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.

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.

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

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, SCHR, 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 a special meal for 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 a level of support that we hadn’t expected. A friend of the family, Gabby (“Gabby”) Lovett, who owns the local Waffle House restaurants grilled the first of 100 steaks for the dinner.

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

As we began to formulate our plan, we suddenly found a level of support that we hadn’t expected. A friend of the family, Gabby (“Gabby”) Lovett, who owns the local Waffle House restaurants, greeted us with a smile and said, “I’ll provide the meat!”

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 opportunities 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.

**HELLO FRIENDS OF PRIMAVERA!**

I’m Nick Taras, Primavera’s 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 for CAL 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 quotes 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.

**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!
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 Janice Van Lanningham; middle row (L to R): Jenny Cowen, Mary Clare Gilbon, 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.

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.

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 Winsted Farm, 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 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), Jan Salgado (EPNG), and four Primavera Foundation staff: Denise Taub, Kim Isleirico, Barry Coats and Steve Lopez.

COMETOUR 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.

RAYTHEON RECYCLES AND PRIMAVERA BENEFITS

As part of its recycling program, Raytheon Missile Systems of Tucson donated desks, file cabinets and bookcases to Primavera. These items are being used to setup 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.

PRIMAVERA CELEBRATES ITS AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

Over 200 guests attended Primavera’s Annual Volunteer Appreciation Party at The Tucson Museum of Art this 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

CURRENT WISE LIST

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

GIFT CARDS
For: Saturday Albertsons, Costco, Sam’s Clubs

APPLIANCES
Refrigerators
Gas and electric stoves
Washers and dryers
Other items (shovels, rakes, hula hoops)

OTHER ITEMS
Large plastic tubs with lids (for shelves to keep their belongings in)

For reservations: Call 623-5111 x101

IN MEMORY OF

Primavera’s 18th Annual Benefit Dinner & Auction

IN MEMORY AND IN HONOR OF

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.


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

For more information or to make a donation, please contact Kim Talerico at 623-5111 x108.
Full service crews include a truck, trailer, supplies and a supervised crew of four. Free estimates.

Call Primavera Works
882-9668

PRIMAVERA WORKS
The workers you need, when and where you need them