



# News from the Arizona Blind and Deaf Children's Foundation Spring 2007

As we enter our sixth year of operation, the Foundation continues to expand and deepen the support we provide to the over **4,000 Arizona children and youth** with vision loss, hearing loss, both vision and hearing loss, and multiple disabilities. Activities in our **four core program areas** help to ensure that hearing and visually impaired children and youth have **equal opportunities for healthy development**. *With your support*, the Foundation steps in to fill the gap to ensure that every child has access to critical developmental and life experiences.



Thank you for investing in the future  
of Arizona's children with hearing and vision loss!

## Art for Life!



- With assistance and funding from the Foundation, the Arizona Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) hired a **new art teacher to bring regular fine arts instruction to the 120+ visually impaired/blind students** at the Tucson Campus of ASDB. Funding provided by the Foundation is matched dollar for dollar by ASDB. Art experiences are closely tied to each student's individualized curriculum and are designed to reinforce essential skills such as language acquisition, basic concept development and manual dexterity.
- The Foundation provides **funding for drama workshops and productions for the deaf** at both Phoenix Day School for the Deaf and

ASDB Tucson campus. During the 2006-2007 school year, The Little Theater of the Deaf performance in American Sign Language provided deaf students with the opportunity to connect language, sign and emotion. In addition, a week-long drama workshop led by renowned deaf artist Billy Seago also brought language and drama to life for the deaf students.

## Fit for Life!

- **Over 100 deaf and hard of hearing students throughout Arizona participated in the U.S. Deaf Golf Camp** led by professional golfer, Rob Strano. For most students, this was their first exposure to golf, and an important opportunity to expand how they think about their capabilities.
- **Camp Abilities**, a one-week annual summer sports program for blind, deafblind and multiply disabled children, will take place again this year June at the Tucson Campus of ASDB. The camp is so popular and unique, we anticipate a full house and waiting list again this year. About 30 youth take part in this empowering experience, learning to expand their limits through a variety of sports activities.
- For the third consecutive year, blind and deaf teenagers participated in **Winter Experience** this February. They traveled to Sunrise Ski Resort for three days of specialized adaptive ski lessons, cross country skiing and sledding.



Turn over for more News ...

# Arizona Blind and Deaf Children's Foundation, Inc.

... Investing in the future of Arizona's children with hearing and vision loss



## Success for Life!

- In August 2006, in collaboration with the Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired (SAAVI), **we launched Steppin'Out!, a supported independent living program for young adults who are blind or visually impaired.** Participants receive intensive support to learn how to navigate the often difficult transition between high school and further education or work. It is the only program of its kind in Arizona.
- The Foundation **provided seed money and strategic planning assistance for Project WINGS -- a two-week residential summer program for deaf and hard of hearing students** that focuses on the transition from school to economic mainstream by using career education, hands-on experience, and career/personal counseling to build independent living skills. This summer, 12-18 students will participate in the program for the first time.
- Funding was provided for many **innovative teacher-originated projects that foster independence**, such as a work/transition project for middle school developmentally disabled blind students; training in the GPS Trekker, a navigational unit designed specifically for the blind; and support of summer job training for both deaf and blind teenagers.

## Literacy for Life!

- The Foundation continues to support the **Shared Reading Project, a cutting edge program that was initiated in 2003 and is already successful in improving literacy** at the Phoenix Parent Outreach Program for Hearing Impaired Children (under 5 years old) at Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind.
- With support from the Foundation, **middle school deaf students wrote and published their own books**, a process that helped increase literacy, in addition to enhancing creativity and planning skills.



## Swing for Success a sell out!

Our spring golf tournament raises much needed funds to support the programs of the Foundation. Thanks to all our sponsors and golfers that made this event a success!

For more information about our programs and to learn how you can help, please contact:

Laurie Lucinski  
President/CEO  
Arizona Blind and Deaf Children's Foundation, Inc.  
3661 N. Campbell Avenue, Suite 300  
Tucson, AZ 85719  
(520) 577-3700

[laurie@azblinddeafchildren.org](mailto:laurie@azblinddeafchildren.org)  
[www.azblinddeafchildren.org](http://www.azblinddeafchildren.org)