

Volume 1, Issue 1 November 2018

MILESTONES

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



Gabriel Escontrías, Jr. Ed D

It is my honor to serve as the 13th Board President for A Stepping Stone Foundation because I have experienced

first-hand how education can transform lives. ASSF's model of two-generation education makes our community stronger and I am committed to helping our organization strengthen our board and improve our financial position so we can continue to deliver our mission.

I thank all of our supporters from the individuals who contribute their time, talent, goods and monetary contributions to the corporations, foundations, trusts and other non-profits who do the same. We are in your debt and look forward to working with you again this program year.



WHAT YOU HELP US ACHIEVE

See the little girl and her dad to the left? A Stepping Stone Foundation excels in creating moments where children can learn with their parents. Yes, we are all about high quality preschool. Yes, we are all about parenting education, adult education, home visiting and college scholarships. This robust, two-generation programming delivered with great intention makes us unique; but what really sets us above other programs, is the quality and duration of our families interacting with one another.

Our LEAF families, like those pictured to the right, celebrate their accomplishments at the end of every year.



BILLIE GANNAWAY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

A Stepping Stone Foundation's programs are very special. One of the unique features of ASSF's family literacy programs is the promise of a small scholarship for a child that starts in one of our preschool classes,

BGMS Cont. p.5

MESSAGES

From the Stepping Stone Office



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Why we Need YOUR Support

Dear Supporters,
Since 2005, the cost of providing our two-generation

literacy program to 20 families has increased by 42%. Just this past year, we have experienced a 10% increase in teacher salaries, which are scheduled to be increased another 5% in both 2019 and 2020. **You, our loyal supporters, are the key to helping us keep pace with these increasing costs.**

As expenses have gone up, revenue has gone down, mostly due to large grants coming to their planned end. Please know that one powerful way you

can help us raise more money is to **tell your neighbors and friends about us.** Tell them why you are passionate about what we do *and ask them to contribute.* Be sure to mention that we qualify for the Arizona Charitable tax credit. While we accept donations of any size, it might be helpful to know that a \$400 donation (the maximum for an individual AZ tax credit) provides almost one whole day of preschool for *twenty* needy children.

Our families rely on you to help them realize their American Dream. Please consider thoughtfully your contributions to A Stepping Stone this year!

Thank you!

Cindy

FROM DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT, SUE TORMALA

A Stepping Stone Foundation (ASSF) has impacted at least 4,000 individuals (children and parents) since we were founded in 1989. Through LEAF, we have sought to improve education outcomes for children at risk of school failure by providing education to both the child and parent.

Most of the families we serve are recent immigrants; most of whom have low literacy skills in their own native languages. Without English language training, these children and their families will not be able to participate in meaningful ways in our community.

Raising money to support LEAF is a duty and a privilege. Indeed, I am proud to be among ASSF's donors, averaging about \$1,000 of support each year. While some of our fundraising efforts were more successful than in previous years, unfortunately, others fell short. Corporate contributions fell by 65% over 2017. *Development Cont. on p.5*

A Stepping Stone Board

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IN MEMORIAM

A Stepping Stone Foundation sends their deepest condolences to the family of the **Reverend William O. Smith**, who passed away on Monday, September 3, 2018. The Reverend's legacy will always live on within our organization and the community at large. Often asking us to call him "Just Bill", he was a visionary and activist who inspired many of us to give of ourselves through our talents, time, monetary contributions, and most of all through living out our chosen vocations.

A Stepping Stone Foundation would not have been possible if not for the leadership of the Reverend Smith and the congregation of Shadow Rock United Church of Church. They believed that early education was crucial for all children and saw the woeful number of children not being served who would most benefit, so they decided to make a difference through their actions. Their difference and actions have allowed A Stepping Stone Foundation to now serve more than 1,800 families (about 5,000 people) in various school districts in Maricopa and Gila counties.

The photo is of Bill with some of our children at a program visit at the Westwood Campus. Earlier this year, we had the honor of Reverend Smith delivering the invocation at our 11th Annual Cena y Serenata and we were so very grateful he and his family could join us. The family has appealed for donations to be made to A Stepping Stone Foundation to continue his legacy.



Something New

A STEPPING STONE FOUNDATION'S TWO-GEN ED AFFINITY GROUP

Understanding the need for strong community partners to maximize our impact, we convene a group of stakeholders each quarter to discuss two-generation education topics. You can read below what some of our colleagues say about their recent experiences.

Please join us for our next meeting February 4th, 2019. Call Cindy at 602-843-8281 for details.

The 2GenEd Affinity Group has been a wonderful source of information, inspiration and collaboration. Quarterly meetings are productive, thought provoking and powerful.

*Donna Beedle, Family Resource Center Manager
AZCEND, Chandler AZ*

The meeting gave attendees an intimate opportunity to meet and interact with funders, get their advice, as well as have them hear about the great work and efforts that are being done on behalf of local families from agency representatives!

*Latrishia Centers, MA
City of Phoenix Head Start Birth to Five Program*

A STEPPING STONE FOUNDATION MISSION

To provide stepping stones of success through education to families of limited opportunities.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



PARENTING EDUCATION



HOME VISITS

All Families Participate in:

- Early Childhood Education
- Parenting Education
- Adult Literacy (GED/ESL)
- Home Visiting
- Intergenerational Activities
- Childcare
- College Scholarships



ADULT LITERACY

INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES



BILLIE GANNAWAY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP



PRACTICE AND THEORY:

From Paulette Harshberger and Lenay Dunn, PhD



Our year began in early August with twenty families entering LEAF (Literacy Elevates Arizona Families) at Westwood Primary in the Alhambra School District. It was nice to see familiar faces at our first parent meeting as we

have ten families returning from previous years. Eighteen families started at Bret Tarver Preschool in the Isaac School District; one was returning from last year with a second child.

While their children are learning and growing in our high quality preschool, our parents attend their weekly obligations. If you would like to visit one of our sites, please connect with our foundation office (602) 843-8281 or email me, Paulette, at:

paulette@astepplingstonefoundation.org.

BGMS Cont. from p. 1

finishes high school, enrolls in higher education and satisfactorily completes the scholarship application. At this year's Bill and Billie Scholarship event, 29 students received a total of \$23,750 in awards. They currently attend ASU, GCU, NAU, Maricopa Community Colleges, U of A and even out of state universities in many career areas. We are so proud of their accomplishments!

Since it began in 2001, ASSF has awarded \$215,000 to 121 individuals. Over the years, as more and more students graduate from high school and apply, the scholarship amounts have decreased in size due to the percentage of funding available each year.

Development cont. from p. 2

Our June 2018 appeal raised only 20% of our June 2017 appeal. We did see success in other areas of fundraising, but these reductions are substantial and we are working hard to remedy that this year to assure our impact on families doesn't need to be reduced. We are very thoughtful stewards of your support, with our focus on continuing to support those most in need of our help. Please help us as often and as meaningfully as you can.

There is a compelling research base behind A Stepping Stone Foundation's two-generation approach to support children and their families.

Most directly, two-generation programs increase key indicators for future success: literacy skills and educational attainment of both children and adults.^[1] Beyond these individual impacts, community impacts of high-quality birth-to-five programs for disadvantaged children can include a 13% per year return on investment, based on increased academic and career achievement and reduced social costs^[2].

If you are interested in learning more about this powerful research, check out the Aspen Institute, the Urban Institute, the Heckman Question, and the National Center for Families Learning for extensive research and resources in this area. ASSF's model is well-established, and its impact on our community is tangible evidence of its power to transform children's and families' life trajectories.

Lenay Dunn PhD
ASSF Board Secretary



^[1] See National Center for Families Learning: http://familieslearning.org/pdf/NCFL_Theory-to-Outcomes-brief-2016.pdf, Urban Institute: <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/76846/2000578-A-Theoretical-Framework-for-Two-Generation-Models.pdf>, Heckman Question <https://heckmanequation.org/resource/research-summary-lifecycle-benefits-influential-early-childhood-program/>

^[2] See Heckman Question <https://heckmanequation.org/resource/research-summary-lifecycle-benefits-influential-early-childhood-program/>

A STEPPING STONE FOUNDATION MISSION DELIVERY

Expenses 2017-2018 Total \$407,798



■ Preschool and Family Literacy Programs
 ■ Scholarship Awards
■ General and Admin
 ■ Fundraising
■ Interns

Revenue 2017-2018 Total \$300,104



■ Foundation Contributions*
 ■ Corporations
 ■ Individual Contributions
■ Special Events (net)
 ■ Investment Income

These charts are based on preliminary end of the year reports. The annual audit will be available by January 2019. The difference between expenses and revenue was made up by Foundation reserves.

We are so very grateful to all our donors. The following list of donations includes those who have given \$200 or more since the last newsletter. Some donors have asked to remain anonymous and a list of memorials and celebrations can be found on the last page of our newsletter. **Names in bold represent a contributions of \$1,000 or more.**

For a complete list of donors, please see our website blog on donors at www.asteppingstone.org/blog.

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 Geer, Barbara and James
 Gibson, Mary Sue
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A STEPPING STONE FOUNDATION MISSION DELIVERY

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Hensley Beverage Company Phoenix

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Hildman, Ivory Yang

Hockett, Glenn and Connie

Hoffman, Julie

Homyock, Shari L

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Moreno, Mario

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Snitz, Michael

Soule, Beverly

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Southwest Integrated Medicine

SRP

Staley, Michael

Starkey, Paula

SECC

Stertzer, Annette

Stoll, James and Ellen

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A
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Mailing Address:

PO Box 87149
Phoenix AZ 85080

Office Phone:

602-843-8281

Administrative Office:

2851 W. Kathleen
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CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthdays to:

Linda Pape, John Pape and Barbara Poole!

Donations made in honor of:

Dr. Lattie and Elva Coor
Michael Gattorna
Vianne and Jack Kucera
Jan McLaughlin
Jessica Sanchez
Rev. William O. Smith

IN LOVING MEMORY

Connie Beaupre
Sean Gattorna
Ursula Hernandez
Our Founder, Rev. William O. Smith
Janie L. Stertzner



VALLEY TOYOTA DEALERS

12 Annual Cena y Serenata

Friday, April 12, 2019 at

Warehouse215 in Phoenix



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