

## Open Door celebrates five years

by Ann Haver-Allen

**O**pen Door, an outreach program of the Coalition for Compassion and Justice (CCJ), celebrated five years of servicing the most disadvantaged people in Yavapai County Tuesday, March 7, with a birthday party at its Gurley Street location.

**Rowle Simmons**, mayor of Prescott, and **Harvey C. Skoog**, mayor of Prescott Valley, were on hand to cut the birthday cake and help celebrate Open Door's milestone.

"I am very impressed with the program here," Simmons said. "We need more programs like this." Skoog added his congratulations for the great works accomplished by Open Door; and **Catherine Euler**, director of Open Door, said that the credit goes to the volunteers who help keep Open Door open.

"We are a central place where people in our communities can both receive and give help, like neighbors helping each other through difficult times,"



Photo by Harriet Neal

*From left, Diane Iverson, one of the original volunteer directors of Open Door; Harvey Skoog, mayor of Prescott Valley; Catherine Euler, director of Open Door; Leigh Downing, one of the former directors of Open Door; Buz Davies, executive director of the Coalition for Compassion and Justice; and Rowle Simmons, mayor of Prescott, celebrate five years of Open Door servicing the most disadvantaged people in Yavapai County.*

Euler said. "We are very pleased and proud to have so much community support, and we are happy to have the mayors of Prescott and Prescott Valley

here to help us celebrate our fifth birthday and recognize the important role we play in our region."

*see Party, page 7*

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# Thank you to our supporters

## Memorial Gifts

**Carol Blaine**

given by *Eleanor Mass*

**Joan Fredenthal**

given by *Susan Lorant*

**Robert W. Ashe**

given by *Helen M. Ashe*

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given by *Rosalyn Baker, Charles and Judith Fahrenholz, Addison and Margaret Hawley, William and Marcella Pierce, Verlyn Pollock, and*

*Elizabeth Singkofer*

**Zene M. Kempf**

given by *Bonny Kempf*

## Honorific Gifts

**Buz Davies**

given by *Tony and Cali Cardoni, Kay and David Keeley, and Jim and Jeannine Storelli*

**Catherine Euler**

given by *Sam and Leigh Downing*

**Debbie Stewart**



given by *Linnie DiCianni*

**PUMC Staff**

given by *Revs. George and Nancy Cushman*

**Wilbur Moulton**

given by *Melissa Moulton and Stephen Zenk*

# Local businesses, schools pitch in and help

**H**ome Repair thanks our very helpful vendors who support our operations with their services and discounts:

- **Briggs Plumbing**
- **Home Town Heating and Cooling**
- **Walker Glass**
- **Ace Hardware-Chino Valley**
- **Foxworth Galbraith**
- **Prescott True Value Hardware**
- **Mike Reinhard, Shelter, Hearth & Home**

Special thanks to **New Frontiers**

**Natural Foods Market & Deli** for including Home Repair and Open Door in its 5 Percent Wednesday promotion Feb. 15 (see story, page 7).

Also thanks to the **Prescott Noon Lions Club** for continuing support of Home Repair. Remember to recycle your newspapers with the Lions.

**O**pen Door thanks **York Motors**, which donated money and 75 Easter baskets. Thanks to the **Prescott Valley High School**

**Youth Chamber of Commerce**, which donates food and clothing weekly. Thanks to **Fran Chadwick**, an amazing volunteer who goes to the Food Bank every week for our food donation. Thanks to **Agnes, Joyce, Ben, Donna, Terry, Luis, Mike, and Patti** and all those who help feed some 300 of the poorest and most disadvantaged people in our community every week on a non-existent budget! You are all amazing! So many people to thank, it is impossible to know where to start.



*The Coalition Connection* is published by the Coalition for Compassion and Justice. CCJ is a community organization committed to meeting immediate needs, empowering people toward self-sufficiency, and advocating for systemic change impacting the health and well-being of people in Yavapai County.

## CCJ Board of Directors

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## Chair's Report

# Teams' next goal is to develop social entrepreneurship

I recently received an e-mail of a cartoon stating... "After 39.5 years wandering in the desert, Mrs. Moses secretly asks for directions!" Besides the obvious sexism (and I hate to admit accuracy) of the cartoon, it is important to have direction.

When the Board agreed to our Guiding Principles last summer, we knew nothing about a VISTA proposal involving nine agencies to obtain seven VISTA workers. We did, however, know that we wanted to: "Accomplish our mission through collaborative community efforts."

To that end, under the Generations



United of Yavapai County partnership, CCJ is collaborating with Arizona's Children Association, Prescott United Methodist Church, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona, Yavapai County Community Health Services, Yavapai Tobacco Free Partnership, Area Agency on Aging/NACOG, Yavapai County

Methamphetamine Task Force (MATForce), and Youth Count (how did they get in there!). In addition, these groups will work closely with Prescott College's Ripple Project for student community involvement.

The overall goal is to eradicate poverty — impossible you say; maybe, but you have to have directions, so

hopefully we can at least find our way through the desert with these partners. CCJ's role will be to work as part of the team to develop social entrepreneurship — basically to create a business that creates revenue streams to help GUYC and CCJ not be totally dependent on contributions. For a model, think of the Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity Home Supply Store. While these efforts will not formally start until toward the end of summer, if you are interested contact Buz and help us help others.



## Executive Director's Report

# Improvements mean Coalition moving toward maturity

The first quarter of the year is already behind us and there is a real feeling of optimism throughout CCJ. Our three Directors are doing a terrific job growing their respective program's capacities to serve more clients and introduce new services and partnerships.

Our Resource Development/Publicity Committee is working hard on seeking needed grants, making presentations, developing new information and publicity pieces and working on a new information system.



One of our volunteers and member of our Resource Development/Publicity Committee, **Jim Storelli**, has developed what we call the "Resources Data Base." It has been said that "information is power" and this database is proving to be a powerful tool for our organization.

The need to show compassion for our neighbors who struggle with the issues of poverty is the right thing to do but we can't be there to help without the support of volunteers and financial support from individuals, businesses, congregations, funders, and local community and civic organizations.

We must be able to know and understand who these individuals and organizations are and what programs and services they enjoy and support. And we must be able to communicate with them and thank them on a regular basis. Our new database provides us the ability to better understand and communicate with everyone interested in our organization.

We believe that if people support our organization and like what we are doing then we must respect and maintain that partnership by keeping them informed on our efforts, our programs and services, our outcomes, our future plans and most of all our thanks.



# Prescott Evening Lions Club makes transportation possible

by **Peggy Zimmerman, director**

**H**ave you ever had the occasion to witness an event that brought tears to your eyes? It happened, just recently, when one of our circle participants received a car through our “Wheels for Work” Program.

This event was made possible by several different folks. It started when the participant shared with her Circle partners that her truck was sitting in her driveway and she was unable to drive it after putting most of her savings into the needed repairs to the truck.

The Circle partners contacted the director and the search was on for a vehicle. **Duane Gaddy**, Wheels for Work Coordinator, placed an ad in several church bulletins to spread the word. Folks started talking to their friends about this need.

One of these folks was **Jim Robak**, a Circle partner, who discussed it with the Prescott Evening Lions Club, which made a donation to the Wheels



*Photo by Jim Robak*

*Therese and Richard Macho, right, partially donated this vehicle to Circles of Support. Debi Hike, left, was the recipient.*

for Work program to obtain a car.

Our heartfelt thanks to all for making this event possible! The Circle participant and her two children are ecstatic with the independence this

car has brought them and the ability to go grocery shopping without walking to and from the store and to enable the children to attend after-school activities.

# Home Repair Program improves health, safety conditions

by **Sharon Andersen, director**

**H**ome Repair volunteers have been busy in 2006. Volunteers have completed 16 projects. They have fixed leaky roofs, faulty electrical problems, water damaged ceilings and malfunctioning furnaces. They have replaced leaky faucets, broken stair railings, broken windows, broken doors and rotting floors.

One job started out as a simple bathtub faucet repair and before it was done volunteers had not only replaced the leaky faucet, but also had replaced the tub surround, a window, exterior siding, and drywall, and textured and painted the bathroom. Our client is a single mother who was

involved in an accident 12 years ago in which she suffered a head injury that left her with some physical limitations. She is on Social Security Disability, works part-time, and is a full-time mom. She has great pride of ownership in her 70-year-old home and provides a lovely home for her teenage daughter.

Volunteers made needed plumbing repairs and fixed a leaky roof for a 50-year-old woman on oxygen. Our client is on disability and receives less than \$600 per month. Another client is a 94-year-old man who needed grab bars in the bathroom so he could remain safely in his own home.

Home Repair volunteers have

worked more than 150 hours and expended more than \$1,300 for materials and services to help these 16 homeowners. All our jobs, whether small or large, improve the health and safety conditions in the homes of our clients.

Home Repair is now in the process of planning two wheelchair ramps for very deserving clients. Home Repair will partner with the Arizona Department of Economic Security on one of the ramps and with the Veterans Administration on the other ramp. In addition, Home Repair has eight other projects in process.

April will be a very busy month. Thank you, Home Repair Volunteers, for all you do!

# Demand for Open Door's services increases

by **Catherine Euler, director**

**O**pen Door has achieved a new record this quarter. On March 29, we served 135 clients, 10 more than the biggest day of 2005; a week later, on April 6, we served 132 people.

Overall in the first three months of this year, we had 3,721 client visits, representing 1,001 individuals, 73 percent of whom visited three or fewer times. These 1,001 individuals represented 1,969 family members, of whom 500 were children.

Almost 47 percent of those who came to Open Door for help this year only visited once, apparently received what they needed to overcome the

immediate crisis, and haven't come back to ask for anything more.

We don't know exactly why there has been an upsurge in the numbers of people getting government commodities (617), pantry food (1,625) or hot food (3,413 meals), but there seems to be a combination of factors.

The prices of gasoline, propane, and electricity have all risen, so this especially squeezes people who are on a fixed or low incomes; problems with a car or health can also knock people over the edge temporarily.

We have had several emergencies that reveal how close so many people in Yavapai County are to borderline financial (in)stability. Some of the

stories are from single parents, some from people living in their cars or in the woods. We try to help them all, but we especially prioritize the families with young children.

Some of the stories told include:

- "We have an eviction notice because I had to spend \$300 to repair my car to get to work."
- "I now have to make a co-payment for my prescriptions, but I only get \$680 a month from my disability check, and my gas bill was \$180 in January."
- "My husband and I had pneumonia, so we lost two weeks of work; we have three small children and our water is getting cut off tomorrow."

## Glass Slipper Program helps teens attend high school prom in style

**O**pen Door, in conjunction with Youth Volunteer Corps, sponsored Glass Slipper—a program that procures donations of evening attire, shoes, hose, jewelry, and other accessories and then outfits teens in style for their high school prom.

"Many low-income kids don't even think they can afford to go to the prom," said **Catherine Euler**, director of Open Door. "Attending the high school prom is very important for self-esteem and memories. We want to help teens go to the prom who otherwise would not be able to go."

The old Factory-2-U store in Frontier Village served as the "shopping site" for about 35 high school students who received a free prom dress or tuxedo during two weekends in March and April.

Glass Slipper was founded in Chicago in April 1999, modeled after a program started in 1997 by a community service worker in Washington,



*Photo by Harriet Neal*

*Holly Winter and Kara Gaddy shop for a prom gown at the Glass Slipper Project.*

D.C. The program has been featured on Oprah! and CNN. Feature articles have appeared in many magazines, including Family Circle, Woman's Day

Magazine, and The Christian Science Monitor.

Next year, Youth Count will sponsor Glass Slipper.

# Home Repair Hero

by *Sharon Andersen, director*

**Ron Salmon** is a Home Repair Hero, a great volunteer and a tremendous asset for the Home Repair Program. Ron is a project manager and on the Home Repair Steering Committee.



Ron worked in the electronic software and hardware engineering field for 40 years before retiring two years ago to Prescott with his wife Kathy. Ron and Kathy have four grown children and three grandchildren with two more on the way (grandchildren, that is).

Ron thinks in practical terms and just makes things work. He is perfect for the Home Repair Program, where

we try to work miracles using very little money. Ron is always willing to do the hard jobs. Recently, Ron went out to fix a leaky bathtub faucet and ended up replacing the tub surround, the win-

dow, part of the wall, some of the exterior siding and, of course, the faucet.

Ron also keeps busy with home repair projects at home. Currently, he is remodeling the kitchen for Kathy. Ron loves to travel and has recently been to Hawaii and back to California to help his daughter with — you guessed it — home repairs. Ron, thank you for all you do.

# Open Door's Volunteers of the Quarter

by *Catherine Euler, director*

**Jack and Harriet Hotsenpiller** are Open Door's two Volunteers of the Quarter. The Hotsenpiller's were honored at Open Door's fifth birthday party in March (see related story on page 1). I thought it fitting that they be honored at this event because they were there the first day of Open Door's existence. (Though others were as well!)

Harriet told a wonderful story about a young mother who came in that day. It was bitterly cold, and her infant was only a few weeks old. They were living in their car, and needed diapers and blankets. Open Door had blankets, but no one had yet donated diapers. Within minutes someone arrived out of the blue with a package of diapers! They had no way of knowing that young mother was there. I think this set the pattern of Open Door's continuous miracles.

We know that a lot of people who



come here are broken in some way, or they have made bad choices; they or their families still need com-

passion, service, and encouragement. We know God is here because the pattern of miracles is just too regular. Just the other day a ragged, rough-looking fellow who had recently arrived looking for work said he was looking for a bedroll. We didn't have any in the clothing room, but within the hour a generous donor appeared with three bedrolls.

He had no way of knowing that a client had just asked for one not an hour earlier. It is true what the Psalmist says, "The Lord hears the cry of the poor." We are grateful to have the opportunity to be of service.

# Open Door Briefs

## New service

Because health problems are high among low-income and homeless people, we started a new service in January. **Gerry Garvey**, a Yavapai County health worker, is now available every Wednesday to answer questions and help people get appointments, glasses, dental work, testing, etc. She also brings in lots of toothbrushes and toothpaste and shampoo when she comes, so we are very grateful for her contributions all around.

## Musicians wanted

They say music is therapeutic, and that is definitely proving to be the case here. We have had two extremely talented musicians donate their time to help calm and soothe and entertain everyone during our sessions: **Tomas de la Cruz** and **Kathy Morris**. Thank you both! It really seems to help lighten the load for people, even if only for a few hours. If anyone else knows of a musician who would like to play for us, please have them get in touch.

## Hours change

Starting on May 1, Open Door will change its hours to Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9 a.m. to noon. We will be open the same hours every day. This makes it less confusing for clients, volunteers, and the community as a whole. So far most people have been very positive about this change.

## Volunteer orientation

Starting on May 8, Open Door will have two hours of volunteer orientation on the second Monday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon. (Also June 12 and July 10) If you want to know more about greeting or voucher writing or helping in the kitchen or clothing room, please come along. Tell your friends. This is an amazing place to work!

# Some homeowners face water crisis

by **Jim Storelli**

In 1999 the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) finally had enough proof – Chino Valley, Prescott and Prescott Valley, as well as adjacent county areas, were “mining” groundwater. That means more water was being taken out of our principal water source, the underground aquifer, than was being replaced by precipitation and effluent recharge.

Now we are beginning to see what ADWR was worried about. Springs and streams have reduced flow from previous decades and, even more worrisome, underground water tables are dropping. Some homeowners who

have private wells have begun to notice their wells going dry. This is a particularly grievous problem for low-income homeowners because deepening or drilling a new well can cost thousands of dollars, money that is typically not available to them. The CCJ Home Repair program has had a number of requests for assistance, but the costs are beyond Home Repair’s means also.

What can be done? This is a very thorny issue. At the heart of the problem is population growth. Since 1999 the population has continued to grow at a pace even faster than before. Prescott and Prescott Valley are work-

ing toward importing water from the Big Chino area north of Paulden. This effort, which is intended to help municipal water systems, will do very little for the homeowners on private wells while the numbers of wells into the aquifer increases unabated. Public policy decisions relating to limiting population growth and state law relating to water management may be the greatest controlling factors, and these are active issues on the political scene right now. Advocates can learn more through articles in the Daily Courier and through the Citizens Water Advocacy Group website, [www.cwagaz.org](http://www.cwagaz.org).

## New Frontiers shares profits with Open Door, Home Repair

The third Wednesday of the month at New Frontiers Natural Foods Market & Deli is 5 percent Wednesday. That’s when New Frontiers donates 5 percent of the day’s proceeds to a local nonprofit.

In February, New Frontiers donated 5 percent of the day’s proceeds to Open Door and Home Repair.

“New Frontiers is a fine example of a company that gives back to the community,” said **Sharon Andersen**, director of Home Repair. Each program received about \$650.

“We are happy to give back to the community and help local nonprofit organizations,” said **Tiffany Conner**, marketing director for New Frontiers. “We don’t do it for the recognition; we do it to give back.”



Photo by Ann Haver-Allen

Pictured at New Frontiers Natural Foods Market & Deli during the February 5 Percent Wednesday are, from left, Sharon Andersen, director of Home Repair; Tiffany Conner, marketing manager for New Frontiers, and Catherine Euler, director of Open Door.

## Party *continued from page 1*

Euler said Open Door’s computer records date back to 2002, when the program had just over 600 client visits.

“In 2005 we had more than 13,000

client visits,” she said. “We have more than 20 congregations and organizations in our local communities who are supporting CCJ and Open Door

financially.”

About 40 percent of those who benefited from Open Door services last year were under the age of 18.

# You can help CCJ help others in our community

As a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization, the Coalition for Compassion and Justice (CCJ) is able to accept many types of donations, including land, houses, timeshares, cars, trucks, RVs, and office equipment and supplies.

## Direct Contributions

You can sign up to make monthly direct deposits to help CCJ help our neighbors by meeting immediate needs, empowering them toward self-sufficiency, and advocating for systemic change that impacts the health and well-being of people in Yavapai County.

No amount is too small. It's the cumulative giving that makes an enormous difference. If 1,000 people in our community give just \$2 a month, that would add \$24,000 to CCJ's efforts to raise Yavapai County families and individuals out of poverty. **Call (928) 445-8382 for details on establishing a direct deposit.**

Donations may also be made by check or pledge and mailed to **Coalition for Compassion and Justice, P.O. Box 1882, Prescott, AZ 86302**. Your donation is tax-deductible. CCJ is also eligible for the state direct tax deduction. See [www.yavapaiccj.net](http://www.yavapaiccj.net) for details.

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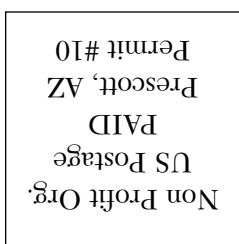
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