



SUCCESS HAPPENS HERE!

Vol. 2, 2011

A Milestone for Helping Hands

It is hard to believe that we are closing in on the tenth anniversary of the birth of Helping Hands! As many of you are aware, it all started for us in 2001, when a small group of people decided to make a difference in the life of one single mom and her children by providing her the opportunity to attend college and achieve financial independence.

At that time, Helping Hands did not have a board, donors, grant providers, community partners, employees, relationships with colleges or universities or any established programs. We did, however, have a group of people with a vision to make a difference for single moms in our community. Our ten year community impact includes:

- **292 single mom families assisted** - this number includes 105 "full scholarship" recipients and the annual Celebrate Your Success event attendees
- **83 % average college retention rate**
- **53 graduates** – only full scholarship clients are tracked through graduation
- **\$42,600** – the starting average career salary of Helping Hands graduates



Sylvia, our first mom, with her mentor Lorna

We cannot, however, rest on our past success. At this time, governmental assistance to the poor in Arizona is being drastically cut. Not surprisingly, the very community we serve is being hit the hardest by such cuts. To make matters worse, many of the businesses and private individuals who have traditionally been the source of charitable contributions to organizations such as ours are strapped for cash and have cut back, if not eliminated charitable giving. Yet, while many only see a crisis, we at Helping Hands see the opportunity to serve like never before. How can we maintain such optimism? Again, it comes to our dedicated volunteers, partners, and donors who remain faithful to our vision regardless of the circumstances. And, as leaders with faith, we believe that the best is still to come. Thank you being a part of our ten years of success and for being with us moving into the future!

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The 5K Walk-N-Run for Success



On Sunday, March 21, over 750 walkers, runners, and motorcycle riders, volunteers and single mom families gathered to celebrate the success at Helping Hands' 5K Walk-N-Run for Success. Thanks to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, twenty-four single moms received a \$250 scholarship! Additional benefits for the moms included a free lunch provided by

the Maricopa Community College District and "I'm a Success" t-shirts.

The 5K Walk-N-Run for Success raised \$16,200 to assist low-income single moms as they pursue a college degree. The morning's activities included a 5K, live music, a large kids zone, game truck party, clowns, face painting, therapeutic massages for the moms, the Phoenix Suns Gorilla and ASU's own Sparky.



Executive Director, Chris Coffman, accepts award on behalf of Helping Hands

Helping Hands Executive Director Receives Golden Rule Award

On April 5, 2011, Helping Hands Executive Director Chris Coffman was awarded the Arizona InterFaith Movement's **Golden Rule Award** under the category of "Strengthening Families." Chris was awarded this honor for leading our organization in a way that the Arizona InterFaith Movement determined "exemplifies the Golden Rule in action, whose services have demonstrated a firmer foundation for many families who were

struggling with severe challenges." Congratulations Chris for this well deserved honor!

We invite you to partner with us by making a donation. If you are qualified, up to \$400 of your contribution will be refunded to you through the Arizona State Charitable Tax Credit Program. For more information, please call 602-796-7875.

To make a donation, please make your check payable to "Helping Hands for Single Moms" and mail it to:

Helping Hands for Single Moms
P.O. Box 7737
Goodyear, AZ 85338