



CELEBRATE SUCCESS – THE SINGLE MOM COLLEGE COMMUNITY

Volume. 3, 2009

“Pay It Forward”



Cory, David, and their moms

Sometimes special stories come in two’s. We want to share with you the intersecting stories of two children, Cory and David and a gift that keeps on giving. Cory is the quintessential first grade girl. She loves horses and dogs and of course gymnastics. David’s life has been anything but normal. From birth he has lived with medical challenges that few will ever face.

Prior to Cory’s recent birthday party, Cory’s parents suggested to Cory that she ask her friends to bring gift cards to donate to children from Helping Hands. Cory fully supported the idea, instructed her friends not to provide her with gifts but instead encouraged them to provide gift cards to be donated. Many of Cory’s friends answered her call and as a result Cory received seven gift cards that she donated to Helping Hands.

One of Cory’s cards went to David. With his gift card, David excitedly picked out a “See and Say” toy. After purchasing David’s gift, \$4.50 remained on the gift card. David’s mom, Michelle (one of our outstanding Moms), was touched by Cory’s generosity. Rather than using the money for her own needs, borrowing a page from the movie “Pay it Forward,” Michelle found crayon packs were on sale for five for a dollar. With the remaining funds, Michelle purchased twenty-two packs and donated them to low-income children through a local community service project sponsored by Family Life Bible Church. Who has been impacted by Cory’s generosity? The ever widening circle includes: Cory’s two proud parents, David and Michelle, twenty-two low income children, and hopefully everyone who reads this story.

Thank you Cory for your generosity and inspiration.

Another Story of Benevolence

Toyyia is a widow with four children and another Helping Hands success story. Toyyia recently graduated with honors from Arizona State University and is now working on a master’s degree in non-profit management and plans on starting a non-profit to assist women in prison with obtaining an education. In recent years,



Toyyia's efforts to achieve financial independence through education have been hampered by her car. Toyyia's car, which lacked air conditioning and was known at Helping Hands as "the car from hell," had continued to break down and repeatedly found its way to Helping Hands' shops.

Just when it looked like Toyyia's car was beyond repair, along came Rodney and Heather, long time supporters of Helping Hands who donated a low-mileage car. That was just the start. In response to our call for help, Wilhelm Auto of Surprise – one of the twenty-four NARPRO shops that provides no cost auto repair to Helping Hands' Moms – examined the car and determined that with twelve of hours of work, the car would provide reliable, long-term transportation. Wilhelm Auto's labor combined with Cardinal Charities' (funds for parts), resulted in title to a reliable car with air conditioning(!) being signed over to Toyyia from Helping Hands! Toyyia's prayers were answered. Big thanks to Rodney and Heather, Cardinals Charities and Wilhelm Auto! Your sacrifice and labor has facilitated one of our Moms on the road to financial independence.

We hope these stories inspire you to look for creative opportunities in these financially troubled times, to help our single moms.



Toyyia, her daughter, and the great team from Wilhelm Auto of Surprise

Back to School Fundraiser

The cost of college textbooks continue to increase faster than inflation. These unavoidable expenses inflate the long-term debt incurred by the single mom and provide financial challenges in the future. Helping Hands would like to provide each client with a \$100 bookstore gift card to help alleviate some of the school expenses for the fall. A foundation has provided \$1,900 towards the purchase of these cards and we encourage you to join us as we raise an additional \$1,800. Your check or online donation to Helping Hands will ensure that thirty-seven single moms are able to continue their quest for a college degree and financial independence. Your donation will pay dividends every time a Helping Hands' mom makes a student loan payment.

You can make a secure, on-line, tax deductible donation at www.helpsinglemoms.org or mail it to:

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