



Summer 2013

News and Information for Parents, Educators and Donors

## In This Issue

*Walk With Me Raises more than \$135,000 for children with disabilities*

*Safeway stores team up to raise money for children with disabilities*

*Southwest Human Development earns two awards for workplace excellence*

*Community Collaborations: Smooth Way Home*

*NBC News' Education Nation tour makes stop in Phoenix*

*Donors get dollar-for-dollar credit with Arizona Working Poor Tax Credit*



Join us on Facebook and stay up-to-date on stories and news



**southwest  
human  
development**

Southwest Human Development is the Easter Seals affiliate for central and northern Arizona

2850 N. 24th Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85008  
(602) 266-5976  
www.swhd.org

## Walk With Me raises more than \$135,000 for children with disabilities

*Nearly 1,000 people helped make annual event a success*

Each year, more than one million young children across the nation that are at risk for developmental delays or disabilities fail to get the services and support they need. Easter Seals Southwest Human Development's annual Walk With Me fundraising event is supported by the community in an effort to change that devastating statistic.

The fifth annual Walk With Me was held on Saturday, May 4 at Steele Indian School Park in Phoenix. Sponsored locally by Humana, Wells Fargo, Willis of Arizona, MassMutual of Arizona, Delta Dental of Arizona, Discount School Supply, Squire Sanders and the Fennemore Craig Foundation, with national support from CVS Caremark, Century 21, Amway and MassMutual, the event featured music, food and drink, fun activities for kids and access to a variety of community resources.



With the support of FOX 10 and my45, News/Talk 92.3 KTAR and 98.7 The Peak, along with Raising Arizona Kids Magazine, almost 1,000 people came together for Walk With Me 2013 and raised more than \$135,000 to benefit Easter Seals Southwest Human Development and the many services offered to young children with disabilities throughout central and northern Arizona.

### Meet Maggie

When Maggie was born, her parents, Lissette and Stephen Lent, quickly realized that she had

physical challenges – such as difficulty feeding and vision impairment – but the cause was unknown. Without a diagnosis, her parents went in search of help.

Lissette and Stephen soon discovered the Children's Developmental Center at Southwest Human Development, where a team of pediatric specialists completed a full assessment of Maggie's needs. Shortly thereafter, a physical and occupational therapist were assigned to work with Maggie on a weekly basis.

Eventually, Maggie was diagnosed with a chromosome disorder called Mosaic Trisomy 8, better known as T8M. This rare disorder affects Maggie's physical development, which makes tasks such as walking and eating difficult, as well as causing heart complications.

Maggie hasn't allowed any of this to slow her down, she loves to dance and listen to music. She recently underwent three major surgeries to help her become stronger and after being in wheelchairs and walkers, she can now walk independently. And, after two years of using a feeding tube, Maggie can now eat on her own.

**Providing comprehensive disabilities services**  
Southwest Human Development's Children's Developmental Center opened its doors in 2011 to become the state's first comprehensive facility serving Arizona's young children, specifically ages birth to five, who have or are thought to have

## Board of Directors

**Mark Anderson, President**

Delta Dental of Arizona

**Bill Barba, Treasurer**

Sottera, Inc.

**Karen Ramos, Secretary**

CVS Caremark

**Elaine Armfield**

W. P. Carey School of Business,  
Arizona State University

**Max Axler**

General Electric Capital

**Heidi Baldwin**

Marketing & Business Solutions

**John Balitis**

Fennemore Craig

**Jen DeStefano**

Dominic's Milk Foundation

**Jodalee Ebaugh**

Wallick & Volk Mortgage

**Gasper Genovese**

Republic Media

**Phil Hugus**

Alsbridge, Inc.

**Derrick Johnson**

Hospice of the Southwest

**Mary Moore**

Lindon Park Neighborhood Association

**Zandra O'Keefe**

CBIZ MHM, LLC

**Iris Ortega**

Head Start Policy Council Representative

**Tom Simplot**

Arizona Multihousing Association  
Phoenix City Council

**Christopher D. Thomas**

Squire Sanders (US) LLP

**James Van Steenhuyse**

UBS Financial Services Inc.

## Early Childhood Development Council

**Ian Hackett**

Hackett Real Estate Solutions

**Jean Higginbotham**

Humana

**Stacy Sanner**

Bank of Arizona

**Elizabeth Sawyer**

Attorney

## Safeway stores team up to raise money for children with disabilities

Arizona Easter Seals programs to receive \$577,000



southwest  
human  
development

For years, Easter Seals Southwest Human Development has been proud to partner with Safeway each April for the grocer's national People with Disabilities fundraising campaign.

This year, Safeway's campaign raised more than \$10.8 million nationally. Of that, Easter Seals programs throughout Arizona will receive \$577,000 to benefit the many services available for people with disabilities.

To date, Safeway's People with Disabilities fundraising campaign has donated \$1.5 million to Easter Seals Southwest Human Development to help meet the unique needs of more than 135,000 children and their families in Arizona who depend on our support each year.

If you would like to join Safeway and make a financial contribution to benefit Arizona's young children with disabilities, please call (602) 808-GIVE (4483) or visit [www.swhd.org/safeway](http://www.swhd.org/safeway).

## Southwest Human Development earns two awards for workplace excellence

Recognized as one of the Valley's Best Places to Work and Healthiest Employers

In addition to serving young children and their families, Southwest Human Development is committed to providing a high-quality work environment with rewarding opportunities for employee growth.

For the fifth consecutive year, Southwest Human Development has been recognized by the *Phoenix Business Journal* as one of the Valley's Top 5 Best Places to Work among large-sized companies. This annual award recognizes top companies throughout the Phoenix metropolitan area with excellent employee morale, engagement and retention.

Southwest Human Development has also been recognized by the *Phoenix Business Journal* as one of the Valley's Healthiest Employers for the second year



in a row. Award recipients in this category are selected for their commitment to creating healthy workplace environments through employee wellness programs.

You can learn more about Southwest Human Development's workplace culture and view available career opportunities at [www.swhd.org/careers](http://www.swhd.org/careers).

# Birth to Five HELPLINE

"Nothing Out of the Question" **1-877-705-KIDS (5437)**



Arizona's only toll-free helpline for parents and caregivers with questions or concerns about children ages birth to five

## Smooth Way Home

*Supporting a successful transition for fragile infants and their families from the NICU back to their community*

The overall purpose of the Smooth Way Home Fragile Infant Project is to improve the social, developmental and medical outcomes of very fragile infants by enhancing the coordination of care and the quality of services provided to them as they transition from the newborn intensive care unit back to their home and community.

Southwest Human Development has played a leadership role in bringing together a wide range of community partners, including state agencies, community service providers, parent advocacy groups, hospital personnel, physicians and health insurance providers to address the needs of this very vulnerable population.

Funding from Dignity Health is supporting Southwest Human Development and its

partners – Feeding Matters and Raising Special Kids – in bringing together key stakeholders to build the systems needed to provide coordinated care and state-of-the-art services to these babies.

For more information about the Smooth Way Home Fragile Infant Project, please visit [www.swhd.org/smoothwayhome](http://www.swhd.org/smoothwayhome).



## Walk With Me *cont. from cover*



complex developmental delays, disabilities or behavioral challenges.

When parents are worried about their child's development or behavior, they often find themselves going from one specialist to another looking for assistance. The Children's Developmental Center was designed to avoid this frustrating process by providing families with a team of early childhood professionals who can provide comprehensive assessment, diagnosis and treatment to ensure young children receive the best integrated medical, developmental and mental health care possible.

With the help of Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust and the addition of Dr. Daniel B. Kessler as the center's medical director, the Children's Developmental Center quickly became one of the Valley's greatest resources for families with services including a Feeding Program for young children with eating difficulties, early intervention and treatment, as well as programs for children with disabilities such as autism and cerebral palsy.

A key component of the Children's Developmental Center is the importance the team places on working in partnership with families to understand each child's individual needs and, in tandem, developing a comprehensive plan that supports the family's home and community life. Additionally, the center also focuses on care coordination to ensure the results of the evaluation and treatment recommendations are fully understood by the family and other child care or health care providers involved in the child's daily life.

Learn more about the Children's Developmental Center at [www.swhd.org/cdcenter](http://www.swhd.org/cdcenter).

## NBC News' Education Nation tour makes stop in Phoenix

*Features Southwest Human Development's early literacy programs*

In early May, NBC News' Education Nation On The Road Tour made a stop in Phoenix to help create dialogue with policymakers, thought leaders, educators and parents with the goal of providing every American with the opportunity to achieve a world-class education.

Southwest Human Development was proud to partner with the national television network, local NBC affiliate 12 News and *The Arizona Republic* to host a book drive that

collected more than 11,000 books for the agency's Reach Out and Read program. Southwest Human Development's Raising A Reader program was also featured during a televised early childhood literacy summit at the Herberger Theater in downtown Phoenix.

Southwest Human Development's early literacy programs are designed to educate parents and other caregivers about the importance of early literacy and how they can help their children build the skills they need to become successful readers.

For more about NBC News' Education Nation initiative, visit [www.educationnation.com](http://www.educationnation.com) or learn about Southwest Human Development's early literacy programs at [www.swhd.org/literacy](http://www.swhd.org/literacy).





## In the Spotlight

### Donors get dollar-for-dollar credit with Arizona Working Poor Tax Credit

Did you know donations to Southwest Human Development are eligible for the Arizona Working Poor Tax Credit?

This state tax credit allows for up to a \$400 dollar-for-dollar credit in addition to any public or private school tax credit you may be claiming.

For more information, please visit [www.swhd.org/taxcredit](http://www.swhd.org/taxcredit) or call us at (602) 808-GIVE (4483). To donate online, please visit [www.swhd.org/give](http://www.swhd.org/give).

### Stay Connected with Southwest Human Development



[swhd.org/newsletter](http://swhd.org/newsletter)



[facebook.com/southwesthumandevlopment](https://facebook.com/southwesthumandevlopment)



[twitter.com/swhdaz](https://twitter.com/swhdaz)



[youtube.com/swhumandevlopment](https://youtube.com/swhumandevlopment)



[flickr.com/southwesthumandevlopment](https://flickr.com/southwesthumandevlopment)



[linkedin.com/company/southwest-human-development](https://linkedin.com/company/southwest-human-development)

**Southwest Human Development is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization**

**To make a contribution, please call (602) 808-GIVE (4483) or visit [www.swhd.org/give](http://www.swhd.org/give)**

Address Service Requested



2850 N. 24th Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85008  
[www.swhd.org](http://www.swhd.org)