



## News from the Arizona Blind and Deaf Children's Foundation Spring 2008

### A Loss of Sight, Never a Loss of Vision...

This is the motto of **Camp Abilities**, a one week developmental sports camp for children who are blind, deafblind and/or have multiple disabilities. Camp Abilities will celebrate its fifth year in Tucson when Camp kicks off on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 30 youth ages 6-22 from throughout Arizona, will have the opportunity to experience various sporting and recreational activities including track & field, tandem biking, skating, aquatics, weight training, rock climbing, horseback riding, bowling and beep baseball.

Camp Abilities is fundamentally an empowering experience which plays a vital role in reinforcing each child's self-esteem and confidence in their ability to master specific sports, recreational and social activities. Camp Abilities is made possible each year through the generous support of many organizations and individuals throughout the community. We are particularly grateful to our new contributors this year – The Sundt Foundation and the Raytheon Family Club. For more information about Camp Abilities go to <http://web.mac.com/paxton>.



### Kids from Arizona School for the Blind hit the Slopes

With the support of the Arizona Ski Council, the Foundation was able to send 10 kids on an incredible 3-day trip to the National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD) in Winter Park, Colorado in February 2008. NSCD is one of the preeminent centers for adaptive skiing instruction in the country and has an excellent program in instruction for blind and low vision skiers. Students were selected from among many interested middle and high school students at the Arizona School for the Blind. In

addition to the exciting experience learning how to ski, students gained many important life skills from the experience, including learning about travel, geography and weather.

### Grants Support Teachers and Schools

Each month, the Foundation accepts applications for Mini-Grants to support the education and enrichment needs of Arizona's blind and/or deaf children. In 2007, the Foundation was able to fund a total of 20 requests totaling over \$25,000 in grant awards. While we call these "mini-grants", their impact is in no way small! Grant funds are available to support teachers throughout the State as well as nonprofit organizations serving blind and/or deaf children. See our website, [www.azblinddeafchildren.org](http://www.azblinddeafchildren.org), for an application.



*Dear Foundation: I am writing this letter to thank you for providing money for my school to go to Winter Park. I personally had a great time on the trip. I actually learned how to ski. I have had lessons before but they were not as enjoyable. I also learned a lot about Colorado. I found out about the climate and I found out that I do not do so well in high altitudes, but still I had so much fun anyway!*

*Thank You!*

*Stephanie D.*

## Lariats & Lace "Ropes" in Friends and Funds Once Again

Over 250 people gathered at the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort to support Arizona's blind and deaf children at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Lariats & Lace hosted by Arizona Blind and Deaf Children's Foundation, Inc. November 17, 2008. Guests enjoyed the elegance and flavor of Old Spain in the Southwest at this dinner/dance/auction event chaired by Foundation Board member, Nancy Galdi. Flamenco dancers entertained during the cocktail hour and dinner featured performances by students from the Arizona Schools for the Deaf and Blind including Isabella Holladay, Jose Valesquez and Bridgette McIntyre. Major sponsors included the Jim Click Automotive Team, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, Blank Rome LLP, Bloody Mary's Restaurant, Desert Diamond Casino, Edgewood LLC, and Wells Fargo Private Bank.



Jim Click, Jr. accepts the White Hat Award from Foundation board Chair Joe Hayden and President/CEO, Laurie Lucinski

The annual **WHITE HAT AWARD** was presented to Jim Click, Jr. in recognition of the significant contribution he has made to the education, quality of life and future success of Arizona's blind and deaf children. In addition, Outstanding Teacher Awards were presented to eight teachers from the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind who have demonstrated excellence in teaching, superior knowledge in their field of expertise and extraordinary commitment to their students.

Mark your calendar now for Lariats and Lace 2008 – **Saturday, November 15th!** This year's exciting event – "Lariats & Lace Down Under" will transport guests to the Outback and will feature another fabulous silent and live auction with over 250 items up for bid.

## Parents Helping Parents.

The Foundation is partnering with Arizona Hands and Voices to implement a new project – **Guide-by-Your-Side**. Many families report a sense of helplessness and anxiety upon learning that their baby is deaf or hard of hearing, and connecting to someone who can truly say "I know just how you feel" can provide unique and critical support. The benefit of the encouragement and assistance that can be provided by an individual who has been down a similar path is the motivation behind Hands & Voices' *Guide-By-Your-Side Program*. This program is designed to provide the unique support of experienced families of children who are deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind to families at the time of their child's identification of hearing loss, as well as at other crucial times throughout the parenting years. Critical start-up funding for the project is being provided by the Arizona Community Foundation. For more information, contact Jeanne Hollabaugh, Program Coordinator at [jhollabaugh@azhv.org](mailto:jhollabaugh@azhv.org).

## You Golf, They Golf, We all Golf!

Thanks to all the sponsors, golfers and supporters who help make Swing for Success an Outstanding event. Proceeds from the annual golf tournament help support a variety of programs, including golf camps for deaf and hard of hearing students. Special thanks to our 2008 title sponsor, **SRP Telecom**.



Students from Phoenix Day School for the Deaf at the American Sign Language Golf Camp ~ February 2008