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Greetings Supervisor Richard Elias,

I am writing to update you on the documentary film project in partnership with Stories that Soar! and AZ State Schools for the Deaf and Blind. As you are familiar, this iteration of the project started in 2012 with support from a PLACE Initiative grant from Tucson Pima Arts Council designed to increase cross-cultural understanding between the general population and deaf and blind cultures. The film follows the process of building a professional theatre production based on stories written by ASDB students and then honoring those stories and the young authors in a subsequent live show intended for audiences of all abilities.

As we began to think about the reality of making the film fully accessible to both deaf and blind viewers, as well as finding a theatre that could properly accommodate people of all abilities, we began to talk to people working in the field of disability justice. Ultimately we realized that what we were actually involved in was part of a civil rights issue that was happening quietly right under our very noses. We then saw the potential to use our film to bring these topics forward and increase awareness within our community and beyond.

Although the core of the film is in place, we are committed to gathering and editing new footage of interviews in order to contextualize this story so that it speaks to the larger issues of justice and equality for people with physical and/or sensory limitations. We also need resources for closed captioning and audio description services so the people the film depict can access it without obstacle.

We are reaching out to you today for a contribution of \$1,000 to help finish this project that we feel has the potential to make Pima County an even more equitable place for all. Each day I am grateful for the journey we have traveled together thus far, you as the visionary and STS! as the storyteller. Thank you for caring for ALL the people of our community.

Respectfully,


Sharon O'Brien
Stories that Soar! Artistic Director

