

From the Board President *Jeanne Baker*

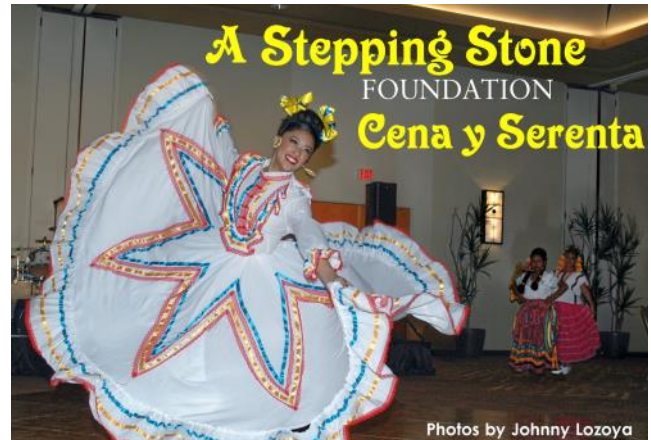
On behalf of A Stepping Stone Foundation, the board members – past and present, and the community ASSF serves, we would like to thank our past President, Jennifer Sanchez. Her dedication to this foundation is evident in her successes during her leadership of the board. She will continue to support ASSF as she remains an active board member this next year. We sincerely thank you Jennifer for all you do for A Stepping Stone!

The organization's strategic focus will be my main objective as I have the privilege of serving as this year's Board President. This will include expansion and sustainability of our programs, strengthening our financial goals and creating a succession plan for our Board and Executive Director and staff. These will be our focuses while continuing to serve the amazing families in the community. The success of the organization would not exist without everyone's support and dedication. I am looking forward to a rewarding and heartwarming year serving as board President.

I am humbled everyday by the selfless actions of our families, board members, donors, volunteers and staff. Every day is a blessing serving this community and knowing our mission continues to make it stronger:

"Providing stepping stones to create success through education for children and families who have limited opportunities."

On behalf of A Stepping Stone Foundation and the families it assists, thank you to everyone for your continuous support.



ABOVE: Many thanks to Ballet Folklórico of Glendale!

Our annual gala, Cena y Serenata, opened to a sell-out crowd on March 28th. This event netted more than \$46,000 for our children and their families. We owe a tremendous thanks to all our supporters including but not limited to:

Presenting Sponsor: APS-Arizona Public Service
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, Helios Education Foundation, Tooker Family Foundation, Alliance Bank, Cancer Treatment Centers of America, Carstens Family Funds, Cox Communications, UCP of Central Arizona, Wells Fargo, and a special thanks to Urias Communications for sponsorship and significant in-kind contributions!

Please hold the date for our
2016 Annual Cena y Serenata on:
APRIL 2, 2016 5:30 PM
at the beautiful Heard Museum



To the left:

Director Cynthia Gattorna with Master of Ceremonies, Allison Rodriguez from ABC15 and event Chairperson, Frankie Jo Rios, who made this another unforgettable event with just the right balance between fun and elegance.

To the right:
Mariachi
Pasión at the
2015 Cena



FOOTNOTES

Cynthia Gattorna, Executive Director

2014-2015 was another great year for A Stepping Stone Foundation. The board, our staff and I gave our very best in order to serve our children, their families and our community. By the end of the service year, 46 families were better prepared to help their children succeed in school. Thirty-six children were ready to enter kindergarten; 12 in Miami, Arizona and 34 in Phoenix. Ten additional children were ready to return to preschool as a four-year-old.

A Stepping Stone Foundation's scholarship committee awarded twenty-nine Billie Gannaway Memorial Scholarships, which included the second round of five Ivey Stepping Higher Scholarships in celebration of Harriett Ivey's service to the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. We welcomed four new board members and continued to be the recipients of two large program grants for our Alhambra and Miami Unified School District projects from the Bob and Renee Parsons Foundation and the Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation respectively.

Moving forward, our hope is two-fold. First, build a strategic plan which includes key staff and key board members acquiring the knowledge and skill set to grow our capacity to serve more children and families. Ultimately, we would like to be in any community where there are 15 or more families in need of our services. Second, create sound planned and emergency succession planning for our senior staff. If I, or another key staff member, should wish to leave or become suddenly unavailable due to unforeseen circumstances, we will have a plan in place to continue to move forward.

As always, one of the most important parts of our continued success lies in your hands. Thank you for your contributions in their many forms; your financial and in-kind donations (see the list on pages 5-7), the time you donate to our cause and your willingness to tell others about what we do and why we do it. Thank you for your past support and we hope we can continue to count on you now and in the future.

Please enjoy the picture to the right which was taken the first day of preschool this fall. Thank you!



From the desk of: Paulette Harshberger, Program Consultant

Last year was a year of growth for all. Our preschoolers participated daily in activities which fostered their developmental growth and prepared those aged four for kindergarten. They had the opportunity to go on field trips to the Desert Botanical Garden's Pumpkin Patch, Phoenix Children's Museum, Tolmachoff Farms, the Butterfly Museum and the Phoenix Zoo. Five babies were added during the course of the year! In addition to their ESL or GED classes, our parents participated in parenting workshops which included: brain development, Raising a Reader, Kith and Kin and a writing workshop by author, Stella Pope Duarte. We ended our year with a Parent Celebration which recognized their achievements.

Today, our classrooms are full of energy and excitement. Parents have started their adult education classes and program obligations with much enthusiasm. **They continually tell me how thankful they are for the opportunity to learn and grow with their children.** I get to spend time in each of our classes weekly and invite you to visit to see in person what an impact ASSF has on the families who participate. You can contact our office to schedule a tour. In Miami, preschool classes started in August and they have already taken a field trip to the Gila County Fair. Parents have started their GED and ESL classes and parenting workshops. It is wonderful to see all aspects of our program implemented in this partnership with the Miami Unified School District.

A Stepping Stone Board

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William Rader

Dr. Laida Restrepo

James Torrey

Sue Yale

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cindy@asteppingstone.org

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Kevin Gamez

Contracted

Consultants

Paulette Harshberger

Sue Tormala

Office Contact

Tel: 602-843-8281

info@asteppingstone.org

Meet our New Board Members

Sue Yale, Realtor

A Stepping Stone Foundation has long assisted parents and pre-school children to become comfortable in early learning and school experiences. It is well known that these building blocks yield a strong foundation toward school successes and life long learning values. Seeing these children complete high school and head off to college, while their parents develop new skills and become contributing members of their communities is very special and rewarding.



Kelsey Carmena, Avnet Inc



I was invited to attend A Stepping Stone board meeting and was instantly interested in the foundation's mission to provide success through education not only for children, but their families as well. I have always been one to love school and learning. The learning opportunities I had in my early years and my parents being my second teacher helped me be successful throughout my educational career. I am proud to be part of an organization that "provides the stepping stones" to put children and families on the path to educational success.

Three other new board members were elected since the printing of the last newsletter and include (listed in order of election):

Matthew Marquez of Disability Access Consultants;

James Torrey of Avnet Inc; and

William Rader, Retired Educator.



BOOK DRIVE

Thank you, KLOVE and Air1 Radio for collecting more than 4,000 new and gently used books for our preschool children and families! Shown in the picture to the left are book-drive representatives reading with our children and families at the Phoenix site.

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. 15 through Dec. 6th on the Angel Tree at Shadow Rock Church, 12861 N. 8th 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 is 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 6th.

A Stepping Stone Foundation

Mission 2014-2015



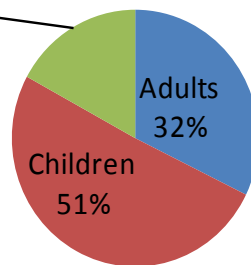
Billie Gannaway Scholarship



Adult Literacy & English

Who We Serve

Young Adults
(Scholarship
and Interns)
17%



Early Childhood Education



Community Helpers



What We Do

Early Childhood Education
Parenting Education
Adult Literacy
Home Visiting
English Language Classes
Intergenerational Activities
Childcare



Childcare



Parenting Education

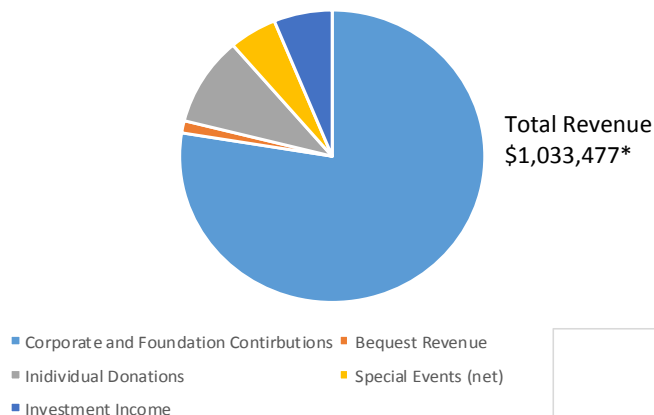
Intergenerational Activities



A Stepping Stone Foundation

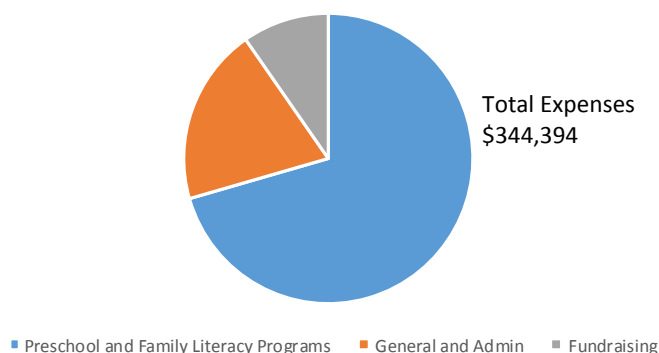
Revenue and Expense Snapshots

Support and Revenue ending 6/30/2014
By Type of Revenue



*Please note that Total Revenue includes two multi-year grants accrued in that fiscal year.

Functional Expenses ending 6/30/2014



THANK YOU!

*Many thanks to the following supporters for their donations to A Stepping Stone Foundation for the **past Fiscal Year** (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015). **Names in bold represent a one time monetary gift of \$1,000 or more.***

***A very special thanks to
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asteppingstone.org/blog

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Jennifer Sanchez's Birthday

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