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**Thunderbird School of Global
Management**

PROGRAM MANAGER

MICHELLE DAKAI

www.luraturnerhomes.org

Established 1965

Joyce Ridge (1936-2013)

Executive Director (1984-2003)

**Deaconess Lura Turner (1906-
1996)**

**Founder & Executive Director
(1965-1983)**

Proud Member of AAPPD-

**Arizona Association of Providers
for People with Disabilities**

Physical Address:

8640 N. 19th Ave #14, Phoenix 85021

Pg 1

Winter 2023 Newsletter for Families and Friends of Lura Turner Homes

Dear Friends of Lura Turner Homes,

To write LTH's January employee newsletter, I re-read old ones, going back to January 2020. I was shocked to see that in *January 2020*, I'd alerted staff that a global health crisis was imminent and we better be prepared. That was two months *before* the March 13th, 2020, lockdown took effect. I'm not glad I was right. But that's one reason I regularly read reliable news – the better to be informed of local, national and global events that affect our (and yours) daily lives. Those events include everything from Arizona's state budget to the price of gas – and eggs.

While at Phoenix Zoo Lights on January 8, I found myself reflecting on the past three stressful years. In the amber glow of holiday lights, 67 residents, staff and volunteers relaxed, chatted and sipped hot chocolate served with love by the Metro Civitans. It was if we didn't have a worry in the world. I knew differently. But it felt so good - so very good - that for the first time in years, we were "back on track" doing the friendly gatherings we're famous for.

Which brings us to the return of the Italian dinner on January 28th and the "in-house" High Tea on March 4th – both back by popular demand. As you well know, we've reluctantly scrubbed seven fund-raising events since March 2020. Such tough decisions hit our bottom line hard. To help make up those losses, here's hoping you and yours will support these upcoming gatherings with your presence and enthusiasm, as well as gifts to auction and/or raffle. See our events listings on our website for the details. Please feel free to forward the events fliers to your social media contacts.

Ever so slowly, we've resumed daily, weekly, monthly and yearly activities that have been on hiatus for two years plus. On the back of this letter you'll see just a few day-to-day goings-on eagerly reengaged by the men and women with special needs who live at Joyce Ridge Civitan House, Lynwood House and Marlette House. Residents are also back playing bingo with Hands on Greater Phoenix and the Los Olivos Seniors to working at Epi-Hab to worshipping at Central United Methodist to participating in the programs at Arizona Recreation Center for the Handicapped.

I make special mention of the Knights of Columbus, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. For decades, they've been "big brothers" to Dan Rich, who lived at Lura Turner Homes for 40 years, 33 at JRCH. Sadly, Dan died Nov. 22. The Knights will pay tribute to Dan at his memorial service, 10 a.m., Monday, January 30 at St. Xavier's, 4715 N. Central Ave. (A luncheon follows). All are welcome. St. Xavier's was also the site of the December memorial for Alice Rink. She was a much loved and valued volunteer who could and did do anything asked of her. She is missed.

On a brighter note...we salute Mary Grace and Chester Oakes on their 50th anniversary. You know what they did? They asked family and friends to donate to LTH in honor of their anniversary. Then the life-long volunteers matched the donations with their own contribution! That's just the kind of thoughtfulness we've come to expect from Mary Grace and Chester during the 38 years they've served LTH with heart and soul...and manual labor! Thank you!

More good news...LTH vice-president Don Campbell reports the City of Phoenix has at long last greenlit the long-gestating Habitat for Humanity project. Now all we need is for Maricopa County to sign off on the project and we'll be done with the Mt. Everest-high paperwork required to get this much-needed effort off and running. I can't wait.

As you hear in the news every day, health care facilities continue to be short-staffed. That includes us. If you know of anyone who might be interested in being a care giver at Lura Turner Homes, please have them contact our office at 602-943-4789. Thank you.

Lastly, you need to know the office staff (including yours truly) has been sick with one thing or another from Thanksgiving through the first week of January. We are now all back in the office and eager to tie up many loose strings. Thank you so much for your patience. Here's praying that your holiday season was bright, and that 2023 is brighter than 2022, which was brighter than 2021, which was... Well, you get the picture.

Blessings to you and yours always,

Max McQueen Executive Director, Lura Turner Homes



2022 IN REVIEW

We thank all the LTH family and friends who helped make this past year so memorable. If you would like to help support any of our events through contributions or participation, let us know!

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Michelle Dakai

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JANUARY



Day Training Program enjoys Granada Park.

FEBRUARY



JRCH residents return to A.R.C.H. day program.

MARCH



CrossRoads United Methodist Youth fill bags with High Tea goodies.

APRIL



Barney celebrates 44 years at Denny's on Camelback.

MAY



Patty, Mike, Lupe & Andrea are honored for 20+ years of service.

JUNE



At Organ Stop, Chris & Wanda Z. fete birthday girl Mary Grace O.

JULY



Esther, Ken and Ray observe first year working at Epi-Hab.

AUGUST



St. Francis blesses Hawk Cabin men at camp.

SEPTEMBER



Golfer Jeff P. (center) and team get kudos from board prez Becky.

OCTOBER



Mona and Linda party with the Los Olivos seniors on Halloween.

NOVEMBER



For 30+ years, Kathy Z. (w. Frank) has had crafts at our boutique.

DECEMBER



Ray, David and Barney are the wise men at CrossRoads UMC's Nativity.