

From the Board President

Jeanne Baker

Each day many of us ask, “How can I help?” And many find the answer to that question through volunteer opportunities, school activities and sometimes just helping our fellow neighbor. Whatever activity you choose to participate in, finding your true passion can help steer you down a path.

A Stepping Stone Foundation’s mission calls to individuals with a passion for early education, family literacy and continuing education. Our current board consists of individuals from many different industries – but each one had a passion to help families in the greater Phoenix area who were at-risk of not **providing the “stepping stones” to educational success.** We are grateful every day for their selfless acts of kindness and generosity. We are also forever grateful to our donors, for we would not exist without their passion for our **organization’s purpose.**

My ask to you today is - If you or someone you know would like to pursue their passion, A Stepping Stone Foundation offers a multitude of opportunities. Our organization hosts many activities such as: Christmas Angels, Cena y Serenata (our annual gala), scholarship committees, fundraising events and many others. If our passion calls to you, please contact the ASSF office for more information.

*“We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give.”*

Winston Churchill



¡Muchas Gracias!

Many thanks to all our guests and sponsors from last year’s **Cena y Serenata**. Please join us for our 10th Annual Cena on March 25th, 2016 at the Heard Museum in Phoenix.

CENA 2016 Major Sponsors:

APS; Urias Communications;

BCBS of Arizona;

Helios Education Foundation; and

The Tooker Family Foundation

Many thanks to Urias Communications for their support of A Stepping Stone Foundation and our Cena event over the past nine years.

Pictured here:

CEO, Lisa Urias and Event Chair, Jennifer Sanchez who is also Vice President at Urias.



A very special thanks to ASU professor Dr. David Garcia, who was our MC for the evening.

Dr. Garcia helped us net \$45,000 for our children and their families.



Each year we begin our Cena (Dinner) with a *Serenata* (Serenade). Pictured above is a guest singing with members of the Al Jauregui Mariachi.

FOOTNOTES: Cynthia Gattorna, Executive Director

Please help me welcome our two newest interns to the Stepping Stone Administrative Office! Kimberly Fernandez and Neida Sandoval (pictured to the right) began their internships this fall. Kimberly is studying business at GCC and Neida is studying sociology at ASU.

There is a great deal of Foundation news throughout this newsletter: Paulette writes about our expansion project in Isaac School District and news about former program participants. Please be sure to read our President's Message from Jeanne Baker and the list of supporters who have allowed us to **share their good names**. Finally, don't miss the details of our golf tournament this month and Cena y Serenata 2017!

THANK YOU for your support!



Paulette's Desk: Paulette Harshberger, Program Consultant

Another year has begun with 31 families participating in our program at Westwood Elementary in the Alhambra School district and 15 families participating in our new program at Bret Tarver Isaac Preschool in the Isaac School District. Both programs have upcoming field trips with our Westwood families attending the Pumpkin Patch at the Desert Botanical Gardens and our Bret Tarver students visiting the Musical Instrument Museum. Other field trips are planned throughout the school year.

Our Westwood parents have begun their adult education classes with Lakshmi Bourne from Literacy Volunteers of Maricopa County. In addition to our teacher-facilitated parenting classes, Raising a Reader and Kith and Kin are scheduled for later in the year. The funding for these programs is provided by First Things First. Our Isaac parents have been participating in parenting classes provided by Creciendo Unidos. Our childcare staff at both sites provide a nurturing program with age appropriate activities for younger siblings while our preschoolers and their parents are in their respective classes.

Our preschool teaching teams provide activities for our students with the goal of developing those skills which prepare them for a successful transition to kindergarten. With daily lessons based on state preschool standards and the developmental needs of the students in their classrooms, the children are busy exploring the many learning centers provided both inside and outside. I would like to invite you to visit any of our classrooms and experience the joy of watching these beautiful children learning and growing together.

(Program continued on p.3)

A Stepping Stone Board

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Neida Sandoval

Program Consultant

Paulette Harshberger

Development Consultant

Sue Tormala

Office Contact

Tel: 602-843-8281

info@asteppingstone.org

Meet our New Board Members

Gabriel Escontrías, Jr., Ed.D.

Center for Gender Equity in Science and Technology, ASU

Dr. Escontrías is honored to serve on the A Stepping Stone Foundation board. His fifteen years of professional experience are in higher and postsecondary education and he has been committed to ensuring equality, access to higher education, and student success since that very first year. He hopes to apply that knowledge to advancing our foundation and the communities which we serve. Dr. Escontrías has already been very active in our Stepping Into College and other Billie Gannaway Scholarship efforts. Welcome!

¡Bienvenido!



NOT PICTURED: Also joining our board was Jessica M. Sanchez, Team Leader Commercial Servicing Network from American Express. Watch for her picture and article of welcome on our webpage and Facebook.

Christmas Angels

Call Beverly Carroll, Project Chairman, at 623-694-9191 for tags or questions.

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 45 families, many of whom are in great financial need.

Angel Tags representing the wish lists of all our preschool children and their siblings 12 and under will be available from Sunday, Nov. 20 to Saturday Dec. 10th on the Angel Tree at Shadow Rock Church, 12861 N. 8th Avenue in Phoenix.

Guidelines for gifts: Every child should receive a toy, a book, and an article of clothing. Limit spending to \$50/child to ensure that all **recipients' gifts are somewhat equal.** Sorry, we cannot handle large items such as bikes. Each tag has the complete written 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 SSF and identify as a gift to the 2016 Christmas Angel Project

(Program continued from p.2)

We are excited to return to the Isaac School District where our first classes began. Talk about coming full circle!

Our teaching assistant is Angela Rodriguez who was a parent in one of our first classes! She has continued her education, currently working toward an Associate Degree in early childhood education and working as A Stepping Stone teaching assistant for the second time. Her daughter Cecilia, started in our preschool program, graduated high school and attended college with help from the Billie Gannaway Scholarship fund. She graduated from Estrella Mountain Community College with an Associate degree and is currently working at Bret Tarver Isaac Preschool as a Speech Language Pathologist assistant. She is working toward a Bachelor's Degree at NAU. I believe that participating in A Stepping Stone Foundation's program started this family on the education road which they continue to follow.

Early Childhood Education



What We Do

Early Childhood Education

Parenting Education

Adult Literacy

Home Visiting

English Language Classes

Intergenerational Activities

Childcare

College Scholarships

Internships

A Stepping Stone Foundation

Mission 2016-2017



Adult Literacy & English



Parenting Education

Intergenerational Activities



Billie Gannaway Scholarship



INTRODUCING: Sue Tormala, Development Consultant

Fifteen months ago, I was introduced to A Stepping Stone Foundation (SSF) when they were looking for a fundraising consultant to help them with grantwriting. I was immediately intrigued, **particularly because I had been “retired” for three years**, after losing my adult son, who had been an elementary school music teacher in PESD#1 for eight years, where Spanish fluency was a job requirement. Imagine impacting the lives of the same population he had!

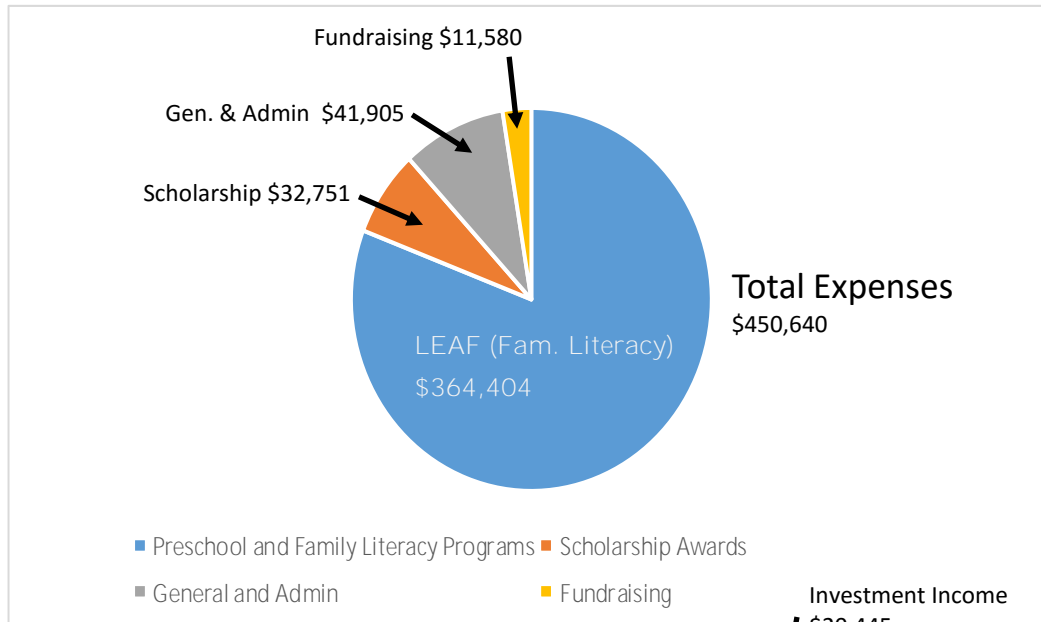
I believe that inspiration is the key to success. I have been inspired by many, including my son. In this work, I knew I would be honoring his life and bring more meaning to mine.

Writing for SSF, and inspired by their commitment and success, I suggested that we rebrand our Pre-K program as LEAF (Literacy Elevates Arizona Families), because I have heard countless stories of that happening to

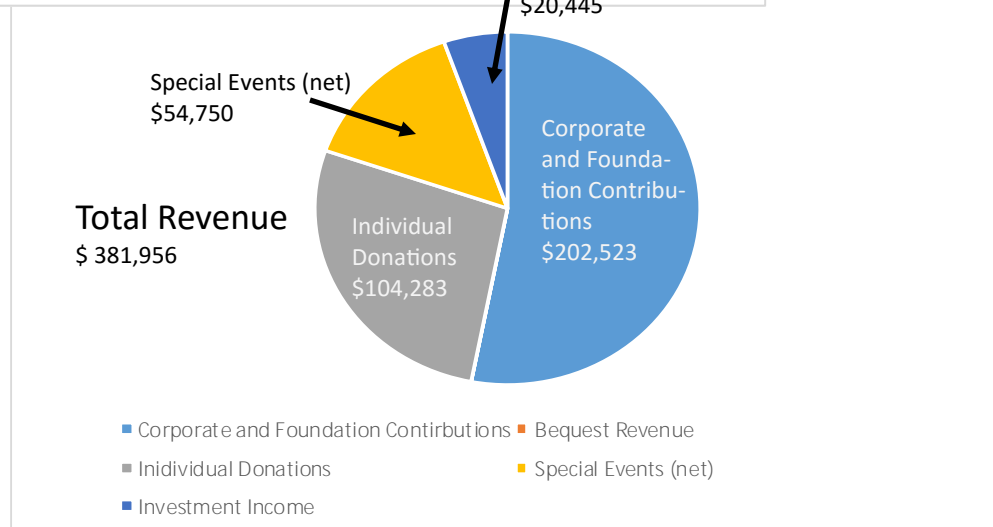
(continued on p.5)

A Stepping Stone Foundation

Revenue and Expense Snapshots for last audited year¹



¹ Our last completed financial audit was for 2015-4-2015. The next audit is due out November 15th. Please don't hesitate to ask for a copy by calling or emailing the Stepping Stone Office:
602-843-8281 or
Cindy@astepingstone.org



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so many participants - they have been elevated in their lives and were now doing the same for others. I am inspired by our teachers, staff, board, volunteers, and the many generous individuals, small businesses, corporations and foundations who invest in our families with donations (large and small) that support our vision. Each of you makes a great difference in the lives of our children and families. That is why I am humbled by the opportunity to work on behalf of SSF.



THANK YOU!

Aanenson, Kelly and Jim
Ackerman, Ian and Wendy

ACSS

Adornetto, Charlie and Dina
Aguirre, Francisco and Brenda
Ahl, Carl and Mary
Allison, Rebecca
Amazon Smile

American Express Charitable Fund
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AT & T

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Baker, Jeanne and Dorsey

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Beverly Soule and Mary Crane
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Boorn, Wendy

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Celebrity Fight Night

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Henderson, Miriam

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Hensley, Michael and Sharon
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Hur, (Ben) Hyungju
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Means, Jennifer
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Merrill, Steve and Linda
Messinger, Dorothy
Mihaylo Foundation
Miner, June
Miyasaka, Jeanne
Morales, Monica Briones

THANK YOU!

Morgan, Richard and Carolyn
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Riester Foundation
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 Sassaman, Randy and Claudia
 Sassaman, Scott
 Schleifer, Thomas
 Schwab Charitable Fund
 Schwiebert, Judy
Season For Sharing
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Shapiro, Paul and Amanda
Sheinbein, Tina
 Sherk, Kenneth
Slotta, Louise
 Small, Donny
 Smith, Constance
 Smith, Nancy
 Smith, Rev. Bill and Ann
Smith, Richard and Candace
 Solares, Jackie
 Solares, Ronald and Jackie
Southwest Integrative Medicine PLLC
 Spotts, Charles and Deborah
St. Vincent de Paul
 Stamper, Don
 Starkey, Paula
 Stoll, Ellen and James
 Stoll, James
 Stoneroad Family Trust
 Talbot, David and Olga
 Talley, Margaruite (Margie)
 Taylor Bleiker, Karen

Taylor, Phillip and Mary
The Bob and Renee Parsons Foundation
The Kemper And Ethel Marley Foundation
The Sundt Foundation
Thomas, Luis Ramirez
 Tingley, Austin
 Tollakson/Hannah, Kendra and John
Tooker, Gary and Diane
Tormala, Sue and Wayne
Torrez International LLC
 Tucker, Mickey and Herb
 Turko, Shirleen
UFCW Local 99
Urias Communications
Valle Del Sol
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Velasco, Carlos
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Wells Fargo Foundation
 Wentworth, Robert and Kathleen
 Wheeler, Richard
 Whitmire, Martha
 Whitmore, Victoria
 Wiig, Janet
 Williams, Robert and Melanie
 Wood, Beverly
 Wood, Kenneth and Beverly
 Yale, Charles and Suzanne
Yale, Sue
 Yoder, Sylvia
 Zielinski, Marcia and Dave
 Zinn, Heidi and Kenneth

THANK YOU!

*Many thanks to the supporters listed above or their donations to A Stepping Stone Foundation for the past Fiscal Year (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016). **Names in bold represent a one time monetary gift of \$1,000 or more.***

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

Some donors have elected to forgo recognition.



Candy Gram Fundraiser Puts Smiles on Employees' and Stepping Stone Faces

For the second year in a row, Avnet employees in the Phoenix area were able to brighten their coworkers' days while raising money to support A Stepping Stone Foundation. Employees purchased a candy or granola bar to recognize a co-worker for their collaboration. The candy gram **was then delivered by members of Avnet's executive leadership team to the recipients.** 1,600 Candy Grams were sold and with the addition of an Avnet Matching Grant, the event raised \$7,400 for the foundation. The fundraiser is the latest in Avnet's long-standing partnership with A Stepping Stone. Over the last decade, Avnet has provided grants, produced eight promotional videos and provided skills based volunteerism.



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Office Phone:

602-843-8281

Check out our Blog at:

astepplingstone.org/blog

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A Stepping Stone Foundation

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~Celebrations~

Christine Bell

Jack and Vianne Kucera

Linda and John Pape

Rev. Bill and Ann Smith



~In Loving Memory~

Gladys Bobo

LuWanna T. Phillips

Martha Whitmire

Georgia Wood



GOLF TOURNAMENT
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2016
12:30 SHOTGUN AT
Moon Valley
Country Club
\$95/Player
To register, call the office
or visit:
www.astepplingstone.org/