



LEGACY

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2010

JEWISH FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTES \$30,000

FIVE LOCAL CHARITIES AWARDED GRANTS

The Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Prescott has selected five local charitable organizations to receive \$30,000 as recipients of the 2010 Community Grants. Since its inception in 1998, the Jewish Foundation has supported the programs and services of many local nonprofits delivering assistance to those in need.

“The prolonged economic downturn has dramatically increased the need for basic necessities for many in our community, making this type of funding more important than ever for our community’s network of social service organizations,” said Saul Fein, chairperson of the Foundation’s grants committee. The service 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, through a comprehensive spectrum of food and meal services available seven days a week for those in need. When informed of the \$10,000 grant, Gerry Garvey of CCJ Open Door said: “The Jewish Community Foundation grant will make such a difference for so many in our community. We are thrilled to receive this generous support.”

Chino Valley Food Bank - an all-volunteer organization that provides food boxes including fresh meat, dairy, and egg products to approximately 700 families each month in the Chino Valley, Paulden, and Ashfork areas. Upon being told of the \$6,000 grant, MaryAnne Posante, treasurer of the Food Bank, said: “The grant from the Jewish Foundation will go a long way in helping meet the food needs of the families of our area.”

Prescott Meals on Wheels – a nonprofit organization providing a daily hot meal to 170 of the homebound in our community, while



From the left, Chef Bryan Nowicki and Executive Director, Gerry Garvey, of the Hunger Relief Collaboration are all smiles as they accept a \$10,000 check from Saul Fein of the Jewish Community Foundation.

servicing approximately 70 – 100 seniors daily in the congregate dining room at the Rowle P. Simmons Community Center. The Foundation’s grant of \$4,000 will fund a new program, providing a daily meal to the men living at the Project Aware Shelter, the only shelter for homeless men in Yavapai County.

North Star Youth Partnership – a program of Catholic Charities Community Services, North Star provides sport and physical activities and educational interventions that support health and wellness to girls ages 7 – 18, primarily from low-income families in Yavapai County. The Foundation awarded North Star a grant of \$4,000 to support its annual health, sports, and fitness camp for 260 Yavapai County girls.

Prescott Area Woman’s Shelter (PAWS) – the only organization in Prescott that provides shelter and support for homeless women. The Jewish Foundation awarded PAWS a grant for \$6,000 to fund the Overnight Advocates who provide oversight and support for the women at the shelter. Carmen Frederic, Shelter Director, was elated at the news of receiving the grant, saying: “This grant will allow us to continue the important work of the shelter.”

“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.”



CANDACE AND STEVE REID: MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY GIVING

Winston Churchill once said: “You make a living by what you do; you make a life by what you give.” For the Reid family helping others is not only what they do for a living, it is also what they do with their life. Candace, a family physician, and Steve, a physical therapist, chose their life’s work to help others in times of ill-health. What is so extraordinary about this couple is the amount of time and energy they spend after work to also help others. Driven by their strong Christian belief system, and inspired by the book, *The Treasure Principle*, three years ago they began a group called: “Give Big”. The mission of Give Big was simple: *give to those in need of assistance*.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

This month’s issue of Legacy contains the heartwarming story of the Foundation’s newest “Everyday Heroes”, Candace and Steve Reid, who are making a difference for those in need in our community. This issue also contains an article about the local charitable organizations that recently received Community Grants from the Foundation. As welcomed as these inspiring stories are, the truth behind the story is: the need in our community is great and times are difficult for so many in our area.

With our national economy struggling, my message to each of you is – please get involved. Start your own ‘Circle of Helping Friends’ like the Reids have done or find a charitable organization to support with your funds, energy, and time. No matter your station in life, together we can make a difference. The Jewish Talmud teaches: “Even a poor man, a subject of charity, should give to charity.”

David S.Hess, M.D., President

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

What started as a small idea to assist those less fortunate has grown in the last three years to include a multitude of volunteers who have completed over 100 small projects for others in our community. Working in groups as small as two and sometimes as large as 20 or more, Give Big has repaired the homes of injured veterans, chopped wood for those disabled, painted the homes of widows, replaced a sewer pump, and helped people move. Although Give Big does not charge those they help for their services, it seems the more the Give Big circle gives the more they receive.



From the left, Catherine Peach and Laurie Volcheck of the Community Pregnancy Center with Everyday heroes, Candace and Steve Reid in front of the new storage facility.

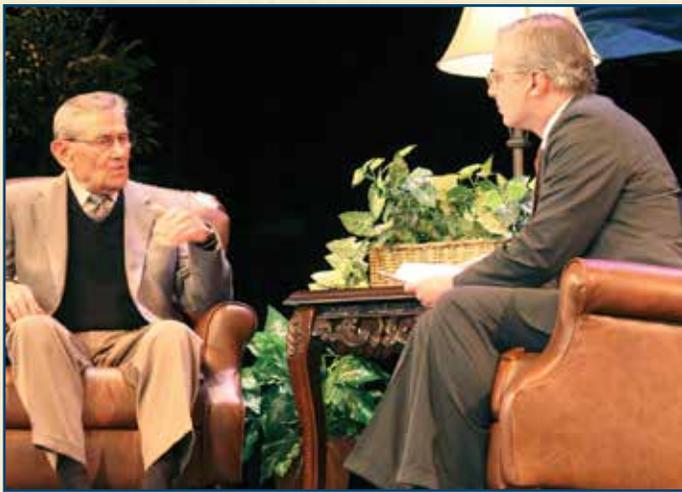
Give Big has developed a knack for making people feel good about the help they receive. Once after the group had done repair work for a widow in Dewey, the woman asked whether the group could put to use her late husband’s tools. Since Give Big frequently did home repairs for others, the widow’s offer was a welcome gift. When someone in the community heard that Give Big had no way to get the tools from job to job, that individual donated a trailer to the group to house and transport the tools. On another occasion someone the Give Big circle had helped, offered their carpentry skills for the next home repair project. Each story the Reids tell is just as inspiring and heart warming.

Most recently the Give Big circle constructed an addition for the Community Pregnancy Center to store seasonal clothing for newborns. As soon as the word spread about the project, construction materials such as roofing tiles, lumber, doors, and windows were donated for the project. When asked how they find out about needed projects and where does all the help come from, the Reids simply shrug and say: “It just kind of happens. People want to give.” The Jewish Community Foundation is proud to honor this wonderful couple as “Everyday Heroes” for their unselfish dedication to improving our community.

If you would like to nominate someone as an Everyday Hero, please contact the Jewish Foundation at 717-0016 or info@jcfgrp.org. ★



SAVED BY OSKAR SCHINDLER HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR'S PERSONAL STORY



From the left, Leon Leyson, the youngest of Schindler's Jews, on stage with Rabbi Billy Berkowitz at the Yavapai College Performance Hall.

If ever there was an unlikely hero during WWII, it was Oskar Schindler. A German spy, a member of the Nazi Party, a determined war profiteer, a womanizer, and a heavy drinker, Schindler transcended his flaws and rescued 1,200 Jews from certain death during the Holocaust. Oskar Schindler represents the small minority who mustered the extraordinary courage to uphold human values in a world of total moral collapse. **Although the movie, *Schindler's List*, powerfully portrays this human drama, nothing could replace the experience of hearing the remarkable story of Oskar Schindler first-hand from one of the Jews he saved.** And that is just what happened on April 13th at Yavapai College at the Greater Prescott Days of Remembrance Event, when Leon Leyson, the youngest of Schindler's Jews, told his personal story of survival in Krakow, Poland.

The overflow crowd of 1,450 heard the historical background of the Nazi domination of Europe and learned that despite the widespread discrimination against Jews there were individuals who stood by Jews in their time of persecution and great tragedy, risking everything to save Jews from the Holocaust. The most famous is Oskar Schindler – a man responsible for saving the life of the evening's featured speaker.

When he slowly walked onto the stage, Leon Leyson walked back in time to when he was a thirteen-year-old boy in Krakow, Poland in 1939. As Mr. Leyson engaged in a conversation with moderator, Rabbi Billy Berkowitz, he related what life was like for a young teenager caught up in the fast moving events of the Nazi rule in Poland. His story brought a deep silence to the audience as they were spellbound by the circumstances that brought Leon and his family to be on Schindler's List.

When Nazi forces invaded and occupied Poland in 1939, Leon and his family were living in Krakow where his father, Moshe, was employed as a machinist at a local glass factory. The Nazis wasted no time in imposing restrictions on the rights of Jews, including the arrest of Leon's father and his imprisonment for three months. Following his release, Moshe lost his job, the family was evicted from their apartment, and forced to move to the Krakow ghetto.

The Leyson family seemed destined to meet the same fate as did almost 3 million other Polish Jews – either to be murdered by killing squads or sent to the gas chambers at Auschwitz. However, it was the father's reputation as a skilled machinist that saved the family. Moshe Leyson became one of Schindler's first employees and over time the entire Leyson family came to work in Schindler's factory.



Yavapai County Sheriff Steve Waugh lighting a ceremonial candle commemorating the Jews murdered during the Holocaust.

Even though the Leyson family worked at Schindler's factory, they were still subject to the brutal and sadistic treatment at the Plaszow concentration camp. Time and time again Schindler intervened repeatedly on behalf of the Jews, through bribes and personal diplomacy, both for the well being of Jews threatened on an individual basis and to ensure that the SS did not deport his Jewish workers. Through sheer determination and will, Schindler protected his Jewish workers until the Russian liberation in 1945.

When asked: Why did Schindler save the Jews of Krakow? Leon Leyson told the audience: "Each of us at any time, faced with the particular circumstances, has the power to stand on the side of right. Ninety-nine percent of the time, we simply don't. Schindler is an ordinary man, not a special hero, and yet he did it. I owe my life to him because of that." ★



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- **Community Grant Recipients**
- **Everyday Heroes: Candace and Steve Reid**
- **A Survivor from Schindler's List**



THREE YEARS OF SUCCESS TICKETS FOR THE COMMUNITY

In the fall of 2006, Richard Brody, a Foundation trustee, proposed a program for the Foundation to provide tickets to area entertainment events for those in the community who were less fortunate. Working with fellow trustee Saul Fein, Richard developed a program to connect entertainment venues with local charitable organizations. Since the spring of 2007, the Foundation has provided tickets for more than 700 people to attend twelve entertainment events.

The program has provided tickets to venues such as: **Disney on Ice, Ringling Brothers Circus, Sundog Hockey, Adrenaline Football, Harkin Theater Movies, and Bowling at Plaza Lanes.** Participating groups have included Boys and Girls Club of Arizona, CASA, Yavapai Exceptional Industries, Special Olympics, Project Aware, Veterans Administration, Habitat for Humanity, and Coalition for Compassion and Justice. If you attended any of these events, you would see faces full of happiness! The Foundation would like to recognize Richard and Saul for their tireless efforts and unbridled enthusiasm for this wonderful program. ★



From the left, Shayann Bosick and Emma Lenihan enjoy the characters of Sesame Street Live at Tim's Toyota Center.

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