SPRINGBOARD

A Publication of The Primavera Foundation | Fall 2011 | "Providing Pathways Out Of Poverty"

PRIMAVERA JOINS NATIONAL EQUAL VOICE CAMPAIGN

As our nation continues to struggle with a protracted economic crisis—a crisis that puts an added burden on low-income families—it is more urgent than ever to amplify the voices of the families who seek Primavera's continuum of services. Their voices must be heard by those in a position to bring about the changes that will truly impact their lives.

Primavera is excited and honored to join the Marguerite Casey Foundation's national Equal Voice Campaign dedicated to creating a movement of working families across the United States who advocate on their own behalf for a more just and equitable society for all. With the support of a three-year grant from the Marguerite Casey Foundation, Primavera will strengthen the capacity of low-income families and individuals to become civically engaged, informed, and empowered to advocate for economic and social justice.

Joy Wilcox, Primavera's Director of Community Engagement, will be working with low-income families through Primavera programs, neighborhoods, and partner organizations to meet the following objectives:

- To become active community leaders with enhanced leadership skills and knowledge of policy issues that affect them;
- To become active in community service projects, educational events, action research and advocacy campaigns in public transportation and community and economic development; and
- To implement state-level advocacy campaigns to reform criminal justice sentencing policies, increase funding in support of re-entry programs for the formerly incarcerated, and eliminate predatory consumer lending.

The Marguerite Casey Foundation, a private, independent grantmaking organization, believes that a movement of working families can effect change in local, state, and national public policy to create a just and equitable society. To that end, the Casey Foundation launched a nationwide information gathering process in 2007 to identify the issues that mattered most to low-income families. Over the course of a year, over 30,000 families participated in 65 town hall meetings. Overwhelmingly, participants expressed frustration that decisions were being made "about them, without them," and maintained that they could change their own lives. From these "listening circles," the Marguerite Casey Foundation launched the Equal Voice National Family Platform, a framework for a national movement building strategy to fund organizations that work with communities and families whose voices historically have been ignored. "The most important thing is that we believe that families have the capacity, have the understanding of their issues, and can find solutions to their problems," says Luz Vega-Marquis, President and CEO of the Marguerite Casey Foundation.

As a grassroots community building and development organization, Primavera has a long history of working with program participants, individuals and families to support, educate, and empower families to advocate for their own interests. With the support of the Marguerite Casey Foundation grant, Primavera will partner with the Southwest Center for Economic Integrity and other neighborhood and community organizations throughout southern Arizona to strengthen and mobilize hard-working, low-income families across our state.

Marguerite Casey's Vega-Marquis says, "We're building the road together - we invite you to walk with us. To me, that is the image. You bring lots of different people to this road, to make this road better for families." Primavera is extremely grateful to join the Marguerite Casey Foundation and the Equal Voices Campaign in this tremendous opportunity "to build the road by walking."

Shown in photo: Primavera's Director of Community Engagement, Joy Wilcox and Peggy Hutchison, CEO, meet with Peter Bloch Garcia, Program Officer from the Marguerite Casey Foundation.

DETERMINED FORMER PROGRAM PARTICIPANT NOW WORKS FOR PRIMAVERA

"I used to tell people I would smoke till the wheels come off." Former Primavera program participant and current Primavera employee Claudia Henderson never expected to have a life not defined and controlled by her addiction to crack cocaine. A tribute to her strength of character and determination, she has been sober and drug-free for the past three years – and now with a home and a job, she is building a new life in which she is in control of her future.

Claudia started smoking crack at the age of 17. Later that year, she dropped out of high school and was convicted and incarcerated for drug-related offenses. "I lived day by day, just wanting to do drugs," recalls Claudia as she explained how her addiction sentenced her to a life of being in and out of prison until she turned 40.

In a moment of epiphany, Claudia realized in 2008 that she was sick and tired of living a life controlled by drugs. She recalls thinking, "This is the longest time I've been out and clean and sober. And, I'm off parole, off everything. I'm gonna get my life together." Remembering where she once was and contrasting that with where she is now, she admits, "It's overwhelming, I'm emotional now. I'm feeling stuff because I'm not numb and zoned out anymore. It's been a real experience to face things head on with my eyes wide open."

To help her get back on her feet and into the workforce, Claudia took the initiative and signed up with Primavera Works and was eventually hired to provide janitorial services at Primavera Foundation's offices. In July 2010, she moved into her own apartment in Primavera's Winstel housing complex. Needless to say, Claudia knows almost everyone at Primavera. Many staff have expressed how much they appreciate Claudia and her outstanding work ethic and kind spirit that she brings to the office each day.

Claudia is happy to be part of the Primavera and greater local community and is proud of the monumental changes she is making in her life, "I was living on streets, living in cars, living in people's carports. I didn't have any structure or focus."

"Now I'm trying to do all I can to better myself. This is the first time I've ever had a driver's license. I have a bank account and savings. Things I never thought I'd have."

She is also reaching out to others in need, telling them about Primavera and its programs and how Primavera can help them turn their lives around.

Claudia's next goal is to further her education, perhaps returning to school to study care-giving or social work - something that would allow her to help more people. She explains: "It makes me feel good when I can help somebody else." Claudia also says that hearing how proud her friends and family are of her inspires her to work even harder – and she plans to continue to build a good life for herself and to help other people along the way.

She no longer tells people she'll smoke till the wheels come off. Now Claudia inspires people and tells them, "If I can do it, you can do it."

HOW YOU CAN HELP PRIMAVERA PARTICIPANTS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

HOT MEALS

Several Primavera locations have dining areas where participants can eat together in community during the holidays. Assistance is needed in providing and serving food on site. Other sites will need food to be cooked in advance and dropped off for the residents to enjoy later.

HAVE QUESTIONS? WANT TO SIGN UP FOR ONE OF THESE PROJECTS? PLEASE CALL JENNY AT 308-3110

FOOD BOXES

Families in our programs receive food boxes with all the fixings to help them prepare special holiday meals. You can sign up to create as many boxes as you wish. The quantity of food items you include will depend on the size of the family you are assisting. When signing up, please let us know if you would like to make your box for a small family (3-5) or a large family (6-9).

Boxes should include:

- Bag of potatoes
- Boxes of stuffing
- Cans of veggies (corn, green beans, etc.)
- Instant cornbread mix
- Cans of cranberry sauce
- Gallon(s) of apple cider & packets of hot cocoa
- Instant dry milk
- Fresh fruit (oranges and/or apples)
- Cookies or some other type of dessert
- $20 supermarket gift card (preferably to Fry's) for the family to purchase a turkey or ham

Boxes should be dropped off in November by the 21st and in December by the 19th. Please drop off boxes at 151 W. 40th Street.

HOLIDAY GIFTS

Over 700 gifts are distributed to our participants during the holiday season with the help of generous community members!

How you can help:

Adopt a Family
(or two or three!) Receive a wish list and go shopping for one of our families. Drop off gifts at one of our sites before the big day.

Adopt a Participant
Make up a gift bag for your choice of individual - an adult man or woman, teen, child, or baby.

Choose Essential Items
Participants in every program can benefit from items such as tubes of toothpaste, shampoo, scarves, hats, gloves, etc.

Donate Gift Cards
Gift cards to stores such as Target and Fry's allow families and individuals to purchase items of their choosing.

PARTNERSHIPS

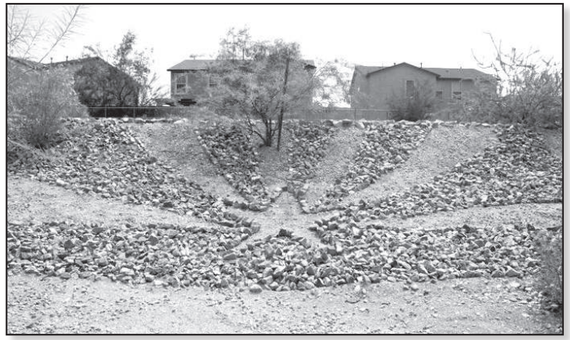
THE COMMUNITY OF PRIMAVERA

LIONS CLUB AND FRY'S SUPPLY PRIMAVERA WITH MUCH-NEEDED WATER

Thanks to a generous donation from Arizona Lions Past District Governors' Association and Fry's Signature store on Rita Ranch and Houghton roads, no one in Primavera's many programs is going to go thirsty. John Hart (L) and Dick Guilmette (R), both members of the Tucson Downtown Lions Club, were on site when 300 cases of water were delivered to Primavera by Fry's. The water will be used by the participants in our programs, including our Works program, HIP (our drop-in center), Casa Paloma (our women's drop-in site), and our Men's Emergency Shelter.

PRIMAVERA VETERANS PROGRAM GRADUATE RECEIVES FLAG FLOWN OVER U.S. CAPITOL

Gina Padilla, Employment Specialist for Primavera's Vocations for Veterans program, presents program graduate Glenn Brown with a U.S. flag that was recently flown over the U.S. Capitol. Formerly homeless and unemployed, Glenn is now living in a rental apartment and is gainfully employed. U.S. Congressman Raúl Grijalva presented Primavera with two such flags in recognition of Primavera's successful and ongoing work with veterans in our community.



PRIMAVERA WORKS CREW DERIVES JOY AND SELF-ESTEEM FROM CREATIVE PROJECT

Habitat for Humanity hired Primavera Works to finish a large-scale landscaping project in the washes of the Corazon De Pueblo housing development. This job offered an unusual opportunity for our participants. In addition to moving a considerable amount of stone and decomposed granite (154 tons of it, to be exact), our participants were given creative license to design and form a variety of rock patterns, including: rabbits, quail, turtles, the Arizona flag and the Primavera squash blossom. Expressing themselves through the creation of something beautiful was a tremendous self-esteem boost for the participants. "It was a very unique, fun and rewarding experience for me and my crew and a great way for them to exercise their creativity," said Patrick Hughes, one of the crew leads for Primavera Works.

AMATEUR CHEFS KEEP SUMMER FUNDRAISING EVENT COOKING!

Apprentice chefs Dee Dee McCabe and Keri Dixon watch as Luis Ortiz pulls bread from the 700° wood-fired oven at the Primavera Cooks! fundraiser dinner at Tavolino. This year, our 10th Primavera Cooks! season, fifty community members cooked for their families and friends at nine Tucson Original restaurants. Call David at 623-5111 x101 if you are interested in signing up for next season.

ARIZONA LAWMAKERS TOUR PRIMAVERA'S FACILITIES

Arizona State Representative Cecil Ash and a group of his fellow Representatives recently toured Primavera's program facilities. Rep. Ash has referred to Primavera as an "exceptional organization" that is "unique in how it addresses root issues as well as immediate needs of desperate people stuck in bad situations." He said that "Primavera has gained the respect of the community for its holistic approach of helping restore an individual's self-sufficiency and accountability while assisting with immediate survival needs." This tour was an important first step in the dialogue with our elected state officials on ways we can partner to end homelessness and poverty in our community. Pictured from left to right are Rep. Vic Williams, District 29 Republican Party Chairman James Kelly, Rep. Steve Court, Rep. Cecil Ash, Rep. Peggy Judd, Rep. Tom Chabin, Rep. Steve Farley, Primavera's CEO Peggy Hutchison and Primavera's Director of Community Engagement Joy Wilcox.

PRIMAVERA HONORS VETERANS AT BI-ANNUAL STAND DOWN

Primavera serves homeless veterans through its Vocation for Veterans and Project Action for Veterans programs. These programs provide local veterans with the skills, training and resources to secure housing and employment. For the past seven years, Primavera has also participated with various community and government agencies in Tucson's bi-annual Stand Down to honor and provide hospitality and services to homeless veterans. This event connects chronically homeless veterans to local service providers offering food, clothing, showers, haircuts, health screenings, medical care, legal assistance, housing options, and employment support services. Assistance with identification documents, food stamps and VA and Social Security benefits are also available at the Stand Down. During the three-day event, veterans receive free motel lodging for two nights and experience much-needed respite from living on the streets. Pictured above from left to right at the September 2011 Stand Down are Mike Espinoza, State of Arizona Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service Director; Scott Settineri, Property Manager for Primavera's Catalina Transitional Housing program; and Rick Sumner, Program Manager for Primavera's Vocation for Veterans program.

LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL INTERNS LEARN VALUABLE WORK SKILLS AT PRIMAVERA

The Dean of Women and Mission Integration of San Miguel High School, Sister Odessa Stanford (R), visited student intern, Ashley Virgen (L) at the Primavera offices in October. Ashley is participating in San Miguel's Corporate Internship Program which provides the community with reliable workers and gives students experience working in a professional setting. Primavera has been fortunate to host interns from this program during the last three years.

THE JOHN M. SIMPSON FOUNDATION MATCHING GIFT IS A HUGE SUCCES

Michael and Susan Cavender

During the 2011 Primavera Cooks! Season, long-time donor The John M. Simpson Foundation offered to match donations from diners, raffle ticket sales, and new sponsorships/underwriting gifts on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to $20,000. Primavera is thrilled to report that our generous donors have already given more than $17,000 towards this matching gift. And it's not too late to help us meet the $20,000 goal. Susan Cavender, daughter of John M. Simpson and a Director of the John M. Simpson Foundation, is extending the match through the end of the year. To double your impact, please write "match" on your next donation to Primavera.

Q: How long have you been a donor to Primavera, Susan?
A: Twenty years. Primavera is one of the only non-profits that we've stuck with all of these years. In fact, we raised our three sons going to the Men's Shelter every year to volunteer. You can't put a price on that.

Q: Why do you give to Primavera?
A: We give to Primavera because it takes a community situation where people are homeless and jobless and helps make those people feel empowered and better about their lives. Primavera helps make them productive and improves their lives. It helps people pull themselves up by their bootstraps and get back on the road again. That's huge, I think. Primavera is a professionally run non-profit. Primavera does excellent work and it's always growing and expanding its services to help more people.

Q: Are you willing to do a matching gift again next year?
A: Yes, absolutely YES! In fact, The John M. Simpson Foundation will match up to $30,000 next year. We are very appreciative of the hard work that Primavera has put into creating this match program, and we are thrilled with the results this year. We hope donors will continue to support Primavera and reach the match.

The John M. Simpson Foundation is a non-profit corporation established in Illinois on December 19, 1961. The purpose of the Foundation is to support religious, charitable, scientific or educational purposes, and the prevention of cruelty to children and animals.

John M. Simpson, a successful Chicago businessman and entrepreneur, established the Foundation and was its primary benefactor at the time of his death in1983. Mr. Simpson served as Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of A.M. Castle & Co. from 1948 until 1981. He was a director at Marshall Fields & Company, and was actively involved in and sat on numerous charitable boards in the Chicago area. Since Mr. Simpson's death, his two daughters, Susan Simpson Cavender and Patricia Simpson O'Kieffe, have been actively involved in the Foundation.

PRIMAVERA COOKS! SUMMER DINING EVENT

11 DINNERS
9 RESTAURANTS
750 DINERS
50 APPRENTICES
11 SOMMELIERS
20 VOLUNTEERS
$157,500 RAISED
THANK YOU!

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INVESTING IN PRIMAVERA

CURRENT WISH LIST

GIFT CARDS
Safeway
Sam's Club
Albertson's
Costco
Fry's

HYGIENE ITEMS
Diapers (all sizes)
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Sanitary napkins
Tampons
Bar soap

APPLIANCES
Refrigerators
Gas and electric stoves
Washers and dryers
(Appliances should be clean and in good working condition)

OTHER ITEMS
Landscape tools (shovels, rakes, hula hoes)
Large plastic tubs with lids (for Shelter men to keep their belongings in)
Twin-size sheets
Bath towels

All items are used by the programs and properties of Primavera

BUS PASSES
(Primavera can get these at a discounted price, so please consider making a cash donation)

CALL KIM AT 623-5111 x108 FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MAKING AN IN-KIND DONATION

Donations to Primavera may qualify for the Arizona Working Poor Tax Credit. Talk to your tax professional about this important tax benefit.

DONATIONS OF $250 AND ABOVE RECEIVED 8/5/2011 - 10/5/2011

$20,000 and above
Anonymous
John and Helen Murphey Foundation

$5,000
Anonymous
Troller Fund at C.F.S.A.

$2,500 to $4,900
ABC Finance Company Inc.
Barbara A. Brody
Carol Simpson
U.S. Bancorp Foundation

$1,000 to $2,499
Marto and Jill Ballesteros
Theodora Bell and Allyson Armstrong
Cox Communications
Mary and Paul Koss
Long Realty Cares Foundation
J. Stephen and Marilyn Rizley
Vantage West Credit Union Employees
H. Stanley Windham

$500 to $1,000
Anonymous (2)
Charlotte and James Cordes
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Voyager Summer Chapel
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$250 to $500
Adoption Journeys of Arizona
Anonymous (3)
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Charles and Karen Woods
Anne Wright
Donald and Lisa Zimprich

PRIMAVERA FOUNDATION DONATION DROP-OFF HAS MOVED!

Now, Primavera will gladly accept your in-kind donations at our Training Center, M-F 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

For information call Kim at 308-3116

Springboard is a publication of The Primavera Foundation
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The Primavera Foundation provides pathways out of poverty through safe, affordable housing, workforce development, and neighborhood revitalization. Primavera's vision is to promote economic and social justice while working to build a future in which all people are assured basic human rights, a livable income and safe, affordable housing.

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