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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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Lura Turner Homes for Adults with Special Needs 2026 Summer Newsletter

Dear Friend of Lura Turner Homes,

Hope you're sitting down when you read this: Believe it or not, at long last we've broken ground on the new LTH homes to be built next to Faith United Methodist, where we have our offices and Day Training for Adults.

At the May 17th Founders' Day, we held a ground-breaking ceremony IN Faith UMC's sanctuary – yes, indoors! We did so, as the heat was just too much. As you can see in the photo below, an SRO crowd cheered on as residents, board members, pastors and SoDella Construction poured ceremonial dirt into silver pails. They are holding gold shovels made by administrative assistant Dixie Tribble and family.

Meanwhile back at the vacant lot...seven LTH board members and five of SoDella's top brass braved the oven-hot sun to prep the bone-dry soil for the soon to arrive front loader. (See the group smiling – and sweating - on the back-page photo). Sure enough the front loader came in a few days to start scraping the lot. Then the next day, a Port-a-John popped up. With that necessity in place, we're ready to move ahead, with a completion date set for November. We will keep you updated.

It's been a long time getting to this point. How very grateful I am to the *hundreds* of donors who've given so generously and waited so patiently to get this much-needed project off the ground – literally. I tip my hard hat to board members Leroy Tapia, Don Campbell and John Maddox. They have shepherded this project through thick and thin and thin and thick. Now the hard work *really* begins!

Summer is supposedly our “slow” period. Not this year! Metro Civitan and SRP volunteers worked into June wrapping up their upgrades on Lynwood House. The ladies love the improvements. So do the neighbors!

With Lynwood done, now the new construction will keep us hopping. But it won't stop our regular activities and fundraisers. June saw us at Organ Stop Pizza for the 30+ years feting of Mary Grace Oakes on her birthday. We so appreciate Mary Grace and Chester hosting this big party, which ended our 2025-2026 season of special events.

June also saw DTA at the Herberger for Valley Youth Theatre's “Shrek.” DTA also enjoy weekly movies at Harkins and bingo at Los Olivos Senior Center. One and all LOVE our summer bowling league – guided by Becky and Chris Stingle with Hands on Greater Phoenix volunteers. On July 5th, the guys and gals celebrated 4th of July with a barbecue at CrossRoads, where most worship on Sunday. Never a dull moment at LTH.

Big things are coming up –translated that means: “Save the Date!” Our 49th camp is August 17-21 at Whispering Hope Ranch. The 31st Golf Tourney is September 11 at Grand Canyon University Golf Course. The bazaar and craft fair is November 6 & 7th at CrossRoads. As always, donations, golfers, vendors and volunteers are needed. To help, please call Dixie at 602-943-4789.

I end with reflecting on a 2006 trip to D.C. with Barney, Ted W. and Dan R (R.I. P. Dan and Ted). Barney and I stopped first at Franklin Roosevelt's memorial. This timely FDR quote had me in tears: “The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much: it's whether we provide enough for those who have too little.” Well, I turned and Barney was gone! Where was he? Kissing the statue of FDR's Scottish terrier, Fala, on the head. More tears. Leave it to tender Barney to remind me why you and I strive to provide for those “who have too little.” Thank you.

Blessings, Max





Lura Turner Homes Activities from April to June 2026



APRIL



On April 8, congressman Greg Stanton honored Barney for his 48 years of outstanding service at Denny's, Seventh St. and Camelback Road.

MAY



LTH board members and SoDella's top-notch crew break ground outdoors for LTH new homes next to Faith United Methodist Church.

MAY



On behalf of Litchfield Park First Baptist, long-time church member Donna Allen accepts LTH's highest award: the Founders' Award.

APRIL



The ladies who live at Lynwood House show their appreciation to Steve Winden, the Metro Civitan in charge of renovating their Roosevelt District home.

APRIL



In April, 20 plus Salt River Project volunteers spent two weeks replacing the roof on Lynwood House, a historic home for LTH residents since 1972.

MAY



When Lynwood House's upgrade was done, Steve Winden and Andy Wheeler took a selfie in front of the house that a dozen Metro Civitans worked on.

JUNE



Esther and Rose, Joyce Ridge Civitan House ladies, admire herbs, vegetables and sunflowers planted by green thumb volunteers of First United Methodist Phx.

JUNE



At Organ Stop Pizza, Mary Grace Oakes basks in the birthday bash she and husband Chester have hosted for 30 years +. Over 100 friends attended.

JUNE



Students and staff of LTH's Day Training for Adults were wowed by Valley Youth Theatre's "Shrek." The cast even joined them for lunch at Herberger Theater.