

# SPRINGBOARD

A Publication of Primavera Foundation

"Providing Pathways Out Of Poverty"

Summer 2011

## PRIMAVERA RECEIVES NEARLY \$1 MILLION IN VA GRANT FUNDS

### TO PROVIDE COLLABORATIVE HOUSING ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS

After a highly competitive national grant process, the Veteran's Administration (VA) selected Primavera as one of only 85 recipients of its coveted Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) grant. This grant, which is a part of a new VA program designed to meet the VA's broader plan to prevent and end homelessness among veterans, will bring \$887,416 into the Tucson community to fund essential services for our veterans.

"This new homeless prevention program will provide additional comprehensive support to veterans who have served honorably, and now find themselves in a downward spiral toward despair and homelessness," said VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki. "This program expands our capacity to act before a veteran becomes homeless and to target the problem of family homelessness."

This funding comes at a critical time. While the nation as a whole has seen a slight decrease in the number of homeless veterans, Tucson's veteran population continues to increase. The most recent CHALENG Point of Contact



Disabled Veteran Bill Mitchell, who advocates for Veterans rights, says "the programs Primavera provides for Veterans are some of the best in the country". Bill went through our HomeOwnership program and says "thanks to Primavera I'm back in a home again".

Services assessment, a VA report compiled from surveys provided by local VA branches and other area service providers, indicated that there were 869 veterans on the streets of Tucson who were homeless in 2009. More recent data from the 2011 Homeless Management Information System, a web-based case management tracking system, shows 959 Tucson veterans are struggling with homelessness. At Primavera, 19% of our 8,500 participants are veterans.

To address the needs of the veterans who are at risk of homelessness here in Tucson, Primavera and our local partners Old Pueblo Community Services, Esperanza En Escalante, New Beginnings for Women and Children and MEB Management Services, have created a new program—Project Action for Veterans.

This program will provide 120 Tucson veterans' families with temporary financial assistance for housing, along with life-skills classes, and individual service planning to assist in securing VA and other public benefits. Ultimately, this program will create housing stability for veterans residing in or transitioning to permanent housing.

"The Primavera Foundation and its community partners have vast experience serving veterans, and this funding is essential in strengthening and expanding our reach to Tucson's underserved service men and women, and their families," said Peggy Hutchison, the Primavera Foundation's Chief Executive Officer.

"This program is not only going to save hundreds of veterans from homelessness, but it will also provide Primavera and our partners the opportunity to provide more in-depth individual service planning and life-skills classes like financial education and job skills," Hutchison said. "We must break the cycle of poverty experienced by returning veterans."

## PROGRAMS

# MEALS FOR OTHERS, MEMORIES OF MOM

Written by JoAnn Salazar, SPHR, Primavera's Chief Human Resources Officer

In July 2010, our mother, Shirley J. Wahl, passed away after a several-year struggle with vascular dementia. As July 2011 approached, we faced the impending first anniversary of Mom's passing, as well as what would have been Mom's 81st birthday – two very emotional milestones for my family.

One day, I received a call from my sister Sandi Heilman, who is the Director of Communications and Outreach for St. Mark's United Methodist Church. St. Mark's has long been a supporter of Primavera, with a monthly meal team that serves the 100-bed Men's Shelter. Sandi noticed that July 9 was the designated slot for St. Mark's July meal team and she had an idea. What if we, along with our husbands, signed up for that slot and made and served a special meal to the men in the shelter in honor and loving memory of our mother? It sounded like a perfect way to pay tribute to the woman who taught us to be kind and generous to others, as well as an opportunity to do something with a positive focus that would help us to navigate those emotionally challenging days.

As we began to formulate our plan, we suddenly found additional support we hadn't expected. A friend of the family, Gabino ("Gabby") Llovet, who owns the local Waffle House restaurants - and who has been an incredible partner of Primavera's, hiring many candidates from our Primavera Works and Vocations for Veterans programs - instantly announced that he was "in" for assisting us with the meal, and stated emphatically "I'll provide the meat!" Since I work for Primavera, I decided to ask the staff at the Men's Shelter for input in our menu planning process. What do the men love to



JoAnn Salazar hands out silverware and smiles at the Men's Shelter dinner in memory of her mother.



Gabby Lovett, owner of the local Waffle House restaurants grills the first of 100 steaks for the dinner.



Rich Heilman, Sandi Heilman, and Gabby Llovet



A Men's Shelter resident shows off the toiletries kit given to each man after the dinner.

eat, but not receive very often? What would make a special meal for them? (One thing that Mom ALWAYS did for us was to make whatever special meal our brother Kirby, my sister, and I requested on each of our birthdays. We figured that doing that for someone else in honor of Mom's birthday was a great way to keep that legacy alive!) We learned that while the men get lots of pasta and chili - not surprisingly, since when cooking for 100+ people, a budget has to stretch very far - the men don't often receive and would LOVE to have beef. In addition, many of the men are diabetic and must control their intake of certain starches and processed foods. Suddenly, a homemade steak dinner with all the trimmings was in the works!

Another close friend of our family, Bill Nugent, owner of The Shanty in downtown Tucson (another long-term partner/supporter of Primavera), heard about our plans and decided at once to contribute to the cause as well. Bill and his sister Judy Nugent contacted local retailers and were able to procure generous donations of personal hygiene items. They then made "goodie bags" by hand for each of the men, each containing a toothbrush, toothpaste, a toothbrush case, bar of soap, razor, comb, and washcloth, which were distributed to the men after dinner.

What a wonderful and meaningful experience this became. The evening of July 9, the men at the Shelter were absolutely gracious, considerate, and kind. We brought a photo of Mom framed with a few words about the meaning behind this meal, and so many of the men made a point to offer us genuine words of condolence, heartfelt thanks, and special thoughts for Mom. (Some even stood in front of Mom's photo after the meal, offering quiet blessings and gratitude to her.) Our hearts were full and it felt like the perfect way to honor the memory of a wonderful woman who instilled a giving heart in each of her children.

Thank you to each and every one of you (donors, staff, community partners, program participants - and especially in this instance, St. Mark's, Waffle House, and the Shanty) for making Primavera a place that provides so many ways for legacies and memories to be honored, in the midst of the new memories and success stories that are being created each and every day.

## AGENCY UPDATE

# PRIMAVERA HIRES FIRST EVER COO

We are delighted to welcome Nick Taras to Primavera Foundation as our Chief Operating Officer. This is a new position for Primavera, which was created in response to the growth and expansion of programs and services throughout the agency. Key areas of focus will include program evaluation and operational excellence.

**Nick will provide senior leadership in operational and administrative management, oversight and evaluation for the following programs: Emergency Services, Housing Services, Workforce Development and HomeOwnership Promotion, Education and Preservation.**

We believe that Nick's diverse experience and interests will serve Primavera very well, and we are extremely pleased to have him aboard. Please read on for an introduction in Nick's own words. Welcome to Primavera, Nick!

## HELLO FRIENDS OF PRIMAVERA!

I'm Nick Taras,

Hello friends of Primavera! I'm Nick Taras, Primavera's new Chief Operating Officer. I am absolutely thrilled to be a part of this organization, its mission, vision and guiding principles with which I immediately identify. It is clear to me that Primavera does outstanding work and I am excited about the opportunity to work diligently so that Primavera can continue to foster its reputation for excellence.

A tad about me...I earned my Masters degree in Social Work from Arizona State University. My areas of experience are program oversight, design, implementation and evaluation; non-profit administration and organizational risk management; and community development with attention to policy analysis. I came from La Frontera Arizona after 11 years of service where I served in many different



capacities. Most recently, I was a Clinical Supervisor responsible for the clinical and administrative operations of a case management site which provided services to 1200 adults. Close to my heart is advocacy around services for underserved populations in our community. To achieve this, I've

spent a great deal of my professional career assessing program fidelity, improving upon and developing programs, and implementing systemic changes to guarantee service excellence while enhancing staff competency through supervision and leadership. In short, my primary concern is efficient and effective service delivery through dynamic programming and staffing, and creativity. I've served on quite a few local committees and I'm on the board of directors for a community service agency here in Tucson. If I could cite a couple of mottos that would encapsulate me for the purpose of this introduction, they would be as follows: Excellence is my only expectation, and when I think I've done my best, it's time to reevaluate it. Again, I'm grateful for this opportunity and I look forward to the many experiences to be had with Primavera.

# THE COMMUNITY OF PRIMAVERA



## PRIMAVERA STAFF WALK IN SUPPORT OF MENTAL HEALTH ORGANIZATION

In April, a group of Primavera staff members and friends participated in the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Walk. They called themselves the "Squash Blossom Squad" in honor of the flower shown in Primavera's logo. Primavera often works with those experiencing mental illness, so the team wanted to support the efforts of NAMI of Southern Arizona, which provides support, education, advocacy, and encouragement of research involving mental illness. They raised \$1,908 of the approximately \$145,000 collected for NAMI. Pictured above are: back row (L to R): Dave Kudrna and Jenna Van Laningham; middle row (L to R): Jenny Cowen, Mary Clare Gildon, Lynn Flanagan, Tom Moore, Matt Risi, Joy Wilcox, Jill Conway, and Judy Herbert; and front row (L to R): Teresa Kudrna, Julie Kudrna and Rosamond Finley.



## BANK OF AMERICA SUPPORTS HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM

Bank of America staff recently presented a check for \$35,000 in support of Primavera's HomeOwnership program. Pictured above from L to R: Adriana Kong Romero, Erica Robles, Yoana Romano, Steve Banzat, Peggy Hutchison, Emily Helling, Lee Jenkins, and Evelyn Madrid.



## VOLUNTEER CELEBRATES 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Marji Buehler celebrates 15 years with Primavera as a volunteer in our Homeless Intervention and Prevention drop-in center. Long-term volunteers like Marji are essential to our many programs especially in these times of government funding cuts. She says the reason she has stayed so long is because, "every Wednesday is different!" We can't thank her enough for her many years of tireless service and commitment.



## NEW ADDITION AT OUR GREYHOUND FAMILY SHELTER

Family shelter resident Lynda Cody gave birth to Tristen Alexander Ray Cody in late May. Lynda says she is so thankful that Primavera provided her and her daughter Destiny with a safe and quiet home for her newborn son.



## CONGRESSMAN GRIJALVA MEETS WITH PRIMAVERA PARTICIPANTS

Local Congressman Raúl Grijalva met with 19 Primavera participants this past April to discuss how proposed changes to the federal budget would affect them. Congressman Grijalva listened to the participants' concerns, ensured them he would continue to fight for them, and encouraged each of them to keep telling their stories to elected officials about the effect that public programs have on their lives. Pictured above with Congressman Grijalva (R) is Glen Brown- Navy veteran and participant in Vocations for Veterans program.



## COME TOUR PRIMAVERA PROGRAMS!

Every month, Primavera offers tours to community members interested in learning more about our programs. Recently, Cliff and Esther Bergstrom joined us for the tour and shared the following reflections: "What an enlightening experience we had as a result of our recent tour of Primavera. The services available to the homeless and those in need are not only commendable but all-encompassing. Housing, food, clothing, case management, counseling and job training are just a few services administered by a caring and dedicated staff. It was heart-warming to see the relationship between the staff and those in need; we were so impressed. This is an organization most worthy of support. What an asset for Tucson!" If you would like to schedule a tour contact Jenny Cowen at 623-5111 x102



## TEENS SPEND THE DAY AT PROGRAMS HELPING OUT

For the second year in a row, 40 teens from Texas and Arizona joined us for a day of volunteer service. The group was organized through Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church, and served three different Primavera properties. At Winstel Terrace, the volunteers painted the fence and laid a new pathway. At Casa Paloma, the volunteers completed landscaping and put in new gravel. A third group prepared a lasagna lunch for the hungry residents of the Men's Shelter. We are so grateful to them and can't wait to welcome this very hard-working group back for a third time next summer!



## RAYTHEON RECYCLES AND PRIMAVERA BENEFITS

As part of its recycling program, Raytheon Missile Systems of Tucson donated desks, chairs, file cabinets and bookcases to Primavera. These items are being used to set-up eight new offices for our HomeOwnership and Foreclosure Programs. Pictured above are staff members Patrick Hughes and Sean Hughes preparing to unload the Raytheon donation. Primavera is deeply appreciative of Raytheon's support and generosity.



## SON INSPIRED BY FATHER'S MEAL TEAM SERVICE LEADS TO VEHICLE GIFT FROM EL PASO GAS

El Paso Natural Gas Company employee Robert Schultz helped his father and mother cook and serve a meal to the 100 men who live at Primavera's Men's Shelter. Because of the positive experience he had at our shelter, Robert suggested that the company choose Primavera when it was time to donate their 1999 Ford Expedition. We are so grateful! Primavera is using this much needed vehicle in our workforce development program to transport workers to and from the job site. Pictured (L to R): Robert Schultz (EPNG Contractor), Joan Salgado (EPNG), and four Primavera Foundation staff- Denise Taub, Kim Taleatico, Barry Costa and Steve Lopez.



## PRIMAVERA CELEBRATES ITS AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

Over 200 guests attended Primavera's Annual Volunteer Appreciation Party at The Tucson Museum of Art this past April during National Volunteer Week. Danny Kidd, Kitchen Team Lead of the Men's Shelter, took home the high honor of "Outstanding Efforts in Volunteer Supervision." It is always a delight to see so many of our volunteers from across our varied programs come together in one place to celebrate.

# INVESTING IN PRIMAVERA



Barbara Brody (L) and Primavera's Donations Coordinator Kim Talerico with the 1998 Toyota Camry that Barbara Brody generously donated to Primavera. Proceeds from donated cars directly benefit the many programs of Primavera. To make a car donation, call Kim at 623-5111 x108

## CURRENT WISH LIST

**GIFT CARDS**  
Frys, Safeway  
Albertsons  
Costco,  
Sams Club

**HYGIENE ITEMS**  
Diapers (all sizes)  
Toothbrushes  
Toothpaste  
Sanitary napkins  
and/or tampons  
Bar soap

**APPLIANCES**  
Refrigerators  
Gas and electric stoves  
Washers and dryers  
(Appliances should be clean and in good working condition)

**OTHER ITEMS**  
Landscape tools  
(shovels, rakes, hula hoes)  
Large plastic tubs with lids  
(for Shelter men to keep their belongings in)  
Twin size sheets  
Bath towels

**BUS PASSES**  
(Primavera can get these at a discounted price, so consider making a cash donation)

All items are used by the programs and properties of Primavera

## VEHICLES NEEDED

Primavera has several shelters, housing units and a workforce development program that all use vehicles. The following are two vehicles we will need to replace in the very near future:

### STEP VAN

Our maintenance team uses it every day. It's invaluable when we do rehabs or need to move large items.

### 15 PASSENGER VAN

Primavera Works uses it to transport workers and crews to jobs and to haul our work trailer.

# IN MEMORY AND IN HONOR GIFTS

During the past year, donors have made gifts in honor or memory of the following friends, relatives and other special people in their lives. Such gifts will stand as a permanent reminder of the impact the honoree made during his or her lifetime. Primavera is deeply honored to be a part of this meaningful tribute.

### IN HONOR OF

Abington-Hassan Wedding (10)  
David and Shirley Allen  
David Au  
Martha Bautzmann  
Allen Bergman  
Nancy Bissell (3)  
Stacy and Todd Burnett  
Asa Bushnel  
Chuck Castro  
The Chesters  
Ke Chiang and Shigeko Hsieh  
Jesus Christ  
Jo Coburn Dan Fisher  
Derek & Peggy Colsman  
Janice Crebbs (4)  
Dillon Decker (3)  
DoriAnne Dekker  
Jenna Jay Dickinson  
Chris Donovan  
Ellie Drake  
Michael Elsner (2)  
Diana Figueroa  
Frankie Gallant (2)  
Oscar Gastelum (5)  
Mary Clare and Andy Gildon (6)  
Dolores Gohdes  
Dolores and Paul Gohdes (3)  
A. M. Greene  
David J. Hall  
The Sandra W. and Richard H. Heilman Family  
Betty Kay Holpert  
Barbara Holtzman

Rev. Dr. Robin Hoover  
Peggy Hutchison (2)  
Fritz Jandrey  
Jan and Emily's Wedding  
Peg and Nelson Jones  
Christopher Lindenmuth  
William E. Leonard  
Dee Dee McCabe  
The Caroline and Wayne McKaskle Family  
Christina Michaels  
Patricia Miller  
Ruth Morris  
Jim Murphy  
Mark Mussari  
Ruth Myers  
DeeAnne Nash  
Rolf and Sarah Peters  
Bill and Pat Rendfeld  
Paul and Neva Renschen  
Diane Reynolds  
Dwayne Richards  
Tom Rodgers  
Demar Sather  
Joann Schafer  
Edwina and Lee Scott  
Jane Sedlmayr (9)  
Susan and Sallie Shawl  
Harriet Slama  
Carol and Vince Sottosanti  
Liz Stenz  
Susan Tarrence and Stephen Golden (3)  
Jeanne Taylor  
Elizabeth Temple  
Pat Fisher  
Cecilia Valenzuela  
Gee

Jody Vanderkolk  
Terry Vondrak  
The Laura D. and Kirby R. Wahl Jr. Family  
Richard Wiedmann

### IN MEMORY OF

Ma.Cruz Ahumada  
David C. Apodaca  
John M. Ball, Sr.  
Barbara Barron  
David and Donna Ann Barrett  
David Barrett (2)  
Geraldine Beglan  
Marguerite Flaherty  
Bitello  
Bill Bond

Cliff Branham  
Lindsey Brand  
Louis and Mary Brisance  
Bernard Brody  
Ralph D. Brooks  
Ben and Ollie Burke  
Edgar C. Butterbaugh (8)  
Rich Campbell  
Sara Conrad (8)  
Barbara Dale  
Dorothy and Richard Darling  
Jay G. Davis  
Roberta Dewitt  
Dick Dick  
Ruth Dooley

Rick Eck (50)  
Richard Gordon Eddy  
Bill and Rosy Edmonston (2)  
Lawrence Edgar Engler  
Madeleine Auter Fero  
Thomas F. Finley, Jr.  
Terry Foothlich  
Karen Grenier  
Hulda Groesbeck  
Che Guevara  
Mary Guilbert  
Leonard James Mahoney  
David and Mickie Hall  
Bobbie Berger Hanft  
Loren Hardinger (2)  
The Hennelly's Parents  
Merrill Holpert  
Juan C. Jimenez  
B. J. Johnson  
Roy Johnson  
Doris Kamel  
Chad Kenyon  
Leslie Kerby  
Carl Ketcham  
Dick Krohn  
Seth and Edythe Kurtzberg  
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Julius and Jeannette Leaf (2)  
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Shirley Musgrave  
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Susan Peters (3)  
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Sadie and George Rogers  
Clifford and Inez Rudie  
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Tony Schombs  
Louie Schmid  
Erwing Senor  
Marilyn Sheridan  
Larry Simpson  
Raul Soltero  
"Macco" Jorge Sotil  
Anita Staub  
Leo Stein  
William Temple  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Turano  
Jack Varney  
Shirley J. Wahl (2)  
Jessica Ward (2)  
Richard C. Williams  
Gerald Woityra  
Berenice Wolfe  
George Wunderlich (2)  
Armin Wurth (4)  
Gabe Zimmerman

## DONATIONS OF \$500 AND ABOVE RECEIVED 3/12/2011 - 8/5/2011

### \$25,000 and above

Bank of America  
Charitable Foundation  
Cox Communications  
Jane W. Thorne  
Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona

### \$10,000 to \$24,999

Emily B. Hilliard (Bequest)

### \$5,000 to \$9,999

BBVA Compass  
Community Partnership of Southern Arizona  
The Fred and Christine Armstrong Foundation  
Pam Grissom  
Long Realty Cares Foundation  
National Bank of Arizona  
Tohono O'odham Gaming Enterprise

### \$2,500 to \$4,999

Bartol Family Partnership  
CISCO Systems  
Farhang and Medcoff, P.L.L.C.  
Gordon and Elizabeth Packard  
Vantage West Credit Union  
The Walnut Foundation

### \$1,000 to \$2,499

ABC Finance Company  
Anonymous  
Betsy Iventosch Babb and Frank Babb  
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Barbara F. Brody  
Casas Adobes  
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Norman and Carolanne Flagg  
Paul and Dolores Gohdes  
Jim Click Nissan  
Jack and Glenda Larabee  
Keith and Adrienne Lehrer  
Lincoln Family Trust  
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Oro Valley United Church of Christ  
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Raytheon Company  
William J. and Priscilla G. Robinson

Science of the Mind Center  
Liza Servantez  
St Marks United Methodist Church  
Michael J. Steinberg and Alan Taylor  
Tucson Electric Power  
Clifton Wilson  
H. Stanley Windham  
Debbie N. Wong and Rene Almazan  
World Small Change Foundation  
Elizabeth J. Zukoski

### \$500 to \$999

Metin Akkaya  
Gary and Olivia Albert  
Anonymous (2)  
Arizona Employer Resources  
Bryant and Betty Bannister  
Moe and Frances Beren  
Gloria and Archie Burke  
Brian and Patricia Clymer  
Brian Cunningham  
Heather L. Enos and Christopher Shinohara  
Episcopal Church Women of St. Francis  
Everest Duct and H.V.A.C. Cleaning  
Melissa T. Fitzgerald

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Paul Gold  
Mary L. Harbour  
Gerald and Evelyn Hennelly  
Leslie and Beth Hunter  
Robert C. Koch  
Mary and Paul Koss  
Cassandra Meynard  
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Sara Ridenour  
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St. Philip's in the Hills  
Christian and Julie Stout  
Talerico Family  
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Joan Denise Taub  
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PRIMAVERA  
**COOKS!**  
SUMMER DINING EVENT

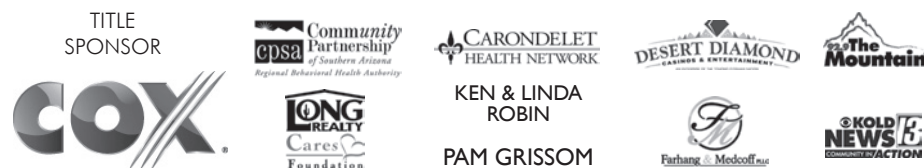
Pastiche  
**Kingfisher**  
(brunch)  
September 12  
September 18

ONLY TWO  
EVENTS  
LEFT THIS  
SEASON

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 623-5111 x101

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**PRIMAVERA WORKS**

The workers you need, when and where you need them

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The Primavera Foundation provides pathways out of poverty through safe, affordable housing, workforce development, and neighborhood revitalization. Primavera's vision is to promote economic and social justice while working to build a future in which all people are assured basic human rights, a livable income and safe, affordable housing.

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**PRIMAVERA**



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