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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

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Dear Friends of Lura Turner Homes for Adults with Special Needs,

Promise not to laugh.

Growing up Southern Baptist, any number of well-meaning Sunday School teachers (including Grand Canyon's famed Coach Brazell) told me they "knew" I'd be a preacher when I grew up. "NO WAY!" was my quick reply, followed by, "When and if God calls me, I'll be sure to let you know."

Know why I didn't want to be a pastor? Because almost all the preachers I knew were always asking for money. *Always*. So what did I grow up to be: a non-profit director, an occupation requiring constant, non-stop, daily fund-raising in good times and bad. The Great Almighty sure got the last laugh on me.

Not too long ago, a long-time supporter asked how much of a donation would it take for Lura Turner Homes to go a year without fundraising. Thrown off guard by such an unusual inquiry, I BLURTED out, "A million dollars!" Fool that I am, I naively thought my wide-eyed response would result in a substantial contribution. That did not happen. As I said, "fool that I am"

But that's not the end of this story as radio legend Paul Harvey would say. In short order, Lura Turner Homes received three "substantial" donations. Out of the clear blue sky came \$15,000 from the Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation. It was their first gift to us, which we used to upgrade bathrooms. Then came \$50,000 from a couple who said, "Use where needed." So, more bathrooms were upgraded. Then again out of nowhere, the Virginia Piper Foundation gave \$25,000, a gift inspired by hearing about the "good work" we do. That amount came just as we needed funds to replace the storm-damaged roof at Lynwood. You'd think I'd know by now that God does provide.

Which brings us to this incredibly good news: After six years of endless meetings and sleepless nights, we're ready to break ground on the long-planned homes to be built next to Faith United Methodist (home to our offices). Please join us 2 p.m., Sunday, May 17th at Faith, 8640 N. 19th Ave.

Over the past few years, scores of individuals, churches, Civitan clubs, foundations, businesses, and more have given of their time and talents to make this day a reality. I especially thank committee members Leroy Tapia, Don Campbell and John Maddox for spearheading this effort. On May 17th, we will recognize them, and the many volunteers who helped this past year with everything from camp, the craft fair, the golf tourney, Hands on Greater Phoenix, the High Tea, Phoenix Bird Civitans, etc.

As always, Lura Turner Homes thrives to provide a well-rounded life for the men and women with special needs who call LTH "home." To get a sense of their daily lives, just look at the "back-page" photos. There's no end to the amount and variety of the daily, weekly and monthly activities they attend. In addition to staff, it takes over 100 volunteers to ensure one and all have great times.

Speaking of which... you're ALL invited to our annual Trial of the Century, 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 7 at ARCH, 1550 W. Colter. For three decades, legal eagles Toby and Steve Gerst have staged a trial to help Phoenix Bird Civitans understand our legal system. "Someone" from Cinderella will be on trial.

The next night, Wed., April 8, Barney expects you at his party at Denny's, where we will celebrate his 48th year of dedicated work. Stop by between 2 and 9 p.m., 7th Street and Camelback Rd.

Around the corner are several other events where you can engage with LTH: Arizona Gives (April 7); Arizona Charitable Tax Credit (deadline: April 15), Mary Grace's Birthday Bash at Organ Stop Pizza (June 14th), Camp (Aug. 17-21) and Golf Tourney (Sept. 11).

On a personal note, administrative assistant Dixie asked that I thank those who extended expressions of prayer and care regarding her grandson Jaxx, after his long hospitalization following an auto accident. He is home at long last.

On a sad note, I must tell you of the passing of Marlette resident, Jaime. Those at the High Tea joined in prayer for Jaime and sang her favorite song "You Are My Sunshine". Dear sweet Jaime died two hours after the High Tea. Her family is non-stop in their expressions of gratitude for the tender-loving care Jaime received at LTH's Marlette House. You as a supporter of Lura Turner Homes are not only a part of the support of residents in life but in their home-going, too. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

May you and yours have a deeply meaningful Passover and Easter.

Most sincerely, Max McQueen, Executive Director. Lura Turner Homes



Lura Turner Homes Activities from January to March 2026



Zoo Lights



Lynwood residents and music and Bible teacher Marilyn Seese lights up the Phoenix Zoo Light (1/4).

Spaghetti Dinner



At CrossRoads United Methodist, fitness guru Hanni leads the dance parade at the Spaghetti Dinner (1/24).

Prom



Jackie, Chris and escorts step out on the red carpet at Tim Tebow's Night to Shine, Highlands Church (2/13).

Valentine's Day



LTH residents celebrate Valentine's Day with lunch and bingo at Litchfield Park First Baptist Church (2/15).

High Tea



Grandmoms, moms and daughters are "ready, set & go" at the High Tea, First United Methodist-Glendale (3/7).

High Tea



Resident Brenda and staff Trina are all gussied up for the "Ascot" theme at the 28th annual High Tea (3/7).

SCYSAC



LTH residents toured AZ Air Force Museum with friends from Sun City Youngtown Special Activities Center (3/13).

Hands on Greater Phx



At ARCH (note construction!), Marlette House residents enjoy games hosted by Hands on Greater Phoenix volunteers (3/21).

First UM Phx Volunteers



100-plus degrees didn't stop First United Methodist- Phoenix's volunteers from sprucing up Joyce Ridge Civanan House (3/14).