

Volume 2, Issue 1 November 2019

MILESTONES

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



Gabriel Escontías, Jr. EdD

Dear Friends,
At A Stepping Stone Foundation, we are fortunate to be good financial stewards of your investment in our community. We

provide a strong education continuum from our Literacy Elevates Arizona Families (LEAF) program through our Billie Gannaway Memorial Scholarship program. We support the lifelong success for both our students and their families in any capacity that we can assist them. We pride ourselves on instilling in them that we are more than a program, we are family and family is always there to assist when possible.

We know and understand that your trust and investment can be made in many other areas, so we and our families thank you for your countless years of giving and if you are about

President cont p. 6

WHAT YOU HELP US ACHIEVE

With your help, A Stepping Stone Foundation delivered more than 34,000 hours of direct service in our Literacy Elevates Arizona Families (LEAF) Program last school year. By May, the typical 4 year-old in LEAF attended 640 hours of preschool and the typical parent participated 250 hours in their adult obligations which includes parenting classes, adult education, working in the preschool classroom and home visits.

All children who were in LEAF six months or more met their Teaching Strategies Gold benchmarks and were ready for kindergarten. What's more, their parents were ready to support them as their child's first best teacher. Your support makes it all happen.



A mom working in the classroom.

BILLIE GANNAWAY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

One of the unique features of ASSF's family literacy programs is the promise of a college scholarship for every child enrolled six months or more in one of our LEAF programs. There is a full report inserted in this edition of Milestones.

MESSAGES

From the Stepping Stone Office



Cynthia Gattorna, MA

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Why we Need YOUR Support

Imagine.

Imagine if all children in Arizona had access to caring and nurturing preschool settings. Imagine their parents had the same access to the skilled and caring support they needed to become their child's first best teacher.

The stark reality is that more than half of the children in our state who live in low-income homes still do not have access to a quality early education.

NOW...Imagine YOU could help fill that need! For the past thirty years we have been doing just that. A Stepping Stone Foundation is strongly positioned

to enter the second decade of this millennium delivering our mission at our current capacity. Yet, we have always wished to be in any Arizona community where there are 15 or more families in need of our services.

Please help us grow! We are hoping you can help us expand our capacity over the next 12 months by donating and especially by telling a friend about us.

See p. 5 for a list of the many ways you and your friends can support our children and their families. We need you more than ever before!

Many blessings and thanks,

Cindy

FROM GRANT WRITER CONSULTANT, SUE TORMALA

"If you have much, give of your wealth; if you have little, give of your heart."

There are times when I've been graced with financial security and other times, burdened by financial challenges. But I was NEVER burdened by inability to give — of my wealth or my heart.

I am A Stepping Stone Foundation's grant writer. My husband and I commit \$1,000 annually to their amazing efforts on behalf of families. He gives through bi-weekly payroll deduction through his employer and we give together through monthly auto deposit.

Perhaps you'd like to explore these or other options to be as generous as possible. Ask your employers if they would match your financial contribution. Many employers do. Consider donating through Birdies for Charity (read about that on page 5). Consider committing to a

Sue Cont. on p.5

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Tel: 602-843-8281

info@astepplingstone.org

New Board Members

A Stepping Stone Foundation welcomes four new board members this year. **Richard Smith** joined the board in November of 2018. Retired from his precious metals business, he brings his passion and business expertise to our organization and has the goal of spearheading our website rebuild. He and his wife Candace greatly enjoy traveling hither and yon in their retirement.



Patricia Davis and Dr. Laida Restrepo rejoined A Stepping Stone's board in June. Patricia has worked in the financial sector for twenty years, with her focus for the past decade on regulatory compliance. Her current position is in financial crimes compliance with MUFG Americas. Earning her Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and a Master's degree in Biomedical Informatics from Arizona State University compliments her Master's degree in Statistics from New Mexico State University. Patricia's family moved to Arizona from Maryland when she was a teenager, and she couldn't imagine living anywhere else. She enjoys practicing yoga and travelling with her husband both domestically and internationally. Patricia has one daughter who attends Arizona State University.



M. Adelaida Restrepo, PhD is a Professor and Assistant Dean for Research in the College of Health Solutions at Arizona State University. She is a speech-language pathologist by training and is interested in language development in bilingual children and its relation to academic achievement. She publishes and conducts research in this area, and has expertise in professional development for teachers who work with bilingual children and their families. She is also interested in parent training programs to help children academically. She was funded by a Fulbright Scholars grant to conduct a project in Israel on response to intervention.

Our newest board member, who joined the board in September, is **Jerome Williams**. Jerome is the On-Premise Manager for Aerotek Aviation, partnering with Southwest Airlines. He has a BS in Psychology, a Master's in Accountancy, and is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Philosophy in General Psychology program, focusing on technology, communication, and learning at Grand Canyon University.



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

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

ASSF's Two-Gen Ed Affinity Group has been meeting since the fall of 2017. The intention of each quarterly meeting is for us to hear about current efforts regarding two-generation education and to explore any opportunities to work together.

In August, we met with a funder panel. This November we will take a hiatus as we plan an elected officials meet and greet event for the first week in February 2020. If you would like to be included in this group, please contact A Stepping Stone Foundation office at 602-843-8281.

A STEPPING STONE FOUNDATION MISSION

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



NEW RESEARCH SUPPORTING OUR THEORY OF PRACTICE

They Talk About It-We Do It!

Ways to Support A Stepping Stone Foundation

The single most powerful way for you to support our efforts is to make a cash contribution and then tell the world about why you did so. Your passion is contagious in the best of ways!

Below are just some of the ways you can donate.

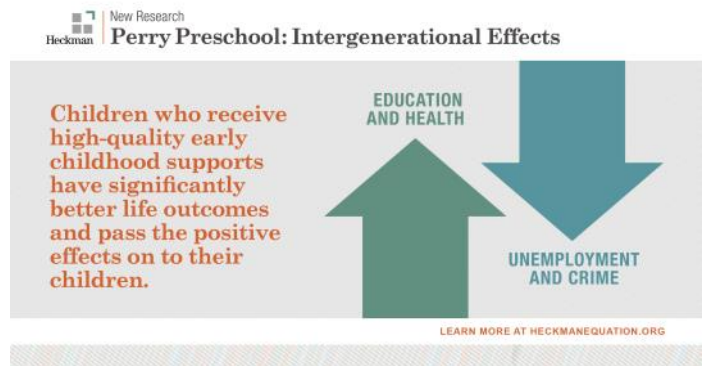
Please seek the expertise of a tax professional when considering tax matters.

- A Stepping Stone Foundation (ASSF) is an Arizona **Qualifying Charitable Organization**. Make a donation of \$400 (\$800 for couples) directly to ASSF before April 15, and **you may take a tax credit**; pay less taxes and direct your tax money to your favorite charity!
- **Birdies for Charity**: includes a 15% match by Thunderbirds Charities, pledge online before 2/1/20 at www.birdiesforcharityaz.com.
- **Amazon Smile**: by enrolling and naming us as your beneficiary, you donate every time you buy on Amazon.com.
- **Fry's Community Rewards**: link your rewards card to A Stepping Stone Foundation.
- Are you 70 1/2 or older? You may avoid paying taxes on your **required retirement distributions** by donating it directly to ASSF.
- Include A Stepping Stone Foundation in **your will**.
- **Donate through your employer**. A Stepping Stone participates in United Way (Donor Choice), SECC (State of AZ Employees Combined Campaign).
- **Find out if your employer will match your donation**.

From HeckmanEquation.org

The Economics of Human Potential

Professor Heckman's newest research looks at the life outcomes of Perry Preschool participants at midlife, as well as outcomes of their children. After putting the data through a series of rigorous tests, Heckman finds that those children who participated in the Perry Preschool program had significant gains in personal and family life outcomes that provided their children with positive multi-generation effects on education, health, employment and civic life. Early childhood education resulted in stronger families and significantly contributed to upward mobility in the next generation—an indication that early childhood education can be an effective way to break the cycle of poverty.



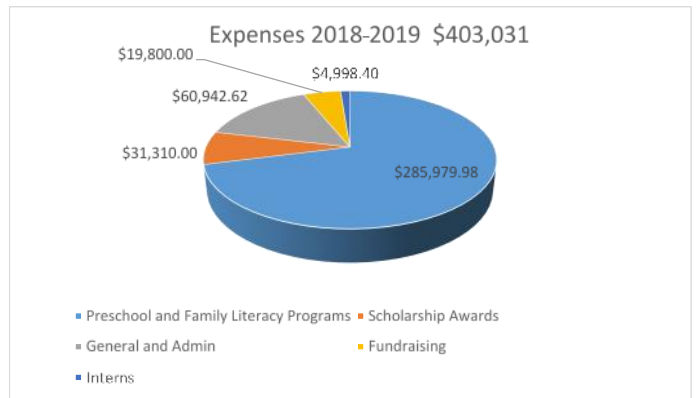
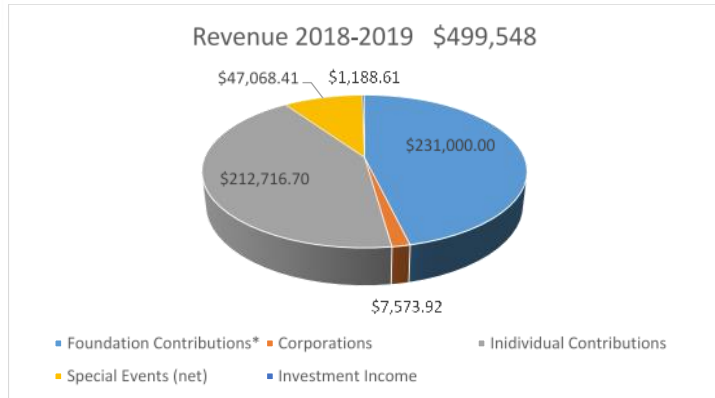
James Joseph Heckman is a Nobel Prize winning American economist who is currently at the University of Chicago, where he is The Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor in Economics ... among many other duties and honors!

Sue Cont. from p. 2 monthly contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100 or more. Every penny is invested in the future for families that might not have had one.

Last year, ASSF's remarkable individual donors contributed almost as much as local foundations did! With your united range of resources, you supported a better life for families who struggle with our language, education, culture, and opportunity. Let's pledge to impact more families in 2020.

A STEPPING STONE FOUNDATION FINANCES

These charts are based on preliminary end of the year reports. The annual audit will be available by January 2020.



President cont. from p. 1

to give for the first time through your time, talent, or goods and monetary contributions, thank *you* too.

Your investment is transformational not only in the lives of our children and families, but to the state of Arizona where you have helped to create doctors, teachers, and many other successful LEAF graduates contributing to our society through their talents.

In my capacity as board president, I am committed to remaining a good financial steward and to working with my fellow governing board members and staff to ensure that your investment always translates to stronger communities.

Respectfully,

Gabriel Escontrías, Jr.

Gabriel Escontrías, Jr., EDD



THANK YOU!

We are so grateful to all our donors. The following list of supporters 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 newsletters. **Names in bold represent a contributions of \$1,000 or more.**

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Scholl, Jozefa
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Schwiebert, Judy
Shapiro, Jeff and Sandra

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Shepherd, Danny
Shipley, Maryan
Sievers, Maurice
Singh, Bob and Mary Dee
Sisemore, Marcia
Slotta, Louise
Smith, Ann and Family
Smith, Constance J
Smith, Jackie and Lisa Clinchy
Smith, Jeremy
Smith, Nancy
Smith, Richard and Candace
Snitz, Michael
Starkey, Paula
State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC)
Steensland, Marsha
Stertz, Annette
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Stoll, James and Ellen
Stoneroad Family Trust
Stuart, Rick and Barbe
Sutton, Anne
Tachias, Tio and Micha
Talley, Margie
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A
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Mailing Address:

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CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Linda Pape

Donations made in honor of:

John and Meaghan Stertzner

IN LOVING MEMORY

In memory and appreciation for JOHN BOUMA who was one of the original contributors to A Stepping Stone Foundation for his support these 29 years. His legacy will live on in the lives of A Stepping Stone Foundation children and their families as they draw on the education they all received to enrich their lives for generations to come. Our love for John Bouma continues on.

Ann and the Rev. Bill Smith Family

Diana Kruglick

Ursula Hernandez

Irene Marks

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13th Annual Cena y Serenata

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