



January 2014

Member Dispatch

Making a positive impact on the lives of children and families.

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Education VPs Steve Groth and Julie Goodman oversee a plethora of SBCO education and enrichment programs.

Mark Your Calendars

Welcome to 2014

January 13 - 3pm, monthly meeting and program featuring our education programs. See the related story on page two. **We will meet in the Mesquite Grill (near the MountainView Clubhouse).**

February – No monthly meeting and program.

March 22nd – Remember our BIG food drive for Tri-Community Food Bank. Contact Joan and Rich Roberts for details.

April – A BIG MONTH. Look for news about our garden tour, our volunteer appreciation, and the election of board officers. Dates to be announced.

January's General Meeting and Program to Focus on Education

On Monday, January 13, at 3:00PM SaddleBrooke Community Outreach will hold its monthly program for everyone interested in learning more about our educational programs. Our meeting will be at the Mesquite Grill.

Since its 1997 beginning SBCO has held its educational focus. Initially it was to provide appropriate classroom clothing for children in neighboring communities. Research showed that youngsters lacked shoes, underwear, even pants and jackets; this kept them from attending school on a regular basis, not only missing out on education but school meals, services of a nurse, opportunities for physical education and for social interaction. In 1998 we began Project Catapult, a tutoring program at Mammoth Elementary School. It was so successful that it went to other area elementary and high schools in our service area. In 2000 we began supporting summer enrichment programs that included College For Kids, reading projects, swimming instruction for safety, and supplementary education classes for youngsters at pre-K and kindergarten levels. We now assist with enrichment programs throughout the year. Today our scholarship programs support students at U of A, ASU, community colleges, and even out of state schools.

Our joint VP's are Steve Groth and Julie Goodman. They will address the audience on January 13 with information about enrichment programs, scholarships with possible mentor opportunities, and tutoring in both math and reading for all levels. While our service area covers 100 miles from Catalina to the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation, all tutoring is offered in area schools within easy commuting distance and with carpool possibilities. Come and learn more about us! After all, It's All About the Kids! Our website is www.community-outreach.org.

SBCO Tutor Appreciation Day – Help Wanted

Since you are reading this, you are likely in the “older, wiser, and gentler” demographic. That wisdom and compassion are no doubt the result of experience. You just might enjoy sharing that “experience” with some who need it and would appreciate it. Ever thought about becoming a tutor? There are kids who sure could use your help. Intrigued? Interested? Want to learn more? Saddlebrooke Community Outreach (SBCO) is hosting “Tutor Appreciation Day” on Saturday, January 18th, from 10am-12pm at the HOA 1 Activity Center, on the corner of Samaniego and Galveston. Refreshments included. This celebration isn't just about honoring current SBCO tutors—worthy though that might be. You will also hear about the tutoring program, how it works, and the schools included. The highlight of the program will be the opportunity to chat with your tutoring friends and neighbors, and learn firsthand what being a tutor means to them. Sounds like a great morning. Celebrating worthy volunteers; learning more about tutoring; and chatting with your neighbors! See you there.

How about that Golden Goose!

Are you aware that 54% of SBCO's annual revenues come from the Goose? Visit its website www.goldengooseaz.com . Donate generously and shop extravagantly. Do both early and often.

Knitted Hats for SBCO's Kids' Closet

When youngsters come to Kids' Closet for their winter wardrobes, they receive a knitted hat, always donated by volunteer people in communities across the country. This primary program of SaddleBrooke Community Outreach provides two seasonal wardrobes to eligible youngsters in our service area that extends from Catalina to Superior, and to the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation. Children in this 100 mile corridor come to Kids' Closet in Mammoth where they are paired with an SBCO volunteer and select three pairs of pant, three shirts, sneakers, underwear and socks, hygiene items and two reading –for-fun books. In the winter they also can select a jacket and a knitted hat. When Old Pueblo Knitters learned about the hats they were invited to accept a challenge from President Saumya VanderWyst to knit 30 hats in 30 days by each member. This is referred to as the Challenge of



Knits for our kids has been an SBCO staple for many years.

the Year, COY. This Tucson group is a chapter of the Knitting Guild of America. SBCO Vice President of Kids' Closet Judy Williams visited the group, which meets in St. Phillips Episcopal Church. When Judy left, she had a commitment for 273 hats for the closet, and a promise to return next year! For SBCO, and OPK, it is really "all about the kids".

It's That Teen Closet Time of Year

Mimi Sander announced that SBCO's Teen Closet program will take place on January 28 & 29, at First Avenue's Target and Ross for Less stores. She anticipates about a dozen teen participants, and while she thinks she has enough volunteer shoppers, anyone interested in working with these high school students may call Mimi directly: 825-4557.

Volunteers are paired with teens and shop for school appropriate outfits that meet the school dress codes. Each teen has a budget, and the volunteer must help the student stay within the budget. School supplies may be included if they are needed. Both men and women are encouraged to participate! These teens may be in the program for 4 years of high school if they meet the eligibility standards: acceptable grades, time with school counselors, good attendance, and participation in community service. We have had "graduates" who have then received our SBCO scholarships for college! We do make a difference in their lives.



Hungry neighbors in southern Pinal County benefit greatly from the labors of Joan and Rich Roberts. For years the Roberts have headed SBCO's annual food drive and its Thanksgiving Food Basket program. Yeah for the Roberts and their team!!

Holiday Food Baskets for Oracle

Two days before Thanksgiving, members of SaddleBrooke Community Outreach loaded their cars with all the trimmings for a holiday meal and headed to Oracle. Under the direction of chairmen Joan & Rich Roberts, the first stop was at the Oracle Ridge Learning Center where 10 baskets of food were quickly assembled for families whose children attend this school. Then our volunteers moved on to the Mountain Health & Wellness Center in Oracle to put together the remaining 20 baskets. Each family received a turkey with stuffing, cranberry sauce and gravy, canned vegetables, 10-pound bags of potatoes, and frozen pumpkin pies. Cool Whip and dinner rolls rounded out the meals.

Many people in our community donated nonperishable food items as well as cash contributions. The Roberts sorted the donations and then purchased what was needed. That included 30 turkeys ranging from 15 to 22 pounds! Some large families benefited from the bigger turkeys as well as additional canned goods and an extra pumpkin pie. The Tri Community Food Bank in Mammoth coordinates this program to ensure that food basket recipients are eligible for this support. SBCO members who assisted the Roberts in Oracle were Maggie de Block, Judy Williams, Paula Morgan, Tim McCauley. Marie Cato and Nan Nasser also helped, and photographed the operation for posterity.

Kids' Closet Happenings

By the closing of the fall season in December, Kids' Closet had provided wardrobes for 1625 youngsters. The service area now includes Sycamore Canyon Academy in Oracle. This is a facility that helps to improve the lives of struggling young men from age 12 to 18. Each student is responsible for organizing a community service project during their stay, and one of those projects will be to repair rain damaged areas in the north parking lot of Kids' Closet. They will be rewarded with pizza and beverages when the job is completed!

The closet also provides "emergency kits" to the schools in our program. These include clothing items that would be necessary for a child who experiences an accident while at school. These kits dispersed at the beginning of the school year, and replenished as requested.

These volunteers continue to respond to crisis situations, including a single mom with 3 children who lost their home in a fire. Maggie de Block and Mary Ann Alvarez provided clothing for the family, and the Golden Goose found items to set up a replacement kitchen as well as needed linens.

There are many opportunities to volunteer at the closet, either working directly with the children or helping with inventory and stocking. Call Paula Morgan(825-9753) or Judy Williams (818-7835) for more information.

Classifieds

Help Wanted! Math and reading volunteers. Contact Steve Groth or Julie Goodman for details.

For Sale! Bashas-SBCO community support cards. Bashas and SBCO have devised a way for us all to donate to SBCO while purchasing groceries. When we use our Bashas'-SBCO prepaid (gift-like) cards 6% of our purchase price will be donated to SBCO. You fill the card with cash, check, or credit card and then use it at the store like a gift card. Cards are available (\$5.00) at Suite L in SaddleBrooke's commercial center. The cards are free since each new card has \$5.00 of purchasing power [already] on it.

Help Wanted! TEEN CLOSET - Our next teen shopping trip will be the end of January. We will be shopping with students who have successfully completed the requirements of the program: passing grades, class attendance, community service, and have met regularly with their counselors. If you would like to volunteer as a shopper with one of the students, please contact Mimi Sander at 825-4557 or sanderlm27@msn.com.

Help Wanted! Suite L volunteers. We are always looking for folks to staff our Suite L. Shifts are three hours, 9am to noon or noon to 3pm, Monday through Wednesday. It's quiet, peaceful, and non-strenuous. Contact Joan Coyne at jhcoyne@att.net.

Your SBCO Officers

President Maggie de Block; Executive VP Joan Roberts; Treasurers Anne Everett, Sandy Valetton; Recording Secretaries Gayl Van Natter; Corresponding Secretaries Joan Mary Britton; Kids' Closet VP's Paula Morgan and Judy Williams; Education VP's Stephen Groth and Julie Goodman; Special Events VP Joe McGowan; Director of Membership Willie Reich; Directors of Communication Tim McCauley & Nan Nasser; Golden Goose Representative Ann Coziahr.

SBCO appreciates you!