

Lend-A-Hand  
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18 May 2012

Supervisor Sharon Bronson  
District 3  
130 W Congress  
Tucson AZ 85701

Dear Supervisor Bronson,

**Lend A Hand** Senior Assistance, Inc (LAH).continues to grow, not only in the number of neighborhoods joining our efforts but also in services offered to seniors. Last year Richland Heights West joined LAH which is made up of Campus Farms, Hedrick Acres, Jefferson Park, La Madera, Limberlost, Mountain/First, Prince-Tucson, Samos, Winterhaven, Campbell Ave. Business Partnership, and Mountain Ave Church of Christ. At the present time we are meeting with Richland Heights East as they have expressed an interest in joining us. We initially formed in 2004 with five neighborhoods and now will have 14 organizations involved.

Our volunteers continue to serve our senior population by providing rides to doctor/dentist appointments, grocery stores, banks, beauty shops, yard work, cooking meals, friendly visits/phone calls, special event trips to the zoo, Miniature Museum, etc. All these services help our seniors remain in their homes. We also partner with the Junior League and in spring made home repairs in four senior homes and there is a wonderful video that Junior League made while working on Carolyn Maki's home. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOgrr5-nw-w> or go to the Junior League of Tucson website at JLT C.A.R.E.S

In April LAH served: 31 different senior neighbors in our 11 neighborhood service area. We had 15 volunteers helping and 11 of them were drivers who covered 136 transportation requests for 570 miles and 102 hours of time. There were 9 errands trips, 8 friendly visits and 21 friendly phone calls, plus all the doctor appointments. These statistics vary every month depending on our senior needs.

This year we have started a senior canteen, a social gathering, which meets once a month during the afternoon. Because seniors often aren't able to get out except for necessary appointments we felt the senior canteen would offer a wonderful opportunity to visit with

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others. This month's program will be Laughter Yoga and then the sharing of A Special Keepsake. We have been including the elders from the Tucson International Association of Refugee Cultures (TIARC). We also continue to sponsor the senior writing group and their work are posted online at <http://lahseniorwriters.wordpress.com/>.

Our big fund raising event this year has been hosting international meals in different Board members' homes. So far we have had Moroccan, Tapas and Indian dinners and this next week-end will be hosting a Latin American meal.

One of our big goals this year is to purchase a Listening System which has five major components: Eight microphones, one mixer, one transmitter, six receivers and seven headphones. When any person speaks into a microphone, their voice is transmitted through the microphone cable to the mixer and then to transmitter, which in turn transmits back to each of the people wearing headphones. Loss of hearing is a major issue for seniors or as one of our seniors said "a common curse of old age." On our Board of Directors we have five individuals who wear hearing aids. This Listening System would be used during the Senior Canteen, Writing Group and even at our Board Meetings and would greatly improve the quality of life for many.

Lend A Hand continues to be an enthusiastic group of volunteers and we recently helped Mary MacEwen celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and events like that are so rewarding for all of us and re-enforce the importance of helping seniors remain in their homes and being part of our neighborhood communities.

Being a 501(c)(3) organization we rely on donations and fund raising events to meet all our needs. We appreciate all the support you continue to give us through posting our events, supplying yard sale items. If it is possible to give us some financial support we would greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Jane Hoffmann  
Lend A Hand Secretary  
327-9693