SPRINGBOARD

A Publication of Primavera Foundation "Providing Pathways Out Of Poverty for 25 years" SUMMER 2009

PRIMAVERA INVITES YOU TO DINNER

Apprentice Chefs Kathy Dixon, Beth Carey and 92.9 The Mountain personality Jennie Grabel at Feast

PRIMAVERA COOKS! SUMMER DINING EVENT

Primavera Executive Director Peggy Hutchison and Chef Janos Wilder at the Primavera Cooks kick off.

Chef Doug Levy and his Apprentice Chefs at Feast

If you're going out to dinner this summer anyway, why not attend one of our Cooks! dinners and support the programs and services of Primavera? Our wine paired multi course fund-raising dinners are quite possibly the best fine dinning value around.

Remaining Dinners

Pastiche	Wed., **Jul. 22**
Cup Cafe	Sun., **Aug. 9** Brunch
Acacia	Wed., **Aug.19**
JBar	Sat., **Aug. 29**
Maynard's	Wed., **Sept. 2**
Kingfisher	Sun., **Sept. 13**
Jonathan's	Thur., **Sept.17**

Call 623-5111 x101
for more info or reservations
$125 per person / $50 tax deductible

Master Sommelier Laura Williamson pours wine for guests at Dove Mountain Grill

Long time Primavera supporter Janos explains the ideas behind the dishes he created for his dinner.

Five time Apprentice Chef Werner Kroebig and Chef Bruce Yim at Dove Mountain Grill

2009 Title Sponsor Cox Communications shooting the Apprentice Chefs at work.

Apprentice Chefs Ron Newman and Brad Geller

Veteran Apprentice Chef and Primavera volunteer Joe Heller helps finish off an entree at Janos

STAFF AND PARTICIPANTS GO TO PHOENIX FOR HOMELESS ADVOCACY DAY

Senator Paula Aboud (LD 28) greets Primavera staff and participants before joining the group for lunch.

Primavera staff and participants arrive safely at the Arizona State Capitol building in Phoenix.

Primavera staff and participants gather around the rotunda of the Arizona Capitol Museum before joining the homeless advocacy demonstration on the Arizona Capitol House Lawn.

The floor of the Arizona House of Representatives. Primavera staff and participants were introduced by Representative Daniel Patterson (LD 29)

Primavera staff and participants participated in Homeless Advocacy Day sponsored by the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness and Protecting Arizona's Families Coalition. The Primavera group joined nearly 400 homeless advocates on April 29th for lunch and a demonstration on the House Lawn of the Capitol. Primavera participants shared their stories with the crowd and dropped off letters to legislators urging them to vote no on budget cuts and preserve funding for Primavera. Legislators made appearances and introduced the group from the floor in both the House and the Senate in recognition of Homeless Advocacy Day.

Senator Paula Aboud (LD 28) shared lunch with the Primavera group while participants discussed their concerns with her, particularly about the termination of General Assistance (GA) payments. Transitional Housing for the Disabled (THD) program participant Stephen King shared with Senator Aboud: "Most guys on disability can't work…we need to get GA back for us and never cut funding for Primavera. It's such a good organization".

Men's Shelter participant Scott Baucom told Senator Aboud that Primavera operates through the support of volunteers who are often donors as well: "They see where their money is going and that's why they continue to contribute." He used this statement to suggest that legislators need to volunteer in homeless programs to see where the money provided to programs through the state budget goes. Perhaps with this experience they would be more likely to support homeless programs rather than cut their funding.

Primavera program participants were excited to be involved in legislative advocacy and express their voice on issues that directly affect them, and Primavera staff members were pleased to be able to help make it happen.

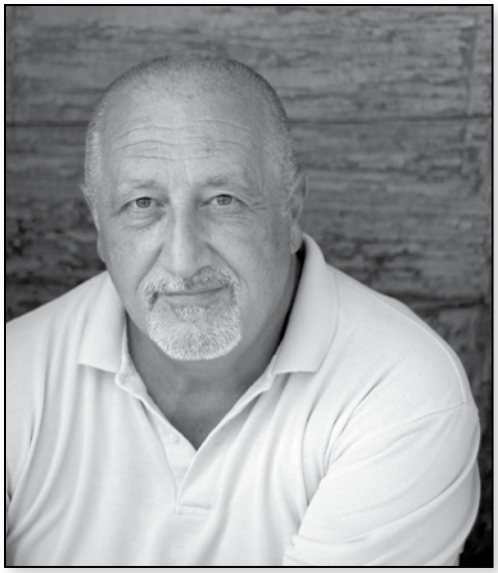
WRITER GETS BACK ON HIS FEET WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM FIVE POINTS TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

An old sailors' song goes....
Three times around went our gallant ship.
Three times around went she.
Three times around went our gallant ship.
Then she sank to the bottom of the sea.

That's pretty much the story of the last twenty years of my life. My life hit the bottom with a divorce and losing my business. After I found my footing I hit rock bottom again when I lost primary custody of my children, and finally a layoff, a car accident, the loss of a rental home, having to get food stamps and an understandable deep depression plummeted me to depths I didn't know I could reach. I was living in New Jersey, but I took a bus to Phoenix, a big city without much support. I took the next bus out to Tucson. Within two weeks, I was out on the streets.

I had one month on the street before I found my way to Gospel Rescue Mission. I was lucky to wait only four months before Primavera's Five Points Transitional Housing accepted me, at about the same time I joined the Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) with the V.A. Hospital. I don't think I'd still be walking around if those two things hadn't worked out. That was nearly fourteen months ago, and just recently I upgraded to Alamo Apartments, permanent affordable-housing.

My father, a successful businessman, considered me a dreamer. He was right! I build ideas in my head, of the way I think things should be, and then work towards making it happen in the real world. I had a dream of a supportive, loving family. I never got over the loss of that dream; of how my life was "supposed to be". I felt as if I had failed my son, as if I had failed my family. I could not look at myself in the mirror, much less members of my family. But, this is a story with a happy ending. About three months after I moved in Five Points, I happily started dreaming again.



A. W. Napoli

A creative writing instructor, Reneé Horton, came to Five Points and took a look at a few humorous stories I had brought from the East Coast. She encouraged me to write more and before long I had enough chapters for two books. I was enjoying the challenge of writing. The book I just finished is a kind of comic fantasy centered around Shamus, an Italian Leprechaun.

Originally, I started writing these stories for my nephew's 7 year-old son, Rickie, who often visited my apartment in N.J., with his dad. The inquisitive boy would always want to check everything out in the apartment, but to keep him out of my bedroom I told him there was a Leprechaun who lived under my bed and didn't want to be disturbed. Every time Rickie came over I had to embellish the story to satisfy his curiosity. Before I left New Jersey I was planning to give him a collection of stories about the adventures of Shamus, and when that didn't happen, I found that I could share them with Reneé.

With her encouragement I made the next bold step: I went out and bought a used computer. From my experience computers are frightening, typing is a personal nightmare and getting spell check to work is beyond my powers. Nevertheless, I did it because I was having so much fun living with Shamus, my friendly Leprechaun companion.

I now have a 33-page story, with illustrations by local artist, Rebecca Olson. I funded the printing of 250 copies of the story and have spent some time shopping it out to local bookstores. Antigone carries it and I've had great luck at the airports.

The Primavera Foundation has opened up a whole new world for me. The people I meet there, the staff like Pete and Adam; the good residents, too many to mention; the meal teams, like Holly and friends, Calvary Chapel, the Jacobs family etc.; and the volunteers have opened my eyes to an amazing force for good in the community.

I'm sure there are others out there with untapped talents and unrealized dreams. Perhaps Primavera can inspire them too, as it did me. Anybody know a good book agent?

You can find
The Adventures of Shamus,
the Italian Leprechaun
at
Antigone Books 411 N. 4th Ave.
520-792-3715
www.antigonebooks.com

~A. W. Napoli will be continuing to write stories of Shamus and perhaps even a short play for schoolchildren.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Volunteer, Melanie Skillin (right), hugs Primavera staff member, Rosemary Solarez. Melanie is a volunteer for Primavera's Prisoner Re-Entry Partnership program, where Rosemary is an Employment Specialist. Melanie helps to format resumes, seek out resources for participants, and help with the workshops. We are so grateful for her dedication, as well as the efforts of all of our volunteers.

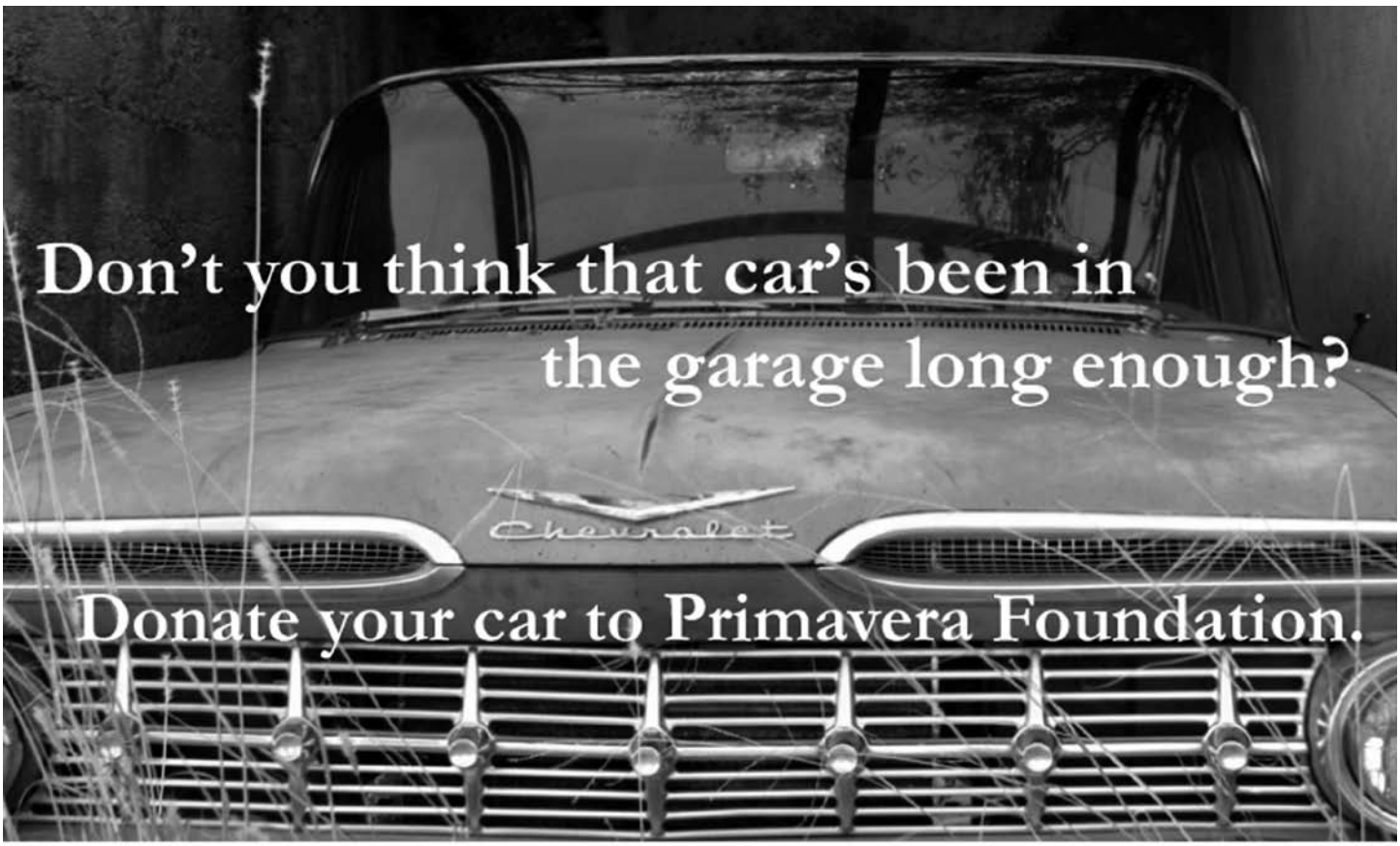
Summer Needs List

Smaller Items

Deodorant
Disposable double or triple blade razors
Foot powder
Small bars of soap
Shampoo
Bath towels

Larger Items

Night Stands
Small Table Lamps



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PRIMAVERA FOUNDATION 25 YEARS
Primavera Foundation provides pathways out of poverty
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INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Everybody deserves to be financially literate

None of the families who became first time homeowners through Primavera are in foreclosure. Arizona's foreclosure rate is third in the nation.

Everybody can make a difference

Over 1000 volunteers a year help make the programs and services of Primavera possible. This saves Primavera over a million dollars a year.

Everybody deserves a second chance

87% of people who go through our PREP program don't go back to prison. The national success rate is less than 50%.

Every community deserves a leader in the fight against poverty

PRIMAVERA WORKS BUFFEL GRASS REMOVAL BRIGADE SAVES TUCSON

Primavera Works started a buffel grass removal project at the U of A Science and Technology Park in mid May, working for property management company Grubb & Ellis. The park has several areas that are being taken over by buffel grass, and a Primavera Works full service landscaping crew has been hired to remove the invasive grass. The connection between Primavera Works and Grubb & Ellis was first made at the Primavera Works booth at the SAHBA Home Show.

To prepare for this job, several Primavera Works staff volunteered to go on a buffel grass pull at Saguaro National Park East coordinated by the Weedwackers. This provided staff with an opportunity to learn how to identify buffel grass, what tools are required and proper removal techniques. Primavera Works then purchased the needed tools and conducted a training session for temp workers on how to identify and remove buffel grass.

What started out as a one week trial period for the buffel grass removal at the U of A Science and Technology Park has turned into an ongoing project. We were originally hired for a test to see how much buffel grass we could remove in a week. **Other landscaping companies also completed this test, and Primavera Works was the one selected to continue on the job.**

This project is providing Primavera Works participants with much needed employment and job skills, and bringing in program revenue. We plan to expand this service, offering it to more and more customers.

THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN PRIMAVERA

PRIMAVERA COOKS!
SUMMER DINING EVENT

TITLE SPONSOR

COX

The Primavera Foundation partners with select Tucson Originals restaurants for our 8th season of ten wine-paired, fine dining fundraising dinners.

2009 SCHEDULE OF DINNERS
(REMAINING DINNERS)

Pastiche	Wednesday, **July 22**
Cup Cafe	Sunday, **August 9 (Brunch)**
Acacia	Wednesday, **August 19**
JBar	Saturday, **August 29**
Maynard's	Wednesday, **September 2**
Kingfisher	Sunday, **September 13**
Jonathan's	Thursday, **September 17**
Pastiche	**COX** Hosted Buyout

For information or reservations contact David at 623-5111 x 101 or delliott@primavera.org

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Community Partnership of Southern Arizona cpsa Regional Behavioral Health Authority

PAM GRISSOM

KEN & LINDA ROBIN

CARONDELET HEALTH NETWORK

DESERT DIAMOND CASINO

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HOME TUCSON MAGAZINE

KOLD NEWS 13 COMMUNITY IN ACTION

92.9 The Mountain

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Contributions made between March 20, 2009 and June 25, 2009

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-Buffel Grass Removal
-Housekeeping
-Moving Help
-Painting

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Providing pathways out of poverty with work opportunities

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PRIMAVERA FOUNDATION 25 YEARS
www.primavera.org

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