

**Aviva Children's Services Volunteer and Visitation Programs  
for Child Protective Services**

**KIDS AT HEART  
FALL 2008**



[www.avivatucson.org](http://www.avivatucson.org)

**Aviva  
Children's  
Services**

**Mission Statement**

*The mission of Aviva is to enhance services that improve the quality of life for children who are victims of neglect, abuse, and poverty, and who are in the care of Child Protective Services.*

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**A Bad Economy  
Devastates CPS Families**

by Anne Sankey

Imagine that you and your spouse have three children and that you each work two jobs just to pay rent and buy food. With anything extra you alternate between paying the gas bill or the electric bill – almost always both are in arrears. When possible you work opposite shifts so that one of you can manage the children, and when you can't, friends and relatives try to help out. You struggle with fatigue and frustration.

One day you arrive at the better of your two jobs to find a short-tempered boss. Sales have dropped off drastically and you were 15 minutes late so you get the pink slip. Your razor-thin margin of survival is in jeopardy.

You search for other work, leaving your 9-year-old in charge of the children. Your 4-year-old wanders a mile from home and CPS is called. And then called again when school personnel observe bruise marks on your 6-year-old. You join the ranks of hundreds of families who can no longer make it on their own, but must accept resources (and oversight) from the State.

Economic downtrends cause extraordinary hardship for those on the bottom of the work ladder, destroying self-sufficiency and creating dependency. But when serious downtrends penetrate the entire society and put stress on all of its parts, society's ability to help the most needy is diminished.

This is where we find ourselves now – economic stress is reducing family resources and resulting in more child abuse, especially neglect, and thus more State intervention and larger caseloads. At the same time, some of the usual standby funds available for specific groups (Arizona Young Adult Program and foster children) have been cut, and average citizens have less to donate. So unfortunately this fall, we have more children to help, both with the basic necessities and with holiday gifts, and with fewer State and private resources.

So what can we do to help the children who bear no responsibility, but are the most vulnerable and the most affected? **We can each do what we can do** and if that has to be less than in previous years,

then we can combine many small amounts to create a larger result. We can put more emphasis on the basic necessities and provide grocery cards or food bank vouchers or perhaps several people can join together to support one child or a small family with one group gift.

If you are able to assist at a more generous level and can sponsor a family, please consider helping to spread the resources as far as possible. If you or your group sponsored one family extravagantly in previous years, please consider sponsoring two or more families at a lesser level this year – that way more can be blessed with your gift.

Please see our suggested shopping list on the back of the holiday insert. If financial assistance is not an option, volunteering your time and skills can help fill in the gaps.

See page 7 for volunteer opportunities. Thank you for caring and for doing whatever you can.

*Our web site, [www.avivatucson.org](http://www.avivatucson.org), also has suggested gift ideas for each age and gender group.*

**How One Company Helped Ten Children:  
The Lasting Effect of a Wonderful Family Sponsorship**

Late in the fall of 2007, the parents of four children took in the six children of an unfit relative, which put them under serious financial pressure. The very generous employees of a Tucson company agreed to

sponsor them and did so with amazing results. Each child received a bicycle, toys, and lots of clothing. Food was provided and there were gift cards for many more groceries and for gas and

Continued on page 2

*Aviva Children's Services Staff*



**Anne Sankey**

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**Bonnie Demorotski**

Volunteer and  
Community Resource  
Coordinator

**Cindy Lingel**

Life Book Project  
Coordinator

**Susan Kelly**

Volunteer Coordinator

**Cathy Tullgren**

Visitation Program  
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**Marnie Pollard**

Bags for Kids  
Project Coordinator

**Ginny Caballero**

Human Resources  
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**Ron Olin**

Administrative Assistant

**Tamera Tiedge**

Donations Coordinator

**Pat Palmer**

Special Projects  
Coordinator

# Thanks for the Memories!

After nearly 30 years of working with Tucson's wonderful volunteers, and with equally wonderful Aviva staff and Child Protective Services staff, I have, with mixed feelings, decided to retire.

I will always be mindful of you, the people in this unique community, who continually and selflessly set aside personal time and interests and come together to assist CPS children in the most amazing ways.

By definition these children are hurting and your caring and creative energy provide lasting contributions and make indelible impressions



by Anne Sankey,  
Executive Director

in ways you, or we, may not even know. But, those who come back tell us how a special someone made the difference that helped them turn the right corner in their lives. Doing this work has been a real pleasure and a great journey. I will continue to be involved with Aviva as president of its Board of Directors.

adding some other wonderful things to my life, like spending time with my three grandchildren, all under 3 years old, during these fun and formative years, as well as traveling and spending part of the summers in my native Northwest.

We are currently taking applications for my position, in anticipation of beginning a transition in the next couple of months.

In our spring 2009 newsletter we will have an update on new happenings and new directions!

My gratitude and thanks to all of you who have created and carried out Aviva's mission.

But I will also be

How one company... continued from page 1

even movies. The parents had done a wonderful thing for these six children and the company made it possible for all of them to survive until more resources could be located. But beyond that, the parents and the employees both did a wonderful deed for our community – six traumatized children were settled in the best available place, where they could best heal from the harm they had suffered and where they had the best chance to become productive citizens.

The parents also have a very special memory – they will never forget the joy on the faces of the children when after expecting nothing they found a room filled with toys on Christmas morning.

*Someone had cared. Someone had remembered them.* That memory will last forever.

*(As of now, there are plans for three of the six children to be adopted by other relatives and friends, and for three to remain with the current family.)*

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• If you have article  
• contributions or ideas for  
• our Spring 2009 issue,  
• please contact Bonnie at  
• 327-6779, ext. 13.  
• All articles and photos by  
• Aviva staff unless  
• otherwise noted.  
•••••

## United Way Donors

Please consider designating Aviva. Our number for ECAP donors is 9797. All other donors use 1113. Thank you!

# Meet Team Tolero!

## Riding for Children in CPS and Aviva's Care

by Anne Sankey

Team Tolero is a seven-member bicycle team that “goes the full mile”-- and many more miles -- for kids. Not content to just cruise Tucson loops, Team Tolero’s next epic ride for charity will depart from San Diego on December 13, and three and a half days and 430 miles later will mark its Tucson arrival with a celebration at Reid Park. These rides raise money for the team’s charity, called “**Endure 4 Life,**” and this year those funds will go to CPS children. The team will buy bikes and helmets for individual children and will donate other sports equipment to a group home.

Team Tolero, a group of seven amateur endurance athletes who are passionate about cycling and racing in national competition, would like to present their sport to and share their values with Aviva children. Their message is to promote a healthy lifestyle and to encourage people to set goals that are bigger than themselves -- to endure!

As current Aviva staff member and former foster

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### Mentors Are Important in the Life of a Child!

CPS children often live in chaotic environments and they move frequently – two factors that cause them to fall behind in school. They desperately need tutors to help them catch up to grade level. Unable to cope with the stress of their lives, some of their parents turn to drugs and ruin all chances of ever becoming competent. Their children may get placed in group-living facilities or in a series of foster homes.

How does a child figure out how to become a stable, successful grown-up? This is achieved through having a model of a positive, stable, successful grown-up. These children need mentors to be the role models they no longer or maybe never did have. They need one good person to provide stability when everything around them continues to change and they need to know someone values them. These gifts are priceless! Contact Susan Kelly at 327-6779 ext. 11 for information on mentoring.

Team Tolero includes left to right: Kerry Zuber, Adam Smith, Jason Dannettel, Lawrence Knight and Jim Eliopoulos. Not pictured are TJ Johns and Steve Ferree.



child Marnie Pollard observed, the qualities that make a cyclist great are the same qualities that help a child in the foster care system to be tough, resilient, and strong. As part of its involvement, Team Tolero would like to show Aviva kids the care and repair of bicycle equipment.

Another resource for bikes and bike expertise is **BICAS**, Bicycle Inter Community Art and Salvage. This organization accepts used bike donations and teaches children how to build, from scratch, a bike that will become their own.

Children can learn safe ways to ride by signing up for free bike-safety classes that also provides helmets, locks and lights through the City of Tucson and Pima County. (See ad below.)



### Donate money to Aviva and “get it all back”!

If you itemize your tax returns you may be able to make a **TAX CREDIT** donation to Aviva at the rate of \$200 if filing single, or \$400 if filing jointly. This is not a deduction where you count off part of your donation. And, if you declare it to be a tax credit and make the donation by December 31, when you file your taxes, you can subtract the entire amount from the State tax you owe. Basically the State is allowing you to determine how your State tax dollars will be used. Aviva Children’s Services is listed with the State as a Charitable Organization/Working Poor Charity and thus qualifies for this kind of donation. Please consult your tax advisor about your personal eligibility and about the benefits of this credit for you.





# Bright Spots



**We know that all of you are Bright Spots and we welcome the opportunity to highlight you or your group in upcoming newsletters. Call us if you want to see your Bright Spot here!**

**Thank you for all you do to make the lives of children brighter!**

### Judy Moll and Gayle Jandrey

These ladies are both veteran Life Book writers. Since 2002, Judy and Gayle each have taken on the largest and most complicated Life Book requests – often researching and writing separate Life Books for siblings who may not be living in the same home. Putting these books together can take up to a year. They create extremely thoughtful and sensitive books and have helped so many children. Their dedication to children in CPS care is unrivaled.

### Tucson Quilters Guild

For many years, the Tucson Quilters Guild has helped CPS children with their donations of handcrafted items. This year, the Guild is donating 100 bears dressed in handcrafted clothing. Each bear comes in a cute outfit, the boys in pants and vests or bear pajamas and the girls in play dresses, along with a matching bear-size quilt. The bear and the quilt are packed into colorful tote bags for delivery. These dressed-up little bears will bring lots of smiles to children this holiday season!



### Far Horizons-The Sew and So's Group

Led by Jean Mitchell, this group got its start about seven years ago at the 7570 E. Speedway community. Twelve dedicated quilters get together once a week and make quilts for Aviva to share with children in CPS care. The quilts they produce are always well made and just adorable.

### Far Horizons Tucson Village Sewing Group, Sew and Chat

A mini Sew- A-Thon is hosted each January by this group to make Bags For Kids bags. Led by Carol Newberry, the group of 30 not only make bags, but they also make baby quilts and twin-size quilts for CPS children each year. The Tucson Village Far Horizons community

is located at 555 N. Pantano.

### Jane Uthe and the Far Horizons Friday Sewing Group

At its 5000 E. Grant Road gathering spot, this group has been making quilts and bags for CPS children for many years. The 10 members gather their creations along with toys, luggage and a large quantity of hotel-size toiletries for pickup every fall.

### Mod Madres

The Mod Madres have been long-time supporters of Aviva. They have made and donated Bags For Kids bags since 2003. The group is a part of the Family Community Education program, an extension of the UA. Ten members currently sew unique Bags For Kids bags and support other Aviva projects throughout the year with their donations.

### Pima Community College

All PCC campuses get involved late summer when the Staff Council begins its back-to-school supply drive. Over the past five years 61,000 items have been collected, including backpacks, cases of notebook paper, cases of crayons and colored pencils, pens and pencils and all the other school supplies necessary to send the children back to school totally prepared. PCC Staff Council changes every year, yet the desire to see that children in CPS get these supplies has remained a very valuable objective.

### Sandra Beecher

Sandra is a realtor who read an article in 2005 about Aubrey Abril, then a 12-year-old girl, who wanted to gather backpacks and school supplies for children in CPS. Sandra decided to contribute as well. Since then she has been able to get her co-workers to support her efforts and together they have contributed filled backpacks, extra school supplies, underwear and socks for the Undies Sunday drive, donated hundreds of toys at Christmastime and they even come to wrapping day to wrap presents for the children.

### Community Diaper Bank

We depend heavily on the Diaper Bank to supply us with diapers for CPS families. Since our current computer record-keeping began in 2003, more than 92,000 diapers have been donated to Aviva. It is this essential partnership we have that provides families with

emergency diapers. The Diaper Bank makes it possible to provide a new mother those hard-to-find newborn diapers, or the popular size 5s, going to the grandmother who just took in two toddlers. *(A non-solicited plug for the Diaper Bank – they are terribly low on diapers, and since they depend on the community to supply agencies with diapers, they need your help.)*

### Assistance League of Tucson

The volunteer women of the Assistance League operate their thrift store, located at 1307 N. Alvernon, and take the proceeds to purchase new household items that are put together for SOS kits. Starting Over Supplies help families in CPS set up housekeeping for the first time with new dishes, cookware, silverware, linens, cleaning supplies, and hygiene products. Over the years more than 1,150 families, or teens in independent living, have received the SOS kits valued in total at over \$71,000.

### Wal-Mart/Sam's Club

Wal-Mart and Sam's Club are so generous to the community and Aviva Children's Services is no exception. We have received their community grants for the holidays and for the Sewathon, and this year for school supplies. Cindy and Maria in Personnel at the Cortaro Road store have been so great in pulling together school supplies and Christmas gifts for us and making sure our children have just what they need.

### Payless Shoesource Stores

The Regional Manger, Susan Kammerman, has been so consistent in making sure that each one of the thousands of shoe gift cards we buy gets a sticker that provides a 30% discount on every purchase. This is huge for our families when they go to get new shoes, as it often makes it possible to get two pairs or shoes, or a pair of shoes and package of socks.

### Comstock Children's Foundation

Judith Jones, Executive Director, is amazing in providing resources and knowledge about the current trend in fighting common diseases and medical ailments. Again, just since our computer record keeping, Aviva has received over 200 lice kits to help the children and their families with one of the most pesky problems CPS faces.

## Committing to a Child Makes a Difference in Their Lives!

By Claudia Sandoval

The Rhein family, consisting of Alyssa and Josh, is an amazing family that really took the call of a child to heart. Alyssa wanted to help children and initially decided to volunteer at Casa de Los Niños. Once she started there, she met a little boy who was having a hard time adjusting. Although he probably felt safer and better taken care of than he had ever been, he was still lonely and sad, and not willing to attach to other adults.

Most children do not attach, because this way they protect themselves from the pain of separation. It is a defense against the constant transitions and people in and out of their lives. This little boy was a hard nut to crack, but with time Alyssa was able to crack the layers of shells, piece by piece. Everyone was

so amazed that he was so attached to her, and he showed it. When he saw Alyssa he would become so happy.

Alyssa wanted to spend one-on-one time with this little guy, and decided to volunteer through Aviva to make that happen. She processed her paperwork as fast as she could, and within weeks she was able to pick up this little guy and introduce him to a world he knew little about.

Meanwhile, her husband Josh was also becoming an Aviva volunteer. He completed the trainings and the endless amounts of paperwork so that he, too, could be a part of this little guy's life. The little boy was getting to play ball at the park, have consistent snacks, learning to color, draw, read and play age-appropriate games.

He had two adult mentors who would ask him what he thought about the things he saw and played with. He had the consistency of play time with adults who engaged his imagination and encouraged positive growth.

Things changed for this little guy and he was placed with his grandparents. But he still gets to spend visits with Alyssa and Josh.

They would pick him up every week and create a fun-filled day for him. At times there were struggles to work through, but all the while, the Rheins maintained consistency and never let obstacles get in the way of providing a fun time for the little fellow.

Throughout they showed their love for this child, and we feel very strongly that they should be recognized for their commitment to a child in the care of Child Protective Services.

## Volunteer Life Book Writer Finds A Niche!

By Cindy Lingel

Just about a year ago, Laura Jestings was perusing her church's web site (Pantano Christian Church) and she noticed a link to Aviva Children's Services. Laura was looking for a way to volunteer her time and she wanted to make a difference in a child's life. In just a couple of clicks, Laura found herself looking at the Life Book Project offered by Aviva.

"Volunteers chronicle each child's unique life experience, including their journey through abuse and foster care...For many children growing up in the foster care system, the Life Book is the only record they will ever have of their childhood," the description read. Laura said she had an excited feeling when she read about Life Books and wanted to sign up right away.

Laura contacted Aviva and began the process of becoming a volunteer. That process includes an application, fingerprinting, an interview and some day-long training sessions. Once this process was complete, Laura received her first Life Book assignment.

When looking through the Life Book referrals, one stood out. It was a request for a 9-year-old girl named Penny (not her real name). Penny had been removed from her family two years ago and had lived in several foster homes by the time she was placed in her current adoptive placement.

Penny was removed from her birth parents due mainly to their extreme neglect. Child Protective Services gave the birth parents a case plan so they could work toward reuniting their family. Laura reported how impressed she was with all the efforts made by CPS to reunite this family. Sadly,



Life Book Writer Laura Jestings

Penny's birth parents were not ready to make the commitment to change as required and they eventually relinquished their parental rights.

After a meeting with Penny's caseworker, Laura began her research, which included reading each case file from front to back. Laura related that as she began to read all the notes about Penny - that as a small child she sounded like quite a handful! As her research progressed, Laura noticed that Penny seemed to blossom in foster care. Having the love and attention that she craved and deserved had helped Penny develop into a charming young lady.

One of Laura's strengths in this process is her creative and imaginative way of finding people to contribute to the book. Life Book volunteers are encouraged to contact former foster parents, teachers, therapists, and the like, but Laura took the contacts to a whole new level. Laura not only got one of Penny's former teachers to write a letter for the book but she also got a letter from the principal and one from a school friend of Penny's. She has gotten letters from a former foster parent and from the children who were Penny's foster siblings in that home.

Best of all, Laura met and got a letter from Scrapy, the foster family's pet dog.

Scrapy's letter tells that he remembers Penny calling him Potato Chip because his ears looked like potato chips and he remembers that he liked her right away! Scrapy tells Penny that just like her, he was rescued from a family that loved him, but they could not take care of him. Scrapy's letter will be proudly displayed in Penny's book, along with his picture! Laura is persistent and she is determined to have Penny's book show how many people (and pets!) have loved and cared for her.

On the weekends, Laura has been taking pictures of Penny's schools, her former foster homes, and places she lived with her birth family before she came into care, documenting her life in pictures as well as words.

Laura is getting close to wrapping up the Life Book. Her goal is to have it ready to deliver to Penny by her adoption day in November at a big adoption event held at Udall Park. That day judges will make many adoptions final. Laura will be an honored guest of Penny and her family at this event.

On a personal note, in addition to working with the City of Tucson, Laura is the mother of Marshall, a teen boy who keeps her busy attending his sporting events, and she is "mom" to Shiloh, a cockapoo. We are thrilled to have Laura as a part of the Life Book project.

*If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Life Book volunteer, please check our website, [www.avivatucson.org](http://www.avivatucson.org), or contact Cindy Lingel at 327-6779 ext. 14 for more information.*

# Celebrating Ten Years of Bags for Kids!

By Marnie Pollard

We proudly announce the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bags For Kids Sew-A-Thon. On February 14, 2009 many loyal, compassionate, and hardworking volunteers will gather to sew duffel bags for foster children. These sturdy and colorful handmade bags are distributed to foster children so they do not have to use garbage bags as luggage.

In December 1999 two social work professionals, Carol Punske from CPS (Child Protective Services) and Sandy Loomis from CPSA (Community Partnership of Southern Arizona), agreed that garbage bags were an unacceptable form of luggage for foster children. They recruited some friends to spend an afternoon making as many cloth duffel bags as possible. News of this volunteer effort reached the public and on January 22, 2000 approximately 200 community members gathered for a Sew-A-Thon. Merchants and individuals donated food, fabric, sewing machines, services and supplies.

The Annual Sew-A-Thon clearly generates enthusiasm in the hearts of dedicated volunteers and so remains the "heartbeat" of the Bags for Kids Project. Over the years, the Sew-A-Thon has both thrived and evolved. The event, which began as a simple "sewing day," has become an annual social gathering. And, in this atmosphere of camaraderie and friendship, the event is becoming increasingly productive—many more

bags are being completed at recent events. Just take a look at the great success we have enjoyed over the past nine years! In 2000, 200 volunteers made 340 bags and in 2008, 150 volunteers made 1438 bags with many volunteers making more bags each year in between.

This grand total of 6,269 bags completed at the Sew-A-Thons is amazing. This does not include additional bags that were sewn by volunteers from their homes throughout the year. After each Sew-A-Thon, Aviva Children's Services graciously accepts an ongoing flow of bag donations. This continued productivity indicates that sewers are not just sitting idly by waiting for the next Sew-A-Thon to make bags. Instead, throughout the year they are diligently making bags out of their homes, their churches, and their community centers. It would not be an exaggeration to estimate that the actual number of bags made by Sew-A-Thon participants and by sewers from home has easily reached 10,000! This momentum suggests that the impact of a single event reaches far beyond the number of bags made on the day of the event.

On this 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bags for Kids Program and the Annual Sew-A-Thon, we would like to thank all who have participated and we would like to encourage first-timers to join us this year. Each of you plays an important role in preserving the dignity of foster children. We sincerely hope you have had and continue to have fun along the way!

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## Please join us for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Bags For Kids Sew-A-Thon and Anniversary Celebration !

**Who?** Dedicated, hard-working volunteers

**What?** A Sew-A-Thon/Celebration with food, music and friends

**Where?** The Arizona Training Community Resource Center  
4710 E. 29<sup>th</sup> Street (Swan & 29<sup>th</sup>) Building #7

**When?** Saturday, February 14, 2009 9:00 to 4:00

**How?** Volunteers can choose from jobs including: sewing (bring sewing machine), cutting fabric (bring scissors or rotary cutting equipment), and stringing the cords through the bags (bring nimble fingers). Fabric is supplied, but donations of fabric one yard or larger are gladly accepted.

**PLEASE PRE-REGISTER:** Call Marnie Pollard 327-6779  
X16 or email [marnie.pollard@avivatucson.org](mailto:marnie.pollard@avivatucson.org)

Be sure to **SIGN UP** for the free raffle with prizes, including a beautiful sewing/craft chest, a serger and gift baskets.



Anza Trail Middle School students with Marnie Pollard, Bags for Kids Project Coordinator, far right

*The Bags for Kids Sew-A-Thon is a collaborative effort between the Community Partnership of Southern Arizona, the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Child Protective Services, and Aviva Children's Services. Aviva Children's Services is a nonprofit agency that provides specialized services for abused and neglected children in Pima County and is the coordinating agency of the Bags for Kids Sew-A-Thon.*

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## CRAFT CORNER

Thank you for your contributions! Aviva Children's Services is happy to give you a tax receipt for your donations.

### Holiday Sewing and Crafting

For those of you who love to make things for the holidays, please consider making something for a child in CPS--dolls with different outfits, stuffed toys, decorative pillows and quilts, decorated sweatshirts or jeans, crocheted hats, mittens, and on and on! We will pass your creation on to a child who will treasure having something made just for them!

### Quilts

The need for quilts and afghans continues even more so now since the weather is turning a little cooler. Quilts can be as simple or as complicated as you like. They can be baby size or bed size. The children find so much comfort in these blankets and quilts. We give a stuffed animal with each blanket, so if you are cleaning out your collection please consider donating

those stuffed animals to Aviva. We are always in need of fabric, quilt batting, and yarn. We will pass those items along to other volunteers who will craft them into cuddly blankets and quilts!

### Bags For Kids

We hope you will join us for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Sew A Thon on February 14 (see article in this newsletter). Beyond the Sew A Thon, we have other volunteers who sew bags year round and they would welcome any fabric, cording and notions that you donate.

### In General

Aviva works with volunteers throughout the community who sew and craft items for children in CPS care. We can find homes for just about any of your sewing and crafting items or equipment that you no longer use.



## Welcome Tamera and Susan!

**Susan Kelly**, our new **Volunteer Coordinator**, has spent the last ten years working for Devereux – the past six years as a Foster Care Specialist, and prior to that as a Respite Coordinator, a Family Builders Case Manager and a Healthy Families Family Support Specialist. Previous to her Devereux experience, Susan supervised visits for Casa de los Niños, was a volunteer Social Worker Assistant at CPS and she also facilitated bereavement groups for TMC Hospice. Susan was born in Rhode Island and has lived in Tucson for the past 22 years. She is a U of A graduate in Family Studies. She enlisted in the Navy at 18 and served four years at the Pentagon. Susan has a 21-year-old daughter attending the U of A with a goal of becoming a veterinarian. Susan provides a foster home for dogs and currently has Faith, a Cocker Spaniel and Wylie, a Pomeranian-Sheltie mix.

Buried behind the mountain of backpacks is our new **Donations Supervisor, Tamera Tiedge**. Tamera has four children and two granddaughters: a grown daughter with two babies, a teenage daughter, and two thirteen and seven-year-old sons. She just completed her associate's degree in business from



Pima Community College and coupled with her prior retail management skills she has been great in this position.

Tamera is a Tucson native who moved to Indiana for 10 years and then recently returned to be close to family again. While living in Indiana she had her own child care business in order to stay home with her own children. She has a keen eye for bargains and loves to go to yard sales and thrift stores, which is why she is so perfect for the job here at Aviva. Tamera also has three Chihuahuas, one cat and four goldfish.



## How You Can Help for the Holidays

The holiday season is fast approaching and we are looking for sponsors to participate in this year's program. We know things are tight with the economy, inflation and jobs. This is why we came up with ways everyone could help regardless of their circumstances. You can:

*Sponsor a family (or families) for Christmas by providing gifts for all family members and a grocery store gift card.*

*•If this seems daunting for you and your family, why not invite all members of your family to participate? If everyone sitting around your Thanksgiving table gave \$20 (assuming you have a big family-12 or more) that would be enough to sponsor one family of four.*

*•If you belong to a fraternal organization, sports team, church group or can get co-workers together, then you can sponsor a family of as many members as the group can support.*

*•Sponsor suggestions can be found on the back of the holiday insert.*

*Purchase a gift for a child or teenager and drop it off at the Aviva office (we never seem to receive enough gifts for teenagers!).*

*Send a cash donation so Aviva can purchase holiday food and gifts for needy families without sponsors.*

*Send a cash donation so Aviva can purchase gifts for teenagers living in group homes or in the independent living program.*

*Sign up to help sort, wrap or deliver the toys or help with the Sun Riders Toy Parade.*

As always, the need is great and we are only able to do what we do because of generous community donors. **Thank you for your continuous support.** To help us coordinate our Holiday Sponsorship Program please fill out the information sheet provided in this newsletter and return it to Aviva by fax, email or regular mail. If you choose to sponsor a family this year you will be contacted with information about the family (ies) as soon as we get your form and make the match. Please include an email address as that is how we will provide you with the information. There is no deadline, but the sooner you send in your request the sooner we will make the match for you. Please call Pat or Bonnie at 327-6779 or email: [holidays@avivatucson.org](mailto:holidays@avivatucson.org) if you have any questions.

## Sun Riders Motorcycle Club 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Toy Parade

Aviva is so incredibly blessed to be the recipients of the toys and funds that are generated every year by the generous members of the Sun Riders Motorcycle Club. This past year the club has gone through some terribly rough times including the death of the founding father, Red Bolton. These folks know all too well, from their firsthand experiences, how hard it is for CPS families. They have experienced job losses, family tragedies, falls with serious injuries and members just burning out and taking a leave of absence.

In spite of all these setbacks, this December 14<sup>th</sup> the Sun Riders will be leading the toy parade through the streets of Tucson for the 27<sup>th</sup> year. This year's event will once again begin at the Tucson Convention Center located downtown and then wind its way through town to Beaudry RV on Irvington. At the end of the parade the participants and anyone who wants to join us can enjoy food and beverages, raffles, and can visit a variety of booths.

We are asking all of our readers to join us this year to support the Sun Riders and encourage them with your presence along the parade route. The riders leave TCC at noon and arrive at Beaudry at 12:30. Here is the route:

*Leave TCC, East on W. Cushing Street  
North on S. Church Avenue  
East on Broadway Boulevard  
South on Country Club Road  
East on 22nd Street  
South on Alvernon Way  
West on E. Irvington Road  
End: Beaudry RV, 3200 E. Irvington Road.*

This is a major event for CPS children and we need a lot of volunteers in order to pull off both the parade and party. The day begins at TCC on **Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 A.M.** with helpers needed to collect the toys and to assist with registration and lining up the bikes for the parade. At the end of the parade, at Beaudry RV, volunteers are needed to collect all the stuffed animals that rode through town in the parade, to staff the food and beverage booths and to assist the club members at the doors.

If you are interested in more information about the Sun Riders, or the event, please visit [www.sunridersmc.org](http://www.sunridersmc.org). If you are interested in volunteering or getting more information about how you can help, call Bonnie at 327.6779 ext. 13. Hope to see you at the parade!



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## FALL/WINTER 2008-2009 CALENDAR

### November-Be Thankful!

November 14~Holiday sponsorship matching begins...

### December

Saturday, December 14~Sun Riders Motorcycle Club 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Toy Parade

December 15-20~Holiday wrapping and Santa Helper Delivery

### February

Saturday, February 14~10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bags For Kids Sew-A-Thon

For more information on any of these events,  
please call Aviva, 327-6779 ext. 0

***Note: Our website is currently under remodeling. Visit soon to see our exciting new look! Share our newsletter with your friends. View it online at [www.avivatucson.org](http://www.avivatucson.org).***