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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

Mailing Address: PO Box 81285, Phoenix, AZ 85069
Physical Address:
8640 N. 19th Ave #14, Phoenix 85021

Fall, 2026

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

Anyone who knows me knows that I'm a "big picture" guy – always have been, always will be. What does that mean? In short, the day-to-day is best seen in light of the big picture.

For instance, when I give talks about Lura Turner Homes, I put our organization in context of the historic treatment of people with special needs. From the Civil War to World War II, almost everyone with special needs were housed in "county poor houses" along with criminals, the destitute, the mentally ill and so on. Yes, they were institutionalized. Not good.

It took until the 1960's for most children and adults with special needs to start "mainstreaming" into society. This was due in large part to the relentless advocacy of families and church and synagogue women's groups and the Civitans. Not until the 1970's and 1980s' did children, men and women with special needs start living in small settings and going to school.

I offer this social services history lesson because Lura Turner Homes has been part of the three major movements in serving those with special needs. When Miss Turner started our first home in 1965, she was at the forefront of opening homes for those leaving institutions – most had nowhere to go. Her priority was ensuring those being mainstreamed had a safe house and home.

Then along came Joyce Ridge as executive director in 1984. Her focus was "education, education, education" and "jobs, jobs, jobs." Since 2003, when I became executive director, my priority has been to "integrate, integrate, integrate" those with special needs into the community as much as possible.

None of the above would have been accomplished without YOU. Yes, YOU. For three generations, HUNDREDS and HUNDREDS of volunteers have helped LTH create the richest, most independent life possible for those we serve. Here are but a "few" of the activities in which people young and old give of their talents, time and treasures each and every year:

Phoenix Zoo Lights, Italian Dinner, Prom Night, Valentine's Party, High Tea, Barney's Day at Denny's, Founder's Day, Mary Grace's Organ Stop Pizza Party, 4th of July at the Gannon's, Camp, Golf Tourney, Bazaar & Craft Fair, Spectator Sports with Jim McDaniel, Hands on Greater Phoenix with Becky and Chris Stingle, Bible Study, Church Chauffeurs, CrossRoads worship, Board Members, Mailings, Metro Civitans' Walk-a-Thon and Thanksgiving Dinner, Phoenix Bird Civitans, Los Olivos Senior Center, New Homes Project. I could go on and on. But you get the point. We need you. We appreciate you - whether you volunteer for one activity or all of them.

Which brings us to Chester Oakes. By now, most of you have heard that Chester died August 14. Thanks to you who came to his Sept. 7th memorial service, along with 150 others. Your presence meant a lot to Mary Grace. For four decades, Mary Grace and Chester set the standard for volunteerism. They helped with EVERYTHING from setting up events (and cleaning up afterwards) to cheering Special Olympics athletes to making sure all residents got home safely, etc. We were truly blessed that Chester chose to give of his heart to LTH.



At the 2007 Founders Day, Max McQueen bestow LTH's highest award to Mary Grace and Chester Oakes. The honor is given each year for exemplary volunteerism in memory and honor of founder and first executive director Lura Turner and her successor Joyce Ridge.

Peace be with you and yours.

Most sincerely and oh-so gratefully,
Max McQueen, Executive Director, LTH
P.S. I hope to see you at the 41st Bazaar and Craft Fair, Nov. 6-7. See enclosed flier.

Lura Turner Homes Fall 2026

2026 Summer Camp- Whispering Hope Ranch



Long-time volunteers Larry & Chris horsing around on hiking trail.



Campers & volunteers gather under the apple tree at Whispering Hope's historic ranch house.



Cowgirls (actually "Horse Girls") prepare to saddle up at Whispering Hope's rodeo arena.

2026 Golf Tournament-Grand Canyon University Golf Course



Thanks to R Directional Drilling & Underground Tech for being the Title Corporate Sponsor.



Resident & golfer David (left) was cheered on by brother Mike & sister-in-law Rita! Thank you, Mike & Rita for your support as a Promotional Sponsor & party basket sponsor.



LTH administrative team Lorrie, Max and Dixie thank Bob Dubasik for making meaningful 9-11 memorials for us and ALL golfers.

LTH's Two New Houses Are "Coming Along" on Alice Avenue



"Big Eddie" and Edward have done a great job repping general contractor SoDella Construction on our building project.



Two new LTH houses are "coming Along," shown here just before being painted on October 13.



Front of "House B" having just been stucco-ed, painted and spruced up with brick trim.