Making History

The African American community in the Tucson Metropolitan area is diffuse, making collaboration difficult. A group of community leaders knew a different approach was needed to significantly increase impact. Earlier this year, Dr. Anna Jolivet approached the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona to discuss creating a new initiative to direct greater resources, collaboration and efficiency for groups serving the African American community. The result is the African American Initiative (AAI).

“Our goal is to make a tangible difference, especially in the areas of collaboration and uncovering models that work,” said Joseph Blair, Chair of the AAI. “Together, with the assistance of individual and corporate supporters, we will join others in Tucson with the common goal of improving our community.”

Introduced during its launch event in November 2013, the African American Initiative has a goal of creating a one million dollar endowment and making a lasting difference in the community. That night, with more than 130 in attendance, the Community Foundation announced a one-to-one $25,000 matching challenge to aid the AAI in its goal of distributing $50,000 to local nonprofit organizations in 2014.

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Greetings!

I hope this letter finds you enjoying all the beginnings of the holiday season. In my opinion, it is truly one of the most beautiful times of year here in Southern Arizona.

As 2013 comes to an end and we pause to reflect, everyone here at the Community Foundation joins me in thanking you for your trust in us as we help facilitate your generous gifts to the community. The seeds that you sow – combined with donations from others – help organizations blossom and fulfill their mission of supporting our community.

As always, it is a privilege and a pleasure to help you achieve your philanthropic goals. We wish you and yours all the best, and hope you have a happy holiday season and new year.

Sincerely,

J. Clinton Mabie
President and CEO
Community Foundation for Southern Arizona

The spirit of Arizona’s generosity lives here. The Community Foundation is honored to partner with donors like you to improve the quality of life for all. By utilizing unrestricted dollars to address immediate community needs, the Community Foundation announced several competitive grant rounds to increase impact toward the causes you care about.

In response to a September call for letters of inquiry addressing poverty and its effects on children, the Community Foundation heard from 60 agencies requesting $1.2 million. This certainly speaks to the need in Southern Arizona! With only $200,000 available to grant, the review committee has a tough job ahead. The projects proposed by organizations that aren’t invited to move forward will be shared in hopes that others might be interested in investing.

In October, the Community Foundation announced up to $200,000 in grants would be available to local and regional nonprofit organizations that are working on end of life issues.

Grants for both of these opportunities will be announced in 2014.

Learn more about the grant process by contacting Barbara Brown, Vice President of Program Services and Community Initiatives, at bbrown@cfsaz.org or (520) 209-2866.
In advance of 2014 grant distributions, AAI is conducting a brief survey to help determine the African American community’s most pressing needs and issues. Your participation is important, so please complete a survey at www.cfsaz.org/AAI before December 31, 2013.

If you would like to make a financial contribution, you may do so on the website. Look for the Donate button at www.cfsaz.org/AAI.

For more information about the African American Initiative and ‘Tis the season! A recent poll by Charity Navigator estimates that up to 40% of charitable contributions are made at the end of the year. These generous gifts reach organizations at a pivotal time, adding momentum and support to help carry them through the rest of the year.

A few key tips, as you strategize your giving plan:

- Donations are deductible as of the date (in the tax year) that the donor relinquishes control and possession.

- Checks postmarked or hand delivered to a qualified charity on December 31st are deemed deductible in that year. Delivery services such as FedEx have different rules and the check must be delivered to the charity by December 31st.

- Credit card charges are deductible as of the date the charge is processed. Donations of securities are a bit more complicated. The transfer must be processed and the charity must receive it, or a stock certificate, by December 31st in order to receive credit in the current year.

- There are additional tax opportunities available to you if you write a check directly to a qualifying organization or school.

The Center for Planned Giving is a resource for your year-end charitable planning and giving. To schedule an appointment to plan your end of year gifts, please contact Leah Geistfeld, Executive Director, Center for Planned Giving, at lgeistfeld@cfsaz.org or (520) 545-1117 x7107.
LEAVING LEGACIES…

The Igor Gorin Memorial Award was established in 1987 by Mary Gorin as a fitting way to honor the memory of her husband, Igor Gorin, a world-renowned opera singer. Mr. Gorin was a Russian refugee who, in the late 1920’s, escaped to Vienna before immigrating to the United States. His star began to rise as a member of the Czechoslovakian Opera Company. Later, he was invited to the United States by a synagogue in Providence, Rhode Island where he assumed cantorial duties. This was the beginning of a spectacular career in radio, film, stage and television.

Earning a reputation as the “Prince of Baritones,” Igor Gorin’s career spanned the 1930’s through the 1960’s. During WWII, he gave more of his time and talent entertaining the troops than anyone in Hollywood. He had a private motivation, as his father, brother and sister were in Auschwitz and Igor desperately wanted to see them freed. Singing to the troops, he later said, was his way of saying “Thank you.”

Igor and Mary Gorin retired to Tucson in 1965. Before long, then University of Arizona President Richard Harvill invited Igor to begin a second career teaching opera at the university. In working with the next generation of voices, Igor was reminded of his own early struggles to survive and launch his career.

Mary Gorin created the Igor Gorin Memorial Award to help young vocalists at the beginning of their careers. Since 1993, more than $245,000 has been awarded to rising young artists. Today, the Igor Gorin Memorial Award remains one of the most prestigious and generous awards of its kind in the country.

To contribute to the Igor Gorin Memorial Fund and help support more young artists, contact:
Community Foundation for Southern Arizona
2250 East Broadway Boulevard
Tucson, Arizona 85719
(520)770-0800

Please note we will be closed
December 25th and 26th, and January 1st.
Otherwise, staff will be on hand to answer your questions and assist you with your end-of-the-year transactions.

Office hours are:
Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR SOUTHERN ARIZONA
2250 E. Broadway Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85719
Phone: (520) 770-0800
Fax: (520) 770-1500
cfsaz.org

Won’t you join us?

In honor of the late opera singer Igor Gorin, the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona is pleased to present an intimate performance featuring the 2013 Igor Gorin Memorial Award recipient, Arizona Opera’s Ryan Kuster, performing selections by Hugo Wolf, Mozart, Celius Daugherty, and Jerome Kern, among others.

6:00 pm, Wednesday, January 29, 2014
Steinway Piano Gallery,
3001 East Skyline Drive,
Tucson, Arizona 85718

Admission is complimentary but seating is limited.
To ensure your spot, please RSVP no later than January 6, 2014 to Marthena Maley at mmaley@cfsaz.org or (520) 209-2865.