



Invest in Success

Vol 2, 2010

Dear Friend of Helping Hands,

Perhaps you have heard someone comment that in today's stagnant economy a diploma is of little value. Nothing could be further from reality for Helping Hands graduates. *Our moms are not only graduating – they are going to work.*

Since December, 2009, eight Helping Hands clients have graduated from college. Of those eight, six are working in their career field and are averaging \$47,026 annually. The two moms who haven't landed a career job have graduated with nursing degrees and will likely soon find work in their field.



The 5K Walk-N-Run for Success

We are pleased to report that the second annual Helping Hands 5K Walk-N-Run for Success was a big success! Over 750 people turned out on the campus of ASU West to celebrate the success of single moms in college. At the event, Helping Hands awarded \$5,000 in textbook assistance from Camelback Mazda, \$5,000 in tuition scholarships from Blue



Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, and 300 meals from the Maricopa Community Colleges for single mom college student families. We also raised \$14,866 to help support our program. We deeply appreciate all the sponsors, academic institutions and volunteers, who made this event possible.

Helping Hands' Impact on Future Generations

In your family obtaining a college degree may be an expected event. That is not, however, the case with the vast majority of our moms who were raised in families where a college education was not encouraged from generation to generation. Such mentality can lead to lives of poverty, particularly with single women raising children without assistance. Helping Hands is devoted to breaking such cycle. Here is how:



Sherie and her daughters

Sherie, a Helping Hands mom, recently graduated *magna cum laude* with a B.A. degree from Baker College Online in website design. She is the first in her family obtain a four year degree; however, she will not be the last. Sherie has two wonderful daughters who are excelling academically. Her oldest daughter, *Ruth*, recently received \$20,000 in academic scholarships and will matriculate into the Kinesiology program at ASU in the fall. Her youngest daughter, *Leah*, is also in high school and is applying for the ACE program which will give her an associate's degree at the same time she gets her high school diploma.

Sherie says that in addition to her daily hands on efforts in her daughters' educations, she has instilled an academic achievement mentality in them by modeling academic excellence -- if I can do it you can too! She has also emphasized to her girls that it is much harder to go to college after you have kids – a point they heartily agree with!

The academic success of Sherie and her daughters is a wonderful example of the fact that the Helping Hands program can break the chains of poverty (Sherie is now full providing for her family) and can encourage education for generations to come.

Currently, there are forty-one single moms in the Helping Hands program. Those moms, like Sherie, are not only succeeding in college, they are changing the lives of their seventy-five children. *When you make a donation to Helping Hands you are investing in true community change. We invite you to Invest in Success.*

You can make a tax deductible donation online at www.helpsinglemoms.org, or mail your contribution to: Helping Hands for Single Moms

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Warmest regards,
Chris Coffman
Executive Director

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