



Spring 2014

News and Information for Parents, Donors and Community Partners

In This Issue

*Thunderbirds Charities
gifts \$100,000 to
ADAPT Shop*

*Holiday spirit shines for
Arizona's young children
and families*

*Community Collaborations:
Parent Partners Plus*

*Walk With Me to be held
April 26 at Steele Indian
School Park*

*APS backpacks help
Kinship Care and
Adoptions children*



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

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www.swhd.org

Thunderbirds Charities gifts \$100,000 to ADAPT Shop Expands disabilities services, opens family resource center

Each year, more than 2,000 children in Arizona under the age of 1 are expected to be diagnosed with a developmentally-limiting condition like cerebral palsy or spinal muscular atrophy.

Thanks to a \$100,000 grant from Thunderbirds Charities, more of Arizona's young children with these types of severe disabilities will be able to receive the support they need at Southwest Human Development's ADAPT Shop.



The ADAPT Shop is a unique facility where parents can bring their young children with disabilities to receive customized products and support devices. A physical therapist works with each family in their home or at the ADAPT Shop to determine what equipment would be most helpful – such as custom foam seating and mobile scooters – and products are then designed and built based on the child's individual needs.

"We are so grateful for the generous support of Thunderbirds Charities," said Ginger Ward, CEO of Southwest Human Development. "This commitment helps us continue providing this incredible and much-needed resource for Arizona's young children and families, expand the ADAPT Shop's work space and create an on-site family resource center."

Children who can benefit from the ADAPT Shop

include those with cerebral palsy, spinal muscular atrophy, Down syndrome, seizure disorders and a variety of other conditions.

"The ADAPT Shop has opened up our world to possibilities that we weren't able to see and we've been able to do things that we weren't able to do before," said Heather Magdelano, a mother of two who both have a rare disorder that impacts their sight, hearing and muscle development. "They're now able to sit upright and interact with others thanks to the ADAPT Shop's support and their vision."

Since opening in 2011, the ADAPT Shop has helped more than 300 young children who have disabilities that keep them from being able to fully participate in everyday activities at home, with their friends and at school.

"As Thunderbirds, we work hard all year planning and executing the Waste Management Phoenix Open," said Thunderbirds Big Chief Tom Altieri. "The real satisfaction, though, comes from the ability to give back to so many great

organizations such as Southwest Human Development for their ADAPT Shop. It makes everything we do feel so worthwhile."

For more information about Southwest Human Development's ADAPT Shop, please call (602) 633-8686 or visit www.swhd.org/adapt.



**WALK
with ME**



*Inside
on Page 3*

**Saturday,
April 26th**

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Holiday spirit shines for Arizona's young children and families

Local companies sponsor toy drives to benefit Southwest Human Development families

Seeing the magic of the holiday season through a child's eyes is a special feeling, but isn't always something every family can experience given challenging circumstances.

Generous individual and corporate donors helped make holiday dreams come true by supplying toys and gifts most wished for by hundreds of very special children.

"I recently lost my social security benefits due to government cutbacks and didn't know how I could give these special kids any kind of a Christmas," said a grandfather who is caring for his two grandchildren who were removed from their home due to abuse and neglect. "I was speechless when seeing the toys and gifts that were donated. You took a tragic situation for these kids and brought light into our home. They love the toys!"

Nearly 750 toys and gifts were donated to families thanks to the generous support of companies like BMO Harris Bank, CVS Caremark, DeVry University, Meridian Bank, Premier Graphics, Telesphere, and Wells Fargo.



"Our employees and customers were proud to participate in the holiday toy drive," said Marcella Espinoza, vice president of marketing for Meridian Bank. "Our company culture truly values community engagement and helping our neighbors throughout the state. Southwest Human Development supports so many Arizona families, many of whom can't afford gifts during the holidays. We truly enjoyed the opportunity to brighten the holiday season for some very special children."

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Parent Partners Plus

Ensuring families are linked to home visitation services that best meet their needs



Parent Partners Plus is an alliance of eight partner agencies that ensures families are linked with the most appropriate home visitation program that best meets their unique needs.

Funded by First Things First, Parent Partners Plus connects families to free home visitation programs in Phoenix, Laveen and Maryvale. These programs help families with young children by providing individualized parenting support, developmental screenings, parent-child activities and access to additional community

resources from pregnancy through the age of 5.

When families call the Parent Partners Plus referral line, they are connected with programs such as Early Head Start, Fussy Baby, Healthy Families, Healthy Start, Newborn Intensive Care Program, Nurse-Family Partnership and Parents as Teachers.

With Parent Partners Plus acting as a single point of entry, the process of families accessing and receiving these much-needed services is both simplified and coordinated. Since its launch in 2012, this inter-program cooperation has proven successful to meet the needs of families in the community and improve outcomes for young children.

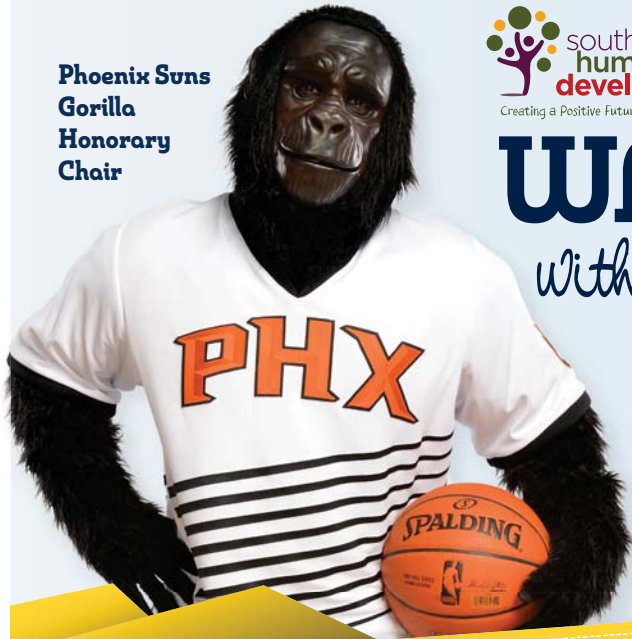
For referrals or to learn more about Parent Partners Plus, please call (602) 633-0732 or visit www.ParentPartnersPlus.com.

Birth to Five HELPLINE 
"Nothing Out of the Question" **1-877-705-KIDS (5437)**

Walk With Me to be held April 26 at Steele Indian School Park

Event benefits services for young children with disabilities, online registration now open

Phoenix Suns
Gorilla
Honorary
Chair



WALK with ME

On Saturday, April 26, Southwest Human Development will host the sixth annual Walk With Me fundraising event at Steele Indian School Park in Phoenix to benefit the nonprofit's Easter Seals services for young children with disabilities.

Presented by Humana and Willis, the 1.25-mile family fun walk is a free event that will feature exciting activities for kids, music, food and drinks, community resource information and more. Event check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. and the walk starts at 8:30 a.m.

"Walk With Me is a wonderful opportunity for people to help make a positive difference in the lives of young children with disabilities," said Ginger Ward, CEO of Southwest Human Development. "Each year, more than 1,000 people come together to meet families who have been helped by our programs and support our much-needed services for Arizona's youngest children with disabilities."

"Southwest Human Development has made a huge impact on the lives of young children and families," said Lissette Lent, whose daughter Maggie received services from the Children's Developmental Center at Southwest Human Development. "Their dedication and passion for helping children succeed is incredible."

With national support from CVS Caremark, Amway Global, Century 21 and MassMutual Financial Group, the annual event will be held at Steele Indian School Park, located at 300 E. Indian School Road in Phoenix.

To register for Walk With Me, please visit www.walkwithme.org/phoenix. For questions or additional information, please contact Kelsey Wolf at (602) 224-1759 or kwolf@shwd.org.

New This Year!

BEFORE THE WALK

Register at shwd.org/5K



5K RUN

Presenting Sponsors

Humana

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Register for Walk With Me at walkwithme.org/phoenix

APS backpacks help Kinship Care and Adoptions children

Grant provides "Welcome Home" supplies during difficult transitions

Many children who are served by Southwest Human Development's Kinship Care and Adoptions Program have only a few personal belongings when they arrive at their new homes. During this transition, children often arrive with only the clothes they are wearing.

Thanks to a \$5,000 grant from Arizona Public Service, or APS, these children now have a few extra things to call their own that also offer comfort and support to ease this difficult transition.

The APS "Welcome Home" backpacks include stuffed animals, blankets, pillows, flashlights or nightlights, journals or children's books, photo

albums or picture frames, board or card games, and a gift card for groceries and personal hygiene items.

Southwest Human Development's Kinship Care and Adoptions Program supports children who have been removed from their parents' homes and, in many cases, have suffered from child abuse and neglect. The program guides their families or caregivers – sometimes grandparents, aunts or uncles, foster parents and others – by facilitating kinship care home studies, foster care licensing, adoption certifications and placement supervision.

To learn more about Southwest Human

Development's Kinship Care and Adoptions Program or to find out how you can help young children in this program, please call (602) 266-5976 or visit www.shwd.org.





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In the Spotlight

Contributions to Southwest Human Development are eligible for Arizona's charitable tax credit

The State of Arizona offers up to a \$400 tax credit to people who support qualifying charitable organizations like Southwest Human Development.

With recent changes to this tax credit, it is no longer necessary to itemize your deductions in order to receive this dollar-for-dollar benefit. This state tax credit can also be claimed in addition to any public or private school tax credits you may be receiving.

For more information, please visit www.swhd.org/TaxCredit or call us at (602) 808-GIVE (4483). To make a donation online, visit www.swhd.org/give.

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