



# Congenital Heart Defect

FAMILIES OF TUCSON

PREPARED BY  
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## CHD FAMILIES OF TUCSON

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Looking at last year's letter from the directors feels a little bit like pulling out clothes from the previous winter and realizing all your pants are about three inches too short. Simply re-iterating our origin story and our intent doesn't begin to cover the work we put in this year. Our fledgling organization has definitely experienced a growth spurt as we continue to re-evaluate our intent, polish our delivery, and carve out our place in the community.

We have worked hard to apply a three-pronged approach to our support for the cardiac community of Southern Arizona, one where we focus purely on providing Emotional, Educational, and Financial resources to the best of our ability. On the emotional front, we have introduced a Community Outreach Committee, dedicated to organizing events that bring families together in support of one another. Educational Support had us focused on one of our biggest projects to date: our Family Connections Dinner, where we introduced a moderated panel of local cardiologists and asked them to inform our community on the programs available at their respective practices. Lastly, we have increased the reach of our Family Assistance Program, where we have given out nearly \$4,500 in aid to local families struggling against Congenital Heart Disease.

As directors, we spent 2018 creating brand recognition among Pediatric Cardiology leaders in Southern Arizona. We were able to give our input and help grow multiple cardiac programs, and we're proud of the friendships we have with other CHD-focused groups in the area, including the American Heart Association and the Andra Heart Foundation. 2018 has been a year of growing and stretching, and we wouldn't have it any other way.

As always, we thank you for your continued faith in us, and we look forward to growing even more in years to come.



Stacy Lipinczyk  
*Director of Operations*

Melissa Nail  
*Creative Director*

CHD FAMILIES OF TUCSON

# WHO WE ARE

## The 2018 Board of Directors

*Shown participating in the American Heart Association-Tucson Heart & Stroke Walk*

(from left)

Becky Lococo, Secretary, Hospitality Chair  
Melissa Nail, Creative Director  
Stacy Lipinczyk, Director of Operations  
Jessica Graves, Treasurer



## The 2018 Community Outreach Committee

*Shown attending Andra Heart Movie Night*

(from left)

Adán and Caroline Ordoñez, Heart Parents

Rachel and Stan Simmons, Heart Parents

While the above people keep CHD Families of Tucson in motion, there are many who help us behind the scenes.

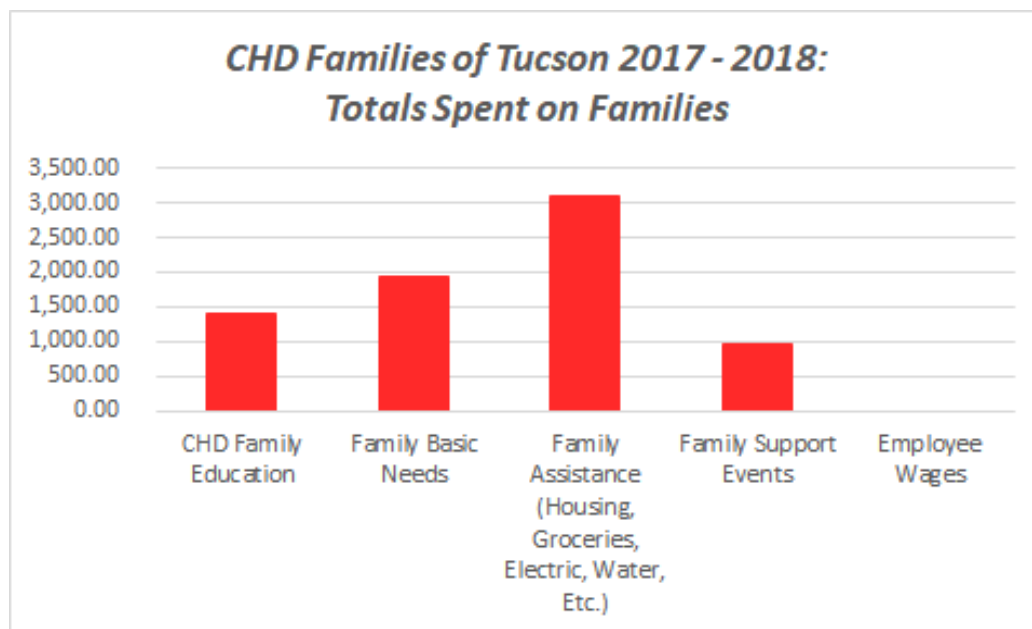
### Special Thanks go out to:

Joe & Tami Nietupski · Jeanne Scott · Jenine Dalrymple  
Zoë Burcham · Steve & Betty Peterson · Sara Peterson  
Paula Sims · Jordan Richardson · JC & Jessi Baird  
Terry Knott · Bob & Shellie Lipinczyk · Beau & Bobby Allred

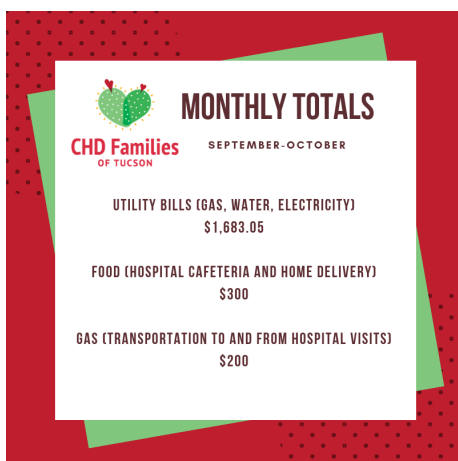
The 2018 Bridge the Gap Sponsors

## OUR NUMBERS

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY



## 2018 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Regular financial updates related to monthly giving are posted on our public Facebook page. "Like" us to follow along!  
(Shown here, monthly totals for September-October)

From January 1, 2018, to November of 2018, CHD Families of Tucson has spent a total of \$9,689.33 on our programs. Of note, \$4,458.14 of that went directly to basic needs via our Family Assistance Program.

One of our goals for 2019 will be to take advantage of our low operational costs by applying for dollar-for-dollar tax credit status from the state of Arizona. We pride ourselves on our transparency, our attention to financial detail within our organization, and our dedication to spending our money on our families. We look forward to operating with even higher standards in the coming year.

AN OVERVIEW

# MAJOR DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

## External Giving

- Tucson Association of Realtors Young Professionals Network
- SAAHU/AAHU/GPAHU
- Caterpillar on Behalf of the Pangburn Family
- The Employees of UPS

## Internal Fundraising

- Arizona Gives Day
- Giving Tuesday (Facebook Fundraiser)
- Bridge the Gap Golf Classic



*The 2018 Bridge the Gap Golf Classic Volunteer Team*

# ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

## BRIDGE THE GAP

Our major fundraiser for 2018 was once again the Bridge the Gap Golf Classic, hosted at the Omni International Resort.

During our second tournament, we added golfers, prize donors, and sponsors. We also added a little fun to the mix by adding a golf ball launcher to the course, and inviting our good friend Wilbur the Wildcat to come participate in the festivities.

Our Presenting Sponsor this year was Window Depot. Once again, our beverage sponsor, Catalina Brewing Company, brewed the "1 in 100 Red Ale" specifically for our event, in honor of the approximate number of children born with a congenital heart defect.

Overall, we reached our goals, bringing in approximately \$9,200 dollars to fund our Family Assistance Program for the rest of the year.

Thank you to everyone who participated in helping us Bridge the Gap!



*Special thanks to our Bridge the Gap Golf Chair, Sara Peterson, PT, DPT, Phoenix Children's Hospital*



## OUR GOALS

- Increase Community Presence
- Invest in Relationships with Future Donors
- Celebrate and Recognize "CHD Awareness Week (Feb. 7-14)"
- Raise Funds for the Family Assistance Program

## WHAT WE HAVE SO FAR

# ONGOING PROGRAMS

### PROGRAMS

- Heartiversary Certificates
- Heart Kid of the Month
- Be Safe Summer Gift Boxes
- Family Connections Dinner
- Family Assistance Requests
- Community Outreach Committee



Our programs embody our commitment to providing educational, emotional, and financial support to CHD Families across Southern Arizona. We carefully weigh each potential program against our Mission Statement to ensure that our efforts stay concentrated on what truly matters.

Our Heartiversary Certificates recognize the heroism in each CHD child, as we mail them a small gift and a certificate of accomplishment on the anniversary of their first life-saving open heart surgery. Heart Kid of the Month encourages the families we reach to learn about one another and connect. Be Safe Summer Gift Boxes teach families about safety and cardiac care in the hot summer months. The Family Connection Dinner (our biggest educational program to date) brought families together for a meal and a program presented by five local cardiologists who were willing to share about their respective practices and answer questions about the landscape of cardiac care in Southern Arizona.



Lastly, our largest program, the Family Assistance Request Page (featured on our website, [www.chdtucson.org](http://www.chdtucson.org)), allows heart families in our region to submit a request for necessary financial support when the cost of caring for their medically fragile child is overwhelming. We pay utility bills, provide groceries, and cover transportation costs to and from medical appointments. We never give cash gifts, but we do our best to take care of our community by covering needs directly at the source. We are so proud of this program!

AN OVERVIEW

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**100%**

ACCEPTANCE RATE  
FOR FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE  
REQUESTS

After nearly three years in operation, we have yet to turn away a family in need. Every single applicant has received support from CHDFT.



**100%**

VOLUNTEER LED

Our entire organization is led by heart parents and CHD allies who donate their time to help others.



**37%**

GROWTH IN GROUP  
PARTICIPATION IN  
2018

"Our most valuable resource is our network of parents who have been where you are."





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# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

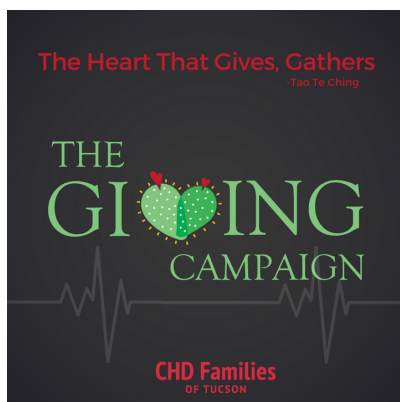
## Upcoming Events

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### "Crooners and Cocktails"

In 2019 we will be shifting our fundraising focus to an event that we hope will be more inclusive of all our supporters. We hope you join us for our first ever Casino Night.

*August 24, 2019  
Skyline Country Club*



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### The Giving Campaign/Giving Tuesday

Be prepared to hit "share" and help us spread our online fundraiser through Arizona and beyond!

*November 27, 2018  
Online Fundraiser (Facebook)*

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### The 2019 Heart & Stroke Walk

Join Team CHD Families of Tucson as we march in this event hosted by the American Heart Association.

*April 27, 2019  
Reid Park, DeMeester Band Shell*



TUCSON IMPRINT

# OUR NEW PARTNERS



## AHA TUCSON

LITTLE HATS BIG HEARTS  
CIRCLE OF RED BREAKFAST  
HEART AND STROKE BALL  
HEART AND STROKE WALK

## ANDRA HEART FOUNDATION

BE SAFE SUMMER BOXES  
ANDRA HEART MOVIE NIGHT

## LOCAL HOSPITALS

DIAMOND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
PHOENIX CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
TUCSON MEDICAL CENTER



2018 brought new, organic partnerships with individuals and organizations that also care for CHD children. One of our most impactful partnerships has been with Dr. Michael Seckeler, who agreed to be our Consulting Physician for the year. Dr. Seckeler committed to helping us develop our program, and made himself available to answer appropriate, general medical questions put forth in our group. Thank you, Dr. Seckeler!

# FROM OUR HEARTS TO YOURS

## A Family Story by Jennifer Wittman

My daughter Violet Wittman was born in September of 2017. We knew before she was born that she had Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome, a severe heart defect that, in her case, required heart transplant to save her. We live in Tucson, and I was forced to relocate to Phoenix the first week of September in order to be in Phoenix where her specialists were.

From September through January of the following year, I lived in Phoenix, mostly in my daughter's CVICU room. Through missed holidays, extra expenses, and lost income, CHD Families of Tucson provided invaluable help and support, allowing our family to stay afloat as our daughter underwent two open heart surgeries, one of which was a heart transplant.

When we discharged on Christmas Day to the Ronald McDonald House, they were there with gifts for our children, and support as we left the hospital with our daughter for the very first time. After returning home to Tucson, we were able to be together as a family for two months.

However, Violet's health declined, and we were forced to go back to Phoenix, where Violet underwent two more surgeries, fought off sepsis, and eventually discharged for her final two days outside of a hospital.



Violet unexpectedly suffered cardiac arrest at the end of July, and never recovered. On August 9th, Violet passed away at 10.5 months old. CHD Families reached out again, giving moral support and attending the services. They've been there since, helping share Violet's story and checking on our family.

Throughout the past year, they've provided so much financial and emotional support. The heart community is so very blessed to have this organization, and our experience would have been immensely more difficult without them. I'm grateful that they are here, and I'm grateful that I was able to share Violet with them. The silver lining of this horrible situation is that my beautiful daughter managed to introduce me to such amazing people, and for that I'm so very lucky.



# THESE ARE THE FACES OF CHD IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

Each one of these heart heroes resides in Southern Arizona. You may see them participating at school, playing at a nearby park, or scoring a goal at soccer practice.

Each one is working to overcome their heart defect every day.



*The 2018 Heart Kids of the Month as featured on [www.chdtucson.org](http://www.chdtucson.org)*

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HEART  
COMMUNITY.  
GIVE TO CHD FAMILIES OF TUCSON.

*CHD Families of Tucson is a recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.  
Need a tax deduction? Contact us about donating today!*



**Congenital Heart Defect**  
FAMILIES OF TUCSON