



TCAA Community Connection

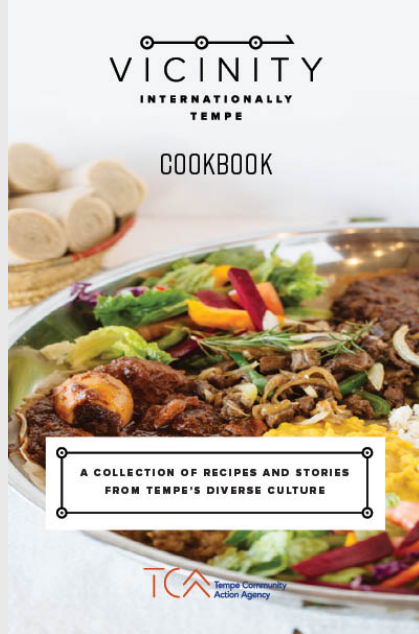
A Million Thanks



As 2017 comes to a close, we'd first like to say how grateful and humbled we are for the incredible gifts we have received this past year from all of YOU, our incredible donors, corporate and foundation partners, faith based organizations and compassionate volunteers who have made this an unforgettable year for our TCAA clients. Each of these gifts have demonstrated YOUR commitment, compassion and resolve to do good in your community whenever and wherever there is tremendous need. Through YOUR individual or corporate giving, in kind food, water or toy drives, attendance at our special events, and/or paying it forward with your time, talent and service in each of our critical need programs, YOUR random or repeated acts of humankindness became an inspiration to us all at TCAA. Wonderful things happen when our community comes together; YOU make wonderful things happen through YOUR kindness and concern for others. Wishing all of our #TCAA DoGooders the happiest of holidays and a bright new year.

TCAA Fundraiser Gets New Name & Look

TCAA's annual event, formerly known as



"First Crush" got a fresh new makeover this year with several new culinary partners, an international theme which celebrates Tempe's rich cultural diversity and a vibrant, new VICINITY Cookbook with mouth watering recipes from our local home town favorites. All this, while still maintaining the event's close-knit, community feel. The event which took place on Fri. Oct. 20th at the Arizona Heritage Center let guests mix and mingle the night away while sampling incredible culinary creations and beverages and bidding on unique silent auction items all in support of TCAA's mission and critical need programs and services. A special thanks goes out to our amazing community partners who helped make this event possible. They include: [SRP](#), [Edward Jones](#), [Landings Credit Union](#), [Gammage & Burnham](#), [Maximus](#), [NAI Horizon](#), [Rentals](#)

[America](#), [Wells Fargo](#), [Wallace Please + Dreher](#), Ms. Jenny Norton and Mr. Bob Ramsey, Mr. and Mrs. Penn Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Pany, Mr. Lou Silverman, Mr. Tim Nichols and Mr. Randy Dietrich.

The WAIT is OVER

The VICINITY Cookbook is Now Available

TCAA's Vicinity Cookbook is now available in print (\$20) or electronic format (\$10), chalk full of several amazing recipes from local community members, [VICINITY participating restaurants](#) and other local home town favorite eatery's and celebrities including [House of Tricks](#), [Chompies](#), [Mayor Mark Mitchell](#), and more. To purchase your very own copy and support TCAA's mission to foster dignity and self-reliance for the economically vulnerable in our communities, please email Jalyn at jalynh@tempeaction.org for more details.

Toy Shoppe Helps Local Families In Need



Another huge success for TCAA's 13th Annual Toy Shoppe event which took place on Sunday, December 17th at the Escalante Community Center. This year, approximately 300 families and 500 children from TCAA's Health Start and Community Action Programs were assisted with a wonderful assortment of children's holiday gifts. Community volunteers and program staff worked hard these last few months in anticipation of this super fun, super rewarding TCAA holiday tradition.



Behind the scenes, community elves (volunteers) and staff worked hard to ensure toy drives from around the community were in full stride in the months of November and December. A huge thank you to all of our new and returning Toy Shoppe volunteers who helped make the holiday season a happy and magical day for hundreds of children and families served by TCAA. *Pictured below: TCAA Toy Shoppe Volunteers and staff setting up for the big day.*

Our heartfelt thanks to all of YOU who supported this year's 13th Annual Toy Shoppe event with toy drives and donations.



I-HELP Family Fun Run Set for May 5th

Family Fun With A Purpose

Be sure to mark your calendars and join TCAA and our corporate and faith based community partners as we celebrate the 2018 Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program

(I-HELP) Family Fun Run to Alleviate Homelessness in Tempe. Stay tuned for more details coming soon.

Thinking about becoming a 2018 I-HELP Family Fun Run sponsor?

Contact Sophia at sophiac@tempeaction.org. For event volunteer opportunities, please reach out to Theresa McKenzie, TCAA Volunteer and Community Engagement Coordinator at theresam@tempeaction.org.



A Community of TCAA #DoGooders

TCAA's Giving Tuesday Campaign was a huge success thanks to all of YOU. This one day event helped TCAA



more than exceed its projected goal of \$5,000. INCREDIBLY HUMBLING....to say the least. However, DoGooders blessed our agency, time and time again this past year. Here are just a few of our more recent corporate/foundation TCAA DoGooders who provided generous grants to our programs and services. They include: [Thunderbirds Charities](#), [Wells Fargo](#), [USAA Foundation](#), [Dignity Health](#), [Tempe Mission](#), [Grainger](#), [OPUS Foundation](#), [Maximus Foundation](#), [Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation](#), [Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust](#), [Steven and Lois Mihaylo Family Foundation](#) and the [Sundt Foundation](#).



Pictured above: Grainger staff presenting TCAA Executive Director, Deborah Arteaga and Development staff, Sophia & Theresa with an amazing holiday donation. Picture right: Sam Sumner, TCAA Dir. of Emergency Services, Cathie Gabriel, Sundt Foundation and Theresa McKenzie, TCAA Volunteer and Community Engagement Coordinator.



Family Economic Advancement Initiative Program Spotlight



TCAA's Family Economic Advancement Initiative (FEAI) program received a referral from the City of Tempe's PRE-K program. They were referring a single mother who had fallen on hard times since experiencing long term complications from the birth of her twin girls four years ago. At the time, Tonya was employed in a senior position as a Molecular Scientist at an Arizona university. As a result of her medical issues, she had to utilize both her long and short term disability benefits to help get her through this difficult time. She was eventually let go from her

employment after a lengthy absence from her position. Tonya continued to seek employment as she had a child attending college, a limited amount of monthly child support coming in and bills that kept stacking up. After exhausting all of her savings, she asked for help and was referred to TCAA's new FEAI program. Tonya began working with the FEAI social worker to find employment as well as explore community resources that could help her start her own business. Our TCAA social worker learned that Tonya was creating and manufacturing unique baby carriers and selling them for extra money. She had even become

certified in baby wearing education and parenting theory to ensure she was creating a safe product.

Tonya revealed to the social worker that she was on the verge of being evicted. She was subsequently referred to our Community Action Program and assisted with both rent and utilities, ultimately stabilizing her housing crisis and successfully preventing her family's impending homelessness. Her twin girls were also fortunate enough to get the last two remaining spots in the agency's annual Toy Shoppe/ Holiday Gift program, providing them with a variety of holiday toys this season. Overwhelmed with tears in her eyes, Tonya was grateful for the comprehensive support she was able to receive from TCAA. TCAA continues to work with Tonya and feels confident she is in the right place, with the right resources to help her find stable employment.



This is how YOUR Arizona tax credit donations make a difference.

To assist more families like Tonya's, please consider an [Arizona charitable tax credit](#) donation to TCAA this holiday season. Be a part of our growing #TCAA DoGooder movement by donating up to \$400 (single) or \$800 (married, filing jointly) [here](#).

Too Many Empty Bowls in Tempe



SAVE THE DATE

Friday, February 23, 2017

11am-2pm, 6th St. Park
and

Saturday, Feb. 24th, 2018

11am-2pm, Tempe Library Courtyard

Since 2002, Tempe Empty Bowls has partnered with local elementary and high school students to raise funds in support of hunger relief throughout the Tempe community. With an empty bowl signifying a lack of food, local students design beautifully, hand-crafted pottery bowls which are then offered up for a \$10 charitable donation at the two day event. In return for a donation to Tempe Empty Bowls, a mouth watering bowl of hot, delicious soup is provided by two local community sponsors. Proceeds from this

annual event benefit those served by [Tempe Community Action Agency](#) and [United Food Bank.](#)

23% of Tempe residents live in poverty



Please consider joining TCAA and United Food Bank for another tasty, feel good event that helps alleviate hunger and food insecurity for thousands of children, adults and seniors throughout Tempe. For more information about this event, including how to become a

TEB event sponsor please visit [Tempe Empty Bowls](#) or email Connie [here](#).

Volunteering and Mental Health

Have you ever met a person who said that their life was worse off because they volunteered? Yeah, I haven't either. To quote the title of a recent Motherboard article, "Volunteering Is the Best Kept Secret for Mental Health". This is an emerging field of study, but research is beginning to support what I have known for years, volunteering is good for the soul. The



positive impact of volunteering on your mental well-being and your stress level is amazing. Volunteering has been shown to lower your blood pressure and reduce feelings of depression. When you give of yourself to others in need, it does not change your circumstances, however, you will likely view them from a whole new perspective.

As the New Year begins, consider the benefits of adding volunteering to your life. There are many worthwhile causes you can give your time to and TCAA has an abundance of opportunities for most schedules. What are the issues or causes that get your heart racing? If hunger, poverty and homelessness are your passion, please come volunteer with TCAA! We would love to help you find your sweet spot of serving. Our next volunteer orientations are:

Thursday January 4th 5:30p-6:30p - TCAA -2146 E. Apache Blvd.
Tuesday January 16th 10a-11a - The Escalante Center, 2150 E Orange St.
Saturday January 27th 10:30a-11:30a - The Escalante Center, 2150 E Orange St.

Contact Theresa at Theresam@tempeaction.org for more information

Happy New Year from our TCAA DoGooders



Pictured top left, Electa Thompson, Ed Baker (Board President), Christine Cervantes, Margaret Hunnicutt, Nick Bastian (Board Secretary), Kate Borders and Thomas Avery. Pictured below: TCAA Staff members at the annual staff holiday party.



Learn more about TCAA programs [here](#).
Make a difference today by donating [here](#).

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