



The Shooting Star

VOLUME 1 / ISSUE 8 / FEBRUARY 2017

Upcoming Events



Fiesta Al Fresco 2017 | Save the Date

April 29, 2017

Join us for a Farm to Table Inspired Dinner with STARS. Enjoy a 5 course al fresco dinner featuring locally sourced, sustainably grown ethically harvested cuisine prepared by Chef Dan Medlen of Singh Farms and wine pairing by local vineyards. [Click here](#) for more information and to purchase your tickets.



Martin Luther King Day

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

On January 16th Osborn DTA 1 and 2 had a great outing to the Martin Luther King Day festivities in... Our participants visited the informational booths, “Black Lives Matter” and “Stop Racism now.”

Our participants talked to police officers and asked them, “Do you like being a police officer?” The... responded that they loved their jobs because they are in a position to improve community relations

The Black Lives Table was particularly welcoming and generous with their time for questions and d... with our participants.

Our participants were also able to listen to “Angel Wings” - a four person group that performed “bea... gospel music.”

Our participants loved the outing and had a great day. The best take away according to a STARS... person – “our participants were greeted as brothers and sisters with love and acceptance.”



Diversity Champion: Gina Griffiths

On Wednesday January 11th, Scottsdale Celebrated the life and legacy of Martin Luther King at its annual Community Celebrating Diversity Event.

We are proud to announce that Gina Griffiths, our Programs Director, was honored as a “Diversity Champion” at this event. Gina was nominated by STARS Advancement Associate Ashley Archibald and was chosen by the Diversity Committee from a large pool of applicants.

Gina was honored for her “tireless work in community stewardship and advocating for those without a voice.” STARS is proud that she has received this honor of 2017 Diversity Champion. Congratulations Gina.



Debbie on her last day

Debbie Kattelman Retires

Longtime STARS employee Debbie Kattelman retired as Finance Manager at the end of December. Debbie did wonderful work for STARS for 15 years. She rose to the position of Finance Manager in 2015. Debbie was known for great attention to detail and always being available to help staff understand complex financial details. Debbie loved seeing the growth of the participants and was extraordinarily devoted to improving the lives of people with developmental disabilities. She looks forward to spending more time with her grandchildren, quilting and being in her cabin up north. STARS is grateful for her continuing dedication to the STARS' mission.

I love coming to work because I like earning a paycheck. A paycheck makes me feel good inside because it makes me feel independent. I can put my money into a savings account. Right now I'm saving my paychecks for a puppy.

-Betsy Blankemeier

*Betsy started coming to STARS 20 years ago as a participant. Today Betsy is independently employed by STARS and works in the Osborn Work Center.

Advocacy Update from Gina Griffiths, STARS Program Manager

Hello STARS friends, families and supporters. The new legislative session is in full swing, and we'll have a lot to focus on this year. STARS and all of our sister agencies are feeling the impacts of Proposition 206. While we are always thrilled with the idea of increasing wages for our amazing, dedicated and deserving staff, we do not have the flexibility to increase our revenue. To put it simply, a dry cleaner will charge you more to cover this increase, but we cannot charge the state more to pay for services. We are grateful that AHCCCS and Governor Ducey recognized the crisis and enacted a modest increase for DDD providers, but the increase does not offset the impact of Prop 206. Sadly, some of our peer providers will not be able to raise their rates this year.

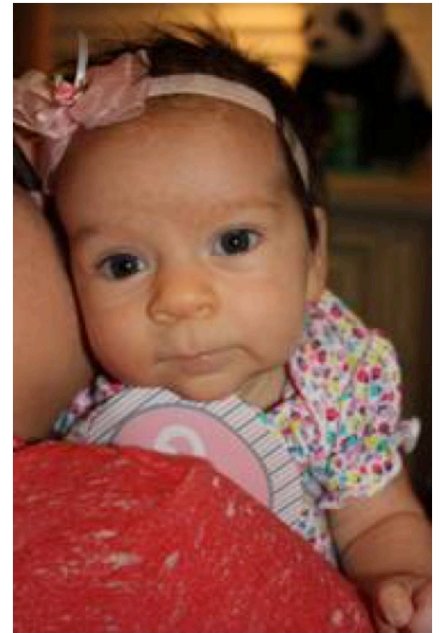
We are hopeful that Governor Ducey and our legislators recognize this issue and will make funding for DDD service providers a high priority during the legislative session. By the time you see this article, we have been down to the Capitol for AAPPD Legislative Day and committee hearings. We'd love to have your help making our voices heard. If you're interested in writing a letter to the editor, visiting your Representative or Senator, or sharing your story in some other way, let me know. We're all working to ensure that the people we serve have a strong, high quality network of service providers!

STARS Stories

On Saturday January 14th, several staff gathered to develop a list of stories that will highlight the good work that goes on at STARS every day. It was a great workshop and team building activity.

Thanks to the following staff members for devoting a Saturday afternoon to developing our STARS' Stories: Joe Bonanno, Adam Wakefield, Russ Ker, Felicia Jackson, Myrtle Wilkes, Valerie Carrothers, Ty Graham, Jakie Walker, Ashley Archibald and Anne Gray.

We look forward to sharing the STARS' stories with our supporters over the months ahead.



STARS welcomed a new addition to its extended family in October.

Claudia Chavez, our Center Based Program Manager, gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Riley on October 29th. Riley weighed in at 7 pounds 14 oz.

Claudia is back to work at STARS and is happy to report that Riley is sleeping through the night. Congratulations again Claudia to you and your wife on this wonderful blessing.

Donate to STARS and take the Credit!



We are grateful to those who have currently contributed to our Tax Credit Campaign.

If you have not donated yet, the GOOD NEWS is that you are still able to make a donation up to \$40 (\$800. if filing jointly) to STARS and claim the credit against your Arizona State income taxes. This is the last year where you can donate AFTER DECEMBER 31st and claim the credit. Tax payers have until April 15th of this year to make their donations to Qualifying Charitable Organizations and take the Credit.

If you have not already done so, we could use your support. Please tell your neighbors and friends that it is NOT TOO LATE TO TAKE THE CREDIT.

Please click the link below:

[Donate Today](#)

Dave's Corner

We are off to a good start in 2017. January finds STARS' staff & participants renewed and ready to advance in the year ahead.

STARS leadership team is setting strategic goals and our direct staff is working on building the STARS' story bank. We were proud to honor our Programs Manager as a Diversity Champion and part in Scottsdale's Celebration of Diversity.

Thanks to all who have donated to the Tax Credit Campaign. Please remember it is not too late if you have not done so. This year you



until April to make your donation. Charitable organizations can use these credits. It's easy to do and critical for STARS continued success. We make every day an invigorating, productive opportunity for our participants.

Lastly, please remember that your advocacy efforts make a difference. Consider writing a letter or making a phone call on issues that are impactful to STARS. You are welcome to email or call Gina Griffith, Program Manager (ggriffiths@starsaz.org /480-371- 2340) to get information and answer any questions on how you can advocate for people with developmental disabilities.

Have a good February. You are always welcome for a visit.



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