



SHOEBOX MINISTRY

Restoring Dignity to the Homeless



January ~ March 2012

Ordinary People with an Extra-Ordinary Purpose

Project Linus, Executive Women International, Whole Foods Market, Mona, Arizona Public Service, Betty, Housing Quest, Laurie, Eileen, Dot, Nicole, Lynn & Terry, Judy & Frank, Eileen & Mark, Christine, Pinnacle Peak Presbyterian Church, Becky, Jane, Bobbi, Bunny & Wayne, Cathy, IAAP Scottsdale Chapter, First Solar Inc., Palmer Tax Consulting, LLC, Joan, Sheila, The Church at Arrowhead, Bridget, Mary Ann, Active Money Management, Alexandria, Mountain View Presbyterian Church, Rita, Kadie, Martha & Richard, St. Barbara Philoptochos, Ann, Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Peggy, Barbara & Ralph, Ebony House, Christ the Lord Lutheran Church, Carol & Hood, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Cathy, Charlie, Phyllis, Katherine & Michael, Laura, Vivian, Kit & Bob, Shepherd of the Valley UMC, Maggie, Stephanie & John, Metro Phoenix Lioness Club, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Alex, Sam, Serena, Jan & Jon, Vicki, Debra & Mark, Encanto Community Church, Mary, Fellowship North, Patty & John, North Ridge Community Church, Patricia, Fennemore Craig, Cross In The Desert, Paul, Lynda, Baseline Christian Fellowship, Tori & Michael, Westbrook Village, Margie, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox, Christ Anglican Church, Christ Anglican Church, Gloria Dei Church, Clerk of the Superior Court, Les, NCL Sonoran Chapter, Phoenix Ski Club, Foothills Animal Rescue Thrift Store, Catholic Healthcare West, Church of the Beatitudes, Kathy & Bob, Connie & Jerry, Julian & Marjorie, Feed My Sheep Ministries, Deborah & Garry, Robert, Nancy & Mike and the numerous participants in our 21st Annual Holiday Sock Drive. Thank you all for giving of your time and/or donations this past quarter.

COMING UP...EASTER BOX-ETS

This year, Easter falls on April 8th. With your help we plan to continue our annual Easter Box-ets tradition. Why Box-ets? We combined shoe boxes with Easter baskets. The use of shoe boxes continues, but we add special treats that an Easter Basket would have. We prefer that you make Family boxes for the Easter Box-et Drive. You can find our suggested recipe on our web site. You then add typical Easter candies and an Easter Greeting. For the children, you can add small toys or something special for the children. Be creative! If you plan to wrap your box or decorate it, please wrap only the lid so that the box can be opened without destroying the wrapping and/or decorations.

You have always been so creative with how you decorate the Box-ets. The recipients love to receive them whether they are adults or children. These are folks who probably have very little to none of the items in our recipes, let alone all the special Easter items. You should be very proud of your special boxes. They are well received and so appreciated. For less than \$25 you provide the family with much needed personal hygiene items and provide happy memories of a stranger who cared enough to be generous to them. Be sure to label the top of the box accordingly for the recipients.

In the past we have received some incredible Easter Baskets. They are so fantastic that there are some feelings hurt when one family gets it and others get only a box. So even though they all love to receive a basket, we ask that you use a shoe box or similarly sized box. It can still be special by how you decorate it and what you include in the box. **Some churches have let the children decorate the boxes and include a note for the recipients.** They are treasured.

If you would like to use the Easter Box-et Flyer to promote this drive, you can find it on our web site at <http://www.shoeboxministry.org/events.php>

SOCK WRAP

As many of you know, we have not held an annual Sock Wrap event in the last few years. Not because it didn't work; but because it worked almost too well. We had reached the point that over 500 volunteers were coming to our annual Sock Wrap. The room had a fire code for about half that number. It is a shame that we have not been able to find a facility large enough for us to continue our special event. If any of you know of a larger location that would host this event at no cost to us, please let us know. We want to hold the next Sock Wrap this year. It was an event that families could do together, teens could get their volunteer hours, and everyone had a good time. For many, it was their only volunteer activity for the year. Not every organization can wrap 35,000 pairs of socks in one day. We need to bring it back. We need a large enough facility that has enough space, parking, tables and chairs. It could be a large church or a hotel with conference rooms or somewhere you know of that we don't. Be our super-hero and help us bring it back.

Meanwhile, since we weren't able to have a Wrap Day this year, one of our board members, Becky Gaylor, had one. She owns an accounting and investment firm called GAMMI. She invited her clients and friends to come to her office on a Saturday for a half day of wrapping. So many people came that it was almost standing room only. The result was many bags of beautifully wrapped socks. We all had a great time and many people commented that they would like to do it again. Check out the pictures from the wrap day. Thank you Becky!



2011 ANNUAL SOCK DRIVE

Although we missed our target of 40,000 pairs, each and every pair that we collected are going to men, women and children who really need them. For many, it was the only Christmas gift they received. Foot problems continue to be the most treated problem at the Homeless Clinic. The clinic will now have enough pairs to give to their foot patients for 2012. You can donate socks throughout 2012. There will always be a need. There are 23,861 recipients that are grateful that you took the time to buy socks for them. 33 shelters received socks through your generosity. Each toiletry kit that we send out in 2012 will have a pair of new socks in it as well. A big thank you to the many churches, businesses and individual donors who contributed. You made a difference rather than an excuse.

The best portion of a good man's life is his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love.--William Wordsworth

WALKING YOUR TALK AWARD

We have a founder's award that is given by our founder, Judy Borgeson. Judy chooses the recipient based on their extraordinary service to Shoebox Ministry. This is a special award for those who not only talk the talk but also walk their talk.

In 2011 there were three chosen to receive this award. The first was Patricia Jeriha. She has supported Shoebox for nearly 20 years. She first brought it home to her husband who also supports us. She doesn't take no for an answer! Then she brought it to her church, Resurrection Lutheran Church.

She was able to get them to talk and walk! RLC has generously supported us with toiletry donations on a grand scale. She keeps them informed

with our current pressing needs and they respond. On one of their deliveries to the office they brought many bags and boxes of our most needed items. Plus that delivery included 900 large men's deodorants, something we never have in inventory. They blessed 900 men with deodorant that was specifically made for men, and they were large and of high quality. We are grateful for their continued involvement.

Then she brought Shoebox to work with her and has had special drives with her coworkers to donate for the ongoing toiletry drives as well as the Sock Drives and the Mother's Day Purse Drives. She caught the attention of management and they have become involved by financially supporting us with frequent substantial checks throughout the year. The company is **Fennemore Craig**. They were chosen to get the second Walking Your Talk Award of 2011. They are also the first corporation to get this award, but it is not their first year of supporting us. Not only do they allow Patricia to hold the drives at work, they also support Shoebox with frequent generous financial donations to Shoebox Ministry. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the many homeless recipients, we thank you Patricia and Fennemore Craig for your outstanding service.

The other award winner is **Ann**. Ann has been a valued supporter for several years. She is very modest about it and doesn't want special attention for her good works. That is why I have omitted her last name. Ann calls us monthly to see what our current pressing needs are. She then goes shopping for us and drops off large donations of everything we are short on. She makes the difference that keeps us on target time after time. Ann, we want you to know that we are so grateful for all you do, even though you Walk Your Talk so quietly.

I'm choosing to make a difference for 2012!

Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$500 ~ I will provide toiletries to support 25 families for a month.
- \$400 ~ To provide toiletries for 20 families for a month.
- \$300 ~ I will provide toiletries to support 5 individuals for 6 months.
- \$400 ~ To provide toiletries for 20 families for a month.
- My generous gift of \$_____ to make a difference.
- Please save postage by providing a combined receipt at the end of the year.
- Please include me in future email communications. My email address is:

@

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Thank you for your generosity. If you pay Arizona state taxes, you may be eligible to receive a tax credit when you donate up to \$400 if filing jointly or \$200 if filing singly. Essentially diverting your state income taxes to Shoebox. To inform us of an address change, be taken off the mailing list, receive a soft copy of our newsletter, please call 480-905-1610, TTY 800-367-8939 or email info@shoeboxministry.org

