



November 2, 2022

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**PROGRAM MANAGER**  
**MICHELLE DAKAI**

Dear Friends of Lura Turner Homes for Adults with Developmental Disabilities,

For two years and eight months, most of our regular activities have been "on hold." This was not just for health precautions. It was and is due to the chronic shortage of staff, individual volunteers and volunteer groups caused by the CoVID19 crisis. Thank God for help from Metro Civitans, Hands on Greater Phoenix, and Bible teachers. We'd be up the creek without them!

However, with residents vaccinated and well, we are ever so slowly resuming our pre-pandemic schedule of recreational, social and faith-based programs. This means most of the special needs women and men who live at LTH are back at church (mainly Central United Methodist), the Phoenix Bird Civitans, the Jim McDaniel-sponsored sports trips, the Los Olivos Senior Association, and so on. Thanks to who've kick-started these much-missed events.

As you know, August saw us back at Whispering Hope Ranch for a fun-filled camp. September brought the golf tourney with the most golfers ever (72!). October had more Halloween parties than I count. Now comes seven weeks of special event after special event - from the boutique (Nov. 12), the Jack and Dar Adams Civitan Memorial Walk-a-Thon (also Nov. 12), Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's and finishing with Phoenix Zoo Lights, January 8<sup>th</sup>. Whew!!!!

As with every non-profit I know of, our donations have been way down since March, 2020. Plus, as with your household, LTH's day-to-day costs have gone sky-high. As per our just completed 2021-2022 audit, it cost \$237,000 more to operate Lura Turner Homes than we took in. We incurred this unsustainable deficit despite our always lean approach to operations, wages, etc.

*There are many ways you can help bridge this fiscal gap. Here are a few: 1) Give through the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit. 2) Attend upcoming fundraisers such as the Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> boutique, the Italian dinner (Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>) and the Harvey Girls High Tea (Mar. 4). Please invite your family and friends to these gatherings! 3). Buy a ticket to the Nov. 10-13<sup>th</sup> Charles Schwab Golf Tourney or give via Giving Tuesday (Nov. 29); these events reward agencies that raise high amounts with "bonus" dollars. (See enclosed fliers). Feel free to forward these to your social media contacts. As always, you can make a general contribution - big or small - as your heart leads you.*

Fortunately, donations for the new property have been generous. I can honestly say that gifts to that long-planned project have not siphoned funds from operations. Costs – especially food and overtime - have exceeded our income beyond anything we could have anticipated.

Sadly, I have two deaths to report. Dale Dickinson, of Joyce Ridge Civitan House, died August 20, just before camp. For 40 years, Dale was the go-to guy to keep Arizona Recreation Center for the Handicapped in tip-top shape. Former long-time Civitan House staff Pearl Jackson died October 24<sup>th</sup>. She worked weekends for two decades and loved the residents "to pieces."

I end on a happy note. The city and county are finally ready to "sign off" on our plans to build two new homes with the help of Habitat for Humanity. When all the i's are dotted and t's are crossed, you'll get all the details as LTH builds toward the future. We can't do that without you.

Please, please have a blessed Thanksgiving. We do, indeed, have much to be thankful for.

God bless you and yours,  Executive Director, Lura Turner Homes

Mailing Address: PO Box 81285 - Phoenix, AZ 85069 – 602.943.4789



Over the summer, our computer system "crashed." We figure we've lost addresses, e-mails, etc., of 200-plus people from our roster. To re-build this directory, it would a GREAT help if you would complete the contact information below and mail it to Lura Turner Homes, P.O. Box, 81285, Phx., AZ., 85069. OR, email it to administrative assistant Dixie at: [dixiet@luraturnerhomes.org](mailto:dixiet@luraturnerhomes.org). If you hear from an LTH friend that they haven't heard from us, please have them call 602-943-4789 to be sure we have their info. Thanks!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# SUMMER CAMP 2022

Thank you for supporting Lura Turner Homes' residents at our August 2022 camp at Whispering Hope Ranch, east of Payson. Please enjoy these photos of the campers at play. Their favorite activities? Riding horses, catching fish, making new friends and, of course "cooling off."



Hawk Cabin counselors and campers are "blessed" by St. Francis at Inspiration Point.



Linda always enjoys petting the animals. But these goats are more interested in lunch.



For the first time ever, Denise rides a horse. She and gentle Lashes are a perfect match.



Brenda, counselor Billie and Molly take in the cool breezes in Arizona's Rim Country.



Good sports Richard, Dan, counselor Chris and Barney try and try to get a bull's eye.



At the campfire, we prayed in memory of campers who had passed away since our 2019 camp.



Rabbits make quick friends with campers on the porch of the ranch's historic homestead.



Volunteers from Payson United Methodist help camper Frances at Rancho Tonto Catch-A-Trout.



A group photo is always the last activity before heading back to the heat. Easier said than done.