

# Gompers HABILITATION CENTER

Advocacy Empowerment Independence

## Issue 1 Summer 2011

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## Save the Date



The #99 Aflac Ford Fusion show car and trailer will be at Gompers Habilitation Center on Wednesday, June 22!

This promises to be a pretty cool afternoon for our clients, staff and community partners. Event details are still being finalized and will be announced soon.

If you would like to receive details on the event, please contact Michael Simoni at 602-336-0061, ext.162 or msimoni@gomperscenter.org.



## Did You Know?

There are many ways you can support Gompers, our programs, and the clients we serve. Monetary donations, bequests, estate planning, annual pledge, stock and in-kind donations are just a few.

If you would like speak with someone about supporting Gompers in a way that is right for you, contact Elaine Starks at 602-336-0061, ext.151 or estarks@gomperscenter.org.

## Rebuilding Together Day At Gompers Was A Great Day For Our Community!

Over 100 volunteers in partnership with **Rebuilding Together Valley of the Sun** joined together on April 2 for a community day dedicated to improving Gompers and our client programs.

The project included volunteers from **Freeport McMoRan**, **Enterprise Holdings Inc.**, and **AMEC**. Gompers was also very fortunate to be introduced to **Danielle Paxton**, the talented muralist who designed and led the volunteers painting of three beautiful murals using a paint-by-number system. In addition, volunteers painted all hallways, enhanced our program rooms, and removed the old playground equipment to make room for our Accessible Garden.

**Elaine Starks**, Grant Relationships Officer at Gompers, secured the opportunity with Rebuilding Together and worked for weeks in preparation for the day's activities. She worked alongside **Kate Warren**, Community Engagement Coordinator from Rebuilding Together, to organize every detail from start to finish.

Gompers staff, board members, clients and families also rolled up their sleeves to paint, clean up, and most importantly thank our supporters for the day.

Rebuilding Together is the largest volunteer home rehabilitation organization in the United States. Rebuilding Together finds the organization and pairs sponsors with a skilled supervisor to arrange approved work. The work at Gompers was part of several Rebuilding Together projects going on around the valley that day. Gompers is extremely grateful to be the recipient of the time and effort of so many dedicated volunteers for such a collaborative effort.

*"Working with the team at Gompers and our friends from Freeport McMoRan, Enterprise, and AMEC, you see how much can be accomplished when you come together to help others. We are constantly inspired by people's willingness to give of their time to make a difference for those in need."*

**Matt Hawkins**  
Project Manager  
Rebuilding Together Valley of the Sun

**Gompers Habilitation Center** is grateful for the support of these corporate partners who help us continue to serve individuals with disabilities through their donations and volunteerism. We invite everyone to take a tour of our facility and see just what a difference a day makes!



*"Enterprise Holdings Inc. (EHI) and our employees are so proud to have had the opportunity to volunteer on the Rebuilding Together project at Gompers Habilitation Center. One of Enterprise's Founding Values is: We strengthen our communities, one neighborhood at a time. This is one of the driving forces behind our success and we want to support the communities in which we conduct business. Not only was this event fun and engaging but it also touched the hearts of all 30+ EHI employees who participated. We left with smiles on our faces and hope in our hearts that the work we completed would bring that same feeling to the clients at Gompers!"*

**Tara Ketcham**  
Director of Business Rental Sales  
Enterprise Holdings Inc.



*"AMEC and our friends at Freeport-McMoRan Mining and Enterprise Rent-a-Car were pleased to participate in refreshing the Gompers facility. Of the many community projects that AMEC has completed, the work at the Gompers facility was the most rewarding personally because we could immediately see and feel the value it brought to the leadership team at Gompers as well as their clients and students. We also had lots of fun painting and removing the outdoor equipment."*

*It was a great event and we at AMEC want to congratulate and thank the staff at Gompers for their great leadership and commitment to our community."*

**Dave Peterson, Sr. VP**  
AMEC Arizona Operations Manager



*"We were delighted to partner with Gompers Habilitation Center through our annual Rebuilding Together Day. The Gompers Habilitation Center project was a wonderful opportunity for Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold employees to not only volunteer with their families, but to work side-by-side with other businesses in the community in an effort to improve a local community center."*

**Angie Harmon**  
Manager of Social Investment  
Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold



## Mark's MESSAGE

There are two ways I could go with this message. One is to highlight our present difficulties, and trust me there are plenty. Impending 5% reductions to the rates we are being paid by the state. Double digit increases in our employee benefits costs. The out of control escalation of fuel costs. All of these are true and are producing more than a few grey hairs for Gompers administrative team.

However, out of these trying times, some amazing things are beginning to take shape. If there is a common theme throughout this newsletter it is PARTNERSHIP. The American Heritage Dictionary offers this definition of partnership: A relationship between individuals or groups that is characterized by mutual cooperation and responsibility, as for the achievement of a specified goal. To take that one step further, Alan Greenspan said, "I have found no greater satisfaction than achieving success through honest dealing and strict adherence to the view that, for you to gain, those you deal with should gain as well."

Gompers has been fortunate to cultivate many tremendous partnerships over the years, and have gained many new ones recently. For our longstanding partners such as ValleyLife, Express Digital Solutions (EDS), Safeway, RC Auto and Wells Fargo Insurance, we say thank

you for constantly being willing to look at the services you offer and modify them as we move forward. ValleyLife, an agency providing similar disability services to Gompers, has partnered with us in ways too numerous to mention, and proves that "competing" agencies can come together to advance the greater good of all. EDS and Safeway have directly worked alongside Gompers to ensure our clients have tremendous employment training opportunities and show the true powers of what can happen when the for profit and not for profit worlds come together. Our business partners such as RC Auto and Wells Fargo have been with us through good and bad, and have constantly fought for Gompers with a true understanding and appreciation of our mission.

Recently we've added some tremendous new partners. Later in these pages you'll read about Golf *fore* Gompers and our cover feature on Rebuilding Together Day at Gompers. I am not exaggerating when I say that Sally Voyles and the entire team at Pioneer Distributing saved Golf *fore* Gompers. Without their passion, zeal, and the incredible effort of Tiffany Stultz, this 39 year tradition would have gone by the wayside. Yet thanks to the partnership with Pioneer Distributing, Golf *fore* Gompers had by far its most successful year ever and appears poised to continue on for years to come. If you haven't been to Gompers recently, please make an appointment to do so, because you need to see the tremendous efforts of Rebuilding Together, AMEC, Enterprise Holdings Inc. and Freeport McMoRan. In only a few hours, nearly 100 volunteers transformed an already amazing facility into one that we can take even more pride in.

Thanks to the tremendous efforts of Mac Sloan, Gompers is beginning to build a great partnership with Grand Canyon University (GCU). From their athletes playing alongside our Special Olympians, to their Honor Society Theatre group performing, to all of the plans we still see in the future, Gompers is proud to stand alongside a rising star like GCU. Most recently, Westwind Academy, who simply needed space for their basketball team to practice, has been helping hone the skills of our Special Olympians as well as volunteering at our special events.

I know there are some of you that I have neglected to mention. Do not take this as a slight, because our wealth of gratitude is deep. There is no question that the challenges are out there for all of us. Just as true, though, is the fact that by working alongside each other in a partnership of mutual accomplishments, we can achieve anything.

For links to many of our partners please visit [www.gomperscenter.org](http://www.gomperscenter.org). If you have ideas, suggestions or thoughts on partnering, please do not hesitate to contact me at 602-336-0061, ext.101 or email me at [mjacoby@gomperscenter.org](mailto:mjacoby@gomperscenter.org).

*Thank you for your continued support of Gompers Habilitation Center.*

### GO GREEN with GOMPERS



Would you like to help Gompers do something good for the environment (and save a few stamps too)? Join our e-mail list to receive electronic

versions of our newsletters. By signing up you will also receive periodic announcements regarding upcoming events, program updates and seasonal activities at Gompers.

**How?** It's easy...simply send an e-mail with your full name to: [msimoni@gomperscenter.org](mailto:msimoni@gomperscenter.org) with "Sign me up" in the subject line!



### GOMPERS ON FACEBOOK COMING SOON!

Get ready to "like" us on Facebook! Gompers will introduce our page this summer to keep you informed about important events at Gompers and advocacy issues effecting people with disabilities.

If you would like to be on our launch invite list, please send an e-mail with your full name to [msimoni@gomperscenter.org](mailto:msimoni@gomperscenter.org) with "Facebook" in the subject line!

### GOMPERS a part of the Doozy "Gives Back" Program!



We have partnered with a local company, Doozy of a Deal, Inc., a deal-of-a-day website where you will find deals to restaurants, spas, activities, and many other local shows and attractions.

Doozy of a Deal GIVES BACK 7.5% of every purchase you make to our organization. Signing up is FREE, so all you need to do is visit the website [www.doozyofadeal.com/phoenix](http://www.doozyofadeal.com/phoenix) and sign-up, making sure to select Gompers Habilitation Center as your benefiting organization.

# “Lights! Action! Literacy!”

In January, the **Gilbert Education Foundation** awarded a team of kindergarten teachers at **Highland Park Elementary School** a grant to fund its “Lights! Action! Literacy!” project which started in February.

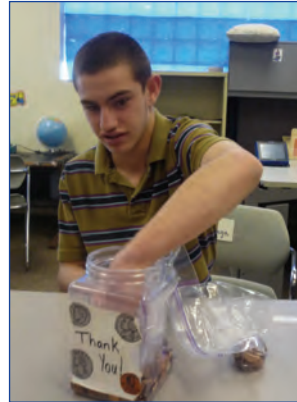
The project consists of kindergarten students partnering with another school, and **Gompers Private Day School** was named as the recipient. The students are writing letters to a buddy class at Gompers, digitally recording books and donating them and felt boards to the Gompers students.

The grant allowed Highland Park Elementary School to begin by purchasing two document cameras and projectors to create the materials.

Students (ages 5 & 6) will be writing pen pal letters to a class at Gompers promoting interpersonal relationships and establishing connections with peer groups.

These students will also read books which are digitally recorded and based on Gompers school curriculum. Their books will then be shown to our students on our SMART Boards, encouraging literacy development in an interactive way. Currently the activities for September (government), October (people in society - specifically presidents), and November (weather units) have been completed.

Highland Park Elementary School will then donate DVD's of the recorded books and felt board activities which match the stories to Gompers.



*Nicholas counting coins.*

Highland Park Elementary School held a fundraiser to purchase the books and supplies. Gompers program participants are holding a penny drive to also contribute. During the penny drive our students are sorting coins, identifying money amounts and totaling the amounts daily—teaching them valuable money skills.

Currently all necessary materials have been purchased by Highland Park Elementary School and three units have been recorded. The target date for completion of the project is August 2011.

“We are thrilled to be able to reach out to the Gompers community and share what resources we have to create engaging learning environments for all of our students,” said **Rebecca Riddell**, classroom teacher at Highland Park Elementary School. “The children at Highland Park are excited to make new friends and have enjoyed making videos for them, as well as recording songs and books. It is important that both our student bodies realize they are part of a bigger community where we all have something to offer, as well as something in common - the ability and desire to learn.”

## Meet DIANA NANCE



**Position:**  
Director of Education,  
Gompers Private Day  
School

**City of residence:**  
I live in Phoenix.

**Educational  
background:**  
I have a B.A. in  
Management with a

second major in English. I also have a M.S. in Educational Administration. My first experiences in the field of Human Services date back to the early 80's. My first experiences in education date back to the late 80's. I have worked in both fields for several years.

### **Hobbies and interests:**

I love hiking, music, inspirational speaking, and writing lyrics and poetry.

### **Q: What is one thing you want students and parents to know about you?**

I want students and parents to know I am always available and that students are always my priority. I am honored to have a leadership role in educating children. Not only do I have the professional credentials and experience, I also have a sincere commitment to ensuring that each child is given every opportunity possible to meet his or her fullest learning potential.

### **Q: Describe your vision for the school.**

My vision for next school year is to provide the supports and services needed for students to move towards transitioning back to their home school districts. My vision is to provide the leadership and supports needed for teachers and staff so students experience positive learning outcomes.

### **Q: What are you most looking forward to this school year?**

I am looking forward to watching the children grow academically and socially.

### **Q: How did you get interested in education?**

I became interested in education as a result of my passion for knowledge and my love for children.

### **Q: What is the favorite part of your day and why?**

The favorite part of my day is when the children arrive for school. They always, without fail, put a smile on my face.

### **Q: What is the greatest lesson you learned in school?**

The greatest lesson I learned in school is to stay open minded and to appreciate each course of study.

### **Q: What makes Gompers Private Day School different from any other school serving children with disabilities?**

Gompers' philosophy of providing excellence is modeled daily by the leadership of the administration.

### **Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?**

I enjoy the children the most!



Gompers staff and clients from our Day Training for Adults (DTA) program volunteer at nine different nonprofits throughout the valley. Their newest one is taking them to Glendale... all over Glendale to be exact.

Gompers volunteers have partnered with **City of Glendale Parks and Recreation** to help maintain over 70 parks. **Eileen Espinoza**, DTA Supervisor, spearheaded the project and approached the City of Glendale with the idea of Gompers volunteers partnering with them. The city was thrilled and started off by donating all of the equipment our clients would need to complete the work in the parks.

Two groups made up of 10 DTA clients go out every Tuesday and Thursday to a park location. Because of the size of this ongoing project, Gompers is able to incorporate several clients from different DTA rooms, not just one as with some of our other volunteer partnerships. It's a great opportunity to showcase the talents and spirit of our clients who are eager to give back to the community.

In January, the first Gompers crew took their shovels, rakes and vests and went to work. Some of the tasks our clients are responsible for at the parks include raking volleyball courts, and near trees and shrubs; picking up trash and debris; and reporting graffiti to the park staff.

“Our clients are learning to use tools they may not have used before and are proud to be playing such an important part in the beauty of our community,” said Espinoza. “In addition, it's a fantastic way for our staff and clients to see all of the beautiful parks Glendale has to offer.”

39<sup>th</sup> Annual

# GOLF fore GOMPERS



Hosted by:

## PIONEER DISTRIBUTING CO.

On April 1, 2011 Pioneer Distributing Co. hosted the 39th Annual Golf fore Gompers tournament to benefit Gompers Dental program "Special Smiles for Special People." The sold out event took place at the Raven Golf Club at South Mountain with 148 golfers, 12 corporate sponsors, 23 hole sponsors and over 50 donated items and prizes from our community partners. Golf fore Gompers raised over \$43,500. Proceeds support dental treatment for uninsured or underinsured individuals with disabilities.

This year's event was our most successful Golf fore Gompers in 39 years, and we owe all of our thanks to our host, Pioneer Distributing.

Pioneer Distributing is a family owned and operated fuel and oil distribution company. Like Gompers, they were founded in 1947 in Phoenix, and have been a part of giving back to the community for 64 years. Their family has supported Gompers for decades and this year when they offered to host Golf fore Gompers, we were thrilled to have their support once again.

"Pioneer is extremely excited to have worked with Gompers for this year's event and would like to thank everyone who supported this cause. Donating to Gompers has been an important part of my family's tradition for over 30 years. We look forward to many more successful years," said Sally Voyles, President and CEO of Pioneer Distributing Co.

Tiffany Stultz, Sally's daughter, was the driving force behind the success of this event. Tiffany, who has always had a passion for helping individuals with disabilities, began working on the event in December. Soon after, the event was sold out and promised to be a great day for Gompers. "This year's event is our most successful ever and we owe that to our partnership with Pioneer Distributing and their commitment to helping the clients we serve" said Mark Jacoby, Executive Director of Gompers. "We are so grateful for all of the support we received from our community, dedicated golfers and sponsors who have contributed to Gompers for many years."

This year's Golf fore Gompers was a great opportunity for Gompers to introduce our agency to several businesses for the first time. In addition, it was our privilege to recognize the outstanding support we have received from Pioneer Distributing. Many of our long time supporters once again made Golf fore Gompers a can't miss event on their calendar as well.

A beautiful day, perfect golf course, and great weather were upstaged only by our guest speaker, John. He attends our Day Training for Adults program and began the post event luncheon with a short speech. Using his augmentative communication device, John explained the importance of Gompers' program, and reminded everyone why their support is so important. Part of John's message that day: "I like coming to Gompers because it gets me out of the house. I like to help other people, go out and have fun."

Gompers Habilitation Center would like to thank Pioneer Distributing, our sponsors, volunteers and community partners for coming out, having fun and helping us support the clients we serve!





## Event Sponsors

Corporate Level I (\$3,000)



Corporate Level II (\$2,000)



Corporate Level III (\$1,000)



Hole-In-One Sponsors (\$400)

Mansfield Oil

Mark & Jeanmarie Jacoby

Merrill Lynch-Thom Maher

Hole Sponsors (\$250)

Ann & Bill Champlin Oilmen's Truck Tanks, Inc.

Asphalt Busters Petro-Canada

Brenntag-Chandler Branch Pioneer Distributing Co.

DC Carriers Safety-Kleen

Eco Power Samson

Express Digital Solutions Summit Industrial Products

Grandma's Corner Store & Sterling Silver Chic Sun West Container Co.

Legacy Farms UBS Bank-Mike Fowles

Lura Turner Homes ValleyLife

Massey's Truck & Tank Repair World Fuel Services

## Prizes & Giveaways

Apache Gold Casino

Aquarius Casino Resort

Arizona Art Supply

Arizona Biltmore Golf Club

Ballet Arizona

Bashas'

Best Impressions

BJ's Brewery

Cabot Cheese

Castles N' Coasters

Citgo

Cracker & Co.

Delta Dental

Desert Botanical Garden

Desert Sands Golf Course

Discount Tire

Eagle Mountain Golf Club

Fairway Auto

Gainey Village Health Club & Spa

Golfland

Grandma's Corner Store &

Sterling Silver Chic

Heard Museum

In N Out Lube

In-N-Out Burger

Krispy Kreme

Mansfield Oil

me4kidz

Ocotillo Golf Resort

Palm Court Restaurant

Parent's Resource Guide

Petro-Canada

Phoenix Suns

Pioneer Distributing

Pro Petroleum

R+L Carriers

Raven at South Mountain

Rosita's Fine Mexican Food

Safety-Kleen Eco Power

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts

Stultz Distributing

The Legacy Golf Resort

The Melting Pot

Valle Luna Mexican Food & Cantinas

Verde Canyon Railroad

Villa de Paz

Village Camelback Health Club

V's Barbershop

What-A-Sub

Wildlife World Zoo & Aquarium

World Fuel Services

## Silent Auction

Bike Barn

Boxseat Collectibles



# VOC

"I have enjoyed working at the Vocational Center and learning computer skills I can use in the future," said Sandra R. (left), who works in the scanning room. "It has been great for making new friends too."

EDS provides all of the hardware and software as well as the technical support. The partnership allows EDS to offer competitive pricing to its customers while supporting a mission driven organization they believe in.

Because Gompers Vocational Center enforces strict privacy rules, EDS can ensure its customers their jobs are scanned in a secure HIPAA compliant facility under management supervision at all times.

Potential customers are impressed when they tour the scanning room at the Vocational Center and see our clients hard at work, knowing a job with EDS means jobs for individuals with disabilities.

During this time, the business community has recognized EDS with several awards as well, including #1 in Document Management in *Ranking Arizona Magazine* (2008) and "Spirit of Enterprise" Award, W. P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University (2009).

Perhaps the EDS website ([www.edsatz.com](http://www.edsatz.com)) sums up the three year partnership best:

**Express Digital Secure Document Scanning**  
Specialists in integrating with your existing software  
Powered by the people of Gompers Habilitation Center

Gompers looks forward to a long future with EDS and many anniversaries to come.

May 2011 marks the three year anniversary of the partnership between **Gompers Vocational Center** and **Express Digital Solutions (EDS)**, a local document imaging company. In May 2008, Gompers was thrilled about collaborating with EDS because it created new learning opportunities for our clients, utilizing technology. EDS, recognizing the value of working with people with disabilities, saw the partnership with Gompers as a way to provide work for our clients while being extremely competitive in the marketplace. Three years later, the partnership has become much more for both organizations.

The contract work allows clients to learn how to operate high-speed scanners and review scanning data for errors. Other clients with basic keyboard skills learn to input information and create digital files.

The Vocational Center started with two scanners and now has five in our dedicated scanning room with up to 30 clients who are able to prepare documents for scanning. Gompers' clients average 12,000 to 25,000 scans per day and work for customers in several industries including legal, medical, and government. To date, Gompers clients have scanned well over 2.5 million documents for customers throughout Arizona.

The partnership with EDS has given our clients valuable work experience with new technology, self pride, and the chance to earn a good, steady paycheck.

## ACCESSIBLE GARDEN COMING SOON

On May 18, the City of Phoenix awarded \$63,078 to fully-fund our **Accessible Garden** at Gompers. Thanks to the support of our friends, staff, corporate and community partners, we will break ground on this project this fall.

This special garden will complete the expansion of the recreational activities throughout of our main facility and create an expanded outdoor venue open to our clients and the community. Some highlights of the project include:

- A wall of the garden will be an impressionistic mural with flowers and plants native to Arizona by local artist **Sandy Keeton**.
- Each plant in the mural will be labeled for educational purposes of our clients.
- An area dedicated to growing vegetables and herbs to promote healthy eating habits will be included along with areas designated for storage of plant materials and gardening tools.
- Painted pathways in the background of the garden will include bricks with names of donors.



The garden, like our **Boundless Playground**, will be shared with the community of agencies serving those with disabilities on a scheduled basis. Several agencies have been invited to assist Gompers as the inaugural installation team:

- **KEEN**phoenix (Kids Enjoying Exercise Now)
- **Duet** (an independent senior living program)
- **Amber Pointe** (a new senior community)
- **Covenant of Grace Church** (a school home to about 60 international students)
- **Phoenix Botanical Garden**
- **Rebuilding Together Valley of the Sun**
- **Freeport McMoRan**
- **Enterprise Holdings Inc.**
- **AMEC**

We will be announcing the Grand Opening of our **Accessible Garden** very soon. We hope everyone can join in celebrating the completion of this amazing project for our clients.

*You can still make a donation that will help us pave the paths to our **Accessible Garden**. Be a part of our "Buy a Brick" Campaign as a lasting reminder of your partnership and support of Gompers and those we serve. For more information, please contact Elaine Starks at 602-336-0061, ext.151 or [estarks@gomperscenter.org](mailto:estarks@gomperscenter.org).*

## 2010 Employee of the Year

Each quarter, Gompers staff individually nominates a person they feel should be recognized for their exceptional contribution to Gompers and our clients. The person with the most nominations is selected as our Employee of the Quarter.

In February, the staff vote for the Employee of the Quarter they feel should represent Gompers as Employee of the Year.

### Our 2010 Winners:

#### First Quarter

Steve Bejar  
*Activities Coordinator*

#### Third Quarter

Grace Rios  
*Private Day School*

#### Second Quarter

Frank Garcia  
*DTA*

#### Fourth Quarter

Elsa Salazar  
*Private Day School*

### Employee of the Year Elsa Salazar



Here is what some of Elsa's coworkers had to say about her...

*"She is great with the people we support."  
"She goes above and beyond what's expected."  
"She is an excellent role model and very professional."*

Congratulations Elsa and to all our Employee of the Year nominees for your outstanding service to Gompers!

# Sports

## Record Setting Year for Gompers Special Olympics Athletes

It became a regular occurrence to see our clients walking down the halls showing off the medals they received from a recent event.

April 15 marked the end of a remarkable season of Gompers Special Olympics. For the first time, Gompers captured championships in softball, soccer, volleyball and basketball within the same year. This year the Gompers Gators also represented the largest delegation of athletes in our history with 9 teams totaling 107 individuals.



“Our athletes are successful because they put in a lot of hours and are dedicated to preparing hard for every event. I am thrilled to see them

*Frank and Michael celebrating another medal.*

recognized for their talents so often this year,” remarked Steve Bejar, Activities Coordinator.

Some of this year’s highlights included:

- The Gators finishing the basketball season with a Division II Unified State Championship—only the second time in our history.
- The Gators softball team taking home the Gold Medal in the Special Olympics West Valley Tournament—the first time we have ever fielded a Special Olympics softball team.
- Gompers closing out the season in April at the West Valley Track Meet with 9 Gold Medals, 5 Silver Medals and 9 Bronze Medals.

We have already started making room for next year’s trophies!

## Go Gators!!!

## Gompers By the Numbers!

# 650,000+

The number of miles our vans traveled in 2010 transporting clients to program activities at Gompers as well as vocational, recreational and volunteer sites in the community!

# 210

The number of clients in our DTA program. One of the largest DTA programs under one roof in Arizona.

# 100+

The number of volunteers who joined Rebuilding Together Valley of the Sun on April 2 for a day of painting, moving and fun at Gompers!

# 9

The number of community organizations Gompers’ clients actively volunteer at throughout the year.

# 1

The number of times you need to visit Gompers to realize how extraordinary our clients are and how hard our staff work to support everything they do.

Contact Michael Simoni at 602-336-0061, ext.162 or [msimoni@gomperscenter.org](mailto:msimoni@gomperscenter.org) to schedule a tour.

## Board of Directors New Appointments



**Cary Pfeffer, Chairman of the Board**  
Gompers Habilitation Center has elected Cary Pfeffer, Founder of ClearComm Consulting, LLC its new Chairman. Cary began his service as a member of Gompers Board in 2007 and served as Vice Chair in 2010. Cary is a longtime broadcaster and

worked as a reporter and anchor in Los Angeles and Phoenix. His work was profiled for the New York Times and featured on NBC, CBS and CNN. In 2002, Cary left broadcasting and founded ClearComm, an agency that trains top executives and government leaders to become effective communicators. Gompers is fortunate to have Cary step into the role as Chairman as it works to meet the formidable challenges of Arizona’s budget shortfalls in support of individuals with disabilities.

### Martin Catero, MD – Member, Board of Directors

Dr. Catero is a native of Arizona and attended Arizona State University majoring in Finance. He began his career as an auditor for a health insurance company, but changed gears and followed his passion for medicine. Dr. Catero continued

his education at the University of Texas and returned to the valley to complete his residency training with a focus on family medicine. Dr. Catero is on staff at Scottsdale Healthcare. This special interest in supporting the medically underserved has led Dr. Catero to be the driving force as Director of Scottsdale Healthcare’s Neighborhood Outreach Action for Health (community based medical and dental health program for underserved Arizonans). He serves as a Clinical Instructor for the Scottsdale Healthcare Family Medicine Residency Program and is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Arizona (College of Medicine). Gompers welcomes Dr. Catero’s intimate perspective and insight from the medical field.

## Gomper Bids Farewell

### Ronald F. Larson, Chairman of the Board

After over 30 years of dedicated service to Gompers Habilitation Center, Ron Larson will end his service and in his words “simplify his life.” Ron was instrumental in establishing and growing Gompers Endowment Program to \$5M+. He served most recently as Chairman, but has served as Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. In his 30 years of service, Ron served several positions multiple times. Ron has been Gompers historian and will leave a “legacy” of service.

### Frank Martin, Chairman Economic Development Committee, At-Large Executive Committee

For nearly 15 years, Frank has been a fixture on the Board of Directors, bringing with him a wealth of experience, knowledge and passion for individuals with disabilities. As chair of the Economic Development Committee, Frank is one of the Board members who supported “every” project Gompers has done in 15 years. He is a model of service as a Board Member while simultaneously being an independent business owner. We are eternally grateful to Frank for his dedication to our agency and his priceless gift of time.

### Dr. LaVerne Parker Diggs, Member, Quality Assurance, Policy Review and Strategic Planning Committees

Dr. Diggs organizational and leadership skills made her an immediate asset to Gompers Board. As an educator and her work with the City of Scottsdale, she brought an invaluable perspective to Gompers leadership. Combining her role as an educator and a professional, Dr. Diggs dedicated her abilities to serving on several committees including our Quality Assurance, Policy Review and Strategic Planning process. LaVerne’s keen sense of reason will be missed, as her talents, allowed Gompers to move its projects forward.

*Gompers staff and those we serve wish to thank our departing Board Members for their many years of dedicated service to Gompers’ mission. We wish them the best in all their future endeavors.*



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Phoenix, AZ 85017

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Board Chairman

**Cary Pfeffer**  
Communications Consultant

### Vice-Chairman

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Labor Consultant

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Attorney

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**Executive Director**  
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**Barb Ficker**



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