



LEGACY

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2011

Nine Local Charities Awarded Grants

Jewish Foundation Distributes \$30,433

The continuing Great Recession of 2008 has been an unfortunate perfect storm for the community's charitable organizations and social agencies that provide a vital safety net for those in need. As requests for assistance has increased dramatically, funding for operations has dropped in a similar fashion, leaving our community's safety net fragile and frayed.

This year the Jewish Foundation received more requests for grant support than in any other time in its history. "Despite awarding a record amount in grants, the need in the community far exceeded the Foundation's capability to fund all the worthwhile requests it received," stated Saul Fein, chairman of the Foundation's grants committee. The organizations awarded Community Grants included:

Hunger Relief Collaboration – consisting of Common Ground, Church on the Street, Feed the Hungry, Granite Creek Pot Luck Ministry, and CCJ Open Door, the organization is committed to feeding the hungry in greater Prescott. The Foundation's \$7,000 grant will be used to support the daily operation of the kitchens.

Prescott Meals on Wheels – a nonprofit organization providing a daily hot meal to more than 170 homebound in our community, while serving approximately 70 seniors daily in the congregate dining room at the Rowle P. Simmons Community Center. The Foundation's grant of \$1,787 will fund the purchase of special food transport containers to maintain ideal meal temperature.

Prescott Area Woman's Shelter (PAWS) – serving over 140 women yearly, PAWS provides shelter and support for homeless women in Prescott. PAWS was awarded a grant for \$5,000 to assist in the case management work of the shelter.



From the left, Pam Hanno, director of Prescott Meals on Wheels, and Saul Fein, chairman of the Jewish Foundation Grant Committee, inspect one of the new thermal food containers.

Neighbor to Neighbor – dedicated to providing services to the elderly and disabled to assist in maintaining their independence and dignity, Neighbor to Neighbor has been serving the Route 69 corridor since 1996. The Foundation's grant of \$3,000 will be used to purchase Personal Response Units for the homebound.

CASA for Kids, Inc – providing for the unmet needs of abused, neglected, and abandoned

children in the care of the Court, CASA will use the Foundation's grant of \$2,500 to supplement the clothing allowance for children in the Foster Care System.

People Who Care – the Foundation's grant of \$2,646 will be used to upgrade the organization's computer system to integrate a transportation software program designed to increase the efficiency of matching volunteers to those who require transportation for vital services.

Central Arizona Seniors' Association – the Foundation's grant of \$2,500 will support the organization's Prescott Valley Meals on Wheels program that provides daily meals to 105 homebound clients and 40 dining room clients.

Yavapai Advocacy Center – the Foundation's grant of \$2,500 will support Yavapai Advocacy Center's mission to provide mental health resources to victims of child or vulnerable adult abuse, neglect, domestic violence, and sexual abuse.

Community Pregnancy Center (CPC) – providing education and counseling to those experiencing planned and unwanted pregnancies, CPC will use the Foundation's grant of \$3,500 to purchase Similac Advance Formula baby food for its clients.

"For over 5000 years the concept of charitable giving to one's community has been an integral part of Jewish tradition," said Foundation president David Hess. "The Jewish Foundation is proud and honored to support these fine local organizations and agencies that provide such vital services to those in need throughout the greater Prescott area." ★



“DEEDS OF GIVING ARE THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE WORLD.”



ESCAPE FROM SOBIBOR

A TALE OF SURVIVAL AGAINST ALL ODDS

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As the fate of the free world stood in the balance as pilots of the Royal Air Force battled the Nazis over the skies of England in 1940 during WWII, Winston Churchill said: “Never was so much owed, by so many, to so few.” Now seventy years later, I believe those famous words could apply to our own community.

As a member of the Foundation’s grants committee, I have spent much of the past two months visiting and interviewing some of our local nonprofit organizations. The great recession of the last three years has tested the staffs and volunteers of these fine enterprises as they have never been tested before. Demand for services has increased and funding has decreased, yet somehow they have managed to ‘march on’ and serve those in need. Their dedication to purpose is inspirational.

Our community (the Many) owes these dedicated individuals (the Few) so much for what they do to alleviate suffering and need in our society. The Jewish Foundation salutes the Few!

David S.Hess, M.D., President

Please know that your comments and feedback are welcome and can be sent by email to info@jcfgp.org.

The vast majority of Jews who survived the Holocaust did so by persevering the atrocities they encountered at the hands of their Nazi tormentors. Their survival may have depended on where they were located, what camp they were sent to, the help of strangers, or just simply on luck. Occasionally, Jews survived because they fought their way to freedom, facing the Nazis in armed opposition.

At the annual Days of Remembrance event on May 3rd, the capacity audience at Yavapai College Performance Hall had the opportunity to hear and see such a survivor – **Thomas “Toivi” Blatt**, one of only six remaining survivors of the revolt at the Death Camp of Sobibor. Unwilling to accept death without resistance, the Jews of Sobibor were determined to defy their Nazi tormentors and devised a plan to liberate all 600 prisoners. On October 14, 1943, the Jews of Sobibor killed the Nazi SS camp officers and revolted, staging the largest and most successful escape of World War II.



Mr. Thomas Blatt, survivor of the Sobibor Death Camp, addresses the capacity crowd at the Yavapai College Performance Hall.

After storming the barbed wire fences, being raked by machine gun fire, and running across a minefield, 300 safely reached the outlying forest. Within days after the uprising, the Nazi high command closed Sobibor, bulldozed the buildings, and planted a forest in its place. Only 47 Jews survived the remaining 18 months of the war to bear witness to the atrocities at the Sobibor Death Camp. The heroic story of the uprising at Sobibor was immortalized in the 1987 award-winning British film, “Escape from Sobibor,” which aired on CBS to an audience of over 31 million viewers. Thomas Blatt was the technical advisor for the film and spent the better part of his life as a spokesman for those who perished at Sobibor.

Those expecting to see the strapping, young, courageous teenager, who had defied the Nazis, saw instead a frail white haired man with a cane take center stage at the auditorium. Then, in a quiet voice with a distinct Polish accent, Blatt held the audience spellbound as he recounted the story of his personal struggle against the Nazis. When he finished his story by showing a brief clip from the film, those in attendance gave Blatt a standing ovation - honoring his courage in the face of overwhelming odds. It was clear at the end of the evening, that those who were present – **would never forget what they had heard.**★



FOUNDATION JOINS OTHERS CREATES YAVAPAI HELPLINE COUNTYWIDE ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE IN NEED.



From the left, Saul Fein of the Foundation presents a \$20,000 check to Sue Rutherford, executive director of Yavapai HelpLine, Inc.

On any given Sunday there are 800 to 1,000 homeless people and more than 10,000 children without enough food to eat in Yavapai County. Countless others in the community have unanswered questions concerning elder care, rental assistance, healthcare, transportation, neglected children, and more. Yet the resources of the county's more than 700 non-profit organizations have frequently been under utilized. Why is that? The answer is simple – until now those in need did not know where to call to ask for help. Now they do – all they have to do is call Yavapai HelpLine.

On June 26, 2011 the volunteers at Yavapai HelpLine answered their first phone calls for help, and they have been answering those countywide phone calls ever since. Providing a single toll free

phone number, **1-855-807-4807**, Yavapai HelpLine is making accessibility to the county's social service resources simpler than ever before for those in need of assistance.

Partnering with the Fain Family Foundation, the Harold James Family Trust, Heights Church, the J.W. Kieckhefer Foundation, Life Line Ambulance Service, Inc., the Margaret T. Morris Foundation, Murphy's Restaurant, Gurley Street Grill, The Office Restaurant & Bar, Trauma Intervention Program, the Yavapai County Community Foundation, Yavapai Regional Medical Center, and Verde Valley Medical Center, the Jewish Community Foundation has provided financial support for Yavapai HelpLine, Inc., a resource referral center for the social services available in Yavapai County,

Arizona. Yavapai HelpLine's mission is simple: it provides a single, county-wide phone number those in need can call to be connected with those who can help.

Yavapai HelpLine has a simple vision: To create a community where those seeking help are successfully directed to organizations capable of providing the requested assistance. Utilizing the latest in technology, a field-tested database of social services available in the county, and crisis trained volunteers, Yavapai HelpLine provides its clients with one-stop calling for their questions concerning what services are available in Yavapai County.

The Jewish Foundation is proud to be associated with the creation of this new non-profit organization that is providing a much-needed service for the county. The Foundation hopes you will make others aware of Yavapai HelpLine's services, or perhaps call to volunteer to staff the phones lines at the HelpLine. As Martin Luther King once said: *"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: what are you doing for others?"* ★



Standing, Carrie Ziemanski, Volunteer Coordinator of Yavapai HelpLine, demonstrates the computer database of county resources to, Kolbi Heckethorn of the Heights Church.



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BYCER FAMILY DONATES HOLOCAUST COLLECTION TO CHINO VALLEY LIBRARY

Books and films detail 1933-1945 Nazi atrocities



From the left, Scott Bruner, Chino Valley Library Director, with Karen and Jay Bycer at the dedication ceremony of the Holocaust Collection.

The Chino Valley Public Library recently unveiled its “Holocaust Collection” in a special dedication ceremony on August 10th. The new, permanent anthology of more than 100 books and films provides an extensive record of the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and genocide of European Jews and others deemed “undesirable” by Nazi Germany from 1933 to 1945.

Donation of this historical collection by the Jewish Community Foundation was made possible by a generous gift from Jay and Karen Bycer. In a recent interview, the Bycers said, “As one of the important learning centers of our community, it felt appropriate that the library should have these materials available to the public, so that those who perished in the Holocaust are never forgotten.”

The public may access the Holocaust Collection at the library on 1020 West Palomino Road near the town hall. To learn more about this or other library collections, call the library at 636-2687 or visit online at www.chinoaz.net/library. ★

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