The Director’s View!
Dick Geasland, LCSW, Executive Director

As we look to publish our April issue of Street Talk, we are fast approaching Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development’s big fundraising event, “Pathways to Hope” on May 15th. Of course, the funds we raise at this event are critical to our ability to provide the much needed services to the youth we serve, but just as important is the opportunity to recognize companies and individuals who have made a difference in the lives of homeless and at risk youth.

The “Agnos Visionary Award,” in honor of our founder and long time community leader Shirley Agnos, is awarded to an individual who has made a difference in the lives of youth in our community and their individual efforts to support the work of Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development (TCYD). This year’s Agnos Visionary award recipient will be Art Cunningham, Principal of Fountainhead Equity Partners. Art is not only the largest individual donor to TCYD but one of those rare individuals who give of himself as well.

After last year’s event, Art was standing by the door getting ready to leave with his many live and silent auction items with a bit of a perplexed look on his face. As I thanked him for his continued support, I asked if everything was okay. His response was that he wasn’t sure he could get everything in his car as it was full of fishing equipment that he had purchased to take the boys from TCYD’s Boys House fishing early the next morning.

The days outing was reported by both Art and the boys from the group home to have been great fun with fishing, football and lots of good food, all enjoying a retreat that Art and some partners are developing near Camp Verde. This is a group of young men that are going through the Juvenile Court process of “being accountable” to the community for breaking laws, and not youth everyone would be comfortable spending time with, let alone a full day at a special retreat. Regardless if it’s fishing, playing football or basketball with our youth or sharing generous financial resources with TCYD, Art is a genuinely caring and special individual. And TCYD is only one of many social causes Art supports with his time and money.

The “Champions of Hope Award” honors a corporation that exhibits not only a connection and support to TCYD programs, but “Corporate Stewardship” of our community. This year’s recipient, QuikTrip Corporation defines the true spirit of the award. I was introduced to QuikTrip as a corporate citizen when Debi Friggel with QuikTrip national Corporate Community Relations, based in Tulsa Oklahoma called to make an appointment during her trip to Phoenix in the Spring of 2005. Debbie Friggel who also serves on the National Safe Place board of directors was convinced that TCYD was the best local agency to be the Maricopa County designated Safe Place organization.

Debi convinced me and, as they say, the rest is history. Since that time we have had the honor of having the Regional HR Manager for QuikTrip, Gary Mootz, to join our Board; QT has sponsored many events and donated time and goods for projects with our youth and most recently brought in a crew that included the Division manager, Chuck Barton, and a huge truck on a Saturday morning to move our Boys House program to their new facility. You may have also seen in Oct and March ads in the Republic that promoted the Republic partnering with QuikTrip to recognize QT for their community work and for the Republic to donate a portion of every Paper sold in QT stores for those two months to TCYD, this is a result of QuikTrip leveraging their relationship with a business partner to bring support to the community and TCYD in particular. Gary was also on the United Way Campaign Committee and not only helped make the United Way Campaign a huge success, but helped QT run a very successful internal United Way campaign.
Defining a “Safe Place”

With all the clatter in media regarding our safety and security, it is hard to know how we all sleep so sound. We hear about Homeland Security, Social Security, economic security, airline safety, school safety, and we run out of breath before we finish. We hear talk, but rarely see tangible action. This wasn’t the case last month, though, when something occurred in our community that went unnoticed by the media.

Arizona Federal Credit Union launched the opening of Safe Place at all of its 27 branches and service centers, creating a place for runaway and homeless youth to seek immediate help. Without much fanfare, all employees of the organization were trained to help any homeless or runaway young person walking into their locations seeking help.

Ronald L. Westad, President & CEO of Arizona Federal Credit Union, and a long time supporter of Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development, said “This is a no brainer.” With such optimism from Ron regarding our youth and their safety, Arizona Federal Credit Union signed on as the pilot program for the Arizona Credit Union League, an organization made up of all of Arizona’s nearly 60 credit unions. “We talk about ‘defining service’, the ‘spirit of service’ Westad said, “for us, service is not just a financial transaction, it is how we treat every individual walking through our doors.” Keeping its members’ earnings safe is what Arizona Federal does daily. Keeping the youth of our community safe is what Arizona Federal chooses to do.

Richard E. Geasland, Executive Director of Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development welcomed Arizona Federal on board as our newest partner with the Safe Place program. “Finding help quickly is critical for young people on the street. We are excited that Ron and his team became our pilot for the Arizona Credit Union League. This step by Arizona Federal Credit Union is significant for many reasons; first, it sets a new standard for our community. The support of the Arizona Credit Union League has been exciting for our organization; to partner with a group of financial institutions that are commited to the community and filled with such activism is a great opportunity.” The second and most important reason for celebration is that this service is available to ALL youth within the entire community—not to credit union members only. Arizona Federal Credit Union joins QuikTrip, which offers almost 60 locations in the Valley for runaway and homeless youth. Geasland noted that, together, these two generous companies provide nearly 90 sites for youth needing immediate assistance. He went on to state that on any given night, over 1,900 young people are homeless. Human trafficking is becoming more known to the public at large because of recent media attention. There is, however, nothing new about this issue; it has plagued young people for many years. For some, the decision to flee is impulsive, and suddenly a young person finds themselves on the street with only the clothes on their back and whatever loose change happens to be in their pockets. It’s a scary and dangerous situation for any person, let alone a teenager.

Since Jan. 1 of this year, more than 60 young people have been helped in our valley. Just last week a young girl of 14 running away from home walked into a QuikTrip store looking for help. She was connected with Tumbleweed Center for Youth, and with our staff’s assistance, she was able to work through her issues with her family and was reunited with them. Knowing you can walk into a place of business and feel secure by the sign on the door, and know that help is just a few feet away inside, is a tremendous relief to a young person. Another story this past week was an e-mail from a mother struggling with a teenage daughter who left home. Mom suspected where the teen might be staying, but the teen’s school recommended contacting Tumbleweed for additional help. This is a case of a mother seeking help and a solution before reconnecting with her runaway daughter.”

Unfortunately, stories like these are not isolated incidents. With Arizona Federal Credit Union joining QuikTrip Corporation we now have in excess of 90 locations were young people can get help quickly. If you would like to help please visit our website at www.tumbleweed.org

*If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.*

John Quincy Adams
PATHWAYS TO HOPE
INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Join us for an evening of Celebration.
An auction for all budgets and tastes
Private Helicopter Ride and Golf Package in SEDONA, AZ!

**SEDONA PACKAGE INCLUDES:**
- A Private Helicopter ride to and from Sedona, AZ for THREE
- Golf for THREE at the Seven Canyons private golf residence club in Sedona,
- Delicious lunch at Seven Canyons
- Scenic twilight return flight

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7 days/6 nights in SCOTTLAND and 3 days of Golf at St. Andrews!

**SCOTLAND PACKAGE INCLUDES:**
- 3 days of golf for FOUR at the historic St. Andrews Links in Scotland!
- 3 nights accommodations for FOUR at The McDonald Rusacks Hotel, St. Andrews (includes 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners)
- 3 nights accommodations for FOUR at The McDonald Roxburgh hotel, Edinburgh
- Airfare TO and FROM Scotland

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6 Days/5 Nights at Ko’Olina or Kaua’i Beach Club in HAWAII!

**2 HAWAII VACATION PACKAGES EACH INCLUDE:**
- 6 days and 5 night luxurious accommodations at Marriott Resort Beach Club situated on the very beautiful Kalapaki Beach!
- Airfare TO and FROM Hawaii
Sports Memorabilia

Brett Favre
AUTOGRAphed JERSEY!
Celebrate Brett Favre's amazing career and recent retirement with this autographed jersey.

- Muhammad Ali Signed Glove with photo in Shadowbox
- Sandy Koufax and Hank Greenberg signed Hall of Fame Display
- Brett Favre and Brian Urlacher Signed photo
- Pat Tillman Commemorative piece with Bracelet
- Brett Star Signed photo 16 X 20 display
- Brett Favre Signed display with ticket
- Tom Brady signed display with ticket
- Dale Earnhardt Junior & Senior signed photos display
- Lou Holtz Signed Photo display
- Vince Lombardi Commemorative with SIGNED CHECK
- White Sox Team autographed WORLD SERIES celebration photo
- Willie May’s autographed “The Catch” 16x20 display
- Tiger Woods, Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus signed scorecards display

“Cassius Clay”
(before he changed his name)
AND
“Howard Cosell”
AUTOGRAphed PHOTO!
**ONLY TWO KNOWN TO EXIST IN THE WORLD!**

3 baseballs signed by: Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams AND Mickey Mantle
In Shadowbox display with Photos & Cards
**TV and Film Memorabilia**

**Hannah Montana Cast**
Hannah Montana pandemonium has swept this generation's teens and tweens! This 11x14 signed and framed photo of the cast will put a smile on anyone's face.

- Grey’s Anatomy framed and signed photo of the cast - ALL 11 Signatures
- Disney's "The Suite Life of Zack and Cody" framed and signed by the stars Cole and Dylan Sprouse
- Johnny Depp in Pirates of the Caribbean framed and signed photo
- HBO’s Entourage framed photo signed by Jeremy Piven, Kevin Connolly, Adrian Grenier, Kevin Dillon and Jerry Ferrara
- Heroes framed and signed photo of the cast - ALL 10 Signatures!
- Desperate Housewives framed and signed photo of the cast - ALL 5 signatures!
- Harry Potter photo framed and signed by Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint and Emma Watson
- Myley Cyrus as “Hannah Montana” framed and signed photo
- Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom in Pirates of the Caribbean framed and signed photo

**Sex and the City**
SIGNED and framed photo of the cast!

**Highschool Musical**
Signed by TWO AUTOGRAPHED FRAMED PHOTO!
"You are the music in me." This 11x14 is autographed by High School Musical's Zac Efron and Vanessa Anne Hudgens.
Music

The Beatles Commemorative piece Signed by ALL FOUR MEMBERS!

You could own this RARE Beatles commemorative piece with FOUR authentic signatures from John Lennon, Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr and George Harrison framed with an album cover, two records and several photos.

Elvis Presley AUTOGRAPHED FRAMED PHOTO!

Eric Clapton Signed & framed 11x14

Other Fabulous Items

- Molina Fine Jewelry Watches
- Helzberg Diamonds Certificates
- Interior Design Consultation
- Phoenix Zoo Tickets
- Verde Canyon Railroad Tickets
- Grand canyon weekend get-a-way
- Golf Packages
- Original Oil Paintings
- Rawhide tickets
- Cooking classes
- Imax Theater Tickets
- Dinner Certificates
- Homeless Youth Art
- Health Club Memberships
- Navigation Systems
- 20 inch Rims & Tires
- Wine tasting Party for 12

AND MUCH MORE!
The brightness of the Phoenix sun is reflected in two gentlemen who radiate the beauty and prophecy of the ancient Greek god through their generosity with our Greenhouse Project. Lee Revelle and Ron Lindblad, owners of Apollo Lounge on 7th Street, chose to support the effort while attending the Equality Arizona Awards Banquet last year when Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development received the humanitarian award for its work on the Greenhouse Project.

Each year Lee and Ron select a charity to support, and this year they chose the Greenhouse Project to donate the $10,000 in proceeds from a fundraising event last month. They hosted a fabulous evening at their lounge where the goodness and diversity of all those who attended revealed the spirit of Apollo.

Beyond the monetary gift, we are most fortunate to call on Lee and Ron as friends who continue to promote and support our efforts. For more information on the GreenHouse Project, please visit our website at www.tumbleweed.org