



TCAA Community Connection

TCAA's FEAI Program: Fostering Family Self-Reliance and Stability



TCAA's newest program, the Family Economic Advancement Initiative, prepares economically disadvantaged families for advanced education, financial management skills, home-ownership, and improved economic security through new or better jobs. The program targets single parent households with children living in select high poverty Tempe neighborhoods. Toni, a young mother of four children, enrolled in the program to seek help with transitioning from seasonal, low wage jobs to employment that could enable her to support her family and become more economically self-reliant. Toni left high school before graduation and the lack of a high school diploma, along with a lack of reliable and affordable childcare, made her job search all the more challenging. With help from TCAA, Toni was able to enroll in GED classes, secure childcare assistance, stabilize her housing situation, update her resume and participate in employment readiness training. Toni is continuing to work while pursuing her GED. She desperately wants to serve as a positive example for her children. From our perspective, Toni is well on her way! To learn more about the FEAI program, contact lorettal@tempeaction.org. Remember, there's still time to make a 2017 charitable tax credit donation to TCAA and support more single parents like Toni advance to a brighter, more prosperous future. Donate [HERE](#).

Family, Fun and Fitness at the I-HELP 5K



**2018 I-HELP
5K Fun Run/1 Mile Walk
Saturday, May 5, 2018
Kiwanis Park, Tempe
6:30-10:30 am**

Friends and families, have **YOU** registered for the upcoming **I-HELP 5K Family Fun Run/Walk** taking place on **Saturday, May 5, 2018** at Kiwanis Park in Tempe? **YOU** certainly don't want to miss out on what we have in store this year...

Start your morning off right by joining friends, family, teammates and colleagues for this fun filled community run/walk event. Your involvement directly benefits Tempe men and women experiencing homelessness.

The event includes a 5K fun run and 1Mile walk along the Kiwanis Park lake, a variety of children's games, two bounce houses, food trucks, corporate sponsors, music, a visit by Tempe First Responders and lots of community camaraderie as we come together to help re-write the stories of hundreds of homeless individuals in our community. Save your spot now by registering today and joining in this important effort.



**Register For the I-HELP Fun
Run/Walk [HERE](#)**

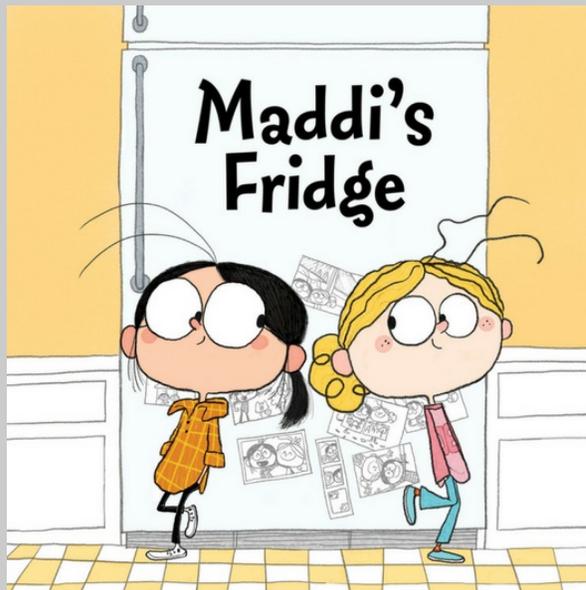
It's still not too late to join our growing list of event sponsors including **Dignity Health, Gammage and Burnham, NAI Horizon, Downtown Tempe Authority, HealthSource of Tempe, Family Wellness Works, River of Life**, the Bighorn Family, **Guardian Angels Catholic Community, Grace Community Church, Landings Credit Union**, and **Arizona Fun Services Inc.** For more information on becoming a 2018 I-HELP 5K Fun Run/Walk sponsor, please contact sophiac@tempeaction.org or click the link below. Sponsorship deadline extended to Friday, April 13th to be included in print materials.

[2018 I-HELP Sponsorship Info](#)
[2018 I-HELP Fundraising Form \(optional\)](#)

TCAA's Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program (I-HELP) provides safe overnight lodging, a warm meal, socialization opportunities, hygiene resources and valuable housing navigation and employment case management services to over 600 homeless adults and older youth each year. This is done in collaboration with a dedicated network of faith-based organizations, who serve as I-HELP host sites on a rotating nightly basis. These generous community partners have joined TCAA to make a significant commitment to do good, by those living on the streets, who are alone and in crisis. **YOU** can too. So lace up those shoes and we'll see you soon!

TCAA/Childsplay: Partners In Hunger

Relief



Tempe Community Action Agency and Childsplay Inc., teamed up to raise awareness around food insecurity and help fill the shelves of TCAA's Food Pantry. Childsplay's recent premiere of Maddie's Fridge, was an exploration of friendship and empathy that also examined the commonality of food insecurity. Based on the book by Lois Brandt, Maddi's Fridge draws attention to our friends and neighbors who may be struggling to feed their family and are going unnoticed. Over the course of two weekends, the show's audience members donated non-perishable food items to support the TCAA Food Pantry. While the public performances are

now over, the show will be touring schools through May and again next spring. To learn how to bring the show to your school, contact Childsplay at 480-921-5760.

TCAA operates Tempe's largest food pantry, feeding over 12,000 adults and children and providing food for 650,000 meals annually. Thank you to Childsplay for using this creative opportunity to explore the conversation on hunger and food insecurity with both young and old in our community. Children who attended the event, like 8 year old Lacie, pledged to do what they can to combat hunger in their community.

Join Lacie in her commitment to fight hunger in Tempe by reaching out to TCAA and partnering with us through corporate giving, volunteering and/or hosting a third party fundraiser/food drive to benefit the TCAA Food Pantry.

Contact Theresam@tempeaction.org to volunteer or host a TCAA food drive. Contact Sophiac@tempeaction.org to set up an agency tour and learn about corporate philanthropy and engagement opportunities that exist year round.

My name: Lacie My age: 8

As a friend, I promise to: I promise to give people food.

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month

We're pretty darn sure TCAA has the best volunteers in town. Here's just a few of the reasons why we believe this to be true.

Have you met Pete? Well, let me tell you a little bit about him. Pete is a retired dentist who now resides in Tempe, AZ most of the year. Pete sees the value of giving back to others in need in his community. He recalls that much of his adult life was spent seeing patients, record keeping, calling patients, and

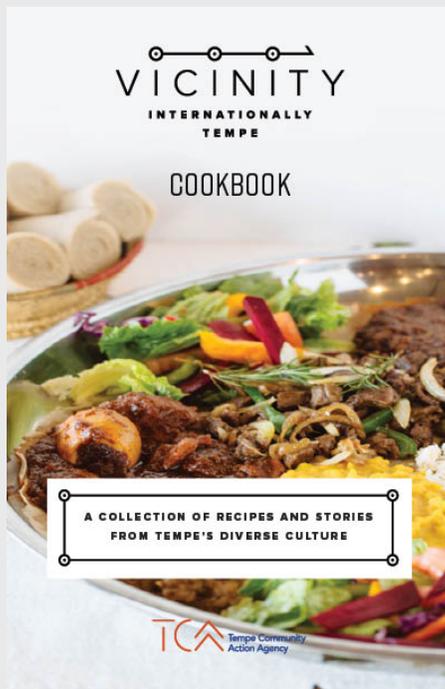


completing insurance paperwork. There was very little time for much else. Having been retired from his practice for a year now, he states he thoroughly enjoys volunteering at the TCAA Pantry. He says "You can see the relief in their eyes and smiles knowing their children will have a better tomorrow than today." This is a welcome change he says, as many people are unfortunately fearful of dentists, but no one is fearful at TCAA - folks are cheerful, thankful and appreciative of the kindness shown to them by staff and volunteers. "It's a great feeling knowing that I am making a difference, right here in my community."

Meet Karen, Sandy, Barbara and Kay. In addition to the work that they do to support our I-HELP and Food Pantry programs, these four ladies are true community leaders in their own right. This fearless foursome sit on the Board of Directors and are the founding members of **Women4Women Tempe**, a local organization that provides feminine hygiene bags for homeless women in the community. Witnessing a gap in services for homeless women, they provide complimentary hygiene bags to individuals and to organizations that serve women living on the streets. These are just two volunteer highlights that help to demonstrate how grateful we are for all of our amazing volunteers, their contributions and how they each, in their own special way, make a meaningful impact in our community. To learn more about becoming a TCAA volunteer, please contact theresam@tempeaction.org.



Got Your Mother's Day Gift?



Well look no further. **TCAA's VICINITY Internationally Tempe Cookbook** is a great gift she will enjoy for years to come. Better yet, purchase one for yourself, if you haven't already, and celebrate this Mother's Day by cooking your mom, grandmother etc., one of our VICINITY recipes, all mouth watering, tasty recipes from our local Tempe restaurants. Here are just a few of the participating restaurants you can see in the cookbook: **House of Tricks**, **Cafe Lalibela**, **BAMA BBQ 4 Ever Catering**, **Casino Arizona**, **Crepe Bar**, **Snooze and AM Eatery**, **the Dhaba**, **Sweetest Season Bakery Boutique**, and **Nibblers Catering**. Check them out, these recipes will not disappoint. The **TCAA VICINITY Internationally Tempe Cookbook** is available for purchase in hard copy for \$20 or electronically for \$10. To order your cookbook, email jalynh@tempeaction.org.

TCAA Enhanced By Corporate Giving



This past quarter saw a number of corporate volunteers lending a much needed hand at TCAA. This includes: State Farm, Zenefits, Tempe Leadership/Tempe Cares, Sun Valley Church, Tivity Health, Bank of America, Anheuser-Busch, Express Scripts, ICAN and Symantec. Thank you for giving back to the communities you serve and for being exemplary community leaders for others to follow.

Zenefits crew pictured above.

A special thank you also goes out to our last quarter, giving partners which contributed program funding via grants to TCAA. This includes: Arizona Cardinals Charities, AZ Republic/Season For Sharing, William L. and Ruth T. Pendleton Memorial Fund.

In other words, thanks for joining the ranks of our #TCAADoGooders club.

Congrats To Tempe Empty Bowls 2018

It just gets bigger and better with each passing year. A HUGE shout out goes to our friends and partners at Tempe Empty Bowls (TEB) for another incredible fundraising event. TCAA is forever grateful for this wonderful partnership and the OUTSTANDING TEB planning committee that brings this seamless event to fruition each year. This two day event which was held in late February, helped raise much needed funding for Tempe children and families struggling with hunger and food insecurity. Proceeds from this annual event benefit TCAA and United Food Bank. Thank you to all of our community members, sponsors, volunteers and agencies that made this another hugely successful event.



Helping Hands Never Go Unnoticed

TCAA's Senior Independence Programs offer a variety of activities and services that help keep seniors healthy, active and connected to their community. For our Home Delivered Meals (HDM) participants, this is especially important as it provides home-bound seniors and disabled adults living in Tempe and South Scottsdale with a hot, nutritious home-delivered meal and a friendly wellness check up to five times a week. Meals are

delivered every morning, Mon.-Fri. and take into account any special dietary restrictions participants may have. Our HDM staff and volunteer drivers know that this program involves so much more than just delivering a hot meal. It is about the caring and compassionate relationships that often develop between the participants and their HDM driver. In fact, FY17 annual program survey data revealed that 72% HDM participants, rely on this service for their primary meal of the day, 73% live alone, 11% never receive visits from friends or family members, while only 36% receive a visit once or twice a month. This is why HDM is more than a meal provider program. We provide that necessary peace of mind and welcome face to so many HDM senior and disabled clients living on their own.



Won't YOU consider being that welcome face that brightens someone's day?

HDM is a wonderful volunteer opportunity for those who are looking to make a difference in the lives of home-bound seniors and/or disabled adults living in the area. For more information on how to become an HDM volunteer, please contact Theresa McKenzie at theresam@tempeaction.org. For more information on program eligibility and how to enroll your loved one in the HDM program, please contact Jan Nicpon, TCAA Director of Senior Services at jann@tempeaction.org

"Down or across the street are people living in need. Some, alone with no one who cares for them. Start on your own street and find those who will benefit by your kindness and service" - Brent M. Jones

Learn more about TCAA programs [here](#).
Make a difference today by donating [here](#).

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