



ourfamily**services**

Newsletter

ourfamily**services.org** | (520) 323-1708 | **Winter 2019**

Spreading Warmth to Neighbors in Need

When a family is starting over and moving into a new home, they often go in with nothing more than a duffel bag or the clothes on their back. It can take time for someone to shift out of survival mode enough to think about feathering their nest. For over a decade, Carol Lukecart has been donating her time and talent by making about 50 quilts per year and donating them to families so they have warmth and comfort in their new beginning.

Carol first began quilting when she was 15, but donating quilts was a tradition that was handed down from her mother. "When my mom's macular degeneration got so bad that she couldn't drive anymore, I started driving her to her quilting circle. I figured I might as well help while I was there."

When quilting circle members started aging out, Carol brought the operation to her home and continued the tradition on her own. During the summer "when it's too



A warm stack of hand made quilts donated by Carol Lukecart.

hot to do anything else" she spends several hours a day quilting. For much of the year, the work that she does for Our Family Services is integrated into the fabric of her life.

Looking back on her own hardships is another reason why Carol wants to help others. "I've been there. I know that feeling of when your life is in uproar. That's another reason why I support Our Family Services. It's a terrible wrenching fear to start over. I know what they're going

through. It's a motivation for me to help." Her hope is that these quilts will stay with the families as the trajectory of their lives takes them to happier times. "When you receive help in your time of need, someday when you're in a better place you can pass it forward by giving help to somebody else. That's what we're meant to do."

Our Family Services and our clients are so grateful for this warmth, Carol - Thank you!

Center Becomes SHRM Provider

Great news for Human Resources professionals! The Center for Community Dialogue and Training is now recognized by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) to offer Professional Development Credits. Courses

include our new series of classes *Managing Conflict Like a Boss* as well as the *42 hour Mediation Training*. For more information go to [services.org">mrudolph@ourfamily**services.org**](http://ourfamilyservices.org/training/ or email <a href=).



Beth's Corner



Imagine the opportunity to be in the same room with someone who played a part in making our world a better place, an icon of the civil rights movement. I had that great moment last year when Rev. Dr. Bernard Lafayette Jr. spoke at a small gathering of Our Family

Services staff and supporters. Dr. Lafayette was a Freedom Rider, a director of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's Alabama voter registration project, a coordinator of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and was responsible for the Poor People's Campaign. He was a member of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s inner circle.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (left) accompanied by Rev. Dr. Bernard Lafayette, talks about a planned march on Washington D.C. during a news conference in Atlanta. January 16, 1968. AP Photo/Charles Kelly

And now, you have an opportunity to listen to Dr. Lafayette by attending the annual Our Family luncheon! Dr. Lafayette will share some of his experience and wisdom

gleaned as a titan of the civil rights movement. Dr. Lafayette will speak about the intersection of poverty, nonviolence, and Dr. Martin Luther King's Beloved Community. The Beloved Community is a global vision, in which all people can share the wealth of the earth.

I hope you can join us in learning from this icon – this will be a moment you'll want to share with your kids and grandkids!

Sincerely,

Beth L. Morrison,
Chief Executive Officer

THANK YOU!

A special thanks to the following foundations, clubs, and businesses who donated or held fundraisers for Our Family from September through December 2018.

- Angel Heart Pajama Project
- Anne Maley Consulting
- Arizona Restaurant Supply
- Arts Foundation for Tucson and So. AZ
- Buffalo Exchange
- Bunko Babes
- Casa de la Luz Hospice
- Catalina Smiles
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- Plumb Plumbing
- Precptor Alpha Epsilon
- Russo, Russo & Slania P.C.
- Sabino Smiles
- Shaaron Kent Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona
- St. Frances Cabrini Parish
- St. John on the Desert Presbyterian Church
- St. Mark's United Methodist Church
- Streams in the Desert
- Technicians for Sustainability
- The Carl and Mabel E. Shurtz Foundation
- The Cavern Recording Studio
- The George Mason Green & Lois C Green Foundation
- Tucson Electric Power Company
- United Healthcare
- Walmart Foundation
- Walmart Store #1291
- Walmart Store #3142
- Walmart Store #4603
- Walmart Store #5626
- Western Alliance Bank

Our Family's 2018 Annual Report now available online!

Visit:
ourfamilyservices.org/about/who-we-are

Cultivate the Human Spirit
Our Family Services' 2018 Annual Report

Luncheon Promises Once-In-A-Lifetime Opportunity

On March 14th, 2019, community members are invited to join us for the Voices of Home Luncheon. This year we are honored to have the civil rights pioneer Rev. Dr. Bernard Lafayette Jr. as our guest speaker. We will also honor Volunteer of the Year Scott Koenig as well as Corporate Partner of the Year Desert Diamond Casinos and Entertainment. Additionally, guests will see a selection from our Photo Voices Project, in which homeless mothers document the struggles and triumphs of raising their children while navigating housing



instability. To reserve seats, please visit: ourfamilyservices.org/event/luncheon.

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Did you know Our Family Services has a Book Club?

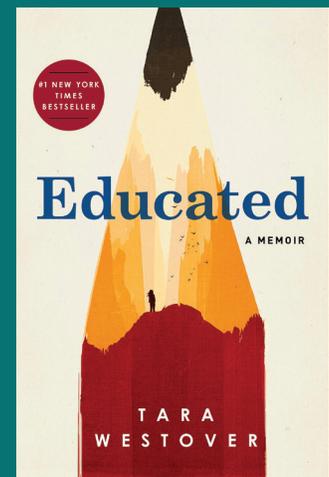
Every quarter, Our Family Services hosts a book discussion that is open to everyone! We read and discuss works that help us better understand the complex issues that contribute to issues like homelessness and income inequality. The Book Club is welcoming and casual and enriched by all who attend. Whether you're new to the book club world, or a social justice veteran, we sincerely hope you'll

read along with us and share your thoughts. The book for our next discussion is:

Educated by Tara Westover

Thursday, May 16 | 4 p.m. at
2590 North Alvernon Way.

If you would like additional information or to receive notifications about upcoming books, contact Sarah McNamara at smcnamara@ourfamilyservices.org or (520) 323-1708 x 416



Our Family's Senior Leadership

Beth Morrison, Chief Executive Officer
Em Martin Brott, Chief Development Officer
Joan Hubele, Chief Financial Officer
Laurie Mazerbo, Chief Program Officer

Our Family's Board of Directors

Michael Beals, Andrea Carmichael, Rachel Chanes,
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Our Family Services publishes this newsletter three times a year. If you no longer wish to receive it, please let us know.

Staff Highlight: Ellie Washington

What is your job at Our Family Services? I'm a Housing Support Specialist.

What are your daily responsibilities? I'm a liaison between Homeless Youth and Family Services and the business side of our operations. It's all related to taking care of the clients- keeping records, helping pay for laundry, keeping the landlords happy. I watch as the clients pay a larger and larger portion of their rent every month until they're able to take over their own lease. I just love what I do so much.

What inspired you to work at Our Family Services? I feel personally frustrated when people see a homeless person and just shake their head out of pity and keep walking. We can do more than just throw up our hands and shake our heads. I want to be a part of the



solution and that's what we do here at Our Family Services.

What is your favorite part of your job? I can see the bigger picture of what we do. Clients have pride as they become more and more self-sufficient and stand on their own two feet to take control of their lives. We know how hard they are working to turn things around. I feel honored to serve our clients. When people come together for a good cause, it's an honor to be a part of that collaborative operation.



AMCF Big Hearts Family Fun Rainbow Run

The whole family is invited to this non-competitive color run/walk benefiting Our Family Services.

Saturday, March 16, 2019
8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Reid Park - Ramada 10

Register online at:
azmultihousing.org/tucson-amcf