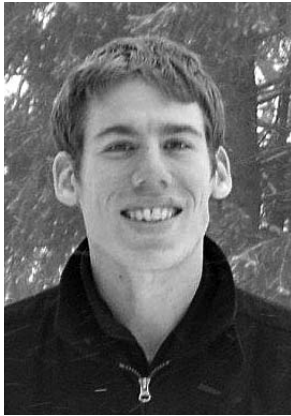


NEWSLETTER



YOUTH ON THEIR OWN

Educating homeless teens. Investing in Tucson's future.



SUCCESS STORY!

James Nissen, a 2004 Canyon Del Oro graduate, is completing his third week in the Tucson Fire Academy. The ambitious recruit enjoys both the challenge and pace of the rigorous 22-week course. He will participate in live fire exercises and rescue techniques, as well as master other demanding skills required to become a member of the Tucson Fire Department. His weekends are filled

with incessant study for the weekly Monday exam; yet, under pressure, he remains focused, disciplined, and determined.

As a youth, James lived within an atmosphere of poverty and instability, raised by a mother who abused alcohol and lived intermittently on and off the streets. He does not know his father. "When I was 15, my mom felt that she couldn't provide for me and that the 'system' could give me what she could not: it would give me a better chance," he stated. He entered foster care and lived in a group home for a number of years. "It was scary going in but I was surprised at the family setting – it brought me stability." In reflection, he feels he had a positive experience, which was enhanced by a supportive caseworker.

Foster care ends when a youth turns 18 years of age. James, on his own, turned to YOTO, which provided needed financial assistance, continued support, and guidance as he completed his high school education. He found the opportunity to apply for Special Needs funding especially helpful. Staff also assisted him to receive a Pell Grant and other college scholarships. "I have very good credit!" he exclaimed with pride.

Continuing his education at Pima Community College, James explored possible careers in teaching and psychology over a two year period. He became interested in becoming a firefighter through a friend in the Academy; also, he favors the outdoors rather than working each day in an office setting. To indicate to the Academy that he was serious about his chosen work, he finished EMT training in 2005 and entered the Pima County Fire Academy in 2006 to learn firefighting basics, acquiring Fire I and Fire II certifications. James became a Tucson Fire Academy recruit in January 2007 after passing a written exam.

"We have a family history of this type of behavior," added James, referring to his mother's substance abuse, poverty, and homelessness. Sadly, his mother passed away after his first week in the Academy. She was 50 years old. "I have the personal drive not to end up in that situation, and I will be the first to rise above this legacy." And so he is... James, we admire your strength, your accomplishments and wish you continued success in the future!

SAVE THE DATE!

You're Invited!

13th Annual

Top of the Town '08
for the benefit of YOUTH ON THEIR OWN

Saturday, March 15, 2008 – 5:30 p.m.

Loews Ventana Canyon Resort, 7000 N. Resort Drive in Tucson
Turn to page 17 for event details.

WRITE A WILL Workshop

Wednesday, March 26, 2008 – 2:00 p.m to 3:30 p.m.

Primavera Foundation's Jim & Vicki Click Training Center
152 W. 40th Street (near I-10 and S. 6th Avenue)

Sponsored by Youth On Their Own, Open Inn, and Primavera Foundation. Registration is appreciated but not required. To register or for more information, call David Elliot at 520.623.5111 ext 101.

5th Annual ARCA Charity Bowling Tournament

Saturday, June 28, 2008

11:00 a.m. registration, 12:00 p.m. tournament play
Golden Pin Lanes, 1010 W. Miracle Mile in Tucson

Arizona Roofing Contractors Association (ARCA)
"Raising the Roof for Youth On Their Own"

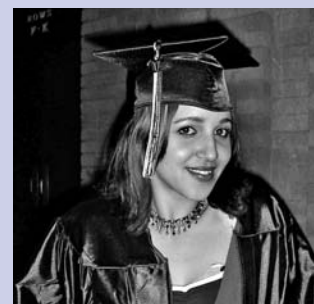
Door Prizes, Silent Auction, Raffle. Teams now forming (six bowlers per team). For information call 520.631.7931 or 520.405.3222 All event proceeds benefit YOTO.

INSIDE

YOTO Celebrates December '07 Grads! page 5

YOTO Milestone page 4

Annual Report 2006-2007, Part Two pages 6-16



Ruwaida (Roxy) Alansary,
PASS High School
December '07 graduate.

Roxy currently attends Pima Community College and will be a featured speaker at Top of the Town '08.





A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The promise of spring has brought hope for centuries and to multitudes of people across the world: of dark times getting lighter, of warmth after cold, of new growth after dormancy. We continue to be grateful for the privilege of bringing hope to youth who, because they are homeless and without the presence of a parent or long-term legal guardian guiding them, often feel bound by their circumstances to a life without options... and without hope.

With the start of the second semester of the 2007-08 academic year, the pace of events at YOTO has ramped-up exponentially as we work to provide the best possible services to our student clients, along with our other “job,” that of funding our agency at a level which supports continued service excellence. To accomplish the latter, we are in the midst of writing grants to a variety of sources, preparing for our annual Top of the Town signature fundraiser on March 15 (see page 17), putting on a “Write A Will” workshop on March 26 with two partner agencies (see page 17) to encourage people to remember

YOTO in their estate plans, creating a new agency video with funding from the Grossman Foundation and professional assistance from International Media here in Tucson, and preparing for the annual audit, which helps us ensure top-notch stewardship of the funds entrusted to us by our donors and grantors.

On the program side, our priority is focused on working within the Metro area school systems and social service agencies to identify students who are homeless and unaccompanied, through no fault of their own, and are committed to graduating from high school in spite of their hardships. Homeless youth who should be in the YOTO program tend to be “under the radar” in their schools because they often do not behave in ways that get them noticed as needing intervention. They simply cope quietly until one day the challenges of their situations prove to be too much, and they drop out of school – often never to return. In addition to working with the identified YOTO liaison for each high school and middle school in the area, we continue to reach out to other school personnel – teachers, security guards, nurses, food service workers, coaches, etc. – who might come into contact with prospective “YOTO Kids” and could be effective referral sources for us.

Other human service agencies throughout the area are also instrumental in helping us identify students who need what YOTO has to offer. We work closely with a number of agencies to ensure that we do not duplicate services but, rather, complement one another and can refer clients to each other with confidence. This is both a client/customer service issue and a fiscal stewardship issue. The nurturing of these interagency relationships remains an ongoing priority, for it is only through agency partnerships that our clients will have access to a full range of services to meet their various and changing needs.

There are times when students are reluctant to define themselves as homeless – they are embarrassed about their circumstances, such as having incarcerated or drug abusing parents; or they distrust “systems,” even those like YOTO that are independent nonprofits. They may not understand that the educational definition of homelessness (according to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act) is about the lack of a **safe and permanent nighttime residence**. Since these students may be doubled-up with relatives or “couch hopping” among friends and neighbors, they may have a roof over their heads, but they do not have a home that offers the stability necessary to excel in school. Yet they do not see themselves as homeless. This reluctance or lack of understanding, along with these students’ relative invisibility in the school environment, means that YOTO relies on many people, both inside and outside of the schools, to identify and to encourage eligible students to allow YOTO to support them.

As winter rushes headlong into spring and the school year heads toward completion, YOTO will have provided services to nearly 9000 students in its 21-year history. Another group of young men and women, who were formerly without choices for the future, will toss their mortar boards high in a great exclamation of joy. All who have contributed to these students’ success as YOTO donors, sponsors, volunteers, and partners, can share in that joy, along with the hope for futures that are filled with possibilities for these strong young people.

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



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am honored to have been chosen as the President of the Youth On Their Own Board for the next two years. As I took office in January, I was mindful of the great contributions to the governance of this agency by those who held this board leadership position in the past few years: Rudy Carrillo, the late (and sorely missed) Michael Young, and Tom Eyley. Their dedication, vision, and stewardship enabled the organization to be fiscally sound and programmatically relevant throughout the first years of this new century. I am humbled by their contributions and pledge to continue their legacies.

Pages 6-16 of this newsletter contain Part II of our Annual Report, focusing on “The Spirit and Faces of Philanthropy.” In doing so, we recognize and thank the contributors who make the goal of high school graduation a reality for many homeless youth in our community. “The Spirit and Faces of Philanthropy” is also communicated in the photos of our students, the success story on page one, and in the statistics we share throughout the year because they result from the philanthropic actions of many in our community.

As a former YOTO student, I know firsthand the impact that this program has on those who would not ordinarily have the support and resources necessary to graduate from high school.

On behalf of my board colleagues, I am grateful for all of the ways in which our community invests in the mission of this agency and am committed to the role that we have to make sure that those resources invested are used wisely. We realize that having common ethical standards and principles in our program delivery and our resource generation activities is essential to maintaining the public trust, and we follow the values set forth by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (<http://www.afpnet.org/ethics>) as we vigorously and ethically seek support for YOTO. As a governance board, we are the standard-bearers and are ultimately accountable to our community. We take that responsibility very seriously.

As you review the Annual Report and notice the number of supporters who are recognized, remember the saying that “it takes a village to raise a child” and know that you are each a part of a diverse and dynamic “village” that impacts hundreds of students each year through YOTO. Once again, please accept my most sincere thanks.

Regards,

Marian Conrad LaLonde, President

YOTO Board of Directors

IN MEMORIAM KATHRYN DRAMAN



Youth On Their Own’s beloved volunteer – Kathryn Draman – passed away on February 7, 2008 due to complications from chronic respiratory disease. This remarkable woman with beautiful, laughing blue eyes and a heart of gold arrived each Monday over the past seven years to assist staff with special projects, office correspondence, greeting visitors and students, and answering the phone. Possessing a strong work ethic, Kathryn approached each task with enthusiasm and thoroughness. We celebrate her genuineness, warmth, and willingness to go the extra mile to help YOTO students. As we grieve her loss, there is a disconcerting emptiness in our lives. Kathryn’s chair will certainly be a big one to fill.

PHILANTHROPY

phi · lan · thro · py
(fĭ-lăn' thrə-pē)

- An effort or inclination to increase the well-being of humankind, as by charitable aid or donations.
- Love of humankind in general.
- Something, such as an activity or institution, intended to promote human welfare.

Courtesy of dictionary.com



★ YOTO MILESTONE: AGENCY ENDOWMENT FUND A REALITY!

The leadership gifts from one local professional organization and two generous Tucson couples have made it possible for Youth On Their Own to create an endowment! With funding from the Tucson Society of Women Physicians, Dr. Thomas W. and Mrs. Marielena Eyler, and Dr. Melvin G. and Mrs. Paige D. Hector, the “Youth On Their Own (YOTO) Endowment” was established in the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona (CFSA) on January 23rd.

“It takes a special donor to understand how important an endowment can be to a nonprofit organization like ours, and we are so grateful to those who provided the initial gifts to create the YOTO Endowment,” said Mary Gruensfelder-Cox, Executive Director. “Now that the fund is established, other donors can contribute any amount they wish and help it grow into a significant source of annual income to support the agency’s mission.”

The YOTO Endowment provides for the long-term sustainability of the agency. Contributions of cash, valuable personal property (that can be converted into cash), and proceeds from estates may be designated to the endowment by the donor. While the contributions are generally made payable to YOTO, they are immediately transferred to the CFSA as long as the gift is designated for the endowment in the memo section of the check or on accompanying correspondence.

Once placed with the CFSA, the funds are invested according to the Foundation’s Investment Policy, which represents a long-term perspective that diversifies assets in order to minimize risk. On an annual basis, the proceeds of the investment are made available for YOTO to use in support of its mission. Since the principal of an endowment is never spent, the fund exists in perpetuity.

The CFSA manages more than 475 funds on behalf of area donors and organizations, approximately 40 of which were established by nonprofit organizations like YOTO. The CFSA serves as the steward of over \$100 million in assets and ranks in the top ten percent of community foundations nationally.

“The YOTO Board of Directors chose to place our agency’s endowment in the Community Foundation for a variety of reasons, including the fact that endowment funds are pooled for investment purposes so YOTO can benefit from economies of scale,” said Martin Falkowski, Treasurer of the Youth On Their Own Board of Directors. “Another reason is that the Foundation is expert at what it does and placing the endowment there allows YOTO to concentrate on serving kids, rather than managing its endowment.”

For more information on the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, visit www.cfsoaz.org or call (520) 770-0800. For more information on making a gift to YOTO’s new endowment, contact Mary Gruensfelder-Cox at 520. 293.1136 or mgcox@yoto.org.



PROGRAM NOTES

Ask me what the best part of my job is as Program Director and I’ll tell you without hesitation that it’s meeting with our resilient YOTO students. Their dedication to their education is nothing less than inspirational. If you’ve ever met a YOTO student or read one of their stories, you know the feeling.

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend Pima Vocational High School’s December graduation ceremony. A number of YOTO students sat anxiously on the edges of their metal fold-out chairs while they waited to hear their names. I knew there were people sitting around me who had no idea that there were four students among these graduates who were living on their own. On their own, they graduated. On their own, they will apply to college. On their own, they will find a job. On their own, they will succeed. These students blend in and easily go unnoticed; therefore, they are often not identified as needing support and are at great risk of dropping out of high school.

The essential first step is the identification of homeless and unaccompanied youth within Metro Tucson schools. After YOTO’s Executive Director Mary and I met with over 90 school counselors and head teachers this summer and fall, my community outreach efforts then turned to strengthening and to creating collaborations with area support agencies that also work with youth. My goal is to educate our human service colleagues about homelessness and unaccompanied youth. As I explain the way in which the YOTO program works and who we serve, I also learn about services provided by other area support agencies. It’s like putting a puzzle together when I ask myself, “How do all the services fit?” The aim is to work in harmony with community agencies, without duplication, in building the remaining steps that these extraordinary young people need so they can reach the top. **Thank you** to our devoted base network of support agencies who have embraced our students over the years and to those newly created relationships. With us behind them, they are not alone!

Meredith Moore
Program Director



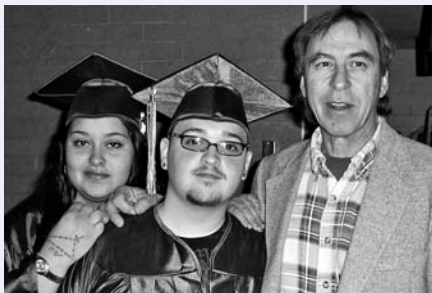
★ YOTO CELEBRATES

THE CLASS OF DECEMBER '07

Congratulations Grads! Twenty-four YOTO students graduated from 16 high schools throughout the Metro area this December. It is so enjoyable when students visit the office and show off their well-deserved diplomas. Staff gathers together and makes a real fuss; along with handshakes and hugs, it is a photo opportunity that forever captures their happiness and life accomplishment for us to share with you. December graduates are also invited to attend the YOTO Student Graduation Party that will be held in May. This year, the YOTO Board of Directors has taken on the coordination of this wonderful student event. Please visit yoto.org for further details as the Graduation Party draws near.



Dwight Robinson, Pima Vocational HS Downtown with Executive Director Mary Gruensfelder-Cox



Julianna Maxwell and Anthony Gerbais, PACE HS with retired educator and YOTO board member Fred McConnell

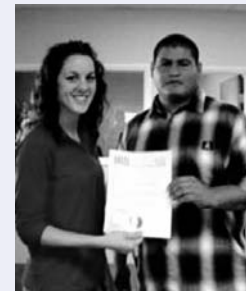
- Roxy Alansary.....PASS HS
- Monequea Amistoso ... Tuscon High Magnet School
- Courtney Bratton..... Compass HS
- Miguel BricenoPASS HS
- Lauren Dickinson.... Pima Vocational HS Downtown
- Sabrina EirschelePima Vocational HS Sweetwater
- Darlene Fimbres PASS HS
- Tomabari Ganago.....ACE Charter HS
- Karla Garcia.....Sunnyside HS
- Anthony Gerbais..... PACE HS
- Cesar Giron.....Marana Career & Technical School
- Alicia Gomez..... Pima Vocational HS Downtown
- Tasheena Lee..... Pima Vocational HS Downtown
- Alexis MacMeans.....San Joaquin HS
- Stephanie Madrid Downtown Alternative HS
- Ana Maldonado TAPP
- Lissa Martinez.....Cholla HS
- Julianna Maxwell PACE HS
- Ashley Olivarria Alta Vista HS
- Mukhtar Omar Project MORE
- Dwight Robinson ... Pima Vocational HS Downtown
- Sabrina Valenzuela Downtown Alternative HS
- Laura VillaescusaCanyon Del Oro HS
- D'Angelo Waggoner Downtown Alternative HS



Alexis MacMeans, San Joaquin HS



Ashley Olivarria, Alta Vista HS with Program Director Meredith Moore



Cesar Giron, Marana Career & Technical School with Meredith Moore



Sabrina Valenzuela, Downtown Alternative HS

YOTO STUDENTS GO TECH

Youth On Their Own students are able to receive computers at no cost from World Care, a local nonprofit organization that refurbishes pre-owned computer equipment and then distributes it to the community through a referral process. Since October 2007, 11 YOTO students have benefited from World Care. We recommend that you donate computers and accompanying accessories directly to the organization. World Care contact information: 3538 E. Ellington Place; Tucson, Arizona 85713; 520.514.1588; www.worldcare.org; donations are accepted 9 – 3 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

ONE STEP BEYOND

“I have a habit of dwelling in the past, which leaves me in a negative mindset. After hearing about STEP and reading the student testimonials, I realized how much this experience could help me mentally and physically change in a positive way,” S. N., a YOTO local high school student.

STEP (Student Expedition Program) offers talented high school students with limited financial resources the opportunity to discover the extent of their own abilities. Challenges faced during a three-week wilderness leadership expedition provide students with increased self-confidence and self-esteem, a sense of purpose, and an understanding that they have what it takes to succeed. A number of YOTO students have greatly benefited from the STEP experience. We encourage those interested in supporting YOTO students' participation in STEP to contribute directly to the STEP organization. Funds may be designated for a YOTO student. For further details, please contact Executive Director Tracy Baynes at 520.825.5650 or tbaynes@stepexpedition.org.



★ ANNUAL REPORT 2006–2007, PART TWO THE SPIRIT AND FACES OF PHILANTHROPY

YOTO Annual Student Holiday Party

This December a gathering of over 200 guests at the Annual '07 Student Holiday Party celebrated the season with all the trimmings – dinner, gifts, a raffle, and companionship. Each year this event provides an opportunity for contributors and volunteers to interact directly with those they support. Community generosity also defrays the event cost: there was an outpouring of support, for which we are so grateful. Thank you! We trust your evening was as rewarding and joyful as the merriment and memories you brought these courageous youth who, through no fault of their own, do not have parents in their lives during a traditionally family-oriented time.



Photo by Tom Eyler



Thank you so much!
You have no idea how much of a difference YOTO has made in my life.
~ Always, C.K.,
a local high school student.



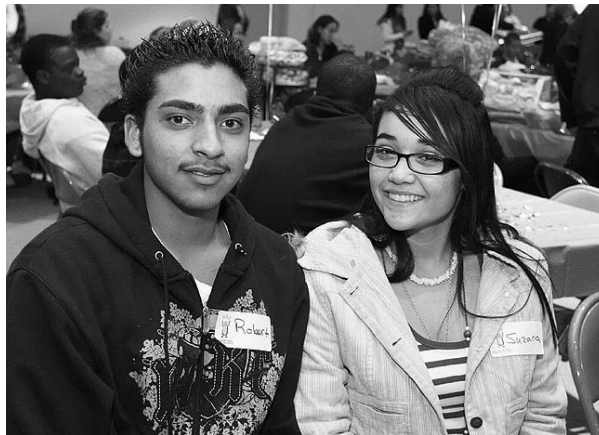
Photo by Tom Eyler



Dear Sponsors and Donors, Thank you so much for everything you have done and helped out with for YOTO and the children. I myself am a YOTO child, and I do dearly appreciate all you have done to help me. My Christmas this year will be so much better because of your donations to YOTO. Have a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. ~ Thank you, B.L., a local charter school student.



This is the best Christmas I've ever had. ~ J.S., a local alternative school student.



A special thank you to Robin Stancliff of Robin Stancliff Photography for capturing the evening's joy!



YOTO Annual Student Holiday Party – Continued

Site and Dinner Sponsor

Son Life Chapel
Pastors Gil and Marylou Garcia
Members of the Congregation

Table Decorations & Centerpieces

City of Tucson/HR Department
Katherine Scoggin-Sobonya,
Coordinator

Gift Room Sponsors and Donors

“Come in from the Cold”

Southern Arizona Home Builders Association (SAHBA)
Philanthropy Committee
Erin Fitzgerald, Coordinator
Son Life Chapel
Pastors Gil & Marylou Garcia
Members of the Congregation

“Go Team!”

Tucson Electric Power
Engineering & Finance Departments
Anna Cünes, Coordinator

“Home Sweet Home”

Raytheon Women’s Network
Kim Waskom, Coordinator

“It’s All About You”

Calvary Chapel Vail Youth Group
Cindy Shroder, Coordinator
Dillard’s – Tucson Mall
Cherrie Laguna in collaboration with
R. E. Darling Company, Inc.
Lynne Cosgrove, Coordinator
Tucson Republican Women
Nicki Nickerson, Coordinator

“That’s Entertainment”

Tucson Firefighters Association
Roger White, Coordinator
Raytheon/IT Department
Melissa Bracamonte, Coordinator

Donors

Representing all sectors of the community, we are grateful to those who provided cash contributions to assist with the event, and/or gift cards and items, which were distributed to students during the party.

Anonymous
Anonymous F.
Arizona Mail Order – Old Pueblo Traders
Jennifer Bauman
Lance & Phyllis Bement
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Aitken, MN
Larry & Marjorie Biehl
Bolchalk Frey Marketing
Chris Brandon
Gary Braxton
Janis Compton
Carolyn Davis
Suzanne Davis
Delta Kappa Gamma Xi Chapter
Desert Hills Lutheran Church
Sewing B
Discount Cab Company
Connie Eggers
El Camino Baptist Church
Companions in Christ Fellowship Group
Betty Feldkamp
Steven & Randy Fenton
Katharine Ferguson
Scott & Karin Fiore
Foothills Optimist Club of Tucson
Linda Griffith
Deborah Hutchins
Immanuel Presbyterian Church
Kiwani Young Children’s Council of Pima County
Jim & Betty Koch

Lila Lane
Dennis Larson
Kevin Larson
Los Palos Verde Garden Club
Master Gardeners of Tucson
Daniel McCue
Metropolitan Tucson Convention & Visitors Bureau
Richard Nelson
Newcomers Club of Tucson
Newcomers Club of Tucson – Book Clubs
“Desert Sages” & “Prickly Pears”
Oro Valley Heating and Cooling
Carol Parham
Pepsi Cola Bottling Company
Sally Powers
Harley Puckett
Angelina Rocco
Howard Ross
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Rosten
St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church
St. Teresa’s Guild
Vernon Samoy
Anne Segal’s Family & Friends
Mary Stewart
Linda Stockbauer
Streams in the Desert Lutheran Church Quilters
Pat Tontini
Rincon Rotary Club
Robin Stancliff Photography
Spiritschild
Nancy Strauss
Toys for Tots
Transwest Properties, Inc.
Tucson African Heritage Network (T.A.H.N.) - IBM
US Postal Service – Kino Station
Maurice Wainwright
Sandra Winsor
Nina Wolfe
Patti Yenerich

Volunteers

YOTO truly appreciates those “helping hands” who assisted with tasks relating to gift room sponsorship, party set-up, the holiday feast, the raffle, and clean-up (per the volunteer sign-in sheet).

Marge Achons
Celia Aguilar
Josiat Aguilar
Norma Aguilar
Steve Arnoldi
Roger & Mary Baglien
Cindy Bezauny
Sandy Bohn
Julie Carrizosa
Celia Copland
Hector Corovado
Maria Durazo
Tom Eyler
Andy & Carol Fiore
Noni Garcia
Kent Grant
Doris Green
Ashley Hendrix
Narciso Holsuin
Anthony Iannacone
Liza Iannacone
Anthony Lucas
Paulette Lucas
Suzanne Machain
Cindy Maggs
Henry Martinez
Melissa Martinez
Kim McAloney
Delisha Moonsammy
Essy Nuves
Tiffany Owens
Mark Pargas
Erin Bryant-Pollard
Marina Ruiz
Chris Rusch
Katherine Scoggin-Sobonya
Son Life Chapel
Pastors Gil and Marylou Garcia & Congregation
Jacquelyn Trujillo

Foothills Optimist Club

Jim “Benny” Benson, Foothills Optimist Club of Tucson President, presented YOTO with a \$1,000 contribution from Club members for the Holiday Party.





★ EXTREME MAKEOVER: ★ YOTO RECEIVES A “FACE LIFT”

Youth On Their Own was extremely fortunate and unbelievably thrilled to be the beneficiary of two recent community service projects. One resulted from being a participating agency in the United Way Days of Caring event held in October; the second as the recipient of the Tucson Utility Contractors Association’s philanthropic work. Projects entailed improvements to both the exterior and interior of the building and site. The administrative offices remain warm yet professional with a new color, fresh coat of paint, and furniture provided by NCH Corporation. Outside, the building is completely landscaped and the back property is now properly regraded and level. Amazing! We appreciate you all!

UNITED WAY DAYS OF CARING 2007



Katherine Scoggin-Sobonya and Fanni Acosta



City of Tucson – HR Department employees (l to r): Fanni Acosta, Cindy Bezaury, Katherine Scoggin-Sobonya, and Lynn Greenawalt



R. E. Darling Company, Inc. employees (l to r): Ruben Borquez, Lynn Cosgrove, Sonia Gonzales, Pancho Hernandez, Billie Jaramillo, and Luis Mendoza.

TUSCON UTILITY CONTRUCTION ASSOCIATION (TUCA) Service Project



Employees from two companies, each a member of TUCA, descended upon YOTO to wield their magic and by the time they left – instant set design! Thank you!



DESERT GLEN

Commercial Landscaping Group, Inc. (landscape and irrigation)

Margherita Arvanites & Joe Bailo, Co-Owners
John Quinnan
Hanna Delosantos
Scott Starnes
Victor Gutierrez

Gary Cullivan
Tim Siegfried
Keven Frahm
Anthony Villegas

Jerry Bell
Heath O’Brian
Jack Delyria
Arnulfo Valdez
Matt Weigel

KE&G

(regrade of the back property)

Karol George, President
Richard Hunziker, General Superintendent
Christopher Albright, Project Manager
Antonio Casillas
Frank Sutherland

Gary Stock
Mike Spicker

Fred Salgado



Extreme Makeover: YOTO Receives a “Face Lift” – Continued

STORAGE GALORE



YOTO supporters Andy Fiore and Tim Powell (l to r) volunteered their expertise to install upper and lower cabinetry and a countertop to create needed office storage and workspace.



EL HOGAR DE LA PAZ

Our sincere thanks to El Hogar De La Paz students for the handcrafted commemorative Martin Luther King Jr. bench. Seven El Hogar students built 100 benches in 100 days and then distributed them throughout the community. This gift is in recognition of the agency’s work to support the high school graduation of homeless teens.

Hector Rodriguez, Brittne Peacock, Vanessa Zapata, Alex Rodriguez, Donnel Moten, Eric Scroggins, and Kyle Juryla – it was an honor to meet each of you, and we admire your hard work. The bench inscription reads, “Let us be loving enough to turn an enemy into a friend.” Martin Luther King, Jr., and the piece is proudly displayed at the YOTO entrance.

GRANT AWARDS: NOVEMBER 1, 2007 – FEBRUARY 20, 2008

YOTO submitted a number of grant proposals in the fall and early winter that resulted in eight funded awards.

Foundation Cariñoso	\$5,000 unrestricted funds
O’Rielly Family Foundation	\$12,500 stipends
PICOR Charitable Foundation	\$2,500 stipends
Southern Arizona Sports Foundation.....	\$7,500 stipends
The Click Family Foundation.....	\$2,500 Top of the Town ‘08
The Country Fair White Elephant, Inc	\$9,500 stipends
The Mountain Room Foundation	\$2,500 stipends
The Wings Like Eagles Foundation	\$1,250 program development

The agency also received six unsolicited awards from private foundations. These types of awards are usually not “restricted” in that funds may be directed by YOTO, in accordance with the mission, toward what is deemed most needed.

Gardner Family Foundation, Inc.....	\$500
KCI The Servant’s Heart Foundation.....	\$5,000
Lichtenheld Family Foundation.....	\$4,000
Lois Sands Mitsch Endowment Fund	
through the Sertoma Foundation.....	\$3,417
The Click Family Foundation.....	\$1,000
The McCortney Foundation	\$2,500



Angela Burton, KCI Account Executive – Acute Care in Tucson, presented YOTO’s Gina Babunovic (l to r) with a \$5,000 donation from KCI The Servant’s Heart Foundation. Angela strongly believes in YOTO’s mission and recommended the agency as the recipient of this generous gift.



YOTO SPOTLIGHT

Generation to Generation

Joanne and Howie Adams were each raised within families that infused charitable acts in their daily lives. “Both sides of the family have always been philanthropic and community-minded, especially in the support of children,” said Howie.



Howie, Joanne, Amanda, and Jeff Adams

Joanne’s mother and father, DeWitt and Gloria Fischman, retired to Arizona and focused their philanthropic efforts toward youth and education. “DeWitt was a Tucson Adult Literacy volunteer, and he believed that education was an important vehicle for self-sufficiency,” noted Howie. The Fischmans established monies to send youth from the surrounding Native American reservations to Phillips Exeter Academy, a New Hampshire prep school, so the children

could participate in the unique summer school programs. Howie’s father was one of three founders of Jewish Big Brothers of Greater Los Angeles and also created Camp Max Strauss. The camp provides at-risk and underserved children in the City of Los Angeles with camping and life experiences outside the Metropolitan area.

“Howie has always been involved with assisting youth and my parents were very supportive,” stated Joanne. Dr. Adams, a Tucson dentist, provides professional services for YOTO students; as a volunteer with YOTO’s Strategies for Success program, he mentored our Spring 2007 Success Story – YOTO student alumna Stephanie Calderón. They still keep in touch.

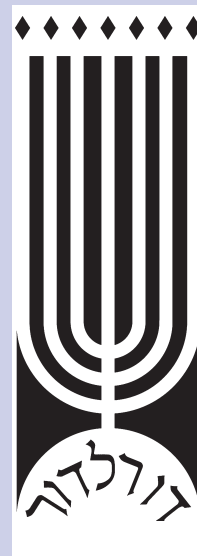
The Adams children, Amanda and Jeff, now grown with lives of their own, continue the family tradition. “My daughter, a social worker, works with children who have life threatening illnesses and supports their families at Tu Nidito, a Tucson nonprofit,” said Joanne. Their son Jeff lives in California and is an architect. He is involved in Habitat for Humanity and practiced “green architecture” before the word “green” became synonymous with environmentally-friendly design and products.

With all this history of family philanthropy, it made sense when DeWitt and Gloria Fischman established The Fischman Endowment Fund to benefit YOTO students through the Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona (JCSA). “The endowment positions YOTO to become self-sufficient,” said Howie. This is due to the fact that the principal of the endowment is never spent and annual earnings provide ongoing support to the agency. Additional individual gifts may be made to The Fischman Endowment directly through the JCSA by contacting Carol Karsch, Executive Director, at 520.577.0388.



DeWitt and Gloria Fischman

The Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona



is the endowment and planned giving center of Tucson’s Jewish community. The Foundation provides philanthropic support and legacy planning services to donors who contribute to a wide array of nonprofit organizations in Southern Arizona and throughout the world. The Jewish Community Foundation is an affiliated corporation of the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona. For more information about the Foundation, contact 520.577.0388 or email promise@jctucson.org.

SADDLEBROOKE Tennis Club (STC) Tournament



STC members and award recipients: (l to r) Sarah Smith, STC Charities; Cynthia Chevalley, Director of Tri-Community Food Bank; George Ray, STC Charities; YOTO board members Ann Young and Martin Falkowski.

The SaddleBrooke Tennis Club’s (STC) 6th Annual Don P. Martin Memorial Serve ‘Em Up For Charity Tennis Event to benefit YOTO and Tri-Community Food Bank raised \$11,750 in support of YOTO student clients! The November fundraiser featured a day of organized tennis matches among 84 participants and professional tennis clinics conducted by STC Tennis Pro Terry Gibson. With deep appreciation, YOTO thanks Bruce and Bonnie Nissenbaum, Event Chairs; Sarah Smith, Corporate Sponsorships; Mary Jo George and Connie Sacra, Silent Auction Co-Chairs; Carol Zupancic, Card Party Hostess/Contributor; and the many dedicated committee members and volunteers.



★ YOTO APPRECIATION OPEN HOUSE

YOTO counts its blessings each day for the many ways those throughout our community continue to share their talents and time in support of YOTO students. The agency held an Appreciation Open House on December 21, 2007, which created a special time during this holiday season for staff and board members to express our gratitude and heartfelt thanks!



Photos:

(Identification is left to right.)

1. YOTO board members Jean Jarvis and Suzanne Emam
2. Heidi MacDonald, YOTO staff; Mini Mall volunteers Mary Kearney and Shirlee Finley
3. Meredith Moore, YOTO Program Director; YOTO liaisons Julie Gallardo and Kim McNally, Rose Schools
4. YOTO liaison Eileen Verdi, Amphitheater HS; Arlene Reiber, volunteer
5. YOTO board member Tom Eyler
6. YOTO liaisons Eliu Haro, Pima Vocational HS Downtown; Natasha Warenkiewicz, Pima Vocation HS Sweetwater
7. Volunteer Nancy Hannan and YOTO liaison Rosenna Trejo, Flowing Wells HS



ST. PHILIP'S PLAZA HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

We are honored that St. Philip's Plaza Merchants Association selected Youth On Their Own to benefit from its first Holiday Open House for charity! Many thanks for contributions from the silent auction, raffle sales, and proceeds from a percentage of store sales from the following participating merchants:

Acacia
Bahti Indian Arts
Butz Jean Co.
Finale
Gadabout SalonSpas

Level Lounge & Bar
M & I Bank
Piece by Piece Wear
Silk Expressions
W Boutique

AK Jensen
Body Works Studio
Earth Made
58 Degrees & Holding Co.
Laser One

Limited Additions
Obsidian Gallery
Sigi's
Stems A Shoe Boutique



★ YOUTH ON THEIR OWN CONTRIBUTORS

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To respect the confidentiality of those donors who wish to remain anonymous, this is a partial listing of contributors to Youth On Their Own. We have taken great care in preparing these listings, but if your name is omitted or is in error, please accept our apology and contact us so we may correct our records.



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ALL CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS
Front Desk Receptionist

This opportunity is for you if you possess a friendly, outgoing nature and are comfortable multi-tasking and working in a team environment with a diverse clientele. This highly visible agency position entails meeting and greeting agency student clients and supporters, answering general questions and phone calls, and directing calls to the appropriate staff member. Tasks include clerical duties and assisting staff with special projects as needed. Good communication, computer and organizational skills, an interview, reference and background check, and a training session required. The Front Desk Receptionist volunteer opportunity is a commitment of four hours per week for at least six months. There are several receptionist openings available throughout the week and hours are flexible.

Trucks and Muscles

Volunteers needed on an “on call” basis! On occasion Youth On Their Own receives calls regarding contributions of household goods, such as small couches, student desks, and mattresses and box springs, which are perfect for student use but the donor is unable to deliver items to the YOTO office. This is the ideal opportunity if you are unable to volunteer on a weekly, regular basis but want to help, you possess a vehicle that can accommodate large items and are willing to pick-up items and deliver them to YOTO.

Please contact Maria Castro, YOTO Operations Manager, at 293.1136 x 203 or mcastro@yoto.org.

Editor’s Corner

YOTO publishes a Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer newsletter. Please feel free to call or email with your comments, suggestions, or change in contact information.

Gina Babunovic

Communications & Development Director

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Thank you!