



## “Success Happens Here”

### Success in the Spring Semester

Helping Hands moms recently completed another successful semester on the road to financial independence. A total of 44 moms completed 486 college credit hours (11 credit average) with a cumulative GPA of 3.19.

During this period there were:

- multiple trips to the emergency room
- two moms who faced a loss of housing
- twenty-four auto repairs (a few of the moms had multiple repairs)
- a mom trying to recover from an injury caused by a car wreck
- one mom facing legal challenges from the children’s father
- the usual challenges associated with going to college, raising kids, and working.

Yet, the moms persevered through each challenge without taking their eyes off of the goal of a college degree and financial independence.

### Spring Graduates

This spring Helping Hands watched ten moms cross the stage and receive their diploma. Five of the moms received AA degrees and will continue on for more education, one mom received a BA degree and will continue on for a MSW, four of the moms completed their education at ASU and we will be saying goodbye to them. These four are pictured below.



**Angelique was spitefully told that she would never succeed in college. She recently graduated from ASU with a BA degree in Design.**

**Christine, mother of two, recently graduated from ASU with a degree in social work. She has already landed a livable wage job.**



**Nicole graduated from ASU downtown with a degree in nursing. She has already landed a livable wage job as a nurse with the Mayo Clinic.**

**Toyyia, a widowed mother of four, graduated with a Master's of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies. In October, Toyyia will be presenting her work regarding the U.S. Prison Industrial Complex at the University of Pennsylvania at the Fourth Biennial Conference of the International Herbert Marcuse Society. Her work for the conference will be published in two journals: Radical Philosophy Review and Space & Polity.**



### **Helping Hands Moms Win Awards**

One outcome of academic excellence is the opportunity to win financial awards. The following moms received academic awards during the spring semester:

#### **Soroptimist Women's Opportunity Award**

Angelique – \$2,000

Tracy – \$1,500

Krissy - \$ 500

Sophia - \$1000 and a lap top

Jill - \$1000

#### **PEO Chapter Scholarship**

Christine - \$ 3000

Amanda – \$ 2500



## Helping Hands Wins An 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."

## 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.

