Celebrating Impact

The New Year brings new possibilities, and cause to celebrate! At the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona (CFSA), we have the pleasure of serving donors that understand the importance of giving back. Three award programs recently shined light on remarkable and talented individuals in the arts and human services.

The Buffalo Exchange Arts Award was established at CFSA by Spencer and Kerstin Block in 1994 to recognize excellence in the arts. To date, nearly $180,000 has been awarded to deserving individuals in Southern Arizona. On January 15th, CFSA honored 20 years of previous recipients and gave the 2013 Buffalo Exchange Visual Arts Award to Brenna Curry. Her work can be seen at the Vixen Fine Art Metal Gallery in Bisbee.

On January 29th, in honor of the late opera singer and “Prince of Baritones” Igor Gorin, CFSA hosted an intimate concert with Arizona Opera’s Ryan Kuster, the 2013 recipient of the Igor Gorin Memorial Award. Mary Gorin, Igor’s wife, created the award to help young vocalists at the beginning of their careers. Since 1993, more than $245,000 has been awarded to rising young artists.

“It is an extraordinary feeling to know that Igor’s passion for opera lives on in other talented young artists and that this award can help them on their way to a successful career,” said D. J. Fillman, the Gorin Fund advisor and good friend of the Gorins.

Today, the Igor Gorin Memorial Award remains one of the most prestigious and generous awards of its kind in the country.

MORE GOOD NEWS TO SHARE

The Lesbian Gay Transgender and Straight (LGBT&S) Alliance Fund held a reception on January 14th to celebrate the recipients of its 2014 grants where a record $54,796 was awarded to worthy projects in Southern Arizona. Since its inception in 1999, the Alliance Fund has awarded 129 grants to more than 54 different organizations totaling $588,062.

This year, Steve Gottlieb was also honored during the reception with the Doug Noffsinger Straight Ally Award for his 25 years of work in the LGBT community, most specifically for his commitment to the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation.
Greetings,

Throughout its history, Southern Arizona has seen that no single organization can create large-scale, lasting social change alone. There is no “silver bullet” solution to systemic social problems, and these problems cannot be solved by simply scaling or replicating one organization or program. This is true of nonprofit organizations and also of donors – to expand our impact we too must collaborate and leverage our resources.

During the past year, we at the Community Foundation have worked with the various programs and initiatives under our umbrella, including the Women’s Foundation of Southern Arizona and Social Venture Partners, to plan our path together. Together, this April 30th, we will announce over $1,000,000 in competitive grants to the community and celebrate the donors that have made this possible. An invitation will follow, and we hope you will be able to join us.

A special thank you to all who have contributed to the Civic Leadership Campaign. Your support provides the essential capital we need to continue to convene and lead, from our work with Pima Alliance for Animal Welfare to the Nonprofit Loan Fund of Tucson and Southern Arizona to the Southern Arizona Indicators Project. Your support is changing lives and making a difference.

Sincerely,

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

The Legacy Society recognizes donors whose far-sighted generosity will benefit future generations through deferred gifts and estate plans. These individuals have made a commitment to the future of our community by naming the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona in their wills, qualified retirement plans, life insurance policies, trusts, or other instruments. To acknowledge these members’ benevolence, the Community Foundation is hosting an intimate breakfast gathering in March with a presentation by special guest, Michael M. Weinstein.

Weinstein is the senior vice president of The Robin Hood Foundation, a charitable organization focused on alleviating poverty in New York City. In that role, he has revolutionized its metrics-based approach to ensure the greatest return on investment for charitable investments.

He will also be presenting at the Tucson Festival of Books:

ROBIN HOOD UNPLUGGED: THE BATTLE AGAINST POVERTY

Michael Weinstein
Author of “Rules for Smart Giving”
Discussing how his organization is making a difference in fighting poverty.

Integrated Learning Center Room 130
(Seats 150, Wheelchair accessible)
Sat, Mar 15, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Book signing following presentation at the Sales & Signing Area – Integrated Learning Center

If you are thinking about making a gift to the Community Foundation through your estate plan, please contact Leah Geistfeld, Executive Director, Center for Planned Giving, at lgeistfeld@cfsaz.org.
The community’s collective hearts have been heavy with sympathy since learning of the recent passing of Dr. Anna Jolivet.

She was an educator, an advocate and true civic leader, who, as chair of the Community Foundation’s Board of Trustees from 1996-1998, made innumerable contributions to improve our community.

“As CFSA Board Chair, Anna led by example,” said Mary Ann Dobras, former board member. “She was respectful, ethical, encouraged thoughtful discussion. She was quiet but strong, often bold in her leadership. She was a role model for me and others in the community.”

Most recently, she helped found the African American Initiative to help direct dollars and foster collaboration to benefit the African American and greater Tucson community.

“She gave tirelessly of herself to make Tucson a better place. Much of her work centered around the children and youth in our community,” said Jimmy Hart, director of TUSD’s African American Student Services and fellow African American Initiative board member. “Her philanthropic efforts have resulted in many students benefiting and receiving scholarships to further their education in college.”

Dr. Anna Jolivet will be deeply missed but her legacy will live on.

March is Write-A-Will Month!

The Center for Planned Giving is pleased to join the Planned Giving Roundtable of Southern Arizona in sponsoring the annual March Write-A-Will month. This is a national public awareness campaign dedicated to educating communities about planned giving and the importance of creating a will or trust.

These interactive workshops are 60 to 90 minutes long, and include a question and answer component along with a complimentary workbook, “A Guide to Planning Your Will or Trust,” for recording important information regarding the preparation of a will. The events are open to the public and cover topics on planning a will and ways various legal modifications may affect your plans.

Throughout the month of March, more than 30 nonprofit organizations will be hosting Write-A-Will workshops across the city, offering education about making or updating a will, how to protect even the most modest estate, or ways to formalize wishes and ensure those wishes are known and respected. These partners help promote the message that people from all walks of life can “make a difference in the lives that follow” through a charitable bequest.

Watch for the Leave A Legacy insert in the Arizona Daily Star® Sunday Edition on February 23, where you will find details about the local workshops being offered along with insightful articles from local professionals and organizations.

The Center for Planned Giving and the Community Foundation will host a joint workshop on March 12 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM at the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona office.

To RSVP for this Write-A-Will workshop, or for more information about your legacy planning, please contact Leah Geistfeld, Executive Director of the Center for Planned Giving, at lgeistfeld@cfsaz.org or (520) 545-1117.
SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us for our

2014 ANNUAL DONOR EVENT

Celebrating $1,000,000 in competitive grants to the community, and the programs and donors that have made this possible.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30TH
4:30PM TO 7:30PM

Invitation, with location, to follow.