

Golf Tournament to Benefit A Stepping Stone Foundation December 8th



The Ted Purdy Foundation will host the *PebbleTec Charity Golf Tournament* to benefit A Stepping Stone Foundation and other local charities on December 8, 2006. Also sponsored by Kohler, Ping, Sunice and the Grayhawk Golf Club, the tournament will be played on both the Raptor and Talon courses at Grayhawk with an 11:00 a.m. tee time.

The Ted Purdy Foundation is dedicated to helping families help themselves through golf and Arlene and Ted Purdy have been passionate friends to A Stepping Stone Foundation, helping to promote the preschool and lending their name, time and talent to past Stepping Stone Golf Tournaments. As a professional golfer, Ted has connected countless donors to A Stepping Stone Foundation throughout the U.S. Ted and tournament chair James Donley approached the Board about hosting the tournament to benefit A Stepping Stone Foundation. They are committed to holding a high quality, fun filled tourna-

ment with the goal of raising \$100,000 for A Stepping Stone Foundation. Through the generosity of all the sponsors, there is no overhead, therefore 100% of the proceeds will be donated to charity, with A Stepping Stone Foundation as the main beneficiary.

The fee for the tournament is \$1000 per player or \$3000 per threesome and features tee prizes worth \$1000 or more from Titleist, Footjoy, Sunice and Magic Belt.

There will be a silent auction and an online auction along with the tournament and a dinner that evening. To view the online auction or the silent auction, for more information or to register to play in the tournament, go to either:

www.tedpurdyfoundation.net/events

or

www.asteppingstone.org

and click on the

Pebbletec Charity Golf Tournament

Registration is filling fast, register today!

OUR VISION

Providing Stepping Stones to create
success for Children

Support A Stepping Stone Foundation through the Welfare Tax Credit

Do you itemize on your Arizona Tax return? If so, you may be eligible for the Welfare Tax Reform Credit program. This is a dollar-for-dollar credit on your Arizona tax liability when you donate to a self-certified nonprofit. A Stepping Stone is one of those self-certified nonprofit organizations that serve the working poor in Arizona. We are so grateful to those of you who qualified and contributed through this program last year. We raised almost \$30,000 for A Stepping Stone in 2005! *see Tax Credit, page 3*

IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>President's Corner</i>	2
<i>Director's Footnote</i>	3
<i>Tax Credit Donation Form</i>	3
<i>Sleep America Charities</i> ...	8

ARTICLES:

<i>I Keep Dreaming Dreams</i> by Rev. Bill Smith	4
<i>Family Relations Team Report</i>	4
<i>Cost of Classroom Rises</i>	6

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



By Charlie Adornetto

I am very excited to be writing my very first President's Corner. I am honored (and somewhat nervous) to be beginning the journey into the presidency of this fabulous and vibrant organization. I am also pleased that we have several new members on the Board of Directors and I believe they will bring outstanding energy and a variety of strengths to A Stepping Stone Foundation.

I debated whether to introduce myself or explore the future in my first column, and I decided to do the latter. That is because A Stepping Stone Foundation is preparing for its first "Stepping into the Future" event on September 9. This event is the first time we have invited all of our preschool graduates who are now in high school and college, along with their parents, to talk about their experiences, education, and mentoring and tutoring prospects. We will also present information on scholarship possibilities to the high school seniors. We do plan to make this an annual event and we believe it will be an important tool in assisting our preschool graduates to realize that college is a valuable tool and an affordable option!

Now, let's talk about the future...I'm relatively comfortable that, if you have received this newsletter and you're reading this far into the column, you do highly value children and education. I know there are a lot of initiatives on the ballot this year, but there is one that I really want to highlight: The *First Things First*

Initiative, sponsored by Nadine and Eddie Basha.

This initiative would impose an additional tobacco tax to pay for early childhood education and health care. With so many initiatives on the ballot, a lot of people will not bother to read them and may just vote "no" on all of them. I hope you will take the time to learn about this initiative, Visit www.yeson203.com and tell all your friends to **VOTE YES ON 203!** The fact is there are nearly 400,000 children under age five living in Arizona...this is our opportunity to invest in high-quality early childhood education as one of the most effective strategies to ensure Arizona's children begin school with the skills they need to succeed.

The Basha initiative may create additional opportunities for A Stepping Stone Foundation and we are also presently looking at other opportunities to grow our program in other areas, both geographic and programmatic, for example: a possible classroom in Sunnyslope or other locations in Arizona; a classroom endowment program; the family concept proposed by Rev. Smith (see page 4); and a potential mentoring program.

I have been president only a few short months, and I have already made my television debut (preserved for all eternity at www.successforgood.org) and been profiled at www.blacktie-arizona.com. The future looks exciting, and I am honored to be a part of it.

Thank you all for being part of the journey!

Have You Met Charles Adornetto?

Charlie was recently interviewed by Blacktie Arizona, an online tool for nonprofits to aid in high end fundraising events. Charlie is featured on the home page of their website with a link to an article about him and A Stepping Stone Foundation. To read this great article and see how Charlie is making a name for A Stepping Stone Foundation, go to:

www.blacktie-arizona.com and click on Have You Met?

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DIRECTOR'S FOOTNOTE

by Cindy Gattorna, Executive Director

Cindy concluded her report at the annual meeting in June with the following:

"In conclusion of this report I will take a point of privilege for just a few moments to reflect and to look forward. When I came back to Stepping Stone Foundation a couple years ago, I had the distinct *displeasure* of relating to you that we were in a bit of a financial pickle. From that time to present I have seen you all work so very hard to ensure our program integrity and find the funding with which to do it. All the while you have continued to preserve the anonymity and integrity of our families, and kept your eyes on the prize of securing high quality education for our preschoolers and college scholars.

After the tremendous whirlwind of activity, we stand now at the eye of the storm, calm around us with potential of more strong winds to come. Or, if you can relate to opening night in the theater: everything we have done was but a rehearsal for the anticipated greatness to come. Or maybe you identify better with the night before an IPO launch: having built a viable non-profit service, ready to introduce it to the rest of the world for their investment at all levels.

I would task you - new friends and seasoned friends - to maintain the intense energy, creativity, mediated risk and responsible open-mindedness that have characterized this group certainly since I have been a part of it.

Well done this year!"

Dear Stepping Stone Family,

We are so very pleased to report that once again we have a large matching grant opportunity! Thanks to *Stepping Into Paradise* honorary chairs, Dr. Carol Peck and Donald Budinger, we have a \$25,000 matching grant, and to another of our newer ardent supporters, John O. Whiteman, we have an additional \$30,000 matching grant. For those of you who might not be familiar with this practice, these monies are offered to us with the promise of doubling your donation. That is for every dollar you send us up to \$55,000, these kind individuals will match your gift 100%. So far we have received about \$10,000 in matching funds or pledges. If you are able to send us a donation or know someone that can, please help us out!

Tax Credit, from page 1

This year it is important for you to note that married couples filing jointly may donate up to \$400, that's more than last year! For an individual filing the limit is still \$200. **This Tax Credit is separate from the School Tax Credit - so you can take full advantage of both.** It costs you nothing and makes a huge difference in our community.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Stepping Stone office at (602) 843-8281. We hope you will join us in supporting literacy and strengthening families and communities in Arizona!

**Welfare Reform Tax Credit
Donation Form**



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____

Cash/Check **Visa** **MC** **AMEX**

Credit Card No: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

**Please send me more information
I would like to visit a classroom
Please send me volunteer and
Board Member Information**

**Please mail your donation
before December 31, 2006 to:
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P.O. Box 84318

Phoenix, AZ 85071

(602) 843-8281 www.astepingstone.org

I KEEP DREAMING DREAMS

By Stepping Stone Foundation Founder,
Rev. Bill Smith

Did you ever have a dream that keeps coming back? My latest really originated in the mind of my wife Ann. I think she whispered it in my ear one night when I was in deep sleep. But I have articulated it a bit to our Stepping Stone Board. And lately it keeps coming back.

You see, we have several hundred children in the Isaac and Alhambra district who are eligible to be in one of our classes. At present we can handle only 90. The lack of space and dollars is limiting our expansion. So, here is the dream that disturbed my sleep. The dream is about developing what I am calling "Mini-Stepping Stone classes." The idea is rather simple. First, find a Mom who is willing for a mini-class to be in her home. Second, discover four or five four-year-olds who live in close proximity to the Mom who is willing to have a mini-class. Third, cultivate one of the Mom's to be the coordinator of the mini-class. Fourth, create a mini-curriculum and train this Mom to be the mini-class teacher.

We are terribly short of preschool teachers and assistant teachers. Instead of paying this Mom a salary, we could encourage her to begin her academic preparation to be a teacher by sending her to community college. If the mini-class model is sound, then we could be fruitful and multiply them throughout the two districts.

Many details such as materials, food snacks, liability concerns, parent involvement and parent responsibilities, school district involvement (if any), additional costs, etc. would have to be worked out and developed. But, my dream keeps occurring. And the funny thing is, it all seems so simple and so possible. The words of Bobby Kennedy came to me again in my dreams: "Some people see things as they are and ask "Why?" And some dream dreams that never were and ask "Why Not?"

So, I ask, "Why not---a whole flock of Mini-classes for four-year-olds?"

What Does The Family Relations Team Do?

Would You Like To Join Them?

By Nancy Ireland, Chair

The purpose of the Family Relations Team is to build a supportive relationship between A Stepping Stone Foundation students, parents and members of the Foundation.

During the year, the team is called upon by the teachers to assist with various needs, for example, helping out a family in times of need. The team also sends greeting cards to parents on their birthdays and anniversaries and coordinates the traditional Christmas Angel Tree which involves many people, not only from A Stepping Stone Foundation, but also from the community. In the spring, the team sponsors the Spring Parent Recognition events where parents are honored for their accomplishments in the family literacy program they attend throughout the year.

Currently, Roy Zaborowski and I are making a video for the parents telling what they, as parents, will be involved in throughout the year. It will emphasize 'what's in it for them.' Roy is the cameraman and lead in producing the video while I

am working with him and writing the script. We are seeking help from those who can do voice-over in English or Spanish. The target delivery date is late September, so we need help now! To help, contact me at: nancyireland01@aol.com or contact the Foundation office at (602) 843-8281.

I particularly enjoy working on this team because it gives me an opportunity to get to know the parents and do something for them.

Team members this past year were: Billie Foltz, Barb Geer, Debbie Bobo-Jones, Gus Rodriguez, Alison Tamboer, Carmen Sanchez and myself as Chair.

We are always looking for more members of the team. Participants do NOT need to be Board members. On the other hand, if there is one particular project you would like to be involved in, please let me know via email. After Labor Day you may leave a message on my home phone: (480) 488-2688.



Westwood Family Celebration in May. See more photos on page 6

FBR Birdies for Charity Giving Opportunity

The Thunderbirds' *Birdies for Charity* Program has invited Arizona-based 501(c)(3) organizations to involve the community in a pledge drive program based on the total number of birdies made during the 2007 FBR Open (Formerly the Phoenix Open). A Stepping Stone Foundation is registered for this program. Anyone can fill-out a pledge form and pledge one cent or more per birdie to be a part of the program. Donor incentives include the Grand Prize of a new Buick Lucerne and 100 other great prizes - all awarded through a random drawing of contributors approximately two months after

the conclusion of the 2007 FBR Open.

Last year we received nearly \$2,800 as 110% comes back to A Stepping Stone Foundation. We would love to double that amount! No funds will be collected by the participating charities. The Thunderbirds will invoice those who filled out pledge forms following the 2007 FBR Open and collect all monies. 110 percent of the collected *Birdies for Charity* pledges will go directly to the soliciting charity.

For more details, log on to: <http://www.phoenixopen.com/BFC.asp>.

Meet the 2006/2007 Teachers!

Through hard work and dedication to the Stepping Stones program, these are the people that make the difference in the children's lives. Their love of their job and the children is so apparent in the classrooms they've created.

Granada Primary

Janice Milks, Lead Teacher
Veronica Flores, Assistant Teacher



Janet Casteñada, Lead Teacher
Betty Chavez, Assistant Teacher

Isaac Preschool

Belinda Valenzuela, Lead Teacher
Terry Hernandez, Lead Teacher
Esperanza Rivera, Assistant Teacher

Westwood Elementary

Nova Smith, Lead Teacher
Minerva Flores, Assistant Teacher

Best of luck to you all as you enrich the lives of another class of four-year-olds.



**Welcome to the Board,
Nancy Molever!**

Nancy is one of six new board members this year. She works for the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections as the Media Relations Coordinator and hopes to work with PR and Marketing for SSF. She was introduced to SSF by her co-worker, Charlie Adornetto.

Nancy was a court appointed Special-Advocate for 10 years and was active on its board, *Arizonans for Children*.

Her greatest accomplishments are her two college-age sons and as she puts it, "Everything else pales by comparison." She enjoys reading, yoga, hiking and spending time with family and friends, including her dog, Tori, who can open the refrigerator and help himself to lunch!

Asked what she hopes to accomplish as a board member, Nancy wrote, "I want to be a part of the solution -- education is a prevention strategy for poverty, abuse and neglect, teen pregnancy and juvenile delinquency."

We're so glad to have you, Nancy!



New Stepping Stone Preschoolers enjoy their first days in the classroom

Cost of Classroom Rises

Due to the increasing cost of supporting a classroom and the Foundation's commitment to hire sufficient staff to administer programs at a professional level, the actual average cost of a class for this coming year is about \$75,000 based on this year's budget (06-07). That means we have to raise a minimum of \$437,000 this year just to sustain our current capacity of five preschool classrooms and the minimal administrative infrastructure required to properly support them.

Teacher's salaries and benefits have gone up quite a bit in the last two years. Additionally, each year as our teachers become more experienced they progress up their individual pay scales. Those of you in business know about cash flow cycles, so we have to have some money at the beginning of each school year to pay the early expenses of that year. Sustained funding is a must for the future!

If you can donate \$4,200 this year, you will have donated support for one family for the whole year. This entitles you to our CARE newsletter as well as our *Footprints* newsletter, and the satisfaction that your donation has made a lasting impact on one family and the Foundation. And don't forget that a \$400 donation may entitle you to the Welfare Tax Credit with the State of Arizona (see related article on page 1). Of course we continue to honor and appreciate ALL gifts of all sizes!

A Stepping Stone Scrapbook



Board members and parents accept the \$50,000 grant from the Thunderbirds at Isaac Preschool. Pictured, top from left, Judy Brengi, Mike Haenel of the Thunderbirds, Mike Gattorna, Ted Purdy and preschool mothers.

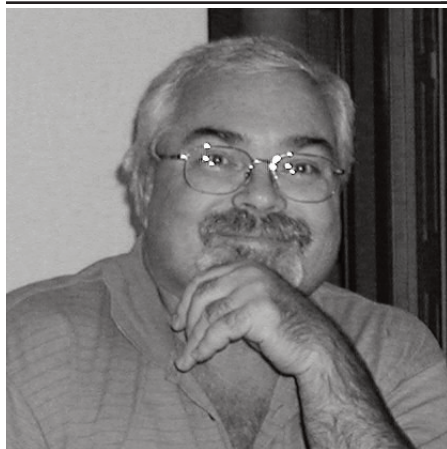


(Above) Granada teacher Janet Castañeda and Board Member Linda Pape present achievement awards at the parent celebration while (below) children enjoy their first day of school at Isaac.



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

As we celebrate our one-year anniversary in our new office, we thank Jack Kucera and his company, Climatec, for their generosity and kindness in donating office space for us. Climatec personnel are always so supportive of our activities and continue to welcome us into their office.



Mike Gattorna retires from A Stepping Stone Foundation Board

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to Mike Gattorna as he retires from nine years on the Board.

In that time, Mike served as President from 1999 - 2002, worked on the Murphy Seed Team and spearheaded the golf tournament for six years. Mike's tireless leadership of the golf tournament was a turning point for A Stepping Stone Foundation's fundraising efforts. Through his dedication to provide a high quality event, the golf tournament has become one of A Stepping Stone Founda-

tion's largest fundraisers. He plans to continue to help with the golf tournament this year.

Mike also captained A Stepping Stone Foundation's softball team for three years with a first place victory in the 2005 Avnet Softball Tournament.

His leadership, hard work and dedication are a great asset to A Stepping Stone Foundation and he plans to remain closely connected to the Foundation's continuing work.

From A Stepping Stone Foundation Scholar...

The following is an essay from one of the Billie Gannaway Memorial Scholarship recipients. Linda is currently in her first year at Phoenix Community College.

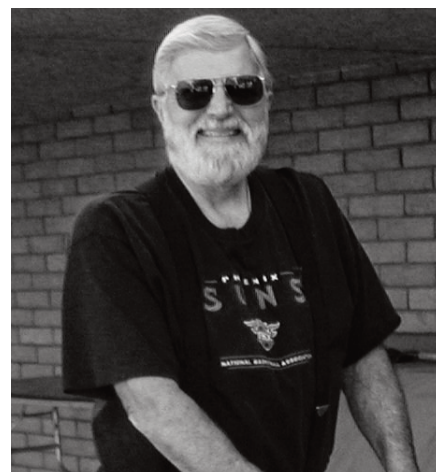
Since I was a child I have always known that I would try my hardest to pursue a higher education. I believe preschool played a major role in my decision. They encourage you to believe in yourself and to never give up. That is why I have now finished high school. I have taken the first step in becoming who I want to be: a dedicated young woman who is willing to do anything to pursue my dreams. My main goal in life is to become a registered nurse.

I believe my parents are also responsible for encouraging me to pursue a higher education. They believe that school is the only opportunity you have in life in order

to be successful. Being the youngest child in my family gave me the opportunity to look around me and see how life really is. Life is full of obstacles and my job will be to overcome them and make the best of them.

I will try my best in order to make everyone proud. I can promise you that I will try my BEST to achieve my goal. I am thankful that I was given the opportunity to receive a scholarship from A Stepping Stone Foundation. This scholarship will give me a head start for a better future, full of opportunities.

Thank You
Linda Calixtro



Ron Ireland

Thank you to Ron Ireland as he retires from the board after one year. While serving on the board, Ron chaired the Grants Team and was active with wife Nancy on many Family Relations events, including the Christmas Angel Tree. With Nancy still on the board, we know he won't be too far away!

Meet our Newest Staff Member

Margie Talley is the newest Stepping Stone staff member, working in the office part time as an administrative assistant and producing the quarterly newsletter. She comes to the office with a range of experience from bookkeeping to writing/editing and the production of newsletters. Margie is a longtime Stepping Stone supporter and is delighted to be working with the organization. She has been married to Phil for 26 years and has three daughters, Melissa, 21, Bridget, 18 and Janice, 14. Besides spending time with family and friends, Margie has a passion for animals, especially her three dogs, Marcel, Jean Pierre and Cooper.

Look for Christmas Angel information in the winter newsletter. If you would like additional information before that time, please call the Stepping Stone office at (602) 843-8281

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One Family at a Time!

Thank You!
A huge thanks to Marisa Benincasa for all of her hard work and beautiful layout of the *Footprint News*. It will be difficult to fill her shoes and Stepping Stones wishes her well as she pursues her own business using her excellent graphic design skills.

Preschool★Family★Literacy★Community★Success

A STEPPING STONE FOUNDATION

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www.astepingstone.org



Many thanks to Sleep America for selecting A Stepping Stone Foundation as one of three recipients of proceeds from Sleep America Charities' 4th Annual Charity Golf Tournament. The tournament will be played on September 13, 2006 at the Wigwam Resort with a 12:30 p.m. Shotgun Tee-off. Cost is \$250 per player. Following the tournament, there will be cocktails at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Cost for the dinner only is \$50.

The event will also feature a silent auction, live auction, raffle, and a four-player scramble. Keynote speaker for the evening is Lisa Love, VP of ASU Athletics and Phoenix Suns announcer, Al McCoy will serve as Emcee.

As press time comes very close to the event, if this newsletter is received prior to the tournament and you would like to participate, please go to:

www.SleepAmerica.com
and click on "Charities."



Be An Angel this Christmas...

Help Support our Christmas Angel Program for A Stepping Stone Children and their Families

The Christmas Angels are flying again! For the 16th year, A Stepping Stone Foundation is proudly sponsoring the Christmas Angel Tree program for our preschool children and their families. Imagine the excitement these children will feel as they receive their presents! You will rejoice as you realize how good it feels to put smiles on these children's faces who otherwise might not have presents. This year we have close to 90 families, many of whom are in great financial need with two to five children. We need many hands to make these children's holiday season special.

Angel Tags representing the 'wish' lists of all our preschool children and

their siblings 12-years-old and under will be available beginning Sunday, November 19th through December 4th on our Angel Tree at Shadow Rock Church, 12861 N. 8th Avenue in Phoenix.

You may also obtain tags by calling Nancy Ireland, Project Chairman, at (480) 488-2688. If you have a specific request; for example, tags for an entire family of 4 children, **contact Nancy before Nov. 19** so that she can select yours before the trees are displayed.

Guidelines for gifts: Every child should receive a toy, a book and an article of clothing. Limit spending to \$50 per tag (child) to ensure that all recipients gifts are somewhat equal. Sorry, we cannot handle large items such as bikes. *see Angel, continued on page 4*

It's Not Too Late to Support A Stepping Stone Foundation through the Working Poor Tax Credit *Deadline is December 31, 2006*

Do you itemize on your Arizona Tax return? If so, you may be eligible for the Working Poor Tax Credit program (formerly called Welfare Reform Tax Credit). This is a dollar-for-dollar credit on your Arizona tax liability when you donate to a self-certified nonprofit. A Stepping Stone is one of those self-certified nonprofit organizations that serve the working poor in Arizona. We are so grateful to those of you who qualified and contributed through this program last year. We raised almost \$30,000 for A Stepping Stone in 2005!

see Tax Credit, page 3

OUR MISSION

To provide Stepping Stones for Success through education of children and families who have limited opportunities.

Golf Tournament

December 8th

To register, go to:

www.tedpurdyfoundation.net

[/events](#)

or

www.astepingstone.org

and click on the

Pebbletec Charity Golf Tournament

The *PebbleTec Charity Golf Tournament* hosted by the Ted Purdy Foundation to benefit A Stepping Stone Foundation and other local charities will be held on December 8, 2006. Also sponsored by Kohler, Ping, Sunice and the Grayhawk Golf Club, the tournament will be played on both the Raptor and Talon courses at Grayhawk with an 11:00 a.m. tee time.

Tournament Chairs Ted Purdy and James Donley are committed to holding a high quality, fun filled tournament with the goal of raising \$100,000 for A Stepping Stone Foundation.

see Tournament, page 4

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Corner..... 2

Director's Footnote..... 3

Tax Credit Donation

Form.....3

Classroom Notes.....5,7,8

Scrapbook.....6

President's Corner

By Charlie Adornetto

A few weeks ago, I went to a legal lecture at which was discussed the historical antecedents of the Fourth Amendment. Doesn't exactly sound exciting, does it? Somehow, the presenter made it extremely fun—by talking about the people who created the history. In fact, he explained, the way to sell history to children is to tell them that history is “just gossip about dead people.”

In the last newsletter, I promised to provide a little personal background because I do think it is important for people to examine who they are, what they believe in and how they put those beliefs into action.

I am a first-generation American. My parents were born in Italy. Many of my relatives emigrated to the U.S., but not all of them learned to speak English. My father did not graduate from high school and my mother did not have any schooling in the US. My father worked two and sometimes three jobs to make ends meet. Preschool was never even discussed. Does this scenario sound familiar?

One of my few memories of first grade was at the end of the year. My teacher proudly proclaimed that, at the beginning of the year I could not read, but by the end of the year I was one of the best readers in the class.

In the fourth grade, my teacher started beaming that I was going to like my report card. Apparently, I had earned straight A's. I didn't know what she was talking about—it had never dawned on me that getting straight A's was even a possibility.

From the fourth grade on, even though no one else in my family had attended college, it was clear that I was

going to shoot even higher than college. I believe my success might have been because I was lucky enough to be placed in advanced classes and my peer group therefore consisted of kids who did have dreams and expectations of college and success.

My dream became reality: I did graduate from Stanford Law School and I am now the Chief Hearing Officer at the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections and a Judge Pro Tempore for Maricopa County, Pinal County, Scottsdale, Tempe, and Apache Junction. It seems an unlikely future for the scared little boy who entered first grade unable to read.

“I do believe that education is the key that can open any door in the US, and that is why I am committed to quality education for all of our youth.”

future for the scared little boy who entered first grade unable to read.

I do believe that education is the key that can open any door in the U.S., and that is why I am committed to high quality education for all of our youth. Our youth should have the skills necessary to enter kindergarten; they should be conditioned by role models and mentors to expect that college and success are reasonable goals; and they should view college as an affordable investment in their future.

Our children are our future. Help A Stepping Stone Foundation build a better future through educated youth!



*Stepping Stone Foundation Board
President, circa 1979.*

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Vice President

Marilyn Rampley

Secretary

Linda Pape

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Jerry Landis

Gary Tooker

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Director's Footnote

Quality Seeks Quality!

by Cindy Gattorna

As I sit at this keyboard it occurs to me I have written quite a few of these Footnotes over the past five years. I have alternately pled for money and cheered our successes. This issue, I wax a bit more philosophical. I have two personal core beliefs I wish to share with you.

I believe in the fundamental value of high quality public education. If children and adults are to make positive life choices, and indeed grow the amount and quality of those choices, they must first be able to THINK! In order to capture, learn, apply and share information, and relate to people in meaningful ways, they must be able to read, write and enumerate in the language of commerce here in the United States -- English. Our program prepares our families in all those ways.

I believe quality seeks quality! You, the wonderful Stepping Stone supporters past, present and future, have affirmed my attachment to quality. Year after year our volunteers—from board members and fundraisers to lollypop-tree-builders and Christmas Angels—and our donors and families infuse me with the inspiration and energy to continue to grow this idea of educating two generations at a time! You not only make me better, you most importantly make the Foundation better. Our Foundation is a quality magnet.

Grant Report

Thank you to Dr. Carol Peck and the Rodel Charitable Foundation for once again supporting Best Practices in A Stepping Stone Foundation through a \$25,000 grant.


Our appreciation also goes out to Arizona Public Service for their support with a \$5,000 grant for childcare at the Granada campus.

Stepping Stone Foundation supporters are the cornerstone of all we do for the preschoolers and their families.

Tax Credit, from page 1

This year it is important to note that married couples filing jointly may donate up to \$400, that's more than last year! For an individual filing the limit is still \$200. **This Tax Credit is separate from the School Tax Credit - so you can take full advantage of both.** If you qualify, it costs you nothing and makes a huge difference in our community.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Stepping Stone office at (602) 843-8281. We hope you will join us in supporting literacy and strengthening families and communities in Arizona!



Working Poor Tax Credit Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____

Cash/Check Visa MC AMEX

Credit Card No: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please send me more information
 I would like to visit a classroom
 Please send me volunteer and Board Member Information

Please mail your donation before **December 31, 2006** to:
A Stepping Stone Foundation
P.O. Box 84318
Phoenix, AZ 85071
(602) 843-8281 www.astepppingstone.org

Tournament, from page 1

Through the generosity of all the sponsors, there is no overhead, therefore 100% of the proceeds will be donated to charity, with A Stepping Stone Foundation as the main beneficiary.

The fee for the tournament is \$1000 per player or \$3000 per threesome and features tee prizes worth \$1000 or more from Titleist, Footjoy, Sunice, Magic Belt and more!

There will be a silent auction and an online auction along with the tournament and a dinner that evening.



Golf tournament Co-Chair Ted Purdy visits with children in the classroom.

Angels, from page 1

Each tag will contain the complete guidelines. A few families with greater needs will be identified as TLC and may receive extra gifts. TLC Tags will be hung on a separate tree at Shadow Rock or will be available from Nancy.

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 spend at local grocery stores to ease their holiday meal shopping. If Shadow Rock is not a convenient location for you, please mail a check to A Stepping Stone Foundation, P.O. Box 84318, Phoenix, AZ 85071. Please make checks payable to A Stepping Stone Foundation and identify it as a gift to the 2006 Christmas Angel Project.

Wrapped and tagged gifts should be delivered to Shadow Rock no later than Thursday, December 7th. Gifts will then be inventoried and sorted by classroom before the teachers pick them up for distribution to the families. The teachers will then discreetly deliver the bags to the parents who decide when and how to give the gifts to the children. It is the parents' decision to say whom the gifts are from and why they received them. We are mindful that not all families celebrate Christmas. For more information, contact **Nancy Ireland**, Project Chair, at **(480) 488-2688**.

To view the online auction or the silent auction, for more information or to register to play in the tournament, go to either:

www.tedpurdyfoundation.net/events

or

www.astepingstone.org

and click on the Pebbletec Charity Golf Tournament

FBR Birdies for Charity Giving Opportunity

The Thunderbirds' *Birdies for Charity* Program has invited Arizona-based 501(c)(3) organizations to involve the community in a pledge drive program based on the total number of birdies made during the 2007 FBR Open (Formerly the Phoenix Open). A Stepping Stone Foundation is registered for this program. Anyone can complete a pledge form and pledge one cent or more per birdie to be a part of the program. Donor incentives include the Grand Prize of a new Buick Lucerne and 100 other great prizes - all awarded through a

random drawing of contributors approximately two months after the conclusion of the 2007 FBR Open.

Last year we received nearly \$2,800 as 110% comes back to A Stepping Stone Foundation. We would love to double that amount! No funds will be collected by the participating charities. The Thunderbirds will invoice those who filled out pledge forms following the 2007 FBR Open and collect all monies. 110 percent of the collected *Birdies for Charity* pledges will go directly to the soliciting charity.

For more details, log on to:

<http://www.phoenixopen.com/BFC.asp>

*"I've never known more clearly
what the Bible means when it says
'it's more blessed to give than to receive.'*

- An anonymous donor after helping out a preschool family

Meet A Stepping Stone Foundation Board Members

Beverly Carroll is new to the board this year and works as an independent Arbonne consultant. She is a retired school teacher and volunteers at Westwood Elementary School and in the Lab Rescue program. As a board member, Beverly has volunteered to serve on the Family Relations Team.

Beverly's numerous accomplishments include: AZHPERD board member for 10 years, Southwest Physical Education Board Director for five years, Alhambra Physical Education Coordinator, recipient of the Alhambra School District Teacher of Excellence award and coached basketball, softball, volleyball, cheerleading and gymnastics for 20 years. Beverly is married to Walter Carroll, has two grown daughters, Kelly and Jennifer, and two grandsons.

As a board member, Beverly hopes: "to become an active contributor of the organization by helping to create a positive response from the business community."

Linda Pape has been on the board for four years, currently serves as Board Secretary and is active in all fundraising events. She is also a member of the Communications Team and has worked with the Speaker's Bureau, Christmas Angels and golf tournaments, co-chairing "Under the Big Top" and "Artist's Palette" fundraising events. Linda has been married to John for six years and between them they have four children and six grandchildren. She enjoys reading, gardening and playing with her grandsons, ages three, two and six months.

Linda's many accomplishments, include: working as a primary teacher for 37 years, listed in both America's Who's Who Among America's Teachers in 1994 and 2000 and Leaders of American Elementary and Secondary Education. As a board member, Linda says, "I believe Early Education is crucial for all children and I want to make a difference in the future of our children and their families."

Tom Pynn has served on the board for five years, is currently assisting with research and development and also served for two years as Chair of the Grants Team. He is the Director of Development for Chicanos Por La Causa and also volunteers as President of the Washington Education Foundation and coordinates meals at the Chris Becker Dining Hall each month.

Tom and his wife, Jacqueline, have a 10-year-old son, William. In his spare time, he enjoys swimming, and playing sports with William.

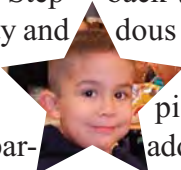
Among his many accomplishments, Tom has directed over 30 major surveys and other program studies for various state and federal organizations. He also served as a contractor to the U.S. Department of State from 1988-1995 doing work throughout Latin America on Drug Abuse treatment and prevention.

As a board member, Tom would like "to assist, with others, in ensuring that A Stepping Stone Foundation continues to served the children who have no access to preschool."

Notes From the Westwood Classroom - Contributed by Cindy Gattorna

Teacher **Janice Milks** reports that parents and children are very excited about their upcoming trip to the Arizona State Fair. They sponge painted special Stepping Stone Foundation T-shirts to wear for the day and have been talking a great deal about animals, community and how to behave on a field trip!

Last parenting class, Janice also reports, the parents participated in an activity and discussion about self esteem. The parents were to create globe-like gazing jars full of stars, colored water, sparkleys for the children to shake and observe during class. Before the parents began, Janice provided a glass jar of water that was clear. Janice began by saying how our children's minds are like the clear jar with just water, clean and positive. What happens when you fill it with dirt and other garbage? She explained how constant negative reinforcement can hurt people's self image. What we



put in the clear jars makes a tremendous difference in the outcome of the product; just as the quality of feedback we give our children (and ourselves) has a tremendous impact on self esteem. Janice's example jar clouded up with dirty water and other small pieces of yard litter swirling around which she added as she spoke. I suspect the parents understood since I was able to shake the end products of their labor and see beautiful images of glitter, small shapes, shells and the like that floated in clear water and corn syrup.



Welcome to Adriana Figueroa who now staffs the childcare room at Granada Primary. A few weeks after she began working at Granada she went to the mail and noticed a Stepping Stone Foundation newsletter in the *see Westwood, page 7*

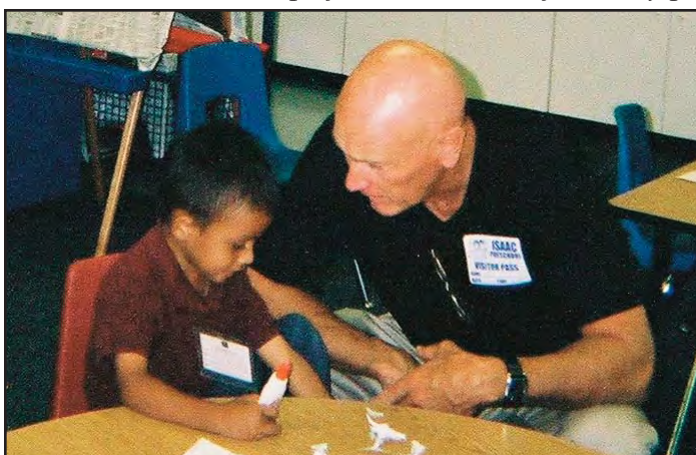
A Stepping Stone Scrapbook



A HUGE thanks to Natalie Lamb (pictured right), who has her Masters in Elementary Childhood Education. She constructed thematic bags for use in our classrooms. Each bag included books, activities, art supplies and manipulatives. The units included such themes as frogs, caterpillars, counting, etc. THANKS NATALIE!



*Cindy Gattorna and Margie Talley greet Carl Munz (pictured left) at the Thank You Lunch for all **Climatec** employees sponsored by A Stepping Stone Foundation on September 19th. Many employees (pictured right) enjoyed the luncheon. Many thanks to Julie Harris, Judy Brengi, Marilyn Ramply, Ron & Nancy Ireland and Linda Pape for the delicious food they provided for the lunch as well as help that day.*



*Rev. Gil Fauber of **Shadow Rock Church** talks with an Isaac preschooler. Rev. Lori Souder also visited the classroom that day.*



Teacher Janice Milks helps a preschooler show off her special t-shirt to wear to the AZ State Fair.

Stepping Stone Scholars

A Stepping Stone Foundation is proud of our scholars, former preschool students now attending college. In each newsletter, we are sharing one of their essays prepared to apply for a scholarship from our Billie Gannaway Memorial Scholarship Fund. There are currently 11 former preschoolers attending college with these scholarships.

Not the First in College, but the Pressure Still Exists

by Vanessa Tang

My brother recently graduated from the University of Arizona. He now holds a bachelor's degree in business along with two minors. Even though it means I'm not the first child who goes to college in the family, I still get the heat from them.

My college career has impacted more than my immediate family members. My aunts use my brother and me to set a good example for my little cousins. They hope that if they see both of their older cousins graduate from college, they will try harder in school to get a good education as well.

Sometimes, I'm my aunts' and mom's subject of conversation because I am the only child cur-

rently enrolled in college and working to earn a bachelor's degree. They are very interested to learn about what I'll major in (since I was changing my subject of study continually earlier) and what classes I'll take each semester. I believe because my parents worry about me so much, they actually stress out as much as I do! Therefore, it is important for me to succeed in life since their hopes in me remain high.

Vanessa is a 1990 preschool graduate and is currently a junior at Arizona State University majoring in Bioengineering with a 3.88 GPA.

She is also the recipient of the President's Scholarship at ASU.

Way to go Vanessa!

Westwood, from page 5

mailbox. How nice she thought, A Stepping Stone Foundation had put her on the mailing list. As it turns out however, the newsletter had been addressed to her mother, Maria, because Adriana's little brother, Daniel, had been in Carmen Sanchez's Stepping Stone room 5 years ago! Is it just a small world, or do we really have the important impact on the ENTIRE family we have always thought?

Notes From the Classrooms - Isaac

Teacher **Terry Hernandez** reports this heart-warming story of little Carlos, the youngest child in her classroom. Every day when they read their literature book for the day, Teacher Terry goes through a similar routine of asking, "What time is it now, children?" "It's story time" the children chime back.

"Where is the front of the book?" After they point, she shows and reads them the title and asks, "What does the title tell you?"

"What the book is about" they answer in chorus. She goes on in similar fashion to show them the spine of the book, the back of the book and the author, etc. At bedtime, Mom reads a story to Carlos and now as she opens the book to read he lifts a hand and says, "Uh, uh, uh" in a negative fashion. Surprised, Mom asks what's wrong. Carlos answers,

"You didn't ask what time it was!"

"What time is it?" mom asks Carlos.

"It's story time!"

"Oh!" replies mom in an understanding way. And begins to read the book

"Uh, uh, uh" comes the same negative admonition.

"What's wrong now?"

"You didn't show me the front of the book, or tell me about the title!" and on it goes...

Another great story from Terry is about a returning mom, Marisola, who has obtained her GED and is now taking college courses at Phoenix Community College. She comes to Isaac preschool campus once a day for the parenting component and then goes to her college classes for the literacy component. Marisola's child we had last year was special needs, so she has to work with him every night on physical therapy and other exercises so the mom doesn't have to take him to a special rehab unit every day. These parents work so hard! We are very proud of them and we learn so much about tenacity and grit from them!

Note: By the way! Teacher Terry is the proud Grandmother of brand new Baby Luke born the week of October 12th. Congratulations!



Notes From the Classrooms - Isaac



Teacher **Belinda Valenzuela** reports the children in her classroom already recognize their first names when written and a few of the children are printing the letters in their names. Belinda uses conversation stands with letters on the pictures and the children are starting to say the names of the letters.

The class has begun writing in their Journals. The children are drawing and using their imaginations to describe what they draw. Daniela drew Barbra Streisand and asked Belinda to write her name and afterwards she copied the entire name in her Journal.

The parent and child together time is amazing to watch. The parents are doing interactive book reading and using the 3S Strategies (See, Show, Say) with their children. The parents are checking out many books and several reading certificates were given for the month of September.

One of the children, Jose, is a speech special needs student. In the beginning he was not able to speak in any language (he just used jargon talk). He recently he went over to the Halloween poster and read it to Belinda and as he ran his fingers under the words he said, "Look Teacher, this is Halloween!" He names all of his colors and the names all of his friends and is now using complete sentences in English!

South Central Maricopa County Regional Partnership

As some of you are already aware, A Stepping Stone Foundation is a member of the South Central Maricopa County Regional Partnership convened by Valley of the Sun United Way. The purpose of this partnership is to provide a system of finding out what resources exist, are still needed and to close that gap for Early Care and Education in South Central Maricopa County. Some similar groups are forming throughout the state. Cindy Gattorna, our executive director, sits on the council that meets monthly to implement a level C grant this partnership was awarded by the Early Childhood Education Funds (EEFs) held at Arizona Community Foundation. Many of our Board members attended the award luncheon held at the Wrigley Mansion August 23rd.

Strategic Planning

Recently, A Stepping Stone Foundation's Governing Board experienced a strategic and action planning session, facilitated by Dolores Casillas, an independent consultant. As part of this process, Dolores conducted a phone survey of 11 of our parents from last year's program randomly chosen (two or three from each classroom). She asked the three questions shown below with some anonymous parent responses. Negative comments were not left out! Except for wanting more classes for longer periods for more consecutive years, there were no suggested improvements!

What did you like about the program?

"They helped (my son) a lot. He was rebellious, would fight and didn't know how to share. He's a totally different child." "I participated in helping the teacher." "I was a teacher!" "We had chats about the kids and women's health."

"Communication, treatment of kids, volunteered there and helped out." "We found out about how to treat children, our roles as parents, we were like friends there."

What changes would you like to see occur in this program? "It's perfect." "I would like to see the program grow so more children can benefit." "The capacity is not enough to meet the demand; many children go without services because the programs fill up quickly."

"Everything that was offered is very good. The help we received as parents was very good also." "At Christmas time they helped us out with presents, they give you advice, tips on what helps your children learn."

Of the services you received, what was the most helpful?

"The family literacy program helped me to understand how to help my son. I spent time there playing with him and learning along with him. He learned social and life skills. As an only child, he was aggressive with other children, he's turned around 100% and he has friends."

"The chats about women's health, I seldom did it. Now I do. My child learned English and how to be well behaved. He would not share with others and now he does."

To see a copy of the report in its entirety,
please go to our website at:
www.asteppingstone.org
and scroll down to Parent Satisfaction
Survey on our home page.

Wills and Trusts and A Stepping Stone Foundation

The following is from LeaveaLegacy.org and describes how wills and trusts work when leaving charitable gifts to a non-profit organization.

In life, most people require some kind of assistance, whether it's physical, financial or spiritual. Perhaps a local church congregation or food bank supplied meals during a tough time. Maybe you were given a scholarship that made the dream of college possible. You or a loved one may have been shown especially compassionate care in the hospital during an illness or injury.

During life's struggles, we are often reminded that more must be done to continue positive, humane acts of kindness, and to sustain programs for personal enrichment...

A Stepping Stone Foundation needs financial assistance from people like you to continue their work. More than 80 percent of Americans contribute to the nonprofit groups of their choice throughout their lifetimes. But according to research conducted in 2000, only around eight percent of people chose to continue this support through a charitable bequest.

By making bequests and other "planned gifts," you can continue to help organizations that are making an important difference in your

community.

What better way to thank the people or organizations that have had an impact on your life, than to make a contribution from your estate through a bequest?

Gifts large and small are important. Charitable giving is not only for the wealthy!

I have children and relatives. Shouldn't I leave my entire estate to them?

This is perhaps the number one cause for reluctance when making a bequest. The truth is that, depending on the current tax laws, leaving a gift to charity in your will may reduce the estate tax burden on your heirs significantly. You should consult with a financial advisor or attorney to learn how giving may actually benefit your family after you're gone.

Charitable Statistics:

An Untapped Well of Good

- There are more than 260 million Americans, of whom approximately two million die each year.
- In 1996, 79,346 estate tax forms were filed with the federal government. (At the time, these forms were

required for estates in excess of \$600,000.) Eighteen percent of the forms listed a charitable gift.

- In other words, 82 percent of the nation's wealthiest individuals left nothing to charity.

- In addition, the IRS tells us that charity is getting a decreasing share of the money in these wealthy estates, from 21.8 percent in 1976 to 6.3 percent in 1992.

- According to a 2004 Associated Press news story, only 42 percent of adults have wills, a five percent drop since 2000.

If only 20 percent of Americans left a charitable bequest, the current number of charitable bequests would more than double. Imagine what the impact to charitable organizations would be if the 80 percent of Americans who give during their lifetimes also made a charitable gift through their estate plans!

Please call Cindy at (602) 843-8281 or A Stepping Stone Treasurer, Judy Brengi at (623) 566-4803, if you have interest in including A Stepping Stone Foundation in your will or trust.



Many thanks to Qwest for including A Stepping Stone Foundation in their computer giveaway. 90 Stepping Stone Families received refurbished computers at a celebration in August and Stepping Stone Scholars received computers at the Stepping Into the Future event at Shadow Rock in September. Left, Charlie Adornetto and his niece, Kinley, help distribute the computers and right, a family receives a computer at Shadow Rock.



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One Family at a Time!*

We Want You!

Volunteers are always appreciated at A Stepping Stone Foundation to help with mailings, classroom projects and other Stepping Stone-sponsored events.

If you are able to help, you are always welcome!
Please call Margie in the office at: (602) 843-8281

EG Books for Sale

There are a few Entertainment Books still for sale. A Stepping Stone Foundation receives a percentage of each book sold for classroom programming.

Help A Stepping Stone Foundation and receive discounts to restaurants, hotels and more!

If you would like to purchase one, please call the office at: (602) 843-8281.

preschool★Family★Literacy★Community★Success

A STEPPING STONE FOUNDATION

Mail To:
P.O. Box 84318
Phoenix, AZ 85071

Office:
10802 North 23rd Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85029

Phone: (602) 843-8281
Fax: (602) 843-6498
www.asteppingstone.org

.....
• **FBR Birdies for Charity** •
• **Pledge Sheets Still Available!** •
• **See article on page 4** •
.....

Racing Into the Future, May 5, 2007 Join the Fun at Penske Auto Museum

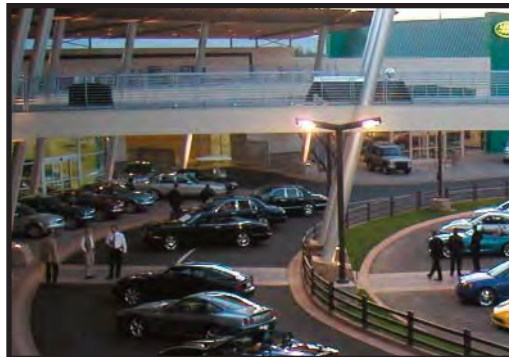
Save the Date! May 5, 2007. Please join A Stepping Stone Foundation at Racing Into the Future (formerly Stepping Into Paradise), the annual spring fundraising event. This year's event promises to be a fun filled evening at the Penske Auto Museum in North Scottsdale. The evening will include a delicious dinner, a live and silent auc-

tion, entertainment, access to the museum cars and many unique and special activities including Land Rover rides on an obstacle course and slot car racing.

If you are interested in sponsoring all or part of the event, would like to sponsor a table or would like to help with auction items, please contact Cindy or Margie in the office at (602) 843-8281.



Penske Auto Museum in North Scottsdale



PebbleTec Golf Tournament Exceeds All Goals

Many many thanks to PebbleTec and the Ted Purdy Foundation for the golf tournament to benefit A Stepping Stone Foundation on December 8, 2006. It was an exciting event as over 200 golfers participated including Cy Young Award winner Brandon Webb, NFL great Eric Dickerson, and pro golfers Kirk Triplett, Pat Perez and Monte Scheinblum. Tournament co-chairs, Ted Purdy, James Donley and Robbie Petty worked hard to produce a fun-filled, high see page 4, Tournament

Bill & Billie's Kids Go To College Honor A Stepping Stone's Scholars on January 23rd



"I think I can, I think I can, I think I can..." Remember the little engine that could? For 16 years, A Stepping Stone Foundation has provided early childhood education programs in the valley where "little engines" learn that they can succeed in school! On January 23, 2007, the Foundation will hold their annual *Billie & Billie's Kids Go to College* dinner to honor former preschoolers who are now or will be attending college with assistance from the Billie Gannaway Memorial Scholar-

ship Fund. A longtime supporter of A Stepping Stone Foundation and the efforts to help children with limited opportunities, the scholarship set up honoring Mrs. Gannaway is currently helping twelve students to attend college. As more and more former Stepping Stone preschoolers graduate high school, the Foundation looks forward to financially assisting them in their educational endeavors.

Please join us as we honor the current scholars, announce the

awards for 2007/2008 and thank the generous donors who make this program possible. The delicious dinner from Valle Luna, generously donated by Don and Chris Stamper, is at 6:30 p.m. at Crossroads United Methodist Church, 7901 N Central Ave. Tickets are on sale for \$25 each and can be purchased at A Stepping Stone Foundation office (please call (602) 843-8281).

A Stepping Stone Foundation is so proud of all the "little engines" who now know they can.

President's Corner

by Charlie Adornetto

You never know where you will find inspiration. This column was inspired by the musical Monty Python's *Spamalot*. The song "Find Your Grail" is about finding your purpose in life.

Have you had your mid-life crisis yet? Mine was two years ago. A heart stopped beating and my reason for living was gone. I woke up the next day and had to rebuild who I was, what I was, and why I was.

The reconstruction of my professional life went incredibly well. I found a new and rewarding job at the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections. I also added additional pro tempore judicial duties to my part-time substitute teaching. My career, which had been on hold for five years, was definitely back on track.

My personal life has been much harder. I was VP of A Stepping Stone Foundation, but I almost quit a couple times. Not because I didn't think that we were doing extremely great and important work -- but

because I wasn't sure I cared about much of anything anymore. I was hurt and angry at life and I wasn't sure the part of me that was capable of caring didn't die with my wife.

Make the
Difference
in the Life
of a Child

Then one night I chaired a meeting of the Scholarship Committee. We awarded college scholarships to our former preschoolers, and we really made a difference. Most of the scholars would not be attending college if not for our scholarships.

When I got home, I was overwhelmed with emotion. I felt joy for the first time in a very long time. I realized I was still capable of caring and I did care again.

I will never claim to have all the answers. But when you reach that moment in your life when it is time to reassess who and what you are, I hope you will include this in your list of priorities: MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD. Look at the faces of the children in this newsletter. They are worth it. Find your grail.

FBR Birdies for Charity Giving Opportunity

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For more information, please call the Stepping Stone office at (602) 843-8281.

For more details, log on to:
www.phoenixopen.com/BFC.asp.

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Director's Footnotes
by Cynthia Gattorna, Executive Director

A Sustaining Source of Support

Over the course of the last 16 years, A Stepping Stone Foundation has chugged forward like the Little Engine that Could...

Administrative needs. Now, we have a modest endowment started for the Billie Gannaway Memorial Scholarship Fund...

dent's article (see page 2), we all must find our Grail. My Stepping Stone Grail is quickly becoming how to build a compressive sustainability strategy for A Stepping Stone Foundation.

This January our Advisory Board will meet to discuss the issue of a long term sustainability strategy. If you have ideas or comments, please feel free to contact me...

Planned Giving

I hope you had a chance to read the article in the last issue of Footprint News that discussed planned giving in the form of wills and trusts.

ence. Even a small amount can have a big impact over time. You can leave money to your family and to A Stepping Stone Foundation.

*Make sure you have an up-to-date will (or living trust) that reflects your charitable objectives. Without these documents, you surrender control of your property and assets to the courts.

*Contact your financial advisor (a financial planner, lawyer or accountant) and ask for help in establishing a charitable gift.

*Think beyond cash -- you can leave stocks, real estate, insurance policies and personal property to charitable organizations.

*Make A Stepping Stone Foundation a beneficiary of your life insurance, pension plan or IRA.

Bashas' Thanks A Million Bashas' is once again including A Stepping Stone Foundation in their Thanks A Million Program. To participate, simply give the number at the bottom of this article to the cashier next time you use your Bashas' card and each time you shop there until March 31, 2007, Bashas' will donate a percentage of the sale to A Stepping Stone Foundation. It's easy and costs you nothing! Number: 24536

Thank you to all who donated to A Stepping Stone Foundation as part of the Tax Credit for the Working Poor. If you qualify, this is a direct credit on your state tax return. If you would like to contribute for 2007, go to www.azdor.gov.

Many thanks to Vera Bettencourt for making and donating a beautiful quilt to be auctioned off at the Bill and Billie's Kids Go to College dinner (see article on page 1) Vera is the sister of Billie Gannaway, whose memorial scholarship program allows A Stepping Stone Foundation to help former preschoolers attend college.

Tournament, from page 1
quality event while benefitting A Stepping Stone Foundation. At press time, the total proceeds to the Foundation is over \$100,000!

Pictures (clockwise from right): Executive Director Cynthia Gattorna and preschooler enjoy a hug on the course; golfers John Solheim and Jim Donley are all smiles; a golf participant picks up some tournament prizes; hole sponsor signs at the entrance; and Bill Smith and Ted Purdy.



Thanks to Golf Tournament Sponsors

- | | | |
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| Investments | Grayhawk | |

Special thanks to co-chairs James Donley and Ted Purdy and to Robbie Petty for all of his hard work in coordinating the event.

Classroom Notes

Westwood Primary

The students enjoyed riding the school bus to the State Fair where they had a wonderful time visiting the petting zoo. This trip made the "zoo phonics" used for teaching the students the sounds of the alphabet come alive. In addition, we read books about farms and farm animals and discussed the many things that can be found on the farm - the farm animals, of course, as well as the foods that grow there and the machines that are used.

We also discussed the change of seasons to Fall and made leaves for our classroom tree. The students viewed some leaves with magnifying glasses, painted some leaves with tempera paints and used food coloring to mix col-

ors to make other leaves. The leaves the students made were used on our classroom tree to give the room the feeling and look of Fall.

At the beginning of the year, some students played alone or in small groups of two or three. By the end of November, the students began to play and talk in groups of four or more and began to develop a sense of community. What a pleasure to watch this.

Thank you to Foundation board member, Marilyn Sensney, for making the play dough. The children's favorite activity with the play dough was using cookie cutters to cut out letters - particularly the ones in their names!

Nova Smith

The parents participated in a special Thanksgiving feast in our classroom. We sent home a leaf for the parents to write what their families are thankful for and they brought them to the luncheon to share with the class. Several parents teared up as they shared their thoughts with the group.

We have started a Parent Planning Committee. Their role is to work with the teachers and parents to enhance the program. Some suggestions from the families have been to have their own auction or raffle to raise monies for field tips. An-

other idea was to purchase a brick with the Stepping Stone Foundation written on it to be placed in the Alhambra District Office courtyard. They also planned the family holiday celebration at the park. It has been so wonderful to see how well the families work together and I feel like I have gained a second pair of helping hands.

The children enjoyed making gingerbread men for the holidays and took them home to decorate and then brought them back to share with the class.

Janet Castaneda



Isaac Preschool

Thank you on behalf of our class parents who received the free computers. The parents have bought preschool educational games for their homes and the children are loving them and learning.

The children are working hard on letter recognition, reading and more writing. Several children can name almost every letter. Jorge only knows the letter "J" and when mom asked him why he doesn't remember any other letters he said, "I don't like the other letters I only like my letter, J."

The children began

writing letters to us, each other and their parents using some old envelopes donated by the Stepping Stone office.

For Thanksgiving, the children made a chart about what they are thankful for. Several children said they were thankful for their shoes, food, friends, mom and dad, teachers and God.

The children have created a great bond and take care of each other. It is the most awesome place to be! Thank you for all you do for the children.

Belinda Valenzuela
Terry Hernandez

Granada Primary

The calendar year is winding down and the parents and children are excited for the holidays. The parents and ESL Teacher, Orieta Delgado, met at one of the mom's homes where they cooked brunch and had a small gift exchange. It was wonderful!

Our children so enjoyed their Gingerbread cookies and their visit from Santa! The last day of school in December, everyone convened at the park for a Piñata party and lunch.

Janice Milks

Editor's Note: Our apologies to Mrs. Milks for mis-identifying her classroom in the last newsletter as Westwood. Mrs. Milks has been teaching the preschool classroom at Granada for 14 years.

A Stepping Stone Scrapbook -- Enjoying the Holidays



Preschoolers at Isaac enjoy their Book Parade in celebration of Halloween



Stepping Stone preschoolers enjoyed a Thanksgiving Dinner with their parents in the classroom. Many thanks to Ethel & Harris Johnson for arranging the donation of a turkey Beanie Baby to each child from the Paradise Valley Emergency Food Bank.



Santa visits the classrooms. Many thanks to Santa Mo for 16 years of visiting the children at Christmastime!

Christmas Angels

by Nancy Ireland, Family Relations Team Chair

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Christmas Angel program this year. The families all enjoyed their holidays and if no one brought gifts, Christmas would not have been very merry! Everyone, including the teachers, had their holidays made better by knowing that you found joy in giving.

This year we gave gifts to the 85 children in our five Stepping Stone classrooms at Westwood, Granada Primary and Isaac Preschool and their 145 siblings. Additionally, thanks to the generous donations, ALL families in need were able to purchase food for their tables.

Beginning Nov. 19, tags were distributed to those who had special requests, such as a high school Spanish club, a soccer team, employees at APS, members of a Masonic Lodge, Shadow Rock church folks, an investment club and readers of this newsletter. Clutching

their Angel Tags, the Angels bought and wrapped gifts over the next 23 days. By the evening of December 11th, all of the gifts were ready for the teachers to deliver to the homes. Our thanks goes to: Jack and Gladys Bobo, Ed and Nancy VanBrunt, and Jerry and Susan Wadell who hosted wrapping parties in their homes as well as to Shadow Rock church.

At this time, the students also received Gingerbread Cookies made by the Keystone group at Shadow Rock, lollipop trees handmade by John and Shirley Crissinger and wooden cars crafted by the Arizona Association of Fine Woodworkers.

The Family Arts Needlework Shop and the Arizona Region of the Classic Car Club of America donated 175+ books to supplement the gifts and add new books in the classrooms. Many people donated money for grocery store certificates

so that the families would be assured of having enough food on their tables for the holidays.

Where do the teachers fit into this picture? They began in October when they met individually with the parents to fill out the Angel Tags. Then they prepared lists used to sign out tags as they were taken. A new tradition was born last year as they gave up personal time to attend our special Wrapping Parties. After these parties, they loaded bags of gifts into their cars and delivered them to each family. I can tell you that many had to borrow trucks and vans in order to haul everything. They told me it was worth all of their efforts since it was "for the kids."

No wonder word spreads throughout the communities about our wonderful organization. A Stepping Stone family benefits for life by being in our program.

A Stepping Stone Foundation to Host Home Tour

In collaboration with Cullum Homes and Habitat for Humanity Valley of the Sun, A Stepping Stone Foundation is staffing a home tour in late April and early May. The home-builder is currently working on the home in Paradise Valley which will be sold for over \$5 million. The home will be landscaped and decorated throughout. Our assignment is to provide six guides on April 28th and May 11th – 13th. Please check your calendars now and make a call to our office if you can assist the foundation. A Stepping Stone Foundation will receive the proceeds of the tickets less any expenses.

See the next edition of this newsletter for more information, including ticket purchase and volunteering for this special tour.

Ebay and A Stepping Stone Foundation

Do you have something you want to sell on Ebay? Would you like to sell your items and help out A Stepping Stone Foundation at the same time? The Foundation is now registered with MissionFish.org, an online organization that helps non-profits raise funds through Ebay sales. See www.missionfish.org or call the office at (602) 843-8281 for more information.



Gretchen Dumas (left) wraps a present for the Christmas Angels while (right) the Merrill family selects their Angel tags from the Shadow Rock tree.



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OUR MISSION

To provide Stepping Stones for Success through education of children and families who have limited opportunities.

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Corner..... 2
Director's Footnote..... 3
Golf Tournament pictures..... 4
Classroom Notes.....5
Scrapbook.....6
Christmas Angels..... 7

We Want You!

Volunteers are always appreciated at A Stepping Stone Foundation to help with mailings, classroom projects and other Stepping Stone-sponsored events. If you are able to help, you are always welcome! Please call Margie in the office at: (602) 843-8281

.....
FBR Birdies for Charity Pledge Sheets Still Available! See article on page 2
.....

Classroom Notes

Westwood Primary

Ms. Nova Smith

My how the time has flown - it is so hard to believe we are in the middle of April already! In February, the students talked about their family, learned about different feelings, discussed what made them happy, sad, mad, etc, and worked on using their words to express their feelings to their friends. We read their favorite book, *Hug*, several times during the month. As a project at home with their family, each of them decorated a large heart and then brought it back to our classroom to be displayed on our art board during the month of February. Of course, they exchanged Valentines and had a

"Valentines Party." We also talked about and used musical instruments to express our feelings and to discussed how music makes us feel.

A clarinet was one of the instruments shown in a book we read at the end of February and the students wanted to know what it was. That same week, a high school student visited our class to show the students what a clarinet is and played it for them.

During the month of March, we talked about animals and other things that may be found in the zoo. On March 12th, the students arrived at school to find the classroom *see Smith, page 7*

Westwood Primary

Ms. Janet Castaneda and Ms. Betty Chavez

In February, we took "Literacy Leaves" on our home visits. We really enjoyed sharing ways the parents could encourage their child's love of reading at home. I was happy to hear that so many families are already reading with children on a daily basis. Each family was given leaves on which to write the title of the books they are reading. Everyday the students brought the leaves back to class to display on our giant Literacy Tree and took more home to fill out. In addition, we also opened a lending library in class so the children now have books they can take home.

In March, our class learned about Farm and Zoo animals. We had a lot of fun making animal sounds and pretending to move like the animals. The class and their families met Ms. Betty and I at the Zoo. We were able to arrange for all our families to go to the Zoo at a very discounted rate.

We made a special scavenger hunt game the students could play with their families while at the zoo and they can share them later with us in class.

Also, the students drew pictures of Zoo animals in their journals and shared their stories with the class. They are very *see Castaneda, page 7*

Granada Primary

Ms. Janice Milks and Ms. Veronica Flores

It is hard to believe that the school year is almost over. Our class took a field trip to the Great Arizona Puppet Theater to see *Peter Rabbit*. A ride on the school bus is always a special adventure, but add seeing a puppet show and it becomes a special treat that many of our children might never have had the opportunity to experience before.

The children have worked hard this year learning English and all the skills they need to be ready for kindergarten. We feel confident that they will be successful because of their preschool experience through the generosity of the Foundation. We want to thank everyone who has worked so hard to make it all possible for the children and their families.

Our parents have worked hard too. Their attendance at ESL classes has been better than any other year.

They have learned a lot. But, like most of us who have tried to learn a new language, it is still hard for them to gather up enough courage to speak English in public. They do have a better understanding of the English language which will definitely help them to be able to work with their children next year.

Our families wish to thank you again for this very special opportunity.

It is with much anticipation and some hesitation that we begin planning our end of the year celebration. Time seems to have passed too quickly, especially when both the children and parents have become so close.

We are sure that for most it is only the beginning and not the end to a lifelong journey of learning and friendship.

Home Tour, from page 1

originate in the parking lot of Paradise Valley Methodist Church, located at 8310 N. 50th Street. Shuttles will run between the home and the parking lot 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sundays.

The amenities and grandeur of this exquisite home are clearly evident. Even those of us who cannot afford this price tag will borrow decorating hints. If you are considering a remodeling project, the use of wood floors, granite countertops, precision lighting, soaring ceilings, arched display areas tucked into walls, and grandiose bathrooms and closets will inspire and instruct you.

The laundry room alone is worth the tour price!



Cullum Elegant Home Tour Three Opportunities You Won't Want to Miss!

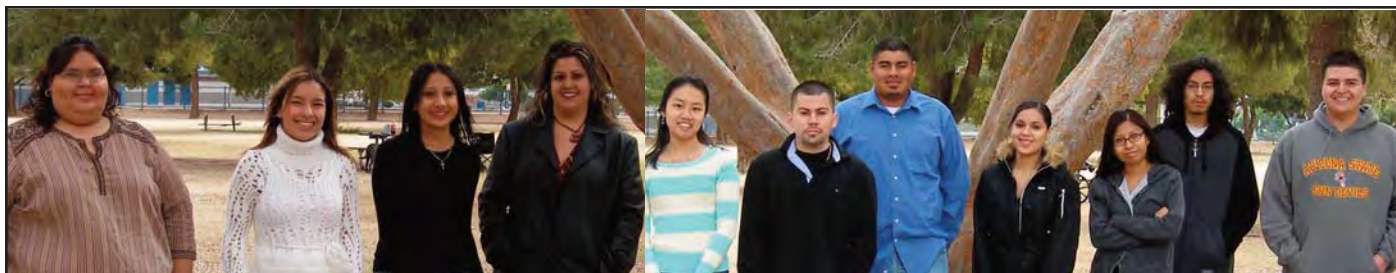
- Volunteer for a shift or two - it will be lots of fun! Volunteers will work in 4-hour shifts and will help guide people through the home. The builders and decorators will be on site to answer questions about the home - all you have to do is enjoy the guests and the home!

To Volunteer, please call the office at:
(602) 843-8281

- Help sell some tickets to your friends - remember the SSF price is discounted \$5 off tickets at the door!
- Buy some tickets yourself and enjoy the tour!
If you would like to participate in any of the above, please call the SSF office at (602) 843-8281.

Bill & Billie's Kids Go To College

2007/2008 Scholars Honored on January 23rd!



A Stepping Stone Foundation honored fourteen former preschoolers who will be attending college next year at the annual *Bill and Billie's Kids Go to College* dinner on January 23rd at Crossroads United Methodist Church. Honorees were (pictured from left): Lizette Valencia, Paola Rodriguez, Marlette Espinoza, Maritza Hernandez, Vanessa Tang, Albert Hernandez, Fransisco Romero, Alyssa Nunez, Linda Calixtro, Helmer Gamez and Efren Martinez. Also honored were (not pictured): Britanni Roberts, Tania Erazo and Claudia Rodriguez.

Each student received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Billie Gannaway Memorial Scholarship Fund. The event also raised over \$5,000 for the scholarship fund.

Many many thanks to Linda Pape and her committee for all of their hard work in putting together the event

and to Crossroads United Methodist Church for generously allowing the Foundation the use of their beautiful sanctuary for the dinner. Over 100 guests enjoyed the train-themed dinner, generously donated by Valle Luna and Christine and Don Stamper. Billie Gannaway's sister, Vera Bettencourt donated a beautiful handmade quilt which was raffled off and the Verde Valley Railway donated a trip for two on their Verde Canyon experience which was also raffled off.

The evening's theme was "The Little Engine that Could" and celebrated all of the former "little engines" who now know they can!

If you would like more information on the Stepping Stone scholars or would like to donate to the Billie Gannaway Memorial Scholarship Fund, please call the office at: (602) 843-8281.



Director's Footnotes

by Cynthia Gattorna, Executive Director

Quality Seeks Quality

Last fall I shared a few of my personal core beliefs, one of which was *quality seeks quality*. This past January, our quality Stepping Stone Foundation Board invited a number of quality individuals, we call the Advisory Group, to comment on our progress and recommend a path for the future.

Their recommendations follow:

- Over the next year and possibly beyond, the Foundation should focus on enriching and fine tuning the current program and classrooms and not expend a lot of time and energy on additional classroom expansion.

- The Foundation should seek professional fundraising support to maximize efforts to sustain the program.

- The Foundation should continue to explore how to market the program to other venues.

I believe the Advisory Group urged us to improve as best we can the quality of our programs not because we lack quality now, but because continuous improvement is a core value of any high quality program. The Foundation now must seek funding for and find a high quality program director, and to seek out professional fundraising

experience. Once our program implementation and evaluation is on solid ground and we have a solid fundraising strategy over the next three years, it will be time to market our model.

We are so grateful for all the support you give us! Support comes in many ways, and one is offering us your thinking cap! As always, if you have ideas, comments, or questions, please contact me or any of the Stepping Stone Foundation Board (a list is on the opposite page of this article).

Many thanks to the Advisory Group for sharing their wisdom!

21st Annual Ladybug Classic Golf Tournament

April 30th!

*Proceeds to Benefit A Stepping Stone Foundation
and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale*

Join the fun at Moon Valley Country Club on April 30, 2007 for the Ladybug Golf Tournament. This annual event has raised over \$450,000 for charities in the valley over the past 20 years and since 1999, A Stepping Stone Foundation has been selected as a beneficiary.

The golf tournament will feature a luncheon, silent auction and a raffle with all of the proceeds split with the Boys and Girls Club and A Stepping Stone Foundation.

Auction items are needed as well as underwriting for the event. \$10,000 has been committed so far with a challenge for matching funds.

For more information on the event or donation opportunities, please call:

Joyce Seiferth, (602) 954-5686

Lynda Coffelt, (480) 949-0670

Evie Hill, (480) 994-0698

Many thanks to this committee of 20 women from all over the valley for sponsoring this event!



As part of the Stepping Stone Speakers' Bureau, board member Craig Hansen spoke to the Carefree Kiwanis Club in December. If you are a member of an organization that would enjoy a presentation about the Stepping Stone program or you would like to become a part of the Speaker's Bureau, please call the office at: (602) 843-8281.



A Stepping Stone Scrapbook



The Easter Bunny hopped on over to all of the classrooms on April 4th. Many thanks to Bunny Mo Portley for 16 years of donning the bunny costume and reading to the preschoolers!



Longtime supporter Diane Tooker visits a Westwood classroom. Diane and her husband, Gary, donated unbreakable mirrors to each Westwood classroom in memory of their parents.



Stepping Stone supporters enjoyed an elegant dinner hosted by Jerry and Dana George and Don and Carolyn Keagle. The dinner held at the George's beautiful home was auctioned off at the 2006 Stepping Into Paradise Event held last May.



Students in Ms. Smith's class at Westwood enjoyed the zoo in their classroom when a representative from the Phoenix Zoo brought animals into the classroom for the kids to see and learn about.

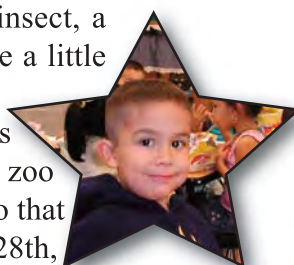


Smith, from page 5



changing into a jungle and zoo theme. Oh how I wish you could have heard the “oohs” and “ahs” from the students as they walked into the classroom and the conversations that these changes stimulated throughout the day! They pointed out the different animals on the bulletin boards and posters to each other and to their teacher. They asked many questions about the animals and pointed out the animals that they recognized from the zoo phonics that we use to teach them the letter sounds. I am not sure who enjoyed the changes more: the students or the teacher (because of how delighted and inquisitive the students were).

On March 15th, the students were surprised when the Phoenix Zoo came to the classroom with an insect, a turtle, a ferret and an owl. Although some were a little frightend at first, they all ended up delighted to be able to learn about these animals. The parents were informed only the week before about the zoo animals coming and kept this "event" a secret so that the students could be surprised. Then on the 28th, the students took a field trip to see a puppet show. I want to give special thanks to Teacher Jan Milks for arranging this field trip. The students had a wonderful time! Thank you so much A Stepping Stone Foundation for making both the zoo animals visit and the puppet show field trip happen!!!!



Castaneda, from page 5



proud that they can write stories too. When we read books in class we talk about the author, the person who writes or tells the story and the illustrator, the person who draws the pictures.

It is so wonderful to see the children make these connections.

I always enjoy listening to them during free reading time and hearing all the rich language the books are stimulating. My students have learned about caring for books by taking turns being the book “Caretaker”. Their job is to make sure all the books are put away nicely.

I would like to thank A Stepping Stone Foundation for their generous donations of books for our classroom. We have enjoyed reading all the books we have received. There is nothing more exciting than sharing a beautiful book with the children.

Thank you and God bless everyone for all the support you given us throughout the year. You are always in our thoughts.



The Westwood Classrooms will hold their Parent Celebration on April 25th at the Westwood Campus, 4711 N. 23rd Ave.

Join the Stepping Stone board, the teachers and preschoolers as they celebrate the parents’ adult education achievements!

The festivities begin at 6:00 p.m. and all are welcome.

For more information, please call the office at (602) 843-8281.



Executive Director, Cindy Gattorna (second from left) accepts a \$10,000 grant from Qwest while children from the Westwood preschool class cheer. Also pictured (from left) Alex Juarez of Qwest, (Cindy), Dr. Jim Rice, Alhambra District Superintendent, Hector Placencia of Qwest and Lori Weiss, Westwood Elementary Principal.

President's Corner

by Charlie Adornetto

When I drive my car, I am amazed and appalled at the way many people drive. I have to ask myself: Why don't they drive as if they love their children? Why don't they drive as if they love other people's children?

A few years ago, I watched a beautiful child die of cancer three weeks before his twelfth birthday. This child should not have died. There is a limitless talent and creativity in people, and there is no doubt that we can and will one day find a way to prevent children from dying of disease or from accidents. Let us live to see the day when all of humanity's talents and resources are dedicated to saving lives.

We must agree that each voice enriches us and ennobles us, and each voice lost diminishes us. Wouldn't this be a better world if we acknowledged that everyone is someone's child, and then we loved and treated them accordingly? Is that really so hard?

What would this Utopian world look like? I propose the following:

- All children are born into love and live their entire lives surrounded by love.
- No child should ever know illiteracy, illness, bigotry, hunger or poverty.
- No child should ever fear violence, war, or their neighbors.

If we love our children enough, this world is attainable. So how do we get there? There is a quote from the

philosopher Goethe that can be summarized as follows:

"If we treat people as they are, we make them worse. If we treat people as they ought to be, we help them become what they are capable of becoming."

That is tremendous advice.

Not long ago, I was asked what I knew about raising children. I will never claim to have all the answers, but I thought about it and came up with the following list to role model for children:

1. Practice what you preach.
2. Be a source of strength and kindness (not divisiveness) for those around you.
3. Show an interest in everything children do.
4. Treat children, and all adults, with respect.
5. Take the high road.
6. Keep your promises.
7. Always be the calmest person in the room.
8. Don't let bullies win.
9. Demonstrate financial responsibility for children.
10. Follow the Golden Rule.

Never forget that all children are watching you. Never forget that all children have unlimited potential. Never forget that you have the power to help mold all children into productive members of society. Never forget that the nameless person you just encountered is someone's child, and their pride and joy.

- Charlie

*Never forget
that all
children have
unlimited
potential...*

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**A Stepping Stone Foundation is now taking pre-orders for 2008
Entertainment Books. To ensure you get a copy for next year, please
call the office at (602) 843-8281 with your order.**

Elegant Living by Cullum Homes



A Stepping Stone Foundation is joining with TLC Concepts, Cullum Homes, Habitat for Humanity Valley of the Sun, KTVK and various other sponsors to provide tours of a new custom home in Paradise Valley. Located on a large site, the home and grounds will be decorated and landscaped by valley businesses.

The tour runs Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from April 27th through May 13th. A Stepping

Stone Foundation is hosting the tour on April 28th and May 11th through May 13th and Volunteers

Tour a \$5 million Custom Home and Help A Stepping Stone Foundation

are needed on these days to help guide visitors to the home (see page 4 for volunteer information).

100% of the proceeds from tickets purchased directly from A Stepping Stone Foundation will be retained by the Foundation. Income from sales at the door, priced at \$20 per ticket, will be split between A Stepping Stone Foundation and Habitat for Humanity. Tickets purchased from the Foundation are \$15 each. The 7,238 square foot home is located in the heart of Paradise Valley and all tours will *See Home Tour, page 4*

Join A Stepping Stone Foundation on May 5, 2007 for *Racing Toward the Future* to be held at

the Penske Auto Museum in north Scottsdale! All proceeds from this annual fundraising event help the Stepping Stone classrooms provide tuition free, high quality preschool for four-year-old children with limited opportunities and literacy programs for their families.

The community is invited to enjoy a fun filled evening which will include dinner, a live band, dancing,



silent and live auctions and activities unique to the Penske museum such as Range Rover rides on an obstacle course, radio controlled car racing on a large track, access to the museum cars and a racing car simulator experience. The Foundation welcomes NFL referee, Ed Hochuli, as the honorary chair for this year's event. Tickets are \$250 per person and tables are filling fast.

If you would like to purchase a ticket, please call the Foundation office at (602) 843-8281.

Call the office today for tickets! (602) 843-8281



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IN THIS ISSUE:

Racing Toward the Future... 1
Home Tour..... 1
President's Corner..... 2
Director's Footnote..... 3
Ladybug Classic..... 3
Bill & Billie's Kids..... 4
Classroom Notes.....5
Scrapbook.....6

Upcoming Events

April 27th through May 13th
Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays

Home Tour

April 30th

Ladybug Classic Golf Tournament
to benefit

A Stepping Stone Foundation
Moon Valley Country Club

May 5th

Racing Toward the Future
A Stepping Stone
Foundation Event
Penske Auto Museum



Many thanks to Susan (left) and Marjorie Strand for their generous donation of \$80,000 to A Stepping Stone Foundation. Sharon and Marjorie enjoyed Racing Toward the Future as guests of the Foundation on May 5th.

Strand Family Donates \$80,000

On March 13th, Marjorie and Susan Strand attended the monthly Stepping Stone board of directors meeting with a very special presentation: a check to the Foundation for \$80,000! The Strands were charter members of Crossroads United Methodist church with A Stepping Stone Founder Rev. Bill Smith and have been a constant support of Bill and his vision and work in education in the Phoenix area.

Marjorie and Susan relocated to Washington two years ago and still maintain a winter residence in Apache Junction. One day in early March, they invited Bill and his wife, Ann, to lunch and after talking about the Foundation and its good work, decided to donate this wonderful gift.

As a former secretary to a school superintendent in Phoenix, Marjorie knows well the importance of education and what this type of donation can generate in terms of programming for the Stepping Stone kids and their families.

Donations of this magnitude fully support one classroom for one year and make a difference in the lives of so many. The Foundation is so grateful to the Strand Family for their belief in education and their generous contribution towards improving the lives of the Stepping Stone families.



Racing Toward the Future



Friends of A Stepping Stone Foundation enjoyed a wonderful evening of racing, wild car rides, dancing, dining and silent and live auctions at Racing Toward the Future on May 5th at the Penske Auto Museum. Over 100 guests dined on exquisite cuisine from Michael's Catering and were entertained by the Dianne Lindsay Band while raising much needed funds for the Foundation.

Many thanks to committee chair,

Mike Hensley and his team of Marilyn Rampley, Craig Hansen, Linda Pape, Con Englehorn, Carolyn Keagle, Jessica Sanchez, Mike Gattorna, JoAnna Baltzo and Stephanie Bond for their hard work on this very exciting event.

A special thanks to Clark and Bambi Johnson of Paul Johnson Jewelers for their many auction item and raffle donations, especially the beautiful necklace raffled off to a lucky winner.

Many thanks to activity sponsors Gladys and Jack Bobo, Con Englehorn, Jennifer MacCready, Climatec and Hastings & Hastings. Thank you to the Arizona Lottery, Hansen Mortuaries and Jones, Skelton and Hochuli for table sponsorships and to the many individuals and corporations who donated items for the silent and live auctions.

See page 7 for pictures!

President's Corner, by Charlie Adornetto, President

A Terrific Year for A Stepping Stone Foundation

As we end another successful year at A Stepping Stone Foundation, I want to thank all of you who help to make our program such a success:

Our **Board of Directors**, a fabulous and hard working group of volunteers; Our **Executive Director** Cindy Gattorna and **Administrator** Margie Talley; Our **Advisory Board** and our **Founder, Bill Smith**, who provide advice and vision; Our **Partners** in the Isaac and Alhambra School Districts; Our **Partners** in the Community College and Faith Communities; Our **Teachers**, who tirelessly strive to improve the well being of our students; Our **Parents**, who have agreed to volunteer in the classroom and attend GED or ESL classes; Our **Students**, who now have a better chance of succeeding in school and the community; and Our **Volunteers** and **Contributors**, who make the Foundation possible. The following are some of the many exciting accomplishments and events that took place this year.

The first "Stepping into the Future" event was held at the beginning of the school year where former Stepping Stone preschoolers who are now in high school and college attended, along with their parents, to talk about their experiences, education, and mentoring and tutoring prospects. Information on scholarship and financial aid for college was also presented to the students. This will be an annual event since the students who participated felt the information was very useful in their future planning.

Fifteen former preschoolers who are now college age were honored at the annual Bill and Billie's Kids Go to College Dinner, held for the first time at Crossroads United Methodist Church, with a wonderful dinner donated by Valle Luna and Don & Chris Stamper.

There was a lot of golfing! PGA professional and Moon Valley native, Ted

Purdy, along with PebbleTec, launched the first annual golf tournament to benefit A Stepping Stone Foundation and it was wildly successful and great fun for all. Sleep America also chose A Stepping Stone Foundation to receive 1/3 of the proceeds of their 4th Annual Golf Tournament. And once again, A Stepping Stone Foundation was a recipient of proceeds from the 21st Annual Ladybug Classic Golf Tournament. The FBR Birdies for Charity and the Thunderbirds also benefited A Stepping Stone Foundation.

A Stepping Stone Foundation received a large contribution from a local family and grants from Arizona Republic Season for Sharing, APS, Cox Communications, Qwest, Libraries Limited and the PGA Tour Wives Association.

For the annual spring fundraiser, the Foundation traveled a different road at "Racing Toward the Future" at the Penske Auto Museum and Outrageous Gallery in Old Town Scottsdale benefited A Stepping Stone Foundation as part of the Scottsdale Art Walk. As part of the 2nd Annual *Elegant Living by Cullum Concept Home Tour*, the Foundation received 50% of the proceeds and Bashas once again included the Foundation as part of their *Thanks a Million* program. Next year, State employees can contribute to A Stepping Stone Foundation through the State Employee Charitable Contributions Campaign. Finally, more people than ever took advantage of their Arizona Working Poor Tax Credit by contributing to A Stepping Stone Foundation.

As the year comes to a close, the Foundation is going and growing strong thanks to your efforts and will continue to carry out the vision and mission to as many families as possible.

2007/2008 promises to be an exciting ride and I thank you for riding along!

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Director's Footnotes

by Cynthia Gattorna,
Executive Director

Dear Stepping Stone Family:

There is no greater gift than
How you so generously and faithfully support
A Stepping Stone Foundation.
New friends and long-standing ones
Kindly and thoughtfully help our children and families.
You are all so appreciated!
Only you, each and every one of you can make the world
Understand the importance of our nurturing steps toward
the future.

I cannot possibly ever thank all of you enough! On behalf of our
children, their families and the board:

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Cindy



*A fond farewell to Terry Hernandez
as she retires after 17 years as a
Stepping Stone preschool assistant
and lead teacher at Isaac.*

Stepping Stone Parent Recognition Celebrations

By Nancy Ireland, Family Relations Team Chairperson

Springtime has a special meaning for our parents. It marks the culmination of a school year for the parents who have enrolled in our program. During the year they have attended classes such as GED and English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL), parenting classes, and assisted in their children's classrooms each week. For many it is a challenge to meet expectations given their other responsibilities as a parent. We think their accomplishments are worthy of our acknowledgement.

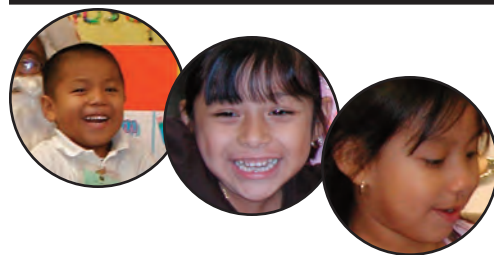
We joined with them in celebrations with their families. In the Alhambra District, the parents and teachers planned their events, supported by the Family Relations Team members. Included in these plans were themes that they chose:

"WE DID IT!" and "FLYING TOGETHER TO OUR NEW GOALS"

A Stepping Stone Foundation presented each parent a certificate based on her/his accomplishments. In addition, this year we presented each with a book entitled "Love You Forever."

At least three parents excelled by passing their GED examinations. This sets an example for other parents to continue studying and re-taking certain parts of the exam with the intent of attaining passing grades. It is so exciting to know that we/you are enabling parents to reach new goals as they parent their children. Thank you all for your continuing support of the program.

Thank you to the  Ladybugs for donating a portion of their proceeds from the 21st Annual Ladybug Classic Golf Tournament on April 30th to A Stepping Stone Foundation. The Foundation is so appreciative to them  for again choosing us as one of their beneficiaries of this great event!



Classroom Notes

Westwood Primary*Ms. Nova Smith*

In April, we studied insects and spiders and had a wonderful time watching caterpillars turn into butterflies. The students were fascinated with the transformation of the butterflies and were very sad when we released them. They have also enjoyed pointing out the various insects they could find and watching those creatures when we were able to capture them. In addition, the students enjoyed talking about spiders and pointing out anything to me that they thought might be a spider.

We will end the year discussing fish and sea creatures as well as talking about water safety practices. I have different sea creature items for the kids to use and some water safety materials for their parents. Of course, we have a variety of special activities planned for the last week. Among those activities will be a day we rotate with other

preschool classrooms and enjoy a variety of different activities and a water day.

How fast this school year has flown! In only a few short weeks, I will be saying "good-bye" to the preschool students in my classroom. Sadly, I also will be saying "good-bye" to my friends at A Stepping Stone Foundation. Effective May 21, 2007, I will begin a new position in the Alhambra School District. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the second classroom here at Westwood Primary School and who has offered their support in so many different ways. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of A Stepping Stone Foundation as a preschool teacher! Wishing each of you a wonderful summer!



A Stepping Stone Foundation thanks Isaac teacher Nova Smith for her dedication to the preschool children. We will miss Nova and are glad she won't be far away as she moves into a position in the Alhambra School District Office.

Granada Primary*Ms. Janice Milks and Ms. Veronica Flores*

It is hard sometimes to explain how important this program really is. We talk often about the progress and successes the children and parents have during the school year but never say much about the long range impact this program has had on some of our families.

This came to light recently at one of our final home visits. Just as we were getting ready to leave the home other family members arrived. These two girls and their moms had also participated in A Stepping Stone Preschool program. In all, five members of this extended family have been in the program, spanning a period of eight years.

It was very nice to see how the girls have grown and to hear about how well the families are doing. One of the girls will start high school next year. She is very proud that she will be repeating her perfect attendance record this year, which was started back in preschool as a four-year-old. She is looking forward to high school with confidence and hopes to be a pediatrician in the future. The other girl is finishing fourth grade and doing well in school with mostly A's and B's. Both moms and daughters are excited about attending their cousin and aunt's upcoming Stepping Stone Parent Celebration. They will be there to cheer for them when they receive their awards. Their cousin and current student will be matching the former student's perfect attendance record. The current mother will receive two awards, one for Special Achievement (totaling 132% in parent participation) and the other will be the Adult Education Achievement award for completion of the B.E.S.T. program in English as a Second Language. Most of all, they are looking to the future in hopes that the youngest members of their extended families will be able to continue the tradition of attending A Stepping Stone Preschool. They expressed their gratitude to the Foundation for what it has done for their families and hope the program will continue long enough for the little ones to benefit from it too.

We, as teachers, are the privileged ones. We see first hand the positive impact this program has on our families. On the other hand, you, the Foundation work so hard just to make this program possible. Please accept our heart felt gratitude with the knowledge that this program really does make the difference in the lives of many.



Isaac Preschool

Ms. Belinda Valenzuela & Ms. Terry Hernandez

Isaac Preschool children exceeded the state requirements this year as demonstrated by the children's end of the year testing results. One parent, Michael Gutierrez, recieved his GED and two parents passed their science and essay tests. Four others have taken the GED test and are waiting for results.

Our classrooms took a wonderful field trip to the Mesa Southwestern Museum. The children are still talking about the dinosaurs. We also took all the children and their parents to the Wildlife World Zoo. Many of our parents had never been there before and are planning a future family trip.

While writing in our journals, we see a lot of great stories. Giovanna recently wrote: "We have a new dog and he bites my sister and my brother and me, Teacher. He thinks we're food!"

Many of the children are starting to write words and thanks to our trip they all know how to print ZOO. We have studied how plants grow in our Weekly Reader and planted beans.

The class is practicing for the end of the year program where the children will perform one of their songs in sign language as one of the fathers is deaf.

Many thanks to parents Brenda Martinez and Patricia Flores who volunteered at the home tour.

Quote from the classroom:

"Oh, Jose, you're growing very big!"

Jose replied, "No, I'm not big and I'm not small, I'm medium!"



Granada Teaching Assistant, Veronica Flores, completed her Associates Degree and Certificate in Early childhood Education from Glendale Community College.

Westwood Primary

Ms. Janet Castaneda and Ms. Betty Chavez

The year has gone by so quickly and we have many wonderful memories of our time with the families.

In Mexico, Mother's Day is always celebrated on May 10th and we had a special luncheon to celebrate our Mother's. The children worked hard making special gifts for their mother's. They decorated a flower pot and planted a silk flower with their photo in the middle. The children were so proud when they took their gifts to their moms. It is also our way to thank the moms for all their hard work in our program and to show them how much we appreciate all their contributions.

Though our year has ended we are busy registering students for next year. We already have a full class and are creating a waiting list for our second classroom. I am very excited to begin another year with the program and getting to know all the new families. A Stepping Stone program is very dear and near to my heart and I feel fortunate that I have a job I love. Thank you again for making it possible. God Bless!

The following is from a former preschool parent and translated into English by their child who is now in third grade:

"Dear Stepping Stone Program,

We want to thank you for helping my daughter and accepting her. Thank you for teaching my girl to be a good girl. I am happy that you are still helping children like my daughter. I want to tell you thank you for the English classes and the presents for the family in December.

Bless you, The Avalos Family"

Home Tour Benefits

A Stepping Stone Foundation

Many thanks to Cullum Homes, TLC concepts and Channel 3 for sponsoring the Elegant Living Home Tour. Proceeds from this tour benefit A Stepping Stone Foundation and Valley of the Sun Habitat for Humanity. Thanks to the many Stepping Stone volunteers who helped at the home and to all those who enjoyed this lovely, one of a kind home in Paradise Valley. A special thank you to Marilyn Rampley for her hours of hard work coordinating the event.



Congratulations to Blanca Pereda

Billie Gannaway Scholarship Awardee Blanca joins fourteen other former preschoolers who will attend college with financial assistance from this fund.

Many thanks to all A Stepping Foundation Donors this past year who together donated over \$280,000 ... enriching the lives of so many Stepping Stone Families!

James & Kelly Aanenson	Rosalie & Ed Favila	Mary & Mel Martin	Natalie Springston
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Pat & Charlie Farmer	Linda Marion	Beverly Soule	Thunderbirds Charities

A Stepping Stone Scrapbook



Many thanks to the Paralegal Group at Jones, Skelton and Hochuli for their many generous donations. Pictured above is their Easter baked goods sale to benefit A Stepping Stone Foundation.



A Stepping Stone Foundation received a \$37,000 grant from JP Morgan Chase at a presentation at Westwood. Pictured (from left), Dr. Jim Rice, Superintendent, Alhambra Schools, Keva Womble and Marcella Espinoza of JP Morgan Chase.



Congratulations to Josie Gutierrez. A former preschool parent, Josie has continued her education and has earned her teaching degree. She plans to return to school for her Master's degree. Above, Josie speaks to guests at Racing Toward the Future.



Stepping Stone moms and their preschoolers celebrated Mother's Day in the classrooms on May 10th with goodies and a special presentation by the children.



Racing Toward the Future Honorary Chair, NFL referee, Ed Hoculi, speaks about A Stepping Stone Foundation at the event attended by over 100 Stepping Stone supporters.



Racing Toward the Future guests enjoyed many Penske Museum activities such as slot car racing on a large track pictured above.



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IN THIS ISSUE:
Racing Toward the Future... 1
President's Corner..... 2
Director's Footnote..... 3
Family Relations Team..... 3
Classroom Notes.....4 & 5
Donors..... 6
Scrapbook..... 7

DATES TO REMEMBER!

- June 12, 2007: A Stepping Stone Annual Meeting
6:30, p.m., Climatec auditorium
- October 14, 2007: Second Annual Pebbletec Golf
Tournament, hosted by the Ted Purdy Foundation to
benefit A Stepping Stone Foundation



2008 Entertainment Books will be on sale September 7th!
A Stepping Stone Foundation will have a limited number for sale.
To ensure you get a copy, please
call the office at (602) 843-8281 with your order.