



First Baptist Church of Phoenix Foundation
A SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION OF THE ARIZONA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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NEWSLETTER

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From the President

As you may be aware, non-profits like ourselves operate under rules established by the IRS. One of these rules is that, if you are not involved in ongoing fund-raising activities, then after a set number of years you must either affiliate with a non-profit that does fund-raising, or you must become a private foundation.

The rules governing a private foundation are very much to our disadvantage. For example, we would have to pay federal income tax on the Foundation, and there would be minimum distribution requirements that would be difficult to meet.

For these and other reasons, the First Baptist Church of Phoenix Foundation was forced to make what appears to be a very positive change in our structure. As of June 1, 2013, we became what is legally known as a "supporting organization" to the Arizona Community Foundation.

For more than thirty-five years, the Arizona Community Foundation has been assisting organizations like ours to achieve their philanthropic goals. They currently manage in excess of \$500,000,000 for over 1200 charitable groups. During the last year, they assisted these entities to distribute millions of dollars to approximately 2500 non-profit organizations. Their stated objective is to help us accomplish our goals.

We still have the same Board members and officers, and the same goals. ACF provides what is known as "back office assistance," including legal and tax filings. In addition, they have the resources to help us research the legal viability of potential grant recipients.

We are also pleased to announce that the staffs of both Living Streams Church and Desert View Church have agreed to assist us in selecting new Board members. As you will remember, Living Streams Church purchased the First Baptist Church property, and they have done a wonderful job of carrying on the ministry at our former location. Desert View Church is located at Central and Carefree Highway in the North Valley. The vice-president of our Board attends this very strong evangelical church, which has an average attendance of 1700 each week. We feel that the input provided by these two new partners will give strength to our long-term management of the Foundation.

We feel that with these changes we are now on a very strong path to continue our mission for an extended number of years.

---Bill Beamon

Foundation Granting

The First Baptist Church of Phoenix Foundation's primary purpose is to provide funding through grants to Christian organizations that are engaged in growing God's kingdom here on earth. Our priority is on new church plants and training for planting pastors, but we also consider other ministries that are supporting our primary mission.

Our web site at fbcpfound.org is our principal communication vehicle for explaining our purpose and our process. From the web site the applicant will be directed to the Arizona Community Foundation web site, where they can enter their application right from their computer. These applications are then electronically available to our granting committee to facilitate our evaluation cycle.

At the first of each year we set our granting budget for the coming grant cycle. We then accept applications from January 1 through March 31 of that year. Our evaluation committee spends the month of April discussing, following up if more information is needed and praying for God's guidance. Over half of our board members participate on this committee and spend a busy month in order to meet our goal of finalizing our recommendations by the end of April. These recommendations are then placed before the full board for final approval. All applicants are then notified of the disposition of their request in May.

Those applicants that are receiving awards must then confirm with the Arizona Community Foundation their financial transmittal information before the payments are actually made.

Most of the grants are funded in May, but we attach milestones to some of the grants. These milestones must be met before the grant, or a portion of the grant is paid and may continue throughout the year until March 31st of the next year. On January 1st of the following year the process starts over again.

Since our first grants in 2008, the Foundation has approved over \$900,000 in grant monies. In the past three years, the Foundation has approved over \$600,000 in grant funding. We have funded ministries in Bosnia, the Philippines, Peru, various places in Mexico, as well as from the east coast to the west coast in the United States including several in Arizona.

This year, the Foundation has approved grants totaling \$209,676 to be paid starting in May of 2015.

- These grants cover funding for new churches in: South Phoenix; Boise, Idaho; Dedham, Massachusetts; Carlsbad, California; Bosnia; the Philippines; Tijuana, Mexico.
- We are also supporting the Family of God Church in Rocky Point in training new Spanish speaking pastors.
- We continue to support Mission and Outreach projects at the Tonto Rim Christian Camp, Rocky Point Medical Clinic, and The Young Life Developing Global Leaders program. This year we have also added support for two former First Baptist members who are answering God's call to minister to the people of Indonesia, and support for a local Young Life High School ministry.

We know that the Foundation has been blessed with this funding and we sincerely pray for God's guidance and approval as we make our decisions. I think that you can see that the Foundation's grants are helping to bring the message of the gospel to many people in all areas of our country and the world. Through the Foundation's granting program the legacy of The First Baptist Church of Phoenix is not only alive and well, it is growing.

When you read the following two letters from ministries that The First Baptist Church of Phoenix Foundation has supported through grant awards, you can see the impact that the Foundation's granting program is having.

---Al Longanecker



I want to express my enormous appreciation for the help FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of PHOENIX FOUNDATION has been to us here in the Philippines.

Your grants allow us to bring the hope of the Gospel to the remote communities of the Philippines. Most of the people in these communities have never heard the Gospel and many are accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

We form congregations and then build churches and parsonages with your generous grants. Our pastors and their families, familiar with their customs and languages, live among them. They proclaim and demonstrate the love of our Lord while living with the people. Using each church as a base, the pastors also reach out into neighboring communities.

Your generous grants have brought hope to these communities. The comment we most hear is "no one has ever helped us before." In each of these communities, when we first go in, there is always the look of despair on their faces and in their eyes. As the church materializes, and we begin our programs of care, the community changes. Someone, in the name of our Lord, cares for them. Hope stirs in their hearts.

We preach the Gospel pure and simple. Many respond immediately and are saved, while others take more time to consider what they hear and see. Lives are improved, and our Lord is faithful and hears their prayers. As they learn to depend on our faithful Lord Jesus, their lives improve. In time, smiles come to their faces and hope shines in their eyes - thank you LORD!

Your last grant for 2014 helped us build a church in the tribal area on the island of Palawan. The church is RRCP Buenavista Tribal Church. From this church four more house churches in other tribal communities have been established. We are the first church in their history to establish a local presence. Many missionaries have come and gone, but we are the first to stay and love them. Your grant to build a church and parsonage is directly responsible for our success among the tribes. The pastor and his family are also members of one of the tribes. The tribes are specifically Agutaynon, Batac, Cuyonin, Tagbanuan, and Agutaynin. Thank you Lord!

Thank you for your generous grants to build churches. With you as our partner we take our Lord's Gospel of salvation where it has never been before.

*Your partner in this ministry to the Filipinos,
---Pastor Steven Ray Bragg*

Rocky Point Medical Clinics

Well, it has been an action packed year. We were given almost 2 acres of land with 2 buildings by the city. These are for the medical/dental clinics and for a youth center. It is a rare opportunity to increase our presence in a desperately poor part of a desperately poor town. To God be the glory, great things He has done...

We saw nearly 2000 patients this past year, 250 accepted Christ, and we have kept up with those folks with home visits, phone calls, etc.

- We saw 10 women with cervical cancer, detected by our Pap smear program, and they were successfully treated.
- 22 people received ultrasounds and further testing.
- 10 people were treated for advanced gum disease; this is a huge problem for us; and 4 children of one of our deacons were treated for severe dental problems.
- 1 man was sent to Caborca for prostate cancer surgery.
- 7 people have received their prostheses with 5 more getting them as I write. One child is getting a prostheses, after losing his leg in a car accident in December.
- One girl received leg braces, enabling her to walk.
- A 9-year old girl was taken to Tucson for heart surgery and another boy to the Shriner's Hospital in LA for surgery.
- 16 people needed advanced radiological studies.
- 8 woman needed mammograms.
- 10 people needed ophthalmic care, and 6 were fitted for glasses.
- A small girl will be getting surgery soon for gastric problems; we have taken her to Hermosillo several times for treatment.
- We saw 250 patients at the men's prison, where we held 4 clinics. One man received a hernia surgery which was desperately needed. He couldn't get the surgery as the mesh needed is not available for prisoners!!! And we were able to provide the mesh required.

Diabetes continues to be our biggest problem, and we are going to start doing more diabetic teaching with our patients.

All of the above procedures cost money, and we are forever grateful to you for providing the money for this. We appreciate the team work...we could never do all this without your help. You are all invited to come to any of our clinics, and we would love you to view our Facebook page and website (www.rockypointmedicalclinics.com).

It is a tremendously fulfilling job; every new day brings more blessings. People who want to make something of their lives are being given that opportunity. Thank you for enriching the lives of so many people and for bringing the joy of eternity into the hearts of 250 people.
---Susie Stavros