

Gift of Life *The HeartBeat*



Arizona, Inc.

Saving Lives
One ♥ at a Time

<http://www.giftoflifeaz.org>

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WELCOME TO "THE HEARTBEAT"

Welcome to the new and revised Gift of Life Newsletter – the HeartBeat! Much has happened in the past few years since our last published newsletter - technology, for instance. We have switched from a postal mailing format to an electronic one and hope you find it as much of an improvement as we do, not to mention a tremendous cost savings to the organization. Since you may have last heard from us, Gift of Life has experienced much joy and some heartache as we continue to expand our life-saving services to children throughout the world.

The loss of a beloved patron, Hartley Barker in 2010, resounded throughout the Rotary districts of Arizona as much as with Gift of Life. Please check out the article on the post-surgical therapy bears that are now given to every child who receives a life-saving procedure. We have fondly named the stuffed bears "Heartley Bearer" in his honor.

On a lighter note, Gift of Life has made strides in forming



relationships with doctors and hospitals in Mexico, Sri Lanka and India to provide surgeries for children in these and surrounding countries. The ability to perform procedures closer to the patient's country of origin allows us to save more lives as well as precious resources.

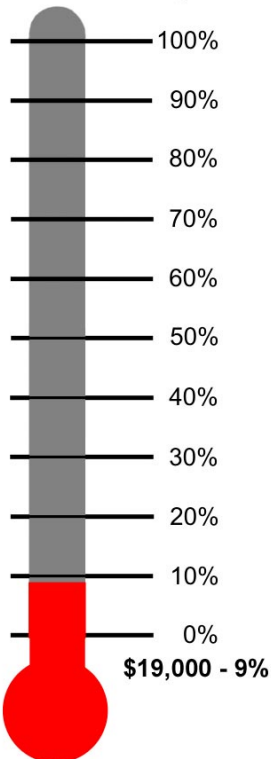
Once again, The Michael Finney Foundation chose Gift of Life as one of their featured charities for their "Dry Heat Comedy Classic" held annually in July. If you have ever attended one of the Comedy

Nights (and you should – it is the best bang for your buck in Arizona entertainment) you may often hear the comedians sarcastically say "it's a dry heat" – well, it's funny when they say it. . .!

In closing, there is a lot going on a Gift of Life these days and we hope to keep you better informed about our amazing organization. We now boast more than 260 young lives saved - not bad for a homegrown, Rotary tri-district program. That being said, there is much more that needs to be accomplished. It is no surprise to anyone reading this that the economy has been hard on all non-profits, Gift of Life being no exception. As you read on about the wonderful things we do, please consider that we operate on donations and a few grants alone. We ask that you consider making a donation this holiday season to Gift of Life, your money will be "heartfelt" by those who need it most.

Pam Cohen
Public Relations Chair

Gift of Life - AZ Goal: \$220,000



GIFT OF LIFE SETS \$ GOAL FOR FISCAL YEAR

The GOL-AZ Board set its financial GOAL for this fiscal year (*July, 2011 – June, 2012*) at **\$220,000** that should allow for **15 or more** heart surgeries during this fiscal year. We present this GOL-AZ Goal Thermometer as a way for Friends of GOL-

AZ and Rotarians to see where we are with each newsletter publication.

We hope that you will help us achieve and exceed this 2011-2012 Financial GOAL. In an effort to make it easier to make a donation, we have enhanced our web-

site with the secure ability for a credit card donation. Or, if sending a check, it should be sent to: Gift of Life-Arizona, Inc., 2800 North Central Ave., Suite 1450, Phoenix, AZ 85004 USA. We welcome your support.

ARIZONA GIFT OF LIFE BOARD MEMBERS

Administrative Services

Gina M. Guglielmo
Executive Director
Phone 602.445.4343
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Board Officers:

Gary L. Whiting, PDG
GOL-AZ President
Sun Lakes Rotary Club

Michael Burke
GOL-AZ Vice President
Phoenix Arcadia Rotary Club

Paul Mittman, ND, EdD
GOL-AZ Secretary
Phoenix 100 Rotary Club

Scott H. Miller
GOL-AZ Treasurer
Scottsdale Rotary Club

John S. Abbs
Immediate Past President
Phoenix Camelback Rotary Club

Executive Committee:

Gary Whiting, Chair

Michael Burke, Vice President

Paul Mittman, Secretary

Scott Miller, Treasurer

John Abbs, Immediate Past President

Gina Guglielmo, Executive Director

Voting Members

John Abbs
Phoenix Camelback Rotary Club

Michael Burke
Phoenix Arcadia Rotary Club

Pamela Cohen
Mesa West Rotary Club

Dick Eisenach
Phoenix 100 Rotary Club

Charles F. Flint
Mesa West Rotary Club

Carolee Terpstra, RN
Peoria North Rotary Club

Gary Whiting
Sun Lakes Rotary Club

Christine R. Gale
Non-Rotarian

Maribel Guglielmo-Hale
Phoenix Camelback Rotary Club

David Hadley, Jr.
Phoenix West Rotary Club

Rita Hadley
Phoenix West Rotary Club

Ken K. Kermode
Ajo Rotary Club

Bill McGrath
Mesa West Rotary Club

Scott H. Miller
Scottsdale Rotary Club

Paul Mittman, ND, EdD
Phoenix 100 Rotary Club

Karen Panietz, DDS, MSD
Ahwatukee Foothills Rotary Club

Robert Raskin
Phoenix 100 Rotary Club

John Rivers
Phoenix 100 Rotary Club

USA-MEXICO FRIENDSHIP CONFERENCE AND MATCHING GRANT EXCHANGE

The 12th Annual Rotary International Friendship Conference was held November 17-20 and hosted by Arizona District 5490. The estimated attendance was about 140 Rotarians with about 35 coming from the Northern Rotary Districts of Mexico.

During the four days of this conference it allowed Arizona Rotarians to showcase several of their completed Matching Grant projects and to provide the opportunity for all attending Rotarians to become better acquainted, develop friendships and to discuss issues and needs in both Arizona and Mexico that Rotarians could work together on through 2011-12 Rotary Matching Grants.

Saturday was devoted to having every possible 2011-12 matching grant showcased and explained by each Arizona and Mexican Rotary Club so each could decide if and how they wanted to participate. This gave Gift of Life-Arizona the opportunity to show case this project to the Mexican Rotary Clubs and to highlight further friendships with the Hermosillo and Puebla Rotarians. Many were not aware that GOL-AZ had already performed 157 heart surgeries on needy children from Mexico with the most recent three occurring in Puebla, Mexico since July, 2011. As such, GOL-AZ was able to further build relationships with the Puebla Rotarians and District



4180 Governor, Joe Cardoso as we further explored future surgeries in the Puebla area and were able to send home with them the GOL-AZ Bear to be presented to their next surgery

child..

We look forward to attending the 13th Annual Rotary International Friendship Conference in 2012 being held in Mexico.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

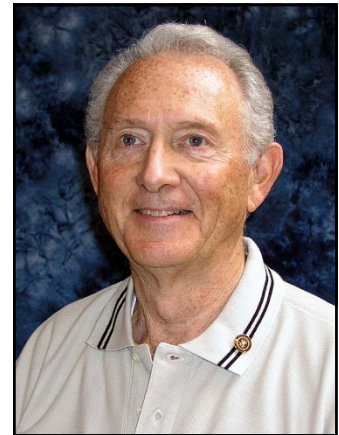
The GOL-AZ program is now in its 26th year of service in providing medical and surgical intervention to needy children from around the world who are suffering with congenital heart defects regardless of their race, creed, gender, religion or national origin and who would otherwise lack access to such intervention. Our progress since 1985 has now resulted in over 265 children receiving life saving surgeries on children from 24 countries of which 23 have been children from Arizona, USA. And when you add it all together from over 60 Rotary GOL programs around the world, it now totals over 12,000 children receiving an opportunity for a normal and healthy life. Who knows, one of these children may someday become the leader of their country or someone that may make a difference in our world. I think we would all agree that this is a wonderful way to help promote world peace and better understanding between people around the world. In order to accomplish the-

se life saving heart surgeries, you not only have to have the dollars to pay a small stipend to the hospital foundation, but you need the availability of volunteer pediatric cardiologists, pediatric cardiac surgeons, professional staff and hospitals to donate their skills, knowledge, time, supplies and bed space to make it happen for an operation that normally exceeds \$100,000.00. Take one of these ingredients away and the life saving heart surgery most likely will not happen. This is why our GOL-AZ Board is constantly involved each and every month of the year in these three critical areas so that we are not caught in a position of turning away an opportunity to help save an underprivileged child's life. As such, we are so pleased and blessed with the opportunity to work with so many highly skilled and dedicated pediatric doctors and other professionals here in Arizona, Mexico and India where surgeries are being performed in five Arizona hospitals, six Mexico hospitals

and two India hospitals over these past 26 years. I and the GOL-AZ Board express our sincere THANK YOU to all involved.

As you read this *first electronic issue* of "The Heart-Beat" newsletter I hope you will sense our excitement about our many accomplishments and for what the future will bring as we reach out to all our "Friends of GOL-AZ" and invite you to share this newsletter and our story with your friends and family so they too may have the opportunity of becoming a part in helping to save a child's life. As such, we invite you to constantly view our new website www.giftoflifeaz.org to keep informed of our progress and to also see us on **Facebook** and **YouTube** where you have additionally opportunity to stay informed and to let us know that you "Like" what we are doing.

As we enter the holiday season and with the knowledge that GOL-AZ is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, we invite you to consider making Gift of Life-Arizona a



charity of choice. As part of our new website, we have now added the ability of making a "secure" on line donation or you can send your check to our Arizona address: 2800 North Central Ave., Suite 1450, Phoenix, AZ 85004.

Sincerely,

Gary Whiting
Arizona Rotary Past District Governor and GOL-AZ Board President

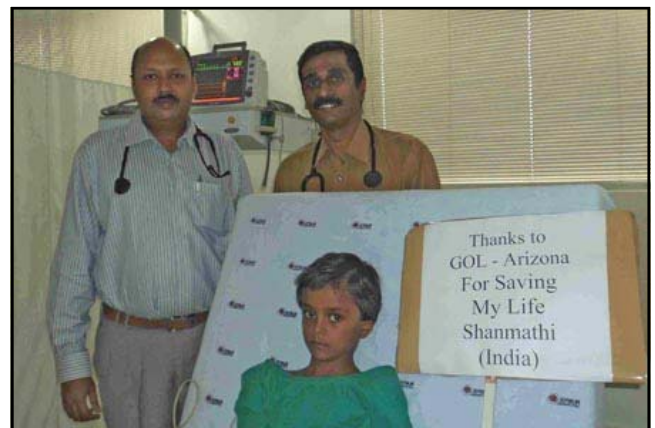
PATIENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee has been very busy during the first 10 months of this year. We reached another agreement to do more surgeries of needy children that, without our help, would not have had a chance to live a normal life or not to live at all.

In addition to this new agreement we have with District 2980 of Salem, India, and two hospitals in that country; and with District 4100 of Hermosillo, Mexico, and five hospitals in that country, we now have another agreement with District 4180 of Puebla, Mexico. After this last agreement was reached in early August, we have had four successful surgeries in the "HOSPITAL DEL NIÑO POBLANO" and have one more scheduled to take

place before the end of the year. Altogether, 14 surgeries in 10 months have taken place in five different hospitals in three countries, including St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix.

Our last surgery took place in India, where "Girl Shanmati" had her procedure at the Palaniandi Mudaliar Memorial Hospital. She is 9 years old from the Province of Tamil Nadu in a village called Harur, near Salem, India, where she lives with her four other siblings. Her mother is a homemaker and her father a laborer. She was diagnosed with a Patent Ductus Arteriosus which was causing recurrent respiratory tract infections and failure to thrive, weighing only 15 kilos. Her PDA was



closed via catheterization with a good prognosis that will allow her to have a normal life.

We currently have 22 patients that have been accepted and are in the waiting list. Financial help is

needed to be able to these surgeries done in the next 12 months. We thank all the clubs in Districts 5500, 5510 and 5490 who have given their support to Gift of Life - Arizona.

THREE FAMILY GENERATIONS SUPPORT GIFT OF LIFE-ARIZONA

History in the making! GOL-AZ has received significant support from three generations of the John Van Houten family. GOL-AZ expresses their **THANK YOU** to Flagstaff Rotarian since 1990 and PDG, John Van Houten, his son, James Van Houten, and grandson, Jameson Van Houten for their financial and personal support.

PDG John became a Rotarian in 1954 when he was invited to join the Yuma Rotary Club. He became very involved in Yuma Rotary Club community projects and soon rose to be Club President in 1958-59. In the early 60's, John's business took him from Yuma to the Phoenix area where he helped charter the Rotary Club of Phoenix Mid-Town and became a charter member. As his Rotary experience and leadership developed, John was elected to be a District Governor in 1984-85 of what now is D5490. During his year as District Governor Elect under then District Governor, Jack McFalls, John was asked to look into the New York Rotary Gift of Life project and see if a like humanitarian project could be



implemented for the Rotary Clubs of the Arizona Rotary Districts.

Along with the assistance of some Arizona Rotarians and the generous Phoenix pediatric medical community, John finalized the Arizona Rotary GOL-AZ project as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit in April, 1985 during his year as District Governor. The mission continues to be helping underprivileged children from around the world who are suffering from congenital heart defects and without this medical and surgical intervention most likely would not have an opportunity for a normal and healthy life.

So here we are 26 years later having helped save the lives

of over 260 children from 24 different countries of which 24 are from Arizona, with the financial and personal support from Rotary Clubs, Rotarians, Friends of Rotarians and Friends of GOL-AZ that keeps growing each year. When the first heart surgery was performed in 1985, GOL-AZ paid a stipend to the hospital foundation of \$3,500 for a surgery that cost over \$100,000. Since then, we have had to increase the stipend to \$5,000, then \$6,000 and now we are approaching \$12,000 per surgery because of the dramatically increasing hospital costs and our present economic conditions.

Presently, there are

23 children on the waiting list as we work with hospitals for bed and staff support, and the pediatric cardiologists and pediatric cardiology surgeons who graciously donate their time and talented skills to save these children's lives. We hope that you will consider joining John Van Houten's family in making a financial donation to help make this happen.

For more information and to make a donation, please visit our website

www.giftoflifeaz.org or take the time to see GOL-AZ on Facebook and let us know that you **"Like"** this project.



Please join Gift of Life/AZ

in honoring the selfless contributions of Dr. Teodori in helping to save the lives of children, throughout the world, who otherwise would have died from congenital heart defects. We speak for those who could not be present tonight and for those whose lives were changed forever. Our endless and heartfelt gratitude to our own **"Prince of Hearts"**

Gift of Life/AZ, Inc. and its Board, Rotarians of Districts 5490, 5500, 5510, and more than 250 children across the world – thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.



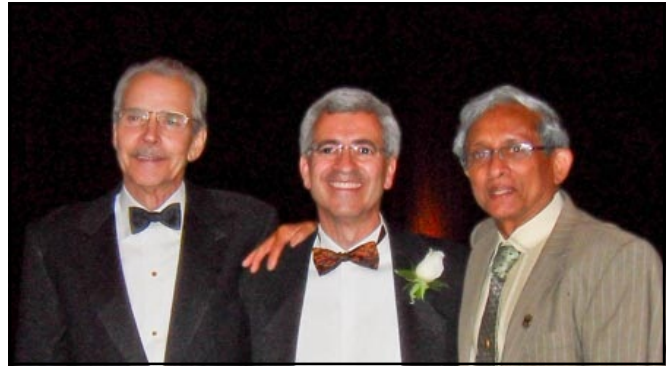
Please consider making a contribution to Gift of Life—Arizona:
<http://www.giftoflifeaz.org/donate.php>

THREE DOCTORS DEFINE THE SPIRIT OF GIFT OF LIFE—ARIZONA

These three doctors are at the center of what Gift of Life - Arizona is about. Combined, Dr. Jeremy Torstveit, Pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon retired, Dr. Michael Teodori, pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon and Dr. Dudley Halpe pediatric cardiologist, have performed over 75 of our 265 procedures to date that spans 24 countries and includes 23 children from Arizona.

Dr. Jeremy Torstveit was the main pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon for over ten years until 1998, performing 22 corrective heart procedures during this time for children from 5 different

countries. Dr. Michael Teodori was recently honored as a Hon Kachina Awards recipient for his volunteer work with Gift of Life-Arizona and has worked with our organization since 1994. He has performed more than 40 procedures including some very complex cases, and continues to champion our cause at the University Medical Center in Tucson, Arizona. Dr. Dudley Halpe was one of the founders of the Arizona Pediatric Cardiology Consultants group, and a Gift of Life-Arizona board member for over 20 years and was our central pediatric cardiologist for all patients until 2008.



The work and dedication of these doctors to these poor children is how we have been able fulfill our mission for over 25 years. We strive to give medical care and support for needy children and their family's world wide who are suffering from con-

genital heart defects. Our success comes from the support of outstanding individuals such as these doctors and the financial support from Rotarians, Rotary Clubs, and Friends of both Rotary and Gift of Life-Arizona.

MORE ON THE HON KACHINA AWARD RECIPIENT, DR. MICHAEL TEODORI

PHOENIX – His hands are blessed with the ability to save lives, but Dr. Michael Teodori's mind is always on the heart.

Dr. Teodori, a pediatric heart surgeon who performs operations on underprivileged children around the world through Gift of Life – Arizona, will join five other prominent Arizona volunteers as recipients of the 2011 Hon Kachina Volunteer Award. These six Arizonans who exemplify the very best of volunteerism will be honored at the 35th annual Hon Kachina Awards Dinner on Oct. 1, 2011 at the J.W. Marriott Camelback Inn Resort & Spa.

Since 1989, Dr. Teodori has volunteered to perform 42 complex, live-saving cardiac surgeries on children in Arizona alone, along with several others in countries spanning the globe. But it is not only his talents that he lends to the effort, he also enlists volunteer help from other physicians, nurses, and medical support staff, as well as procuring donated medical devices, medicines and equipment necessary to perform these surgeries.

"Many of these children would

not otherwise be alive if not for his humble and passionate work," says Hon Kachina Council Board Member Mark Staudohar, who nominated Dr. Teodori for the Hon Kachina honor. "His compassion for



those less fortunate is an integral part to his day-to-day work."

A key member of the staff at the University of Arizona Medical Center [ask Dr. Teodori himself what his title is –

according to UMC website title is: Director, Congenital and Pediatric Cardiac Surgery at UMC] , Dr. Teodori was voted by his peers as one of the "Best Doctors in America 2009-10." His dedi-

cation to his profession could not even be deterred by severe injuries sustained in a 2002 car accident as he worked as hard at his recovery as he does in the operating room. Within a year, he not only returned to

his practice but also to his activities helping children through Gift of Life – Arizona.

Dr. Teodori has dedicated nearly 22 years to Gift of Life -- Arizona, which provides medical care and support for needy children and their families who are suffering from congenital heart defects both in Arizona and throughout the world. In the fall of 2010, he led a team of University of Arizona Medical Center doctors and nurses on a two-week volunteer medical mission to Ethiopia, performing cardiac surgeries on 15 children. He also offered his expertise to teach Ethiopian doctors, nurses and medical students during the visit.

"I think when you look at what you do in life, you're supposed to do the right thing, you're supposed to value what's important," Dr. Teodori says. "Often we get lost in that sense of, 'Is it about money?' 'Is it about what you have?' And really it's just about what you do moment to moment.

"I really do feel honored to be able to help people."

MICHAEL FINNEY'S "DRY HEAT" IS MAJOR GIFT OF LIFE FUNDRAISER

15th
Annual

Michael Finney's

DRY HEAT
Classic
2011

World's
Comedy
Magic
Act
of the
Year



**The Michael Finney Foundation,
Benefiting
The Arizona Rotary Gift Of Life,
Wounded Warrior Operation One Voice**

**JULY
28, 29, 30**