January 8 is a date Tucson and the nation will not soon forget. From mid-morning January 8, 2011, when the shooter opened fire at a Congress on Your Corner gathering, through an entire year of loss, kindness, recovery, hope and inspiration, people around the globe have sent gifts, remembrances, prayers and donations to Tucson. Ultimately those donations and the causes they support came together at the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona. New foundations were established, funds invested, scholarships awarded and community events planned.

“It was our honor that the community asked us to play this role and felt we were the appropriate organization to coordinate and collaborate on these efforts,” said Foundation President and CEO, Clint Mabie.

(Cont’d. on Pg. 4)

January 8th

Remembering January 8th

Thanks! to Bettina Lyons, Nance Crosby, Bill Horst and Scott Jones for responding to our call and serving on the Donor Advisory Committee. A few items they suggested are:

• Donor grant making strategies – CFSA has a large donor family. As donors, we would love to learn from our fellow donors about how each is making a difference in the community.
• National best practice – Help share ideas of successful grant making strategies across the nation including ideas for what donors should be looking for in terms of effective models.
• Event for the community – CFSA should consider bringing back its annual event. This event will focus on celebrating and awarding the best of the sector.
University of Arizona government students, May Chika Mgbolu and Su Myint, are the first recipients of the Christina-Taylor Green and Daniel Hernandez Jr. Scholarship Fund. Phil and Carol Lyons established this fund to honor the nine-year-old girl with a budding interest in government who died, and the intern who risked his life to aid Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords at the tragic shooting last year.

The scholarship is specifically for students in the UA School of Government and Public Policy. The fund is managed by the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona. The applicants wrote personal statements about their background, interests, community activities and career goals. Both women chosen were “very impressive,” Lyons said.

“I’m a huge believer in equality of opportunity,” Lyons said. He worked for 17 years with inner city youth in Chicago. “My objective is to get everyone to the starting line – then, from there, it’s up to the individual.” He’s particularly pleased that Mgbolu is a first-generation college student.

The Lyons encourage the community to help build this fund, with the goal of distributing a minimum of $250,000 to students who represent the values of Green and Hernandez. To date, 81 individuals and organizations have contributed.

In June 2011, CFSA hired Mari Diffley to conduct an analysis of its financial and IT systems. Her exemplary work and belief in our mission led to her appointment as Chief Operating Officer for the Foundation. Mari is responsible for managing operations including finance, IT and workflow systems to ensure performance and service excellence. She has agreed to serve in this capacity for the next few years.

Mari has more than 25 years of experience in operations and finance. She served as project manager for the literacy merger now named Literacy Connects. She also helped the Hotel Congress streamline its operations and for six years served as Internal Auditor and Quality Operations Manager for the Rainbird Corporation. Mari earned an MBA from the UA, a BBA in Business and Accounting from Pace University, and a CPA in the State of New York.

The summer before starting college, May Chika Mgbolu flew 14 hours from Tucson to Nigeria, her family’s homeland. The first morning after settling into her aunt’s house, she took an eye-opening walk with her cousin.

What she saw and learned that day confirmed her desire to pursue a career in public service – and that led to her selection for the Christina-Taylor Green and Daniel Hernandez Jr. Scholarship.

In her application, the UA political science major wrote: “Those 15 minutes on the streets of Nigeria showed me the true meaning of an under-developed infrastructure, under-represented and under-valued citizens, and the abuse of political power within my parents’ nation. I saw a complete lack of social and political justice for my family and the people on the streets.”

Mgbolu is a first-generation college student. She takes 15 units a semester at the UA, works 16 hours a week at Bass & Associates law firm and is engaged in activities on campus and in the community. Last spring, she was one of 40 college students selected to participate in a re-creation of the 1961 Freedom Rides for the PBS series American Experience.

Mgbolu was previously selected for a CFSA general scholarship from another fund beginning in 2008.

“When my parents came to the United States in search of the American Dream, they understood one thing was guaranteed – an education – which meant opportunity for their children,”

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2012 is a milestone year for Community Foundation for Southern Arizona’s Alliance Fund. Grants awarded in January raised this fund’s total investment in Southern Arizona communities to $500,000.

The Alliance Fund is a unique coalition of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, straight people and their allies founded in 1999. It’s known as the LGBT&S Alliance Fund.

Since then, it has awarded grants to 44 organizations for 106 projects that support the under-funded LGBT community in Tucson and throughout Pima, Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties. This included about $38,000 in the past two years to support the new Queer Youth Initiative (QYI).

“The QYI is really the fruition of a long time dream of ours to provide safety and sanity to young people in the LGBTQ community,” said board chair Douglass Noffsinger.

The program reaches beyond the metro area to youth who live in small towns or rural areas, “thinking he or she is the only queer kid in the world,” Noffsinger said. Before launching this initiative, we did many focus-group talks with homeless youth, including those at the Wingspan Community Youth Center. We asked them “What was the most important thing you needed?” To our surprise, they said the first thing is just to be able to talk to someone who really cares about them.”

That led to establishing supportive “warm lines” of communication so youth can easily reach out to peers and learn where to go for help if needed. They can make contact by phone, email, social media and other avenues. Libraries are key, as they provide private access to computers.

The QYI grants are selected by a small committee that includes several youth members supported in part by a three-year matching grant from the national Funders for LGBTQ Issues. That grant expires next year.

Research for the project is being conducted by the UA in conjunction with Arizona State University. Coordinating the work is the Center for Governmental Research, a nationally renowned research institution that has conducted indicator projects across the United States.

The Project seeks input from community stakeholders interested in sustaining Southern Arizona’s long-term health and quality of life. The survey is available in English at surveymonkey.com/s/SouthernAZIndicators and in Spanish at surveymonkey.com/s/ProyectoIndicadores. Hard copies are available by calling Doreen Hunnicutt at (520) 770-0800.

Data from the project will be posted at southernazindicators.org in March.

Additional lead sponsorship for the project is provided by the Arizona Community Foundation and JP Morgan Chase. Support is also being provided by The Thomas R. Brown Foundation, the Graesser Foundation, the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona, the Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona, Harris Bank, Click Automotive Team, Tucson Electric Power, Cox Communications and Wells Fargo.
These funds were established and are managed at CFSA:

- One-Eight Memorial Foundation Fund
- Tucson Together Fund
- Fund for Civility, Respect and Understanding
- Christina-Taylor Green and Daniel Hernandez Jr. Scholarship Fund
- Tucson Trails Tribute Fund

In addition, CFSA assisted in setting up the Christina-Taylor Green Memorial Fund, which later became a stand-alone private foundation.

“It was an amazing thing to see the response from all over the world,” said Evan Mendelson, VP of donor relations and program services.

As the first-year anniversary approached, the Foundation assisted in the creation of the ongoing website rememberingjanuary8.org and coordinated planning and organization for some of the commemorative events. The culminating event was a candlelight vigil on the University of Arizona campus – where Congresswoman Giffords led the pledge of allegiance.

“We are honored that this foundation, which has served this community for more than 30 years, was asked to play a vital role in this ongoing healing process. Our thanks to Dusenberry family and Horizon Moving Systems for the support to make our efforts possible,” Mabie said.

The good inspired by that devastating day lives on today and will continue to fund projects into the future. A permanent memorial is one of many still in development. For more info, visit the Foundation website at cfsoaz.org.

On behalf of our board and staff, our special thanks to everyone who made this year’s Partners in Philanthropy Campaign our most successful, raising over $170,000 to date for the foundation! Due to your generosity, we are able to continue our leadership efforts in the community and with donors to inspire and support them making a difference in our community.

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Bischof, Harrington & Constance G.
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Butler II, CPA, Donald
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