SPRINGBOARD

A Publication of Primavera Foundation "Providing Pathways Out Of Poverty for 25 years" SPRING 2010

A SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY

"Retirement with a purpose" That's how the NOMADS describe their lifestyle, traveling across the nation in RV's and making new friends along the way—all with the purpose of putting their talents and hard work to good use in non-profits and churches. NOMADS is a program of the United Methodist Church and stands for Nomads On a Mission Active in Divine Service.

Primavera was fortunate to be selected for the third consecutive year to benefit from the NOMADS, and their tremendous talents and compassion. This group of ten dedicated volunteers spent the month of March assisting Primavera in many ways. Their most substantial project at Primavera was preparing, staining and sealing the interior of 38 double hung window units at Primavera's Women In Transition housing facility. In addition to the extensive window repair project, smaller projects were accomplished that included: minor electrical work, creation of a wood lid for the basement access, and paint touch up.

This year's group was made up of five dynamic couples from across the U.S.- David & Sue Pierce, Janet & Roger Woodruff, Laura & Bob Bingham, Bill & Betsey Losey, and Carol & John Simons. The volunteers ranged in experience as well as state origin. While the Pierce's were enjoying their very first NOMAD experience, the Bingham's were on number 54!

In talking with the NOMADS and seeing them hard at work, smiles on their faces, it is easy to see why they keep coming back year after year. Simply put, they really love what they do. When asked specifically why they enjoy serving, the hard-working volunteers mentioned a long list of reasons: a chance at a short-term missionary experience, making new friends of like mind, and the joy found in the variety of work they get to accomplish. But perhaps the most compelling response: "It gives us something to do in the winter. You know you can only play shuffle board for so long."

Thank you NOMADS for your dedication! See you in year four.

U.S. Housing and Urban Development Assistant Secretary Mercedes Márquez announcing NSP grants in Arizona during a news conference at a formerly foreclosed home in South Tucson. The home was rehabbed by Primavera and sold to a first time homebuyer family.

CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR TOUGH TIMES

One of the greatest challenges that Primavera faces as a grass roots community development organization during our current economic crisis is this:

How do we resource members of our community right now to help them survive while at the same time help them to build their assets for future financial stability and sustainability?

With funds from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Primavera is involved in four different community partnerships that are enabling us to address immediate needs of individuals and families facing homelessness or mortgage foreclosure while also addressing longer term community development challenges such as neighborhood blight and de-stabilization. These partnership models include:

1 National Foreclosure Mitigation Grant – In partnership with NeighborWorks® America, Primavera has received $273,473 to provide mortgage foreclosure education, prevention, and mitigation services. Primavera is also an active member of the Pima County Don't Borrow Trouble Coalition of agencies providing public awareness and educational resources for our community.

2 Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing – The City of Tucson and Pima County received $3.56 million from HUD to provide long term rental assistance and related expenses for individuals/families impacted by the economic crisis. The primary focus is to keep people from becoming homeless or to place them quickly into homes if they are homeless. The partners collaborating on this project include: City of Tucson, Pima County, Primavera Foundation, Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, CODAC Behavioral Health Services, and Southern Arizona Legal Aid.

3 Neighborhood Stabilization Program – In an effort to provide a comprehensive and integrated approach to the foreclosure crisis and specifically its impact on neighborhoods in 29 high risk Census Tracts, Pima County is leading a consortium of local government and community development organizations working together to bring long term stabilization and revitalization to local neighborhoods. HUD is providing funding of over $39.5 million. Together the partners will: acquire and rehabilitate foreclosed homes and vacant/blighted properties; redevelop vacant/blighted properties; demolish blighted properties; land bank for future affordable housing development; and, provide down payment assistance to qualified low to moderate first time homebuyers. Primavera is focusing our neighborhood stabilization work in the City of South Tucson. Other partners of the consortium include: the City of Tucson, Chicanos Por La Causa, Community Investment Corporation, Family Housing Resources, Habitat for Humanity, Old Pueblo Community Services, and Southern Arizona Land Trust.

4 Weatherization – Primavera is partnering with Tucson Urban League to weatherize Winstel Terrace Apartments, one of our multifamily rental housing properties. Weatherization will contribute to longer term sustainability of the property and will save both Primavera and our residents valuable resources.

There are always challenges and risks to partnerships and collaborations. They require vigilance in ensuring that the partnership is a mission fit. They take more time. They require excellent communication skills on the part of all involved. They require flexibility all of the time and a willingness to give up some of the time. They require attention to detail and a deep commitment to the big picture. **For all of us at Primavera, it's not about the money that a partnership provides. It is about a larger vision for making a difference in our greater community.**

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES EXCEEDED

Last spring the Primavera Foundation underwent a Program Review by NeighborWorks® America. NeighborWorks® America is a non-profit created by Congress to address affordable housing issues and provide access to homeownership in communities across the United States. Primavera is one of over 230 community development organizations across the country who are chartered members of NeighborWorks® America. We became a chartered member in 2001 by undergoing this program review for the first time. Conducted every three years, this rigorous review is basically an evaluation of absolutely everything we do and how we do it. The eight areas that NeighborWorks® examines are planning, resource management, organizational management & oversight, fiscal management, contract management and compliance system, personnel management, production program services and technical operating systems.

Before the reviewers arrived, hundreds of documents were assembled and sent to give them an overview of Primavera. During their three day site visit over 30 people were interviewed, including staff, community partners, board members and participants. When the full assessment was complete the reviewers found that Primavera exceeded performance objectives in all eight categories. This is the highest level of performance that an organization can achieve. Going through this rigorous review and achieving a high score allows Primavera to apply for various grants and underwriting that NeighborWorks® has to offer chartered member organizations.

Here's a breakdown of NeighborWorks® awards Primavera earned so far this fiscal year:

Neighborhood Revitalization
$75,000
Operational
$72,500
Lending
$25,000
Capacity Building
$25,000

PRIMAVERA AND LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOP COMMUNITY GARDEN

The walled garden in Barrio Anita, one of Tucson's oldest neighborhoods, lay fallow for approximately seven years – much too long in the eyes of neighbors who remembered the beauty the garden once provided. "It's my front yard and I want it to look nice, instead of a barren dirt patch," said Andy Butkovich who lives across the street from the vacant garden. Primavera owns the garden lot which lays on land adjacent to one of its transitional housing programs.

Through a common interest in revitalizing the garden, Primavera and members of the neighborhood began meeting in January 2009. In honor of the neighborhood's historical roots, the garden was named Tierra Anita which means "Anita earth." With goals of growing organic food and other plants, enjoying community, and providing inter-generational mentoring and educational opportunities, a partnership between Primavera and the neighbors of Barrio Anita was born.

Gail Ryser, neighborhood resident and chair of Tierra Anita, became involved in the project because she believes limited access to food has the potential to threaten all of us. "There are many avenues at the community level [through which] we can address [food insecurity], a community garden being one of them…. Food and cuisine are also vital components in maintaining cultural heritage and tradition. A garden offers a place for neighbors to carry on the cultural traditions of their ancestors expressed through food."

In order to turn the garden green and get it producing once again, the garden's neglected irrigation system needed repairs and the soil amending. A search for funding to cover startup costs resulted in a grant from PRO Neighborhoods, a Tucson-based community granting organization- www.proneighborhoods.org

In August, after grant funds enabled irrigation repairs and soil preparation, the garden was ready for planting. Neighbors renting plots planted seeds, many of which were heirloom crops native to Southern Arizona. "It was a beautiful, wild, fun thing when the water started flowing and people were planting everywhere," said neighborhood gardener Kent Sorenson. Primavera staff also got their hands dirty by planting in the agency plot. By October, the jungle-like tendrils of gourds and melons spilled over garden plot boarders and corn and amaranth stalks stretched to the sky. Soon, the first fruits of Tierra Anita, melons and radishes, were harvested, and they were delicious!

Now, Tierra Anita continues to bring the neighbors of Barrio Anita together. Susan Whitaker, a neighborhood gardener said, "A lot of people are at the same level as me - interested in gardening but don't know very much…. Being able to learn from other [experienced gardeners] is great." Neighbors have held a composting workshop and plans are underway for the construction of a bulletin board, tool shed, and shaded area for gatherings, as well as art projects with neighborhood children.

Diane DePaul, another dedicated gardener, has goals of working with the residents of Primavera's transitional house to provide fresh vegetables for cooking. She said, "I'm really happy with this partnership. I think it's so great… I feel very comfortable with [the people] involved." Elva De La Torre, former manager of Primavera's Women's Services which operates the transitional house, is also pleased by the partnership. "The collaboration, community involvement, and positive impact on the neighborhood is tremendous". Those involved are enthusiastic and determined to keep Tierra Anita producing. "My hope is that the garden will become a permanent fixture in our neighborhood and that the garden will draw greater participation from our neighbors… [and] help influence others toward a 'slow food' lifestyle," said Ryser.

As part of involvement with PRO Neighborhoods, Tierra Anita may serve as a demonstration garden and mentor other Tucson neighborhoods in starting their own community gardens. Additionally, PRO Neighborhoods interns are working on a documentary, "Change in Action," and have chosen to include Tierra Anita in the project.

Tierra Anita historian, Lynn Waldrop, maintains a blog to record the garden's activities and capture photos and videos tierraanitacommunity.blogspot.com. Additionally, the collaboration between Barrio Anita and Primavera was recently featured on KVOA news in the Making a Difference segment.

Article by Julie Kudrna
Photo taken by Denali Beeshligaii age 5

Jane and Chris Strohm

"DUOING IT" FOR PRIMAVERA FOUNDATION

One of the things I like about Tucson is that sense of community. For such a large, spread-out city, we still manage to run into friends in all the far corners of the Old Pueblo. We also see struggling individuals on many corners. Another great Tucson attribute is the Primavera Foundation. I've donated to Primavera for several years because I believe we need to work together to build strong, healthy communities, and might as well start at home. Primavera works toward this by providing housing, education, work training, and transition assistance. I'm increasingly aware of how fortunate I am and I wanted to give more. In the past, I asked my family to donate to Primavera or No More Deaths instead of giving me gifts. This year, I decided to throw in a little competition.

First, I enlisted my partner and best friend to ride a 24 hour mountain bike relay as a duo, hence the name "Duoing it for Primavera Foundation". The Kona 24 Hours in the Old Pueblo mountain bike event happens each year and thousands flock to nearby Oracle to ride 16 mile laps for 24 hours, solo, duo, or on teams of 4 or more. Then we sent out emails and set up a blog to enlist our friends and family to sponsor our laps. I harassed my friends with posts and prods on Facebook. We spammed our co-workers. And ultimately, we got pledges and donations for over $2700! **It feels good to set and meet a personal physical goal, and to then enhance that with some philanthropy**. Increasing awareness of this great organization along the way made for a good start to 2010. Thanks to everyone who supported us through this endeavor.

If you lost your housing, do you know where you would turn for help?

Looking for housing can be a complicated process in the best of situations, but when someone is facing homelessness, it becomes a stress-filled, time-sensitive scramble. Primavera Foundation's new Central Intake Office is making it quicker and easier for people in need to get into safe, affordable housing.

We are always looking for innovative ways to provide Primavera Foundation services to the community and we are very excited about our latest systems change.

The traditional process of having people call each specific housing program that interested them could be cumbersome and frustrating. With nine transitional housing and two permanent housing programs in various locations around town, most people could call as many as five Primavera locations to get in touch with the program that was right for them.

At the new Central Intake Office, located at the Five Points Transitional Housing Program, interested individuals, couples and families are able to call or walk-in and receive information about all our housing options from the onsite certified staff and volunteers. Prospective applicants pass through a simple screening process, which quickly determines the programs for which they are eligible.

Those who are eligible for one or more programs can then apply using Primavera's new universal housing application, which is available onsite, by fax and by email. Those applications are then forwarded to the appropriate program based on eligibility and current program openings.

We hope that our Central Intake Office is helping to relieve some of the stress of searching for affordable housing by providing a one-stop resource for individuals and families in need in our community.

Bon Voyage to Deb Dale!

With much sadness and gratitude Primavera bid a fond farewell to Deborah Dale, our Chief Development Officer for seven years! In January, Deb accepted the position of Executive Director of Arizona List. Deb is an extremely successful fund raiser. Her leadership and commitment to excellence resulted in a professional, diverse, and successful resource development plan for Primavera. We will miss Deb's enthusiasm, passion, and spirit! While we are losing a great staff member, Deb will continue to be a strong Primavera donor. Deb truly believes that she is called to challenge and move all of us in the community to greater heights in philanthropy in order to improve the quality of life for us all. We wish her the best in her important work with Arizona List!

DONATED BOOTS HELP PEOPLE GET BACK TO WORK

Primavera Works provides temporary employment and job search assistance to homeless men and women. Many of the jobs we get are physical labor jobs that require work boots for the jobsite. Thanks to the boot donations we receive from companies like Miller Surplus, we are able to fit our workers with the boots they need to get back to work. We also provide the boots at no charge to workers who get permanent job offers that require work boots. **Something as simple as a pair of boots can make the difference between homelessness and self sufficiency through employment.**

Many thanks to Miller Surplus!

"Miller Surplus donates new shoes and clothing to Primavera because we believe in second chances. Primavera's Works Program gives people in crisis the opportunity to work and a chance to get back on their feet. Miller Surplus has been in downtown Tucson since 1951 and we believe in giving back to the community that has supported us. Through Primavera we can help people reclaim their lives, move forward with their goals and once again become productive members of our community."

~George Landa / Miller Surplus

ANNUAL STREET COUNT NUMBERS UP

On January 26, 2010, 158 volunteers, including Primavera staff, took time out of their busy schedules to participate in the Annual Homeless Street Count, an event coordinated each year by Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless (TPCH) in which volunteers observe the number of persons and families spending the night outside of shelter. The point in time data gathered from the count helps TPCH document need, plan for and improve homeless services in Pima County. The total number of unsheltered homeless observed this year was 1,561 on a night when Operation Deep Freeze was in effect, meaning that the temperatures and winter weather conditions warranted extra overnight shelter as a measure to save lives.

Not surprisingly due to the economy, but still alarming, the number of homeless counted did increase this year compared to those counted last year, particularly homeless youth. Further, according to coordinators and participants, it is certainly likely that there are more homeless people in Pima County than we are able to count, which is partly due to lack of capacity and the need for more volunteers. For example, the group does not have the capacity to count how many homeless are in hospitals or jails or to count homeless people in rural areas.

For further information about the count and for a copy of the results contact Settle Madden, TPCH, at info@tpch.org

PRIMAVERA COOKS! SUMMER DINING EVENT

PRIMAVERA FOUNDATION PARTNERS WITH SELECT TUCSON ORIGINALS RESTAURANTS FOR OUR 9TH SEASON OF TEN WINE-PAIRED, FINE DINING FUNDRAISING DINNERS.

2010 DINNER SCHEDULE

J-Bar, May 19
Feast, June 7
Maynard's, June 16
Pastiche, June 21
Acacia, Aug. 11
Janos, Aug. 26
Lodge on the Desert, Sept. 8
Jonathan's, Sept. 16
Kingfisher, Sept. 19
Jax Kitchen , TBD

EAT

DINE WITH US!

Guests enjoy a fabulous, multi-course, wine-paired, gourmet dinner. Quite possibly the best good cause dining value around. All reservations are made with Primavera directly and not with the host restaurants. The dinners are $125 per person including tax and gratuity and $50 is tax deductible.

COOK

BE AN APPRENTICE CHEF!

Apprentice Chefs team up with some of Tucson's finest chefs to create a wine-paired menu, including preparation, instruction, and execution the day of the event, plus a hands-on experience during the dinner. Positions are available for $250 per person and tax deductible

POUR

BE AN APPRENTICE SOMMELIER!

Apprentice Sommeliers attend a wine class/tasting taught by Master Sommelier Laura Williams, have the opportunity to attend the Chef menu planning meeting, and pour wines on the night of their dinner, helping the guests understand the characteristics of the wines being served with each course. Positions are available for $150 per person and tax deductible.

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FOUNDATION CIRCLES

Every day Primavera provides people a foundation from which they can make changes to improve their lives. We can continue only through the assistance of our community of donors. By joining our Foundation Circles, and giving gifts of $1,000 or more, these generous donors enable Primavera to help people rebuild lives, rebuild our community and maintain those critical safety nets that we all depend on.

Contributions made between September 17, 2009 and March 9, 2010

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Should you notice that we have missed listing your donation please contact us at 623-5111 x101

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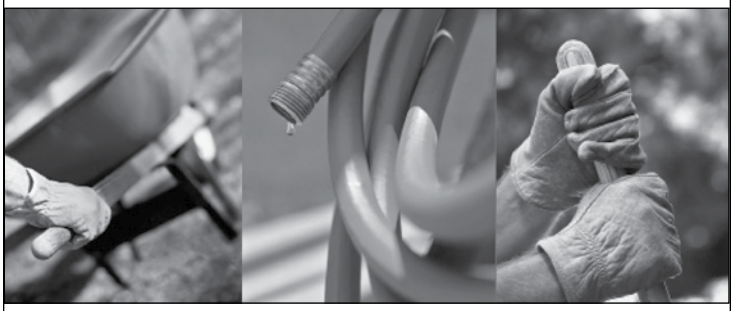

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The Primavera Foundation provides pathways out of poverty. Primavera carries out its mission by promoting economic and social justice while working to build a future in which all people are assured basic human rights, a livable income, and safe, affordable housing. The Foundation does this through community education and advocacy while providing a continuum of services that address homelessness and poverty.

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