When Julieta Mendoza walked through the door of her new house, she went straight to the huge new kitchen. Used to having a gas stove, two cupboards, and just a table for counter top space, she wanted to see the new place where she’d make menudo and empanadas for her family. Tears came to her eyes at the sight of plenty of cupboard space, new energy-efficient appliances and so much countertop. She said, “It’s a dream come true. I never thought I’d be able to live in a home like this!”

Sisters Julieta and Margarita Mendoza grew up in South Tucson, in a house their father bought over 60 years ago. At some point both Margarita and Julieta left Tucson for California, but ultimately both returned to live in their childhood house together.

The original Mendoza house began as a hay barn. Built of adobe over 60 years ago to store hay for the nearby stockyards, the 800 sq. ft. barn became a home for the family of seven when walls were put in to create a kitchen, living room and two bedrooms. As the stockyards gradually gave way to paved roads, new houses and other suburban growth, the Mendoza family house also saw some modern improvements, with indoor plumbing and a gas stove to replace the old, wood stove. However, even though the old adobe house had a lot of history and charm, it also suffered under the harsh Tucson weather: walls were cracking apart, parts of the roof were falling in, and the ad hoc climate control systems never really worked, leaving Margarita and Julieta without air conditioning or heat.

The sisters enrolled in the Primavera Foundation Replacement Housing Program. Primavera’s Replacement Housing Program is focused on revitalizing unsafe housing and developing new housing on abandoned properties in the City of South Tucson. Primavera replaces distressed, unsafe homes with new Energy Star manufactured homes and develops new infill manufactured homes for first time homebuyers. Manufactured housing allows long-time South Tucson residents to afford modern, safe housing while preserving their historical ties to their communities.

On Thursday, September 3, Primavera, in partnership with Margarita and Julieta, unveiled the new 1,600 sq. ft. house. Special guests South Tucson acting Mayor Miguel Rojas and Pima County Supervisor Ramón Valadez spoke to a group of people at the Open House, commending the important partnership that will continue to improve South Tucson.

The Mendoza Sisters are just the beginning of a bigger movement in South Tucson, but for the two sisters it’s going to be the small things that make a big difference in the end. Like enjoying cool air in the summer, heat in the winter. Margarita added, “I’m going to make my coffee in the morning and then I’m going to go sit on the porch.”
These are tough times with many uncertainties. What is very clear is that we won’t make it through this “perfect storm” without you, our generous and visionary donors and volunteers. We are especially grateful that our donors and volunteers have stepped up to make a difference in these tough times! Quite frankly, without you, we would have closed the doors. If you haven’t yet made a donation this year, we ask that you give as generously as you can. If you have and can make another gift, please do so.

Your investment in those we serve can literally mean the difference between shelter, food and safety... or not.

Thank you for making a difference!

A Special Report from the National Council of Nonprofits on “Strategies Being Used by Nonprofit Leaders To Cope with the Nation’s Economic Crisis”

At Primavera, we are taking proactive steps to respond to the economic crisis through organizational restructure, strategic programmatic focus on core services and activities, and applying for federal stimulus funding to address the heightened demand for services. What follows is an update on six key strategies we are implementing in order to “weather this perfect storm”.

1. Relocation of offices and office sharing: We have closed our offices on 40 and 20 W. Veterans Blvd., created two additional offices at our Training Center, and, the City of South Tucson is generously sharing office space for staff and interns working on our South Tucson Neighborhood Revitalization Projects.

2. Renegotiation of strategic local and federal government contract terms which will provide us with more flexibility to focus funding on the most critical needs in the most cost efficient manner.

3. Greater emphasis on peer training, marketing, and outreach.

4. Reduction of programs and departments in response to contract reductions from the City of Tucson, Pima County, and the State of Arizona: We have reduced program hours, staff hours/positions, and agency vehicles. The result will be less case management hours for people residing in our shelters and transitional housing programs and fewer transportation services for program participants.

5. Use of stimulus funding to respond to increased demand for services and resources.

The Primavera Foundation recognizes that public safety is a critical issue for the overall health and well-being of our community. We support and appreciate the tremendous contributions that Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Technicians and their Departments have made to our community. We are proud of the fact that crime in Tucson has been trending downward for 15 years due to the hard work of the Tucson Police Department and a myriad of other programs that increase public safety. We also support the 2006 Mayor and Council adopted plan to increase funding for public safety, streets, and parks; a plan that is on track to meet its goals.

However, The Primavera Foundation must oppose Proposition 200, the “Public Safety First Initiative,” as an unfunded mandate that will change the face of Tucson by draining funds from parks, recreation, job training, crime prevention, specialty courts, community corrections, and human service programs that focus on public safety.

The decision that voters must make on November 3, 2009, is extremely important. City of Tucson Voters must decide whether the Tucson City Charter should be amended to prescribe specific mandatory minimum staffing levels for police officers and mandatory minimum response times for the Tucson Fire Department, including minimum firefighter staffing levels, to achieve these response times. While the full cost of implementing this initiative has not yet been determined, the preliminary cost, excluding new facilities and vehicles, is estimated at $270 million over the first five years and recurring annual costs in the future of $50 million. The Proposition does not identify how this change to the City Charter would be funded.

While less than 2% of Primavera’s $5.3 million budget revenue comes from the City of Tucson General Fund (to support one of our job training programs), the passing of Proposition 200 may result in the elimination of many local community programs that are vital to the health and safety of our city. Primavera recognizes that services funded through the general fund such as parks and recreation, domestic violence programs, homeless shelters, after school programs for children and youth, and programs for families and seniors act as a protective safety net for our most vulnerable citizens, prevent crime, and play a vital role in public safety.

As an organization that serves the community we know that our city simply cannot afford this unfunded mandate. We are in the midst of a serious economic downturn. Tucson is running a significant budget deficit and there have already been major program cutbacks. There is no practical way to fund this initiative. Primavera believes that in these challenging economic times our community must develop creative, cost effective solutions for ensuring public safety. At an exorbitant cost to both the city budget and our community, Proposition 200 is not such a solution. On November 3, please vote NO on Proposition 200.

Visit www.tucsonaz.gov/elections for a copy of the initiative language and voter information. Visit www.tucsonaz.gov/psfi for Frequently Asked Questions about Prop 200, a breakdown of costs to the City and County and other important information.
NEWMEST RESIDENT OF OUR FAMILY SHELTER

It’s a boy! Cody James was born on Saturday, August 22, 2009, less than one week after his mother, Holly, and his two big sisters, Abigail and Savanna, moved into Primavera’s Greyhound Family Shelter. Holly and her husband picked out the name Cody James five years ago when they first met and are excited to finally be able to share the family name, James, with their first son. When asked if she wants more children, Holly just grins and says maybe in the future, but right now she wants to concentrate on gaining financial stability and finding housing for her family.

Holly lives at Greyhound with 16 other families and there is always a waiting list for families that need shelter, a list that only gets longer as more families become homeless due to the current economic crisis. According to The National Center on Family Homelessness report America’s Youngest Outcasts: State Report Card on Child Homelessness, 1.5 million children across the country experience homelessness each year, over 32,971 of them in Arizona.

Mary Bartol, a very special friend to Primavera, died last month at the age of 86. She became interested in Primavera’s work shortly after its founding in the early 1980’s because, in her words, she couldn’t stand unfairness. Primavera, she felt, was right in line with her beliefs, and she gave generously to support its programs up until the end of her life.

Mary, who wrote a book about her life called “A Legend In My Own Mind,” had a unique way of seeing the world. Though she was known and celebrated for her amazing sense of humor, she carried a deeper sense of the human condition, which always informed her choices and defined her true nature. In her book she said:

“One of the reasons I hated opera was that most of them ended in death. It seemed to me that most of the cast succumbed before the last note. Hardly a happy ending ever. All the arias seemed to need some dire feeling to reach the crescendo.” But, she goes on, “Not all life stories are tragedies, even when they’re sad. Not all dramas end with high body counts. My personal difficulties, for example, didn’t end up with everyone crying and lamenting. There were just too many wonderful experiences, too many loving people in my life for it to end up any other way than it has.”

Primavera was lucky to have a friend like Mary, who knew quality when she saw it. We will miss her, and her passing will serve as a reminder that our mission touches people’s lives in the most real and powerful ways. The best way to honor her memory is to keep doing what we do best, with joy and passion, and gratitude for those whose generosity has made our job possible.

USE YOUR IRA TO HELP OTHERS

Under the reinstated charitable IRA legislation, individuals 70 1/2 or older can make gifts to us using funds transferred directly from IRAs—without reporting it as taxable income. If you are 70 1/2 or older, we hope you’ll take advantage of this gift that lets you witness the benefits of your generosity. But don’t wait too long: this opportunity ends Dec. 31, 2009.

BENEFITS TO YOU

• The gift generates neither taxable income nor a charitable tax deduction, so even those who do not itemize their tax returns receive the benefit.
• You may transfer up to $100,000 directly from your IRA in 2009.
• The distributions may be in addition to or fulfill any charitable giving you have already planned.

Note: You can make a gift from your IRA even if you don’t have to take a required minimum distribution in 2009.

EXAMPLE: HOW IT WORKS

Margaret, 80, has $450,000 in an IRA and has pledged to give Primavera $75,000 this year. If Margaret makes a direct transfer of $75,000 from her IRA, she will avoid paying income tax on $75,000. She cannot, however, claim a charitable deduction. Margaret has found an easy way to help others.

If you would like to take advantage of this limited-time opportunity, be sure to consult your financial advisors to ensure that the plan is right for you. Please also feel free to contact Deborah Dale at 520.623.5111, ext. 107 or ddale@primavera.org with any questions if you are considering this type of gift. Thank you again for your support of those Primavera serves.

LOSING A LONGTIME FRIEND

Mary Bartol, a very special friend to Primavera, died last month at the age of 86. She became interested in Primavera’s work shortly after its founding in the early 1980’s because, in her words, she couldn’t stand unfairness. Primavera, she felt, was right in line with her beliefs, and she gave generously to support its programs up until the end of her life.

Mary, who wrote a book about her life called “A Legend In My Own Mind,”
On September 25th, fifteen Primavera staff members joined over 100 other direct service providers at the annual Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless conference, “Navigating Through Tough Times.” The conference was an opportunity for staff to improve their knowledge and skills for working effectively with homeless people. The keynote speaker was Richard Elías, Chairman of the Pima County Board of Supervisors. Sessions included presentations on Homeless Youth services, new regulations for Social Security, Mental Health Court, and Nutritional Assistance.

This summer, many of our younger community members, pitched in to give Primavera a boost of service! New volunteers came from several agencies, including: Thornydale Elementary School, The Junior Volunteer Corp of the Volunteer Center of Southern Arizona, The American Jewish Society for Service, and University of Arizona students in both the Law and Public Health departments. Between the five groups, eight meals were served at the Men’s Shelter & Five Points, toiletries were filled, donations were collected, and our Administration Building parking lot fence was painted! We are very grateful to these young volunteers for dedicating their summers to serving those most in need. They not only brought a spirit of service with them, but a liveliness and energy that both staff and program participants benefited from during the hot, summer months.

We also started a new partnership this year with San Miguel High School, by participating in their Corporate Internship Program. Through this special program, students are given the opportunity to gain useful work experience, cover almost 60% of the cost of their education, and complete quality work for the agency they are matched with. We are lucky to have four different students, ranging from freshman to seniors, working with us through the month of September.

Over one hundred people attended a community forum moderated by Primavera Foundation Executive Director Peggy Hutchison, at Randolph Clubhouse on September 14. Speakers included Pima County Administrator, Chuck Huckleberry, Tucson City Manager, Mike Letcher, former Director of the Pima Council on Aging, Marian Lupu, former Mayor of Tucson, Hon. George Miller, and Chair of Don’t Handcuff Tucson, Brandon Patrick.

**Tucson Time Capsule 09.10.1989**

When New York Gov. Mario Cuomo visited Tucson, he attended a breakfast at the Primavera Foundation and was greeted by Gov. Rose Mofford, far right, and Nancy Bissell of Primavera.

He spoke on the need for more affordable housing and the inadequacy of government funding for it. “Don’t talk to me about too much government. It’s not too much government when you bail out Chrysler, when you bail out the savings and loans,” he said to much applause.

**Deja Vu?**

**COMMUNITY FORUM HELD ON PROP 200**

Over one hundred people attended a community forum moderated by Primavera Foundation Executive Director Peggy Hutchison, at Randolph Clubhouse on September 14. Speakers included Pima County Administrator, Chuck Huckleberry, Tucson City Manager, Mike Letcher, former Director of the Pima Council on Aging, Marian Lupu, former Mayor of Tucson, Hon. George Miller, and Chair of Don’t Handcuff Tucson, Brandon Patrick.
The Primavera Foundation partners with select Tucson Originals restaurants for our 8th season of ten wine-paired, fine dining fundraising dinners.

This year Cox Communications and Primavera Foundation partnered on the first ever corporate buy-out of the summer-long Primavera Cooks! campaign. The Cox night at Pastiche was a great success and featured such notable guests as: state representatives Nancy Wright Young, Frank Antenori, Phil Lopes, David Bradley and Olivia Cajero Bedford; state senators Jonathan Paton and Linda Lopez; Pima County board of supervisors Richard Elias and Ray Carroll; Tim Bee from the Governor’s office and all of Cox’s Arizona Leadership team. All told, more than 170 diners enjoyed a 5-course dinner and their patronage raised more than $20,000 for Primavera.

THANK YOU EVENT UNDERWRITERS

CBIZ  ANONYMOUS  Primavera Cooks! Committee  The Talerico Family  CITRON PAINT

THANK YOU EVENT PARTNERS

COX  CARONDELET HEALTH NETWORK  DESERT DIAMOND CASINO  KEN & LINDA ROBIN  PAM GRISSOM
Every day Primavera provides people a foundation from which they can make changes to improve their lives. We can continue only through the assistance of our community of donors. By joining our Foundation Circles, and giving gifts of $1,000 or more, these generous donors enable Primavera to help people rebuild lives, rebuild our community and maintain those critical safety nets that we all depend on.

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US Department of Labor (1)

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Springboard is a quarterly publication of:
The Primavera Foundation
702 S. 6th Avenue Tucson, AZ 85701
(520) 623.5111 • fax (520) 623.6434 • www.primavera.org

The Primavera Foundation provides pathways out of poverty. Primavera carries out its mission by promoting 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. The Foundation does this through community education and advocacy while providing a continuum of services that address homelessness and poverty.

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