also hold Stars. Taking a star means you wish to donate dollars to the project which will be used to buy gifts if a child's tag if not chosen or for food coupons for the family to ease their holiday meal shopping.

**You can mail a check to A Stepping Stone Foundation, P.O. Box 87149 Phoenix, AZ 85080.** Make checks payable to ASSF and identify as a gift to the 2014 Christmas Angel Project

**Gifts should be delivered to Shadow Rock no later than Sunday, December 7th.**



# A Stepping Stone Foundation

## Mission 2013-2014



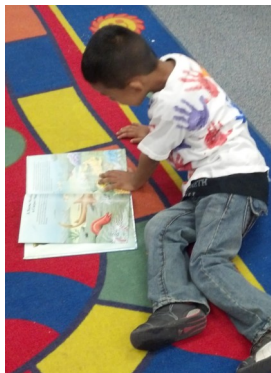
**Billie Gannaway Scholarship**



**Parenting Education**



**Early Childhood Education**

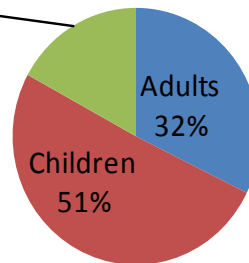


**English**

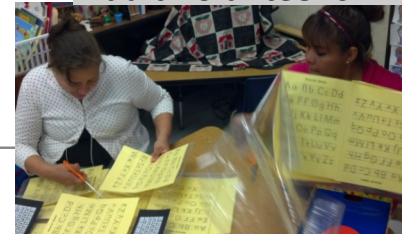


### Who We Serve

Young  
Adults  
(Scholarship  
and Interns)  
17%



**Adult Volunteerism**



### What We Do

Early Childhood Education

Parenting Education

Adult Literacy

Home Visiting

English Language Classes

Intergenerational Activities

Childcare



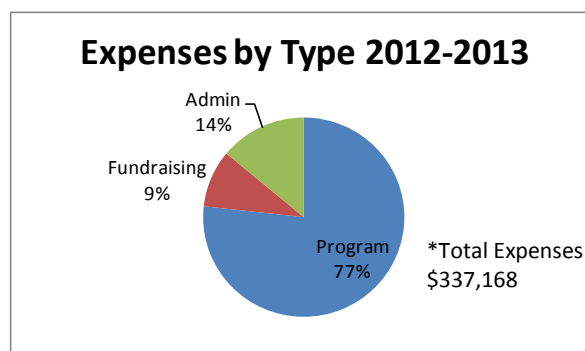
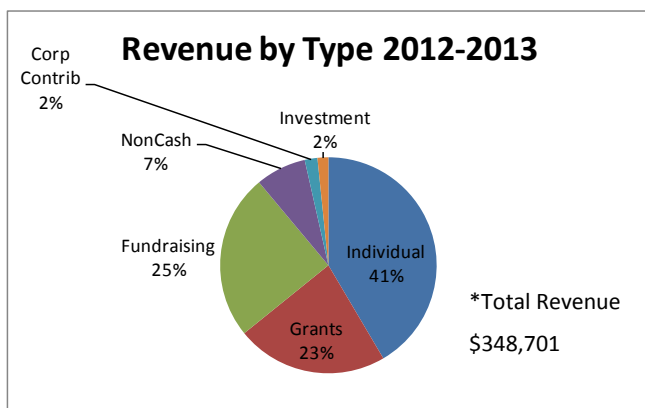
**Literacy**



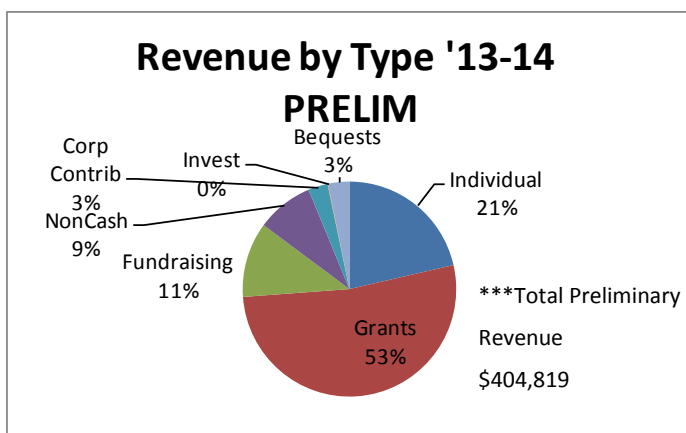
**Intergenerational Activities**



## A Stepping Stone Foundation Revenue and Expense Snapshots



\*Based on 990 filed for 2012-2013 (FY 2012)



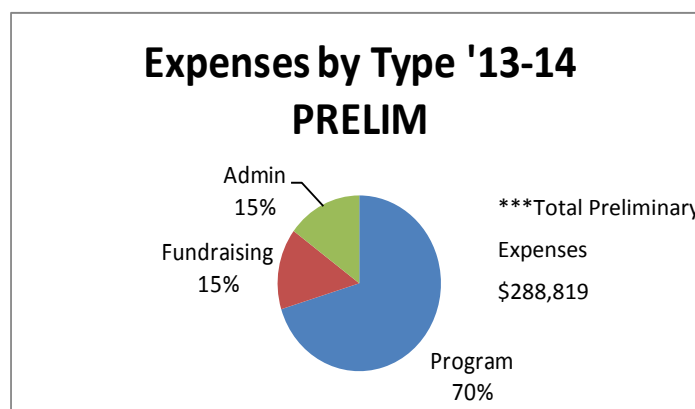
### \*2013-2014 Revenue

Please note that this report includes the first year of two three-year grants.

**It is also important to note that these three-year grants cross two fiscal years.**

### 2013-2014 Budget Expenses Note

Regarding preliminary 13-14 chart, please note that A Stepping Stone Foundation's program year came significantly under budget due to program staffing shortages which have only partially been rectified in early 2014-2015.



\*\*\*Based on PRELIMINARY Treasurer's Board-Approved Financials 8/14/14

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## THANK YOU!

*Many thanks to the following supporters for their donations to A Stepping Stone Foundation for the **past Fiscal Year** (July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014). **Names in bold represent a one time monetary gift of \$1,000 or more.***

***A very special thanks to  
CLIMATEC INC AND ALHAMBRA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
WHO PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS***

### **ACSS**

Charles and Dina Adornetto  
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### **AT&T and AT&T Aspire Scholarships**

### **Avnet, Inc**

Jeanne Baker  
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Eleanor Banks

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### **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona**

### **Jack Bobo**

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Frank Canez  
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## THANK YOU!

**Jane and Rusty Lance**

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Richard Zazueta  
Heidi and Kenneth Zinn

*Some donors have elected to forgo recognition.*





Check out our Blog at:  
**[asteppingstone.org/blog](http://asteppingstone.org/blog)**

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PO Box 87149  
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**Administrative Office:**

2851 W. Kathleen  
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## ~Celebrations~

In Honor of Linda and John Pape  
In Honor of Rev. Bill Smith's Work

In Honor of Harriet Ivey, the  
Ivey Stepping Higher Scholarships  
were created in January 2014.

## *It Could Still Happen*

"The nursery-school, if it became universal, could in one generation, remove the profound differences in education which at present divide the classes, could produce a population all enjoying the mental and physical development which is now confined to the most fortunate, and could remove the terrible dead-weight of disease and stupidity and malevolence which now makes progress so difficult."

*Bertrand Russell in Education and the Good Life, 1926*

## ~In Loving Memory~

Gladys Bobo  
Aunt Julia Bobo  
Shirley Cope  
Audrey Duffy  
Robert "Bumpa" Hoard  
Charles E. Miner  
Doris Wright

Enjoy a spectacular night of food, unique music and dancing while transforming lives through quality education. The annual Cena y Serenata offers a fun evening while benefiting A Stepping Stone Foundation, which provides a free preschool program for children at risk of school failure due to literacy issues.

**Cena y Serenata**  
March 28, 2015  
Phoenix Marriott Tempe at  
The Buttes  
Benefiting A Stepping Stone Foundation

For more information and to secure your tickets, visit [ASteppingStone.org](http://ASteppingStone.org) or call 602.843.8281.

**A Stepping Stone FOUNDATION**  
Founded in 1989 by William O. Smith