



TCAA Community Connection

Beans, Backpacks & Brushes It Was The Summer of 2017



It was a summer to remember indeed! Your support for TCAA over the summer has been nothing short of amazing. You eagerly responded to our call for help, collecting hygiene items for men and women served at the I-HELP shelter, hosting a food drive at their place of work, worship or neighborhood, spearheading a Back To School Backpack drive for low-income families, volunteering time and talents or opening wallets to support a cause near and dear to your heart, you made this a truly unforgettable summer for the individuals and families who rely on TCAA for help in their time of need. Words like "Thank You" just don't seem to capture the immense level of gratitude we feel for the overwhelming support and compassion participants and staff have experienced in recent months. We couldn't have done it without you! An extra shout out goes to our newest community partner, [State Farm](#) for sponsoring this year's Back to School Drive. *Pictured above: Health Start program beneficiaries wearing State Farm sponsored backpacks containing back to school supplies.*

A huge thanks goes out to Larry and Stephanie Pratt and the entire [Tempe Elks Lodge #2251](#) for their recent \$500 contribution to the Escalante Community Garden. Funding from Tempe Elks #2251 will support the garden's ongoing material and supply needs, particularly as involvement from Tempe Elementary students continues to grow. Click [here](#) for more information on TCAA's Community Garden programs. *Pictured above:*

Sophia Campbell, TCAA Director of Philanthropy and members of Tempe Elks Lodge #2251.



Interest Ministries Offers A Helping Hand



In July, TCAA welcomed Interest Ministries representatives with a personal tour of the Norton and Ramsey Center at 2146 E Apache Blvd. During this visit, a generous \$15,000 donation was made to TCAA! We remain deeply humbled by their generosity and notable commitment to increasing the capacity of non-profits and making a meaningful difference in the lives of those they serve.

Pictured above: TCAA Executive Director Deborah Arteaga, Board President Margaret Hunnicutt, and Interest Ministries

representatives Dan Shufelt, Dan Miller, and Mark Dyer.

TCAA Board Rallies A Community To Action

During the TCAA Board of Directors' Summer Strategic Planning Retreat, board members took to heart a plea from TCAA Emergency Services Director, Sam Sumner, that the Food Pantry inventory was at an all time low. And just like that - longtime member Suzanne Durkin-Bighorn and incoming board President Ed Baker led the charge to reach out to the community via social media and word of mouth to "fill a truck" and replenish the pantry. Within a few short days, word had spread, a moving van was donated, media interviews were conducted and countless community members and volunteers were ready to lend a hand. What transpired next was an example of Board and Community Engagement at its finest.



The Saturday, August 12th Food Drive conducted at Daley Park brought in more than 6,000 pounds of food for the Food Pantry while helping to raise awareness to the summer food shortages experienced by many food banks across the county.

A special thanks goes out to TCAA's incoming Board President, Ed Baker, members Suzanne Durkin-Bighorn, Electa Thompson, Nick Bastian, Christine Cervantes, and Aaron Myers for helping with event logistics, [Get Your Move On](#) - Delicate Moving and Storage for the donation of a moving truck and crew, and all of the amazing volunteers and community members who turned out for this wildly successful, spontaneous event.

Thank you to [ABC 15](#), [Fox 10](#), [Univision](#) and the [Arizona Republic/AZCentral](#) for sharing our story and bringing awareness to this critical issue. For a direct link to AZCentral's coverage of this story, [click here](#).



TCAA Program Spotlight: Senior Services

TCAA was delighted to welcome seniors from the Apache ASL Trails



Apartment complex, an innovative and supportive community housing program for deaf and hard of hearing low-income residents. Apache ASL Trails fills a unique housing gap for disadvantaged seniors in the community and is the first development of its kind in Arizona. Apache ASL Trails residents are participating in many of the activities and services TCAA offers at the Escalante Senior Center, including a congregate lunch program, water exercise classes, fun activities, and more. To encourage more involvement from Apache Trails

residents, TCAA is offering basic signing classes for employees and members of the community. See our upcoming [Deaf Etiquette 101](#) class taking place this week. To learn more about this partnership or other senior services, please contact Jan Nipcon, Director of Senior Services at jann@tempeaction.org. Also, be sure to mark your calendar for [Circus Farm](#) coming this October at TCAA's North Tempe Senior Center. Contact Barb at barbara@tempeaction.org for more details and to RSVP. *Pictured top left, two of our newest Apache ASL Trails participants.*

Got First Crush on Your Mind?

SAVE The DATE

October 20, 2017
6:30-10:30 PM

[Arizona Heritage Center](#)

1300 N. College Ave. Tempe, AZ 85281

Details to follow.

Did You Know?

Recently, TCAA welcomed three new super stars to its growing staff roster. Theresa McKenzie (pictured on left) was hired as TCAA's **New Volunteer and Community Engagement Coordinator**, Susan Crawford (pictured on right) was hired as TCAA's **New Housing Navigator**. Additionally, Kathleen Ross (pictured below) joined the TCAA team as the **New Senior Services Coordinator** at Meridian@101,



Tempe's newest affordable housing program for seniors.



All three of these extraordinary ladies bring with them years of professional experience, skills and expertise in their respective fields that will contribute to the overall success, innovation and efficiency of our programs (Volunteer and Seniors Services and I-HELP). Feel free to say hello and get to know these new additions to the TCAA family. You can reach them

at theresam@tempeaction.org, susanc@tempeaction.org, and kathleenr@tempeaction.org.

Hygiene For The Homeless Drive



Thanks to your unprecedented support of our Hygiene for the Homeless drive this summer, TCAA now has approximately 450 hygiene kits to distribute to I-HELP clients and other men and women who are experiencing homelessness in Tempe. We'd like to express our sincerest appreciation to the following groups for their participation in this year's summer hygiene drive:

[Rentals America](#), [Silicon Valley Bank](#), [University Presbyterian Church Tempe](#), [Tempe Phoenix Airport InnSuites](#), [Grace Community Church](#), [GFWC Tempe Junior Women's Club](#), [Express Scripts](#), [Women4Women Tempe](#), [Taoist Tai Chi Society Phoenix](#), ASU's Sparky's Day of Service

volunteers, and countless more individual volunteers who made this a huge success. Pictured left: Beverly from GFWC Tempe Junior Women's Club.

TCAA's Most Precious Assets



As a TCAA volunteer, you may be serving on a regular basis and want to learn more about our array of programs and services, history, or vision for the future. Beginning in September, TCAA will offer Volunteer Orientations for new and prospective volunteers.

Volunteer Orientations will cover our inspirational history, array of programs and services, and impact in the community, as well as current volunteer opportunities and what to expect. All new, prospective and current TCAA volunteers are welcome to attend an upcoming orientation, (no matter how long you've been a volunteer with TCAA). For information on September dates and times, contact Theresa

at theresam@tempeaction.org.



Pictured above top left: TCAA's Sophia Campbell and Jess from Rentals America, Bottom: Express Scripts.

TCAA Hunger Relief Champions Abound



TCAA's Summer Food Drives are critical opportunities to help alleviate food insecurity and bring much needed hunger relief to countless Tempe households. The incredible community support you provided through ongoing food drives during this summer is truly awe inspiring. This summer was no exception. Carlos Dominguez, TCAA's Pantry Manager was visited last month by this adorable Girl Scouts Troop who donated their remaining cookies to our Pantry. **And who doesn't love Girl Scout Cookies, right?**

Through their effort, **Troop 3721**, a multi-level



troop of Daisies (grades K-1) and Brownies (grades 1-2) based out of Fuller Elementary School learned about financial literacy, goal-setting, caring for others and helping to make our world a better place. The Troop got a behind the scenes tour of the Food Pantry while also learning about other TCAA programs (*homeless prevention and intervention services, Health Start, community gardens, home delivered meals and senior centers*) that assist low income and/or disadvantaged Tempe residents in need. Troop 3721, thank you for your

support and compassion for others. Come visit us again soon. If you have a service group, club or corporate team looking to pay it forward and serve your community, we can help! Please contact TCAA's Volunteer Coordinator at theresam@tempeaction.org for more info.



Pictured above: Carlos Dominguez, TCAA Pantry Manager and Troop 3721 and Food Pantry community volunteers, Amy and Lars Hansen, and Kay Wright.

And The Winners Are

Congratulations to TCAA's Summer Meals Challenge Corporate Champions who along with several local businesses and faith groups helped collect food items for the Food Pantry. [Lovitt & Touche](#) and [Nick Bastian Realty Executives Team](#) won for their respective categories (large and small size companies) and were treated with their very own private popsicle party, courtesy of TCAA and [AZ POPS](#). TCAA would also like to thank the [Deneau Law Firm](#), [Arizona Bank and Trust](#), [Edward Jones](#), [Grace Community Church](#) and the additional individuals, service groups and friends who continue to support



the Food Pantry during these traditionally low volume months. Your contributions also helped TCAA to prepare for the start up of the school year and the expected increase in demand for food boxes. In addition to distributing food at the Norton and Ramsey Center, TCAA further extends its hunger relief efforts by delivering monthly food boxes to Title I Tempe Elementary Schools for distribution to students and families in need.



Pictured top left, Lovitt & Touche staff and TCAA Director of Philanthropy, Sophia Campbell. Pictured below, Nick Bastian Realty Executives Team, the Bastian family and TCAA's Executive Director, Deborah Arteaga.



Learn more about TCAA programs [here](#).
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