

The LANTERN News

lán•tərn – [noun] — A transparent case for holding and shielding light or fire.

"Light" and "fire" are terms that can be used to describe life and spirit. Lanterns support the light, allowing light to breathe life and spirit into dark areas. The parents of clients, staff, volunteers and donors at the Civitan Foundation are the lanterns that promote and help foster the growth and development of the "flame" or "light" in each client at the Foundation.



Since 1968, the Civitan Foundation Inc., a 501c3 non-profit organization, has been providing multiple ever-changing programs to meet the needs of children and adults who are developmentally disabled.

These programs include:

- Camp Civitan
- Respite & Recreation Programs
- Home & Community Based Services (HCBS)
- Community Outreach and Disability Education
- Food and Nutrition Education
- Day Treatment Programs (DTA/DTT's)
- Williams Thrift Store

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FOUNDATION

Promoting Lifelong Fun Adventures for
 the Developmentally Disabled Since 1968

3509 E. Shea Blvd., Suite 117
 Phoenix, Arizona 85028

602.953.2944

info@campcivitan.org

www.campcivitan.org

1st Annual 2008 Lanterns Under the Stars

On Saturday, November 15 at Monterra at Westworld in Scottsdale, the Civitan Foundation hosted its first of many Lanterns Under the Stars. Over 125 people attended the event that celebrated our past and vision of the future. Guests enjoyed many "Camp" activities on the patio before dinner, including Smokey Bear, and a wonderful Silent Auction. We gave out inaugural awards to four "Lanterns" who give so much to the developmentally disabled community.

Lanterns of Empowerment

St. Luke's Health Initiatives

In 2005, St. Luke's Health Initiatives gave us the seed money through a Health in a New Key Partnership Grant. This seed money was used to start the Our Night Out program, a respite and recreation program in the valley for children and adults with developmental disabilities. We are proud and happy to say that today we are serving over 75 families in more than 7 cities across Maricopa County and continue to add new locations and clients each year.

Lanterns of Enrichment

Jo-Ann & Jim Armstrong

Jo-Ann and Jim Armstrong have been friends and dedicated donors of the Civitan Foundation for many years. Their support has helped expand, update, and maintain Camp Civitan facilities in Williams, Arizona. Their faith and confidence in our organization has helped us grow and preserve Camp Civitan, our most beloved program.

Lanterns in Our Community

SCYSAC Sun Cities/Youngtown Special Activity Center

SCYSAC was formed in 1979 to serve adults with developmental disabilities in the Sun Cities area. The group was ahead of their time, and realized the need for social activities and outings for not only the clients, but their families as well. The Civitan Foundation modeled the Our Night Out programs from SCYSAC and has learned from and helped advance this community group with additional weekly outings and support as the family members have grown older in age.

Lanterns for Life Ed Trapp

Ed Trapp has been a part of the Civitan Foundation for more than 25 years. Ed's leadership and continuous support has molded the foundation into what it is and stands for today. Ed has drawn on his friendships and business associations to help foster the growth and advancements of the foundation and has helped raise well over one million dollars for the Civitan Foundation. Ed's ever giving personality and willingness to help where needed has earned him this very special award.

Mark your calendar for the 2nd Annual Lantern's Under the Stars scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2009. There will be plenty of ways to get involved including serving on the planning committee, donating auction items, purchasing tickets for the evening and sponsoring a portion of the event. For more information, please contact Dawn Trapp at 602.953.2944.



Above Top: Karen Moran receiving the Lanterns in Our Community Award from Dawn Trapp.

Above Bottom: Sami Schinnell and Smokey Bear enjoying the evening at Lanterns Under the Stars.



The Director's Corner

As we proudly celebrate 40 years of service to our community, we reflect on where we have been, and continue to creatively explore possibilities for furthering our mission as we move toward the future. Since the Civitan Foundation was incorporated in 1968, one of our greatest strengths has been our ability to adapt and evolve as times and circumstances change. Leadership, funding streams, local resources, clients and family needs change tremendously throughout the years; but our determination to remain focused on how we can best meet the needs of our families is still the number one priority.

2008 was a very exciting and eventful year! All of our programs from Our Night Out, to summer camp, weekly recreation programs, and respite weekends were all at capacity or saw significant growth. The number of families in Arizona requesting services continues to grow which challenges our organization to approach this growth in a different way. Recently, the Civitan Foundation formed a partnership with The Virginia G. Piper Trust to assist us with introducing, training, and soliciting "baby boomers" to help with the care of our clients. This partnership will pay dividends down the road by allowing us to provide more respite providers who will meet the needs of those with developmental disabilities. Additionally, with the guidance of this partnership we are starting new enrichment programs including gourmet cooking classes, yoga, and fine arts just to name a few.

This year also marked the start of a new fundraiser for our organization; the Annual Lanterns Under the Stars. Our first event was a magical evening, one where we recognized those who have given so much to our organization and the developmentally disabled community. Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 26 and don't miss out on another wonderful way to support our organization.

As Executive Director, I can safely say, I do not want our organization to be a well-kept secret any longer. I want your support, dedication, many talents, and energy to help this organization continue to improve the level and volume of services provided to those with developmental disabilities and their families. As you reflect on how you can help us best meet our goals, consider sharing our organization with a friend, get involved with a fundraiser, community program, or simply write a check. No amount is too small and all monies are greatly appreciated!

I look forward to seeing you throughout the year!

Best regards,

Dawn Trapp

Dawn Trapp
Executive Director



Join us in **Building** a wall and **Creating Memories!**

We invite you to participate in the project that will forever link the past to the future; Camp Civitan's Memorial Wall. For \$75.00, \$150.00, or \$250.00 you may permanently make your mark on a granite brick inscribed with your personal message. Purchasing a brick is a highly visible way to celebrate your family, business, birthdays, holiday, a camper, or a loved one. Everyone loves to see their name on a wall! Call today for information on how you can become part of the bricks and mortar of our camp!



For more information about purchasing a brick, please call the Civitan Foundation office at 602.953.2944.

Thank You Donors!

We Love You

You all know who you are and so do we... We greatly appreciate all the donations, volunteers, grants, foundations, government entities, and in-kind gifts. We are in the process of updating our database and programs to better communicate with each of you on a more frequent basis. In addition, we are striving to keep better records of all gifts and volunteer hours. We value your support and look forward to your help in future campaigns and events.

See that new van driving around town with the new logos? We have worked very hard over the past few months to launch our new updated logos, brochures, and coming very soon, our website. It is truly amazing how much time and effort goes into these projects. I would like to give a special thank you to Jackie Brown, Kim Miller, and Melissa Blakon for their tedious hours of re-dos and designs. We are very proud of the new look and branding efforts.



CAMP CIVITAN

Camping out is an experience that every girl and every boy should have... There are certain sides of our nature that will be underdeveloped if we have not the campfire for our teacher. The experience that softens the heart and kindles friendship and the imagination is no less educative than the knowledge that instructs the head. Camping intensifies friendship, and friendship furnishes the motive and the reward of most of our efforts. It doubles our strength for achievement. It gives us most of the joys of life. It is the riches of the spirit and quite as worthy of effort as wealth or learning.

— Henry S. Curtis (1914: 125-6)

As the 2009 summer camp season grows near, so does the buzz and excitement around the office and at camp. We have had a very busy winter preparing and making ready the "Best Ever Year" so far. Each year the staff helps develop new and improved programs to add to the true and tested ones we are so accustomed to at Camp Civitan. The applications are arriving daily, and the bunk beds are starting to fill-up. The call for staffing has never been better, and so diverse with those who are gifted, talented, educated, and have huge hearts. This year the biggest change is that camps run MONDAY to MONDAY. This is going to allow us to participate in many northern Arizona festivals and community outings on weekends. This will also allow families to enjoy whole weekends of respite. As a parent said this week..... "my child talks all year about his vacation." I hope you plan a trip up north and visit us this summer, or come by the office on a Monday afternoon and see the smiles and laughter when the campers return.



Below: Campers and counselors getting ready for a hayride.

Above Top: Campers participating in golf lessons during summer camp.

Above Bottom: Sandra shows off her self-made hat while hanging out with Teresa Bruno.

Camp Civitan 2009 Camping Season

June 1-8 Mon. 9am-Mon. 4pm. 7 Nights Mountain Water Tubing @ Elk Ridge Lodge, Natl. Trails hiking & picnic event
 June 8-15..... Mon. 9am-Mon. 4pm. 7 Nights Bowling –Flagstaff, "Rumble" motorcycle show on Route 66
 June 15-22 Mon. 9am-Mon. 4pm. 7 Nights Grand Canyon Railways
 June 22-29 Mon. 9am-Mon. 4pm. 7 Nights Kid's Week, ages 5-22, Aquaplex water park in Flagstaff Deer Farm
 June 29-July 6..... Mon. 9am-Mon. 4pm. 7 Nights 2nd Annual Patriotic Week, Ride in Williams 4th of July Parade
 July 6-13..... Mon. 9am-Mon. 4pm. 7 Nights Munds Park Community Theater "Dogs"
 July 13-20 Mon. 9am-Mon. 4pm. 7 Nights Munds Park Community Theater "Sound of Music"
 July 20-27 Mon. 9am-Mon. 4pm. 7 Nights Rodeo & Western Days in Williams
 July 27 – Aug 3..... Mon. 9am-Mon. 4pm. 7 Nights Grand Canyon National Park
 August 3-10..... Mon. 9am-Mon. 4pm. 7 Nights Girl's Week, Aquaplex water park in Flagstaff, Total Makeover & PJ fashion show
 August 10-17..... Mon. 9am-Mon. 4pm. 7 Nights Boy's Week, Cardinal's Training Camp, Vintage Car Show in Williams



Civitan Foundation Looking for a Few Good Baby Boomers!

The Civitan Foundation is currently recruiting people for part-time positions helping with our group ONO programs or individual respite and habilitation. If you are interested or know of anyone who is, please contact Merilee Adams at 602.953.2944.

Civitan Wish List

The Civitan Foundation is always looking for in-kind donations. Listed below are a few items we need for our arts and crafts programs and to help us raise money. Check our website for additional items needed. If you are able to donate any of these items, please call the office at 602.953.2944.



Left: Brett, Stan and Jeremy during Rock Star Band Day, made with donated old t-shirts that they designed themselves for their rock concert performance!

- Old T-shirts
- Used Cell Phones
- Empty Printer Cartridges
- Off-Road Wheelchair
- Professional Camera or Prosumer Camera
- Ceramic Kiln
- Security Camera System
- Meat Slicer
- Art Supplies
- Laptop Computer
- Water Truck
- Travel Trailers (additional sleeping accommodations)
- 500 DVD RW's
- Small Outdoor Lockable Storage Units
- Sound System
- Good Used Items (for our thrift store)
- Costumes

Plan Now – Everyone Welcome!

Camp Civitan Annual Family *Polar Express* Weekend

Watch your child's dreams of Christmas come alive on historic Route 66 in Williams, Arizona with the town's Mountain Village Holiday and Camp Civitan's Annual Family Polar Express weekend. What a wonderful way to get in the real spirit of the holidays! Based on Chris Van Allsburg's classic children's book, *The Polar Express™*, is a train ride and holiday weekend your family will not soon forget.

Camp Civitan has annually hosted families and friends of the foundation as a way to celebrate the season. During the 2008 Family Polar Express Weekend, our camp housed approximately 80 people for the fun-filled festive weekend. Friday night kicked it off with a dance and pizza party; Saturday everyone enjoyed a pancake breakfast, then decorated hats and scarves, followed by a hike and a friendly game of kick-ball on the field. Before our train ride, Bev Whitlock and her staff prepared the tastiest Old Fashioned Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings. During our train ride, which departed at Williams Depot, we journeyed through the dark and quiet wilderness for a special visit to the "North Pole." Everyone enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies while listening to the magical story and sang carols! Once we arrived at the "North Pole," Santa Claus and his reindeer were waiting to board the train and handed each child their own special gift.

We have already reserved two cars for 2009 and invite you to join us. Mark your calendar for December 5th. Reservations are now available for just the train ride, or for the whole weekend package at camp, including dorms, meals, and all activities. For more information call the office at 602.953.2944.



Above: Santa and his special chef give out hot chocolate, cookies and a special gift of Christmas to each child on the Polar Express.

Below: A rendering of the miniature golf course.

Help Us *Develop* Our New Miniature Golf Course!

The Civitan Foundation is in the midst of developing a 9-hole miniature golf course at the 15-acre Camp Civitan facility in Williams, Arizona. It is anticipated that the 9-hole course will be made available to campers beginning next summer. The addition of this fully wheelchair accessible recreational venue will bring opportunities and benefits to all campers including; physical fitness, fine and gross motor skill development, and sportsmanship. Additionally, the miniature golf course will allow our organization the opportunity to hold "camper" golf tournaments and clinics involving area golf professionals and possible Special Olympic partnerships.

There is still time for you or your company to become a Hole Sponsor for \$3,000, which includes a Pin Flag with your company logo on it! For more information call Dawn Trapp at 602.953.2944.



Caring *Connections*...

The Civitan Foundation has partnered with The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust to create, educate, and engage older Maricopa County residents in an employment program for positions assisting individuals with developmental disabilities. We have presently trained over 25 "boomers". These positions are mostly part-time and involve working in many of our group ONO programs or individual respite and habilitation.



Spearheading this program is Merilee Adams, pictured above, a seasoned innovator with over 30 years experience as a professional artist, whose commissioned works hang in private collections around the world. A third generation artist, from early childhood, Merilee has worked side-by-side with her grandparents, parents, and brother in ceramics, copper enameling, painting, mosaic, leather, jewelry, and woodworking. She has been juried into some of the most prestigious shows in the country and her desert landscapes are currently displayed at the Camelback Inn in their private collection. Eight years ago she was drawn to work with special needs children in the public school system. It was there that she successfully applied her skills in working with a variety of disabilities as a caregiver, while also adapting art projects to the student's abilities. We are excited to have Merilee as part of our team as she works on recruiting and mentoring our new hires, as well as assisting with adaptation and inclusion of fine arts into our programs.

Working Poor *Tax Credits* Can Help You and The Civitan Foundation!

You can start saving on your 2009 Taxes now by making your donation to the Civitan Foundation! Many people do not realize that they can support the Civitan Foundation and receive a tax credit at the same time! The Working Poor Tax Credit (ARS 43-1088) can be made in **addition** to any public/private school tax credit! Through the State of Arizona, individual taxpayers may donate up to \$200, or taxpaying couples filing jointly, may donate up to \$400. This is not just a year-end contribution, it can be made anytime, and can also be designated to a specific camper/client. This is a great way to save dollar for dollar on your taxes and help pay for camp and other monthly programs for those who cannot afford it or for your own family members.

Donations for this program can be sent directly to the Civitan Foundation Office at 3509 E. Shea Blvd, #117, Phoenix, AZ 85028.

NEW ENRICHMENT CLASSES

Taking Our Health *One Step Further.....*

The Civitan Foundation started a new set of enrichment classes designed to enhance our mind, bodies, and souls. In January, we kicked off a series of cooking classes that focused on cultural cooking. Participants selected a country, learned about that country's cuisine and culture, and created a meal specific to that region. These dinners emphasized creating balanced meals and increasing the quantity of fruits and vegetables in our diet. A complete meal of an appetizer, entrée, and dessert were created at each session through the use of a toaster oven and camp style burners. The participants did all of the cooking each week and enjoyed delicious foods, good laughs, and created many wonderful memories. The four week session ended with a visit from local chef Joe Aiello, sharing his secret recipes, and dining with the group.

The second class was stretching, breathing, and yoga, under the instruction of staff member, Frank. The participants enjoyed the new learned techniques of how to calm and relax themselves. The third class was coined as Art/Music with our own Merilee Adams. Jonathan, along with many other staff and volunteers, worked for four evenings creating a guitar for each person. They used electric saws, then sanded, painted and even played these wonderful masterpieces at a 50's style party held on the last evening.

Yes, you guessed it, many of these classes are being utilized by families as respite or habilitation. The Civitan Foundation prides itself in the many educational and creative components of our programs. We are truly not your everyday respite provider. We strongly believe in the power of peer socialization and the rewards and advancements the individuals are able to achieve in these programs. Our larger office space has allowed us to expand our services, offering these types of programs in our main office on Shea Blvd. We are very proud of the creative staff we have on board and the lineup of classes for the next sessions.

Reservations for the 2nd Quarter Classes are now being accepted. Classes being offered include scrapbooking, ballroom dancing, introduction to performing, and an additional cooking class. At this time we want to ask each of you; do you have a special talent, interest, love of, or something you might be willing to share with these wonderful children and adults? The classes run for four weeks, one night a week (usually Monday) and last about three hours. Please call Dawn Trapp at 602.953.2944 to discuss your ideas.

Top Photo: Patrise Playing Her New Handmade Guitar | Middle Photo: Maeve and Megan | Bottom Photo: Kevin and His Masterpiece



Eat Well **Be Well**

We are excited to announce that our partnership with the Arizona Nutrition Network has been renewed for the fifth consecutive year. Each year we have been fortunate enough to expand our budget which allows us to

incorporate more nutrition lessons at camp, the ONO programs, and to provide community outreach within local DES offices and various DTA programs. The messages we communicate during our lessons mirror the Arizona Nutrition Network campaigns. Our goal of growing healthy children includes having our clients realize the importance of incorporating more fruits and veggies into their daily eating habits, and to consume 1% or fat-free dairy products. Watch for recipes, food demonstrations, and the fun food news throughout the year!



*Above Right: Chef Joe Aiello & Seana make a great sauce during one of our enrichment classes.
Above Left: Chef Joe works with clients on the best method to use when separating eggs.*

Materials for the cooking class was federally funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program through the Arizona Nutrition Network. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program provides nutrition assistance to people with low income. It can help you buy nutritious foods for a better diet. To find out more, contact 1-800-352-8401. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



State Cuts/Advocacy and *How Can You Help?*

The Civitan Foundation is an active member of the Arizona Association of Providers for People with Disabilities. Through this organization, we actively lobby for the rights and future for our families and the services they receive. The Arizona Association of Providers for People with Disabilities has provided us with the letter you will find written below. This letter provides detailed information regarding the horrific truths of what the state DDD/DES has done and is trying to do. We are asking our families to please help distribute this information, contact the Governor's office, your State Legislatures, the newspaper and other families about taking action against these startling and disturbing cuts in funding that will affect future service levels our agency and those like ours will be able to offer. Your voice will make a difference!

"This is difficult for us to report the following to you, but it is time for us to frighten you – with the truth about your future services.

Every day the newspaper reports that the deficit in the state budget grows. This deficit has already hit 2009, (the budget year we are in), and now the 2010 budget starting in July has been released with further cuts to the services we provide to you or your families. Other services are scheduled to be eliminated. The only reason your organization has not experienced 10% cuts in services, and services eliminated, is that, with other provider organizations we have sued the state in Superior Court, and have a Temporary Injunction granted by the court. But it will not last. The state is appealing the decision to a higher court.

Looking ahead, even the fiscal year 2011 budget will still be in a deficit position.

We either have to fight for our services or we may close, give up services, ration services, cut transportation, and decrease staff levels. In residential services, the only places we can cut are food and staff. The only hope we have is for you to join the fight against cuts. There are 29,000 people receiving services to the developmentally disabled, and it will take each of us to fight against devastating cuts. Please contact our office for listings of who you can write, email or call. WE NEED ALL YOUR VOICES.



Civitan Foundation 2009 Calendar

- Camp Civitan Summer Camp June 1st — August 17th
- 2nd Annual Lanterns Under the Stars..... Saturday, September 26th
- Annual Family Polar Express Weekend..... Saturday, December 5th

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