



YOUTH ON THEIR OWN

Educating homeless teens. Investing in Tucson's future.

YOUTH ON THEIR OWN

NEWSLETTER



SUCCESS STORY!

This issue's success story chronicles the painful, arduous journey of an exceptional young woman who, today, describes her life as a Cinderella story. "I ended up with a beautiful home, two beautiful girls, and a supportive husband," said Tarra Apperson, 1998 Sahuaro High School graduate. She currently resides in a suburb of Dallas, Texas with husband Justin, a corporate attorney, and their two children: Brayden, five, and Ava, one.

Upon graduation, Tarra left Tucson for Texas where opportunities were plentiful to explore a career in marketing and sales. She took on a number of jobs and ultimately landed the position of marketing director for a legal services firm, where she increased sales 400%! While working, she also acquired more than half the college credits necessary for a marketing degree.



Articulate and intelligent, Tarra confidently relayed the life lessons that shaped her values, beliefs, and priorities. "My family comes first," she remarked. Until her youngest starts school, she is taking a hiatus from work and college studies to be a Room Mom for her eldest child, volunteer at church, and become involved in other community projects. Tarra called YOTO in August with a desire to give something back to the agency. The support she received as a YOTO student during her senior year of high school was instrumental to whom she has become as an individual, wife, and mother.

This is not a "rags to riches" fairy tale. "Everything looked really good on the outside. We had a nice house and a pool," stated Tarra. But behind closed doors was another story. She was raised by a physically and verbally abusive mother who punched her in the stomach and repeatedly chopped off her hair. Because the family had means, the abuse went unnoticed, which emphasizes that abuse has no socioeconomic or educational boundaries. "At a young age I prayed to God a lot and I have so much faith," she said. "I was afraid of her."

Tarra struggled to work and to attend to her studies as an Amphitheater High School student at that time. She broke down the beginning of her senior year and left the house with all of her belongings in trash bags to live with a friend. That's when YOTO and School Liaison Arlene Rieber stepped into Tarra's life. "I needed someone to be proud of

Story continued page 9

SAVE THE DATE!

St. Philip's Plaza Holiday Open House

Friday, November 24, 2007

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Join Plaza merchants for a delightful evening of music, food, shopping, a silent auction and raffle to benefit YOTO. St. Philip's Plaza is located on the southeast corner of River and Campbell Roads.

2007 YOTO Annual Student Holiday Party

Friday, December 14, 2007

5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Son Life Chapel

2955 W. Ironwood Hill Drive

Turn to page 9 to discover how you, your business or organization can become involved in this treasured agency tradition.

Saguaro Rotary Club's

Texas Hold 'Em Invitational & Casino Event

Saturday, January 19, 2008

Doors open at 5:00 pm

Randolph Golf Complex

600 S. Alvernon Way

To register for the "No Limit Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament" as an individual or team, contact Chairs Kristy Kelly, 918.6539 or Teresa Hill, 591.0972. Information and the registration form are also posted on www.yoto.org.

YOTO's Signature Fundraising Gala

13th Annual Top Of The Town

Saturday, March 15, 2008

5:30 pm

Loews Ventana Canyon Resort

Further details will be provided as the event draws near.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

An on-going debate in the non-profit industry is whether the agencies we represent are really businesses. In recent years, a consultant friend and I have conducted a workshop around the community entitled “The Business of Social Change.” A key point we make is that the non-profit sector is the only one that defines itself by what it is “not” – not for profit – when, in reality, the definition should communicate what the sector aims to achieve: social change. A second key point is that using the word “business” to mean “for-profit” is erroneous. All organizations – for-profit, social change, and public sector – seek outcomes and all use business practices to achieve those outcomes. “Business” isn’t about profit, it’s about what-your-organization-does-with-what-it-has-to-achieve-the-desired-effect. Business is a process, not a descriptor.

While some of the business practices between the private sector and the social change sector differ, many of them are quite similar. Values that we attribute to for-profit business practices such as excellent customer service, getting the most out of every dollar spent, fiscal transparency, the value of highly trained and motivated staff, listening to the customer, being aware of market trends, and being able to change with the environment, are all aspects of good non-profit practice, as well.

Why am I regaling you with non-profit management theory?

First, while Youth On Their Own does not have stockholders like a private sector firm, we do have many stakeholders: our students, our schools and the liaisons who represent them, our donors, our volunteers, other service providers, and the like. This newsletter contains one part of what will ultimately be a two-part Annual Report to you, our stakeholders. Once the audit of the 2006-07 fiscal year is completed early next year, we will bring you the second part, which will include the financials and an acknowledgment of our 2006-07 donors.

Second, my aim is to underscore how important the past year has been as we created YOTO’s 2007-2012 Strategic Plan, the basics of which are contained in this issue’s Annual Report. When discussing strategic planning, I am reminded of the comment of the Cheshire Cat in Lewis Carroll’s [Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland](#) (1865):

“One day Alice came to a fork in the road and saw a Cheshire cat in a tree.

‘Which road do I take?’ she asked. ‘Where do you want to go?’ was his response. ‘I don’t know,’ Alice answered. ‘Then,’ said the cat, ‘it doesn’t matter.’ ”

In the same way that effective businesses spend time writing a business plan that is supported by market research, effective non-profits avoid “Cheshire Cat Planning” if they truly want to be effective. They regularly question themselves and engage in a great deal of dialog with their various constituencies as a way to create their own plans for the future – plans that take into account changing conditions in all of the areas that are critical to a non-profit’s service effectiveness. Without a written plan, it’s simply too easy to lose focus given the many “forks in the road” that come in the form of the overwhelming human service needs in our community.

During the past year, the YOTO Board gathered information and feedback from our staff, board colleagues, current students, caregivers, alumni, donors, school liaisons, former staff, and community partners. The Board and staff thoroughly researched the issues that are relevant to the education of homeless teens and assessed our agency’s place among a larger group of service providers.

In addition to recommitting to the core mission of supporting the high school graduation and continued success of homeless and unaccompanied youth, we reaffirmed our commitment to work through schools via school liaisons, to focus our efforts on students in the critical years between 8th and 12th grade, to refrain from duplicating services that are provided by other organizations by creating effective collaborations, and, especially, to continue as a core service the provision of monthly stipends to students based on their attendance and grades at school.

Creating a plan is the easy part. Now the real work begins: going beyond the framework to implement the values and the strategies that we have defined as critical to meeting our clients’ needs. I look forward to this next step, which will involve continued dialog with those we serve and those who serve beside us. I look forward to your continued partnership and support as we strive to be the most effective and student-centered social change organization we can be.

In service to Tucson’s youth,
Mary Gruensfelder-Cax, MPA
 Executive Director



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As my term as President of the Youth On Their Own Board of Directors comes to a close at the end of the year, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve this amazing agency in a leadership capacity and so proud of the work that the Board has done this past year.

Serving on a non-profit board of directors is not for the faint of heart. It is time-consuming and brings with it a great deal of responsibility, since we represent the community who cares about, invests in, and is impacted by YOTO. We are responsible for ensuring that Youth On Their Own stays fiscally solvent and programmatically relevant as times and the needs of the community change. To meet this responsibility and to kick off the agency's third decade, the Youth on Their Own Board initiated a strategic planning process between November 2006 and August 2007 to review where YOTO has been, to develop a shared vision for the future of the organization, and to determine the course of action to achieve that vision by 2012. The general results of that process are listed below.

One year ago, Youth On Their Own lost a board colleague and good friend, Michael Young. More recently, Anna Howe, a former board member and youth advocate, passed away. We mourn their loss, but continue to draw strength from the legacy that they each left us: Michael, with his quiet, yet firm and loving guidance of this agency's growth; and Anna, whose actions on behalf of the agency and individual students in need continue to ripple throughout the lives of those she served. The fact that a rigorous strategic planning process resulted in the reaffirmation of our current mission and vision is a testament to their leadership and foresight in the past. We dedicate in their memories our efforts of the past year and hold ourselves accountable during the coming years to the standards they set.

It is my pleasure to hand the reins of the presidency to Marian Conrad LaLonde. I know she has the "right stuff" to shepherd us into the implementation phase of our strategic plan and through the challenges and opportunities that arise during her two-year term. Once again, thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving Tucson's homeless youth as YOTO's Board President.

Rudy Carrilla, President
Board of Directors

YOTO YESTERDAY, TODAY...

MISSION: Youth On Their Own is dedicated to support the high school graduation and continued success of homeless youth by providing financial assistance, basic human needs, and guidance.

VISION: To empower and to create stability in the lives of young people on their own to become positive and productive citizens of our community.

VALUES:

Education – We believe that the completion of a high school education is important to achieving future success. We value learning and growth for our students and for our organization.

Empowerment – We support the self-reliance of youth by providing direction and hope for future success, while holding them accountable for their current actions. We strive to ensure stability for students and our organization.

Integrity – We believe in being honest, fair and reliable, and acting in accordance with our mission and values. We are committed to using the resources entrusted in us effectively and efficiently.

Respect & Compassion – We are committed to treating each person as an individual and assisting each in reaching his or her potential.

Responsiveness – We seek consistency with flexibility and the willingness to adapt as needed.

...AND TOMORROW

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT: To develop programs that deliver effective, decentralized, non-duplicative, and fiscally responsible services in the areas of basic needs assistance, financial support, guidance, and empowerment for future success to qualifying homeless and unaccompanied teens who desire to graduate from high school.

FUNDRAISING: To increase annual revenue in order to increase the number of students provided direct services each year.

VISIBILITY: To increase name recognition, visibility, and support of YOTO by educating and advocating the issues and needs of homeless youth within the community.

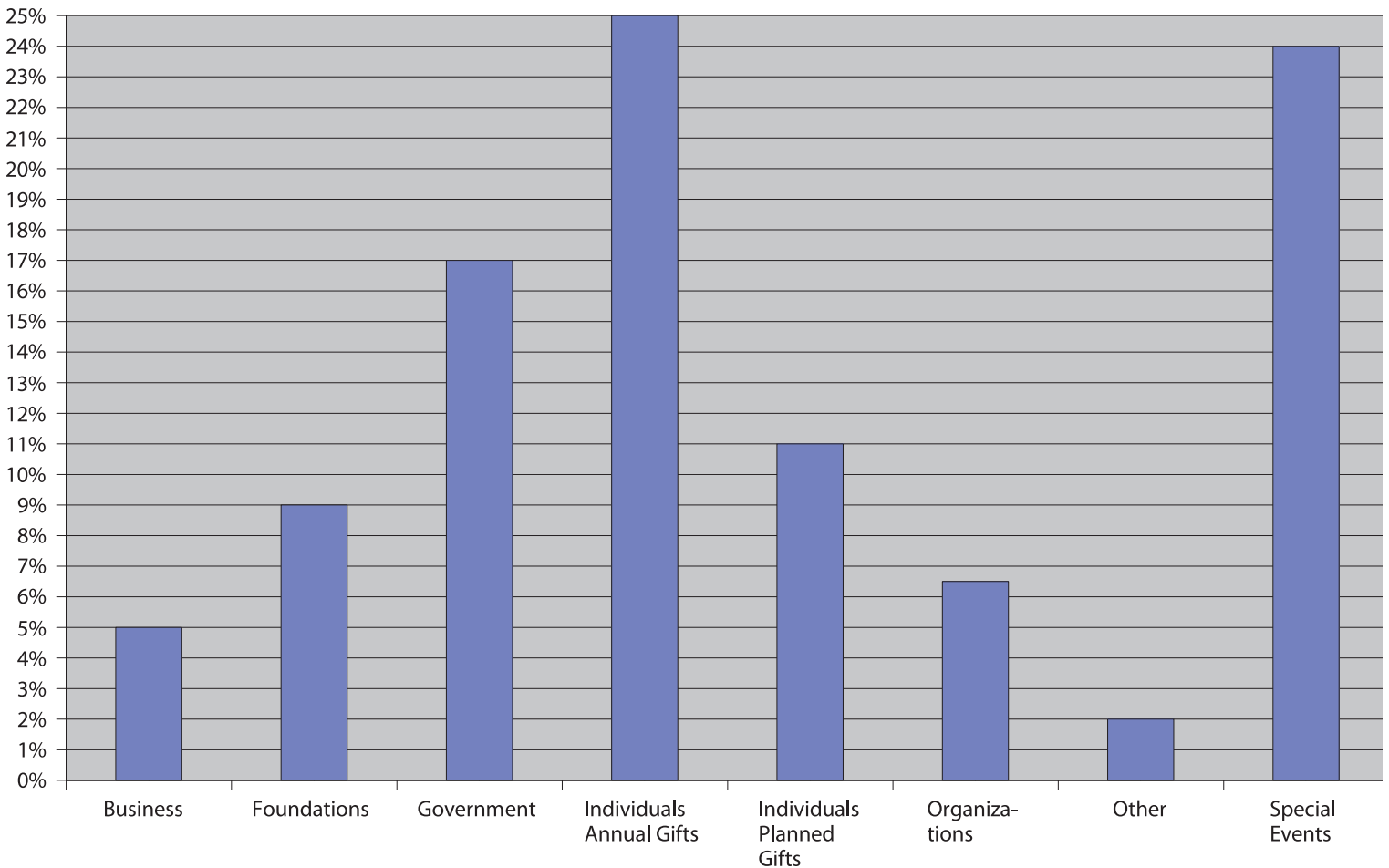
BOARD DEVELOPMENT: To continue developing a stable, highly-qualified Board of Directors that actively governs and supports the organization.



★ ANNUAL REPORT 2006 – 2007, PART ONE

2006-07 INCOME BAR CHART

(UNAUDITED)



STUDENT CLIENT SNAPSHOT

- 557 student clients were enrolled in the YOTO program
- 151 students graduated from high school
- 17 students were named AZ Daily Star Senior Class Achievers
- 60% were female and 40% male students
- 69% ages 14 – 18, 26% ages 19 – 22, 5% ages 8 – 13*

* YOTO served 2% elementary students in 2006 – 2007. To focus on teens, the agency currently serves students who are no younger than 13 years of age or in 8th grade.

OPERATIONAL STATS

- 19 board members, 1 vacancy
- 6.5 full-time equivalent staff (FTEs)
- \$1,091,024.00 – cost of agency operation (unaudited)
- 18% – administrative expense (audited)

STUDENT SERVICES

- A monthly stipend up to \$125 dependent upon passing grades and regular attendance
- Basic needs, including food, clothing, hygiene and school supplies, and household items
- Special needs funds, such as emergency rent
- Strategies For Success (a life skills-building and mentoring program)
- Project Contact (sexual health services three times per month)
- Referral and advocacy services

FAST FACT

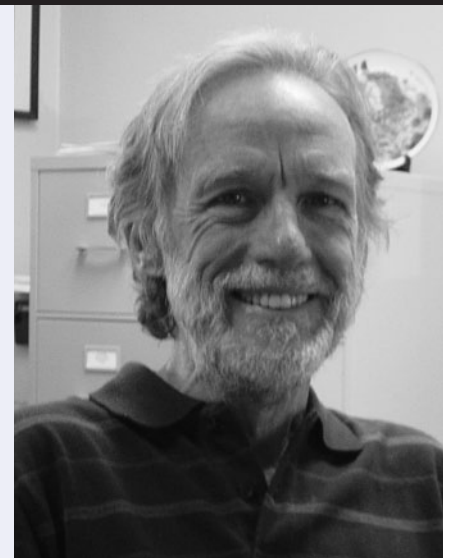
Many community members believe that YOTO provides housing facilities and/or host families for homeless and unaccompanied youth enrolled in the program. **Fact:** YOTO refers students to community agencies that can assist them with housing.

YOTO'S FISCAL YEAR ENDS JUNE 30.



YOTO SCHOOL LIAISON SPOTLIGHT

CRAIG WUNDERLICH,
CHOLLA HIGH SCHOOL



“Youth need a consistent adult in their lives,” stated Craig Wunderlich. This constant brings with it the special attention that he, in concert with YOTO, provide students who are homeless or unaccompanied and at-risk of dropping out of high school. Craig has been Cholla High School’s YOTO Liaison for 16 years and feels his work with the agency is a natural extension of his position as Cholla’s School Social Worker since 1992. “I have more to offer students – it enhances the depth of what I already do – and YOTO has a reputation, as such, that people are attracted to it.

YOTO Program Director Meredith Robinson compliments Craig on his highly engaged approach and keen ability to really hone in on his students’ needs. He assists 500 to 600 students per school year: some teens he sees only once or twice, others on a regular basis. “Life has become more complicated,” he remarked, listing a number of societal changes. “Youth are more on their own.” The main reason students seek his counsel is family conflict.

While many can raise a compliant child, it takes a different set of skills to effectively parent today’s teen to be prepared for the challenges in adulthood. Craig believes in empowering youth, whereby they recognize that they are young adults and no longer children. His philosophy aligns with YOTO’s vision, and he and agency staff team up to provide those students at Cholla High School without parents in their lives the support and guidance required during this important life transition. Craig, we are grateful for our partnership and your gift to recognize and to cherish a student’s progress – no matter how large or small – each day.

THANK YOU TO OUR NETWORKS

YOTO collaborates with community organizations, agencies, and metro-Tucson public schools to provide direct student client support. By doing so, the agency expands the scope of service delivery options and assistance we provide our students. Collaboration also eliminates the potential for the agency to unnecessarily duplicate existing community and school programs. This allows YOTO to remain true to and focused on those student services deemed central in fulfilling our core mission: high school graduation.



COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES



- Amphitheater High School Clothing Bank
- Assistance League of Tucson (Starting Over Supplies)
- Child Advocacy Clinic – U of A College of Law
- City of Tucson Transportation Department
- Community Food Bank
- Department of Economic Security
- Eon Homeless Youth Project/Wingspan
- Leones De Las Montanas Lions Club
- McKinney-Vento District Liaisons
 - Amphitheater
 - Marana
 - Sunnyside
 - TUSD

- Open Inn, Inc.
- Our Family (Teens in Transition Program/Family Reunification Services)
- Pima County Department of Health (Project Contact)
- Pima County One Stop
- Pima County Community College/PCC Foundation
- Reachout
- Southern AZ Community Diaper Bank
- STEP (Student Expedition Program)
- Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless Youth Committee
- TUSD Educational Enrichment Foundation



★ BACK TO SCHOOL ACADEMIC YEAR IN FULL SWING

Summer? It flew by with only a short four to five-week window of time for staff to prepare for the 2007 – 2008 school year. With the approved YOTO Strategic Plan and reaffirmed mission as our roadmap, staff scrutinized and revised the student enrollment process, student application, and stipend and special needs forms. Then came the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan to connect with established YOTO Liaisons and/or to create new school relationships to explain program services, student eligibility criteria, and the enrollment application process. Each year a previously enrolled student must be reinstated into the program as his or her circumstances may have changed. At the same time, YOTO enrolls new students who are identified and apply for program services through their school liaisons. We were ready!



Volunteers Jean Jarvis (above) and Arlene Rieber (right) placed calls to all metro-Tucson public high schools, including alternative and charter schools, to schedule a one-on-one agency visit. Jean and Arlene, we couldn't have done it without you!



★ 1

YOTO student clients take advantage of the Mini Mall, which is amply stocked with food, hygiene kits, gently used clothing, household goods, and school supplies donated by community members.



★ 2



★ 3



★ 4

Photos:

1. Andre M. and Brittany Z., both local high school students, find needed household items in the air-conditioned "Mobile Mini" underwritten by NCH Corporation and located behind the YOTO office.
2. Mukhtar O., a local alternative school student, chooses canned goods from YOTO's food pantry with Barbara Eiswerth, Ph.D., Coordinator and Founder, Iskash*taa Refugee Harvesting Network.
3. Local charter school student Mila V. utilizes the computer to search the web for jobs and to create her resumé.
4. Will S., a local alternative school student, stops by the office to pick up his monthly stipend check.



★ WHO DO WE SERVE?

★ **Ages 13 – 21 enrolled in metro-Tucson public schools in grades 8th through 12th**

★ **Unaccompanied through no fault of their own**

- Not in the physical custody of a parent or long-term legal guardian

AND

★ **Homeless per the McKinney-Vento Definition**

- Living with a friend, relative or someone else because they lost their home or can't afford a home
- Living in a homeless youth shelter
- Staying in a motel or hotel, car, park, or other public place not meant for habitation
- Living in substandard housing
- Awaiting Foster Care placement
- CPS students
 - Group Home Placements
 - Temporary Foster Care Placement

★ WHAT IS MCKINNEY-VENTO?

McKinney-Vento is the federal law enacted in 1987 that ensures access to public education by students who are homeless and unaccompanied. For detailed information about McKinney-Vento, please log onto www.ed.gov/programs/homeless/guidance.pdf.

ADVOCACY

HOMELESS YOUTH FAFSA PROVISIONS INCLUDED IN COLLEGE AID BILL H.R. 2669 ASSIST YOTO SENIORS WITH HIGHER EDUCATION*

President Bush signed the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, H.R. 2669 into law on September 27, 2007, which will go into effect on July 1, 2009. This legislation includes amendments to expand the definition of an independent student in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to include unaccompanied homeless youth; youth who are in foster care at any time after the age of 13 or older; or youth who are emancipated minors or are in legal guardianships as determined by an appropriate court in the individual's state of residence.

The legislation allows youth to be considered independent students if they are officially verified as unaccompanied and homeless during the school year in which the application is submitted, or as unaccompanied, at risk of homelessness, and self-supporting. The law thus removes barriers to accessing financial aid for unaccompanied youth in the year in which they experienced homelessness, and in subsequent years, provided they are still unaccompanied, self-supporting, and at risk of homelessness.

Next Steps: The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) encourages liaisons, service providers, advocates, and others to share information about these newly passed FAFSA provisions with financial aid administrators in order to help facilitate and encourage earlier implementation. Also, Congress plans to reauthorize the Higher Education Act this year, which provides another opportunity for advocacy.

*Edited from the original text provided by Barbara Duffield, NAEHCY Policy Director, 4701 Connecticut Avenue, NW, #402, Washington, DC 20008. Log onto www.naehcy.org for more information and legislative updates.



★ YOTO STUDENT HOLIDAY PARTY

**FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 14, 2007
5:00 PM – 7:30 PM
SON LIFE CHAPEL
2955 W. IRONWOOD
HILL DRIVE**

YOTO teens look forward to the Annual Student Holiday Party with great anticipation during this particularly family-oriented time of year. Students, community businesses and organizations, staff, board members, and volunteers gather together to celebrate the magic of the season with food, music, friendship, and . . . gifts for each student!

Ultimately, the success of the event depends upon broad-based community support. There are many opportunities to become involved, ranging from “hands on” experiences to contributing items for the ever-popular raffle. Please consider how you, your business or organization can become a part of this memorable evening. Please contact Gina Babunovic at 293.1136 or gbabunovic@yoto.org if you have any questions, or log onto www.yoto.org for Holiday Party information and current opportunities.

RAFFLE GIFTS

The Raffle is a fun, popular feature of the evening and YOTO is in need of new, unwrapped items for this event. Your donation of unwrapped gifts from the following suggestions will be designated for the student raffle. Please deliver items and/or gift cards to the YOTO office by **Friday, December 7, 2007**.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Small TVs | Dish and glassware sets |
| MP3 players | Silverware sets |
| DVD players | Pot/pan sets |
| Portable CD players | Baking dish sets |
| Portable stereos (Boom Boxes) | Towel sets |
| Video games | Gifts cards valued at \$50 or more to Best Buy, Circuit City, Park Mall, Tucson Mall, Target, Wal-Mart, etc. |
| Game Boys and games | |
| Bicycles | |

DRIVERS (PAIRS) VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

This year, the agency plans to offer students transportation to and from the event. If you have access to a van or mini-van and are interested in volunteering your time, please contact Executive Director Mary Gruensfelder-Cox at 293.1136 or mgcox@yoto.org. Screening will be required.

VENUE CONTRIBUTIONS

Holiday table decorations (25 tables)
Paper plates, cups, napkins, and plastic utensils

Questions? Need more details? Please contact Gina Babunovic at 293.1136 x 208 or gbabunovic@yoto.org.

“SUCCESS” (continued from front page)

me and give me the skills to become an adult,” she stated. She doesn’t necessarily remember the money – a stipend of \$100 per month in 1998 – she remembers the love and gift cards to purchase the basics since she was on a limited budget. Tarra transferred eventually to Sahuaro High School to ease transportation issues, but she and Arlene kept in touch. “If I needed anything, she was there for me.”

At a critical point in her personal development, Tarra took advantage of the available support and guidance to seek counseling and life skills. She accepts that she can’t change her mother and she doesn’t dwell in the past. “My life is here now,” she said softly. “The best thing I can do is to be a better parent.” All of us at YOTO are still very proud of you, Tarra!

DID YOU KNOW?

YOTO office volunteers devoted 1,654 hours of their time during 2006-2007, saving the agency dollars that were directed toward student services. The value of their contribution was \$23,156.00, which is a full academic year of stipends for 19 students. Thank you! The volunteer wage of \$14/hour is set by federal standards, which include that a volunteer, on average, possesses a college degree and experience.



★ MAKING A DIFFERENCE

THIRD PARTY EVENTS

Individuals, organizations, and businesses frequently hold fundraising events to benefit YOTO. These are called “Third Party Fundraisers” since YOTO staff does not participate in the planning or coordination of the event or cover costs that may be associated with running the fundraiser. We supply community organizers with agency information, help with promotion through our newsletter and website, and on occasion provide a mutually agreed upon number of volunteers to assist during the event. Please call the office at 293.1136 if you are planning an event to benefit YOTO students so the agency can give you support!

ARCA



The Arizona Roofing Contractors Association (ARCA) of Tucson presented the agency with \$28,000 in proceeds from the 4th Annual Charity Bowling Tournament at the Annual ARCA Convention & Trade Show Award Banquet held in Prescott this October. YOTO Alumna Shannon Dupper received a standing ovation after speaking about her life experiences and YOTO to the nearly 400 state-wide ARCA members in attendance. (L to R, back row) Event Co-Chair Scott Ekstrom, Chair Sam Brush, and Co-Chair Harless Oscislowski; Alumna Shannon Dupper and Gina Babunovic, staff.



SAHBA CARNIVAL DE GOLFE

For the first time in the event’s 13-year history, SAHBA’s Carnival de Golfe Charity Golf Tournament registered 288 golfers who covered two 18-hole courses for the all-day event. Approximately \$6,800 was raised for Youth On Their Own. Thanks and kudos to Event Chair Chuck Nickel, Volunteer Chair Jessica Bloom, Committee members, and YOTO volunteers who assisted with various event activities: Roger and Mary Baglien, Margaret Falkowski, Carol Kiker, and Sande Rivas.



T.A.H.N.

Tucson African Heritage Network (T.A.H.N.), an IBM philanthropic committee, held its 6th Annual Golf Tournament to benefit YOTO in part on September 1 at the Marriot Starr Pass Resort & Spa. Tournament Director Marina Ruiz presented the agency with \$700 from event proceeds. We are grateful to all T.A.H.N. members and participants for supporting YOTO students! (L to R) Golfers James Johnson, Manny Aparicio, Monica Johnson, and Greg Nelson.

BUFFALO EXCHANGE

Buffalo Exchange New & Recycled Fashion conducted a Back-To-School Sidewalk Dollar Day Sale August 18. YOTO was named beneficiary of the event’s proceeds that totaled over \$2,000. Much gratitude to Buffalo Exchange for its generosity and ongoing clothing contributions to the Mini Mall.

EDITOR’S CORNER

YOTO publishes a Fall, Winter, and Spring newsletter during the academic school year. Please feel free to call or email me with your comments, suggestions, and change in contact information.

Regards,

Gina Babunovic

Communications & Development Director

520.293.1136 x 208

gbabunovic@yoto.org



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 Meredith Robinson, Program Director
 Maria Castro, Operations Manager



YOTO QUALIFIES FOR ARIZONA'S CHARITABLE TAX CREDIT
Make Your Contribution Before December 31, 2007

You can make a difference in the lives of YOTO's students and earn Arizona tax credit at the same time. Youth On Their Own is a qualifying 501(c) (3) charity. Tax ID #86-0644388. Below are some basics about the tax credit. For more in-depth information you may access the following web site: www.revenue.state.az.us.

To take advantage of the Arizona State Charitable Tax Credit for 2007, you must:

- ★ make a charitable contribution up to \$400* in the form of cash, check or credit card payment delivered or postmarked on or before December 31, 2007;
- ★ provide your name, home address, and phone number on your pledge card or accompanying correspondence in order to receive an acknowledgement from YOTO for your tax records;
- ★ itemize your charitable contributions;
- ★ establish a baseline year of charitable giving (as early as 1996); and,
- ★ increase your charitable giving over your baseline year.

For more information on making a contribution to YOTO and taking advantage of the Arizona State Charitable Tax Credit, contact Maria Castro at (520) 293-1136 x 203 or mcastro@yoto.org.

*Tax credits of between \$200 and \$400 are available based on your income and tax filing status. YOTO representatives are not tax advisors. As with any financial recommendation, please contact a qualified tax professional for expert advice on your specific tax situation.