



TCAA Community Connection

It still feels like a dream. We are in continual amazement over the achievements at TCAA over the past several months, due to the involvement and support of inspirational community members--like you!

Over the past quarter, the **Food Pantry hit a grand slam**...the **Clean Machine Laundry Trailer** hit the road... our **leadership team grew larger**.... and **new corporate and foundation supporters** joined the ranks of **#TCAADoGooders** by conducting basic needs drives and providing financial support of our mission! We also embarked on a **national volunteer certification** process that will strengthen our ability to engage, retain, and recognize valued volunteers, like you!

As we look to the quarter ahead, plans are underway to prepare for your attendance at TCAA's largest fundraiser of the year, **VICINITY Tempe 2018**, taking place at one of Tempe's "coolest" iconic landmarks. All this and more in the latest **TCAA Community Connection**. Thanks for catching up on all things TCAA.



TCAA Hits A Grand Slam!

A longtime dream of TCAA's was finally realized last month thanks to the [Arizona Diamondbacks](#) and the [Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation](#). On June 30th, 2018, TCAA Board members and staff were among a handful of local non-profit organizations to receive the prestigious **Ken Kendrick Grand Slam grant** award. This transformational \$100,000 grant award will provide the TCAA Food Pantry with its first-ever, refrigerated food truck along with additional commercial storage and shelving. We still can't believe it! This incredible partnership with the AZ Diamondbacks will allow us

to transport and distribute more fresh, perishable food items in larger quantities to Tempe neighbors in need. Stay tuned for more information on TCAA's new Hunger Relief Runner and the public unveiling event planned for later this fall. To learn more about TCAA's Food Pantry program, contact davidr@tempeaction.org. [#DbacksGiveBack](#)

(Pictured above. Sophia Campbell, Ed Baker, Deborah Arteaga)

Save the Date! VICINITY 2018

TCAA's VICINITY fundraiser is one of Tempe's time-honored social events bringing people and purpose together to benefit a great cause. We can't wait to see you at this year's event, sure to be a big splash! Follow us on social media and

watch your email for ticket and silent auction details. VICINITY proceeds support TCAA's range of social service programs, furthering dignity and self-reliance for the people we serve. For information about becoming a 2018 VICINITY TEMPE Corporate/Event Sponsor, please contact Sophiac@tempeaction.org or for general inquires, contact vicinity@tempeaction.org.

And, it's never too late to purchase TCAA's VICINITY Cookbook which features pages and pages of delicious, mouth watering recipes from our 2017 VICINITY Tempe restaurant partners, including [the Dhaba](#), [Crepe Bar](#), [Cafe Lalibella](#), [M. Culinary Concepts](#), [BAMA BBQ](#) 4 Ever Catering, [Sweetest Season](#), [Snooze](#), [Casino Arizona](#) and many others including [House of Tricks](#), [Tempe Public Market](#) and [Chompies](#). Only \$20 (hard copy) or \$10 for a digital version. Click link to order [MY VICINITY COOKBOOK](#).

SAVE THE DATE
10.19.18
6:30 – 9:30 PM



**A BIG SPLASH
FOR A GREAT CAUSE!**

BIG SURF WATER PARK
1500 N. MCCLINTOCK DR., TEMPE, AZ 85281
SMART CASUAL



(Pictured above: Taylor Nun, Deborah Arteaga, Asst. Police Chiefs Brenda Buren and Angel Carbajal, and Sophia Campbell)

Tempe PD Fights Local Hunger

TCAA and the [Tempe Police Dept.](#) joined forces last month for the 1st ever **Take a Bite Out of Hunger** food drive to benefit the children and adults who rely on TCAA's Food Pantry at their greatest time of need. Three police stations and the community generated 472 pounds of donated food, equivalent to roughly 393 meals! Congrats to *Headquarters*: the winning station that donated the greatest volume of food. Thanks, Tempe Police, for all you do!

Not Goodbye But See You Soon



Words can not truly express the gratitude and admiration TCAA has for three of its longtime **#TCAADoGooders**, Sam Sumner, Suzanne Bighorn-Durkin and Janet Seegren. Sam Sumner, TCAA's former Director of Emergency Services for over a decade, moved to Texas to pursue his "next life chapter" in the field of higher education. (Pictured above - Sam Sumner)

TCAA also said "till next time!" to Suzanne Durkin-Bighorn and Janet Seegren, both of whom concluded their second, 3-year terms as TCAA Board of Directors. Suzanne and Janet have also contributed countless years of service beyond their board service with TCAA. Sam, Janet, and Suzanne, you've been an inspiration to us! (Pictured above - Suzanne Durkin-Bighorn, Janet Seegren, Deborah Arteaga)

TCAA Corporate & Foundation Champions

Although it has been said many times, TCAA's capacity to grow and innovate in order to continue to anticipate and respond to the ever-changing community needs can only be accomplished through effective community collaboration and partnerships. TCAA is amazed and humbled by the generosity and compassion of the array of corporate and foundation change-makers that enrich our community and help build brighter futures for all. In the past quarter alone, the following exceptional companies and foundations helped to expand TCAA's ability to be of service to thousands of East Valley children and adults in need: [APS](#), [Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation](#), [Thunderbird Charities](#), [Kiwanis Club of Friendship Village](#), [Wells Fargo Foundation](#), [Tempe Diablos](#), [Dignity Health](#), [Arizona Lottery](#), the [Steven and Lois Mihaylo Foundation](#), and the James A Rae Charitable Trust/Interest Ministries. A heartfelt thank you to all!



TCAA's Latest Water Warriors

As valley temperatures continued to rise, loyal supporters and corporate partners demonstrated how easy it can be to "pay it forward" with the most basic of human need: WATER. The timing was just right! TCAA is one of several Water Hydration sites across Maricopa County when temperatures soar. This means that TCAA's office serves as a brief resting space and a source for cool water for anyone in need. A huge thank you to our latest water warriors whose combined efforts resulted in thousands of water bottles donated to TCAA: [Landings Credit Union](#), [State Farm](#), [Stanley Security](#), [Grainger](#), [Redemption Church Tempe](#), [Apria Healthcare](#), and [Lime Light](#).

Meet Juliet Armstrong-Starkey

Please join us in welcoming Juliet Armstrong-Starkey as **TCAA's New Director of Operations**. Julie, as she likes to be called, will lead and oversee all five TCAA program areas. Julie is an Arizona native and proud Tempean who is excited to join the TCAA leadership team and bring her years of skills and experience in the non-profit and human services sector to good use. We're the



lucky ones Julie! To reach Julie, email juliets@tempeaction.org.

A New TCAA Website Is Coming!

It's time for a make over! TCAA is busy redesigning its agency website, with new features and an easier way to learn about our programs and navigate the information you want in a quick and seamless way. Stay tuned for a new look and fresh content coming soon!



Meet Our New Board Leaders

As TCAA ushered in a new fiscal year, we were delighted to welcome five new members to the TCAA Board of Directors. This great group of individuals include: (left to right) John Skelton - Brown and Brown Insurance, Amy Wilson - Origami Owl, Chris Gonzales - Missio Dei Communities, Jason Franz - ASU, and Jill Bushbacher, with the City of Tempe. Welcome aboard!

The Clean Machine: Restoring Dignity One Spin At A Time



After several months of shopping for just the right trailer and specifications, preparing designs and holding a naming contest, **TCAA's Clean Machine** is finally here and on the move! Thank you to everyone who submitted your clever naming ideas for TCAA's new Laundry trailer, another first for the agency and for Arizona! **The Clean Machine** will rotate among the I-HELP Shelter sites, along with **TCAA's Shower Power** trailer.

These critical resources, made possible through community donations, empower men and women in the I-HELP shelter program to feel fresh and clean, restoring dignity and self-confidence as they prepare to make their way out of homelessness through employment and housing. If your company is interested in a workforce development partnership with TCAA, we may have the next job ready employee you've been searching for! For more information, contact juliets@tempeaction.org.

Service Enterprise Initiative: What Is That?



TCAA is embarking on a brand new, national initiative that will assist the agency in furthering its ability to successfully engage, support, and retain volunteers. Led by **Points of Light**, the Service Enterprise Initiative (SEI) will strengthen TCAA's ability to leverage volunteers and their skills to meet pressing community needs.

With support from the [Arizona Governor's Office](#), TCAA is hard at work redesigning the way in which volunteers are recruited, on-boarded, engaged in service work, and acknowledged for their efforts.

Why is TCAA doing this? Volunteers are among our greatest assets! The total annual hours dedicated by volunteers at TCAA are equivalent to employing nine full-time staff members! We cannot fully function or increase its capacity without volunteer involvement. It's important, then, that your time spent as a volunteer is equally meaningful and value-added. Embarking on the Service Enterprise Initiative will help TCAA to:

- Strengthen our recruitment and training processes.
- Make better use of technology to track volunteer time.
- Allow TCAA to measure the return on investment for volunteer time.
- Offer more skill-based volunteer opportunities for community members who want to contribute specialized skills and expertise to assist us in furthering our mission.

More than ever before, volunteers are a critical component of TCAA's success, now and in the years to come. [Click](#) to learn how the Service Enterprise Initiative is helping nonprofits like TCAA to meet their missions through the power of volunteers.

www.tempeaction.org (hang in there for just a bit longer, our new website is coming soon)

