



Northland Family Help Center

Fall 2003

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Blessed and Helping Others

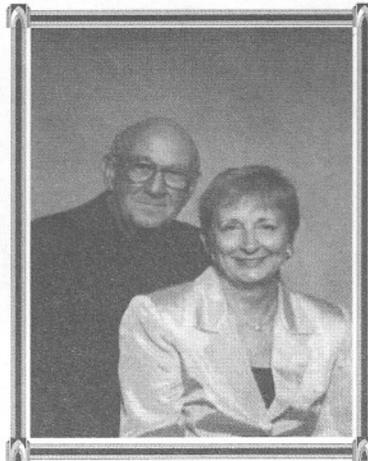
"Philanthropists who are compassionate, gracious, and generous." These are just a few words that describe donors who established Northland Family Help Center's Endowment Fund. A family who continuously lives up to these descriptive words is the Pitre Family, Hubert and Dorothy Pitre. If you have lived in Arizona for any length of time you probably know their names. The Pitres are a family who make a difference for many, many who are in need and suffering.

Herbert (Bert) and Dorothy (Dodie) have lived in Arizona since 1973 when Bert started Pitre Buick in Phoenix. After raising three children of their own, Jan, Bob and Tom, and having seven grandchildren, their attentions then focused on helping women and children in need, such as survivors who Northland Family Help Center serves within its HALO House.

Bert and Dodie may live most of the year in the valley of the sun, but their philanthropy reaches into northern Arizona. When Northland Family Help Center's former Executive Director, Kay Doggett was working with this community to build HALO House, a combined Women's and Children's Shelter, the Pitre family was there to assist along the way.

Dodie and her daughter Jan Pitre-Dixon hosted a Tea to discuss with other philanthropic individuals how they could assist with building HALO House for victims of domestic/relationship violence. Some of those in attendance at that event remain NFHC donors. Donors who bring in clothes their own children have outgrown and offer financial support. Thus, the Pitre family has set a philanthropic example that many follow.

As Northland Family Help Center started to build its Endowment Fund, Bert and Dodie Pitre stepped forward again to assist. The Pitres donated \$10,000 to be matched by other philanthropic community members. Between the Pitre's \$10,000 match and a family wishing to remain anonymous, Northland Family Help Center has received \$30,000 to be matched. These generous "match" opportunities will continue until December 31, 2003.



Hubert & Dorothy Pitre

Northland Family established an Endowment Fund so that the organization's mission will be sustained for decades. As the agency reached its 25th Anniversary in 2003, staff and Board of Directors were able to reflect upon patterns of needs for services, capacity of the agency and shelters, along with Arizona State's budget challenges, and the flow of dollars through grants and contracts. Thus, as a 25-year agency, it was important, to start thinking about future client needs, future NFHC staffing needs, future Board of Director's and Executive Director's challenges to meet "the supply and demand ratio" required to operate shelters. The Pitre family shared this vision, a vision of sustaining Northland Family Help Center past their lives, therefore, leaving a true legacy.

Why you might ask in northern Arizona? The Pitre's have long since been a strong part of our community and have owned a second home here for the past twenty years. It was Jan and husband, Dennis Dixon who originally asked Bert to be involved, since then both Bert and Dodie have continued their support because they believe in NFHC's cause.

What would Bert and Dodie like to be remembered for? The Pitre's realize that they have been abundantly blessed and enjoy helping all charities that represent people that need a hand up. Dodie also donates much time and money to St Vincent de Paul and The Mission of Mercy in Phoenix.

Northland Family Help Center has been blessed! Blessed by the Pitres, and also by another family who requested to remain anonymous. People who believe in NFHC's mission and desire to help Northland Family sustain its efforts to meet northern Arizona's community needs. We are highly honored to have such compassionate individuals within our Flagstaff community!

What Matters

What Matters? is this year's United Way campaign theme. **What Matters?** for Northland Family Help Center? Well, let us share what United Way and your designated contributions do - these funds pay for food, electricity, basic medical supplies, staff who work directly with clients, and counseling services for children who have experienced catastrophic events in their lives. United Way dollars support these three NFHC departments: Women's Shelter, Children's Shelter, and Counseling Services.

Northland Family addresses these United Way goals: Meeting Basic Needs, Fostering Health and Well Being, as well as Nurturing Youth and Families. **What Matters?** United Way and your support! Your support to address relationship violence within our community one person at a time. Your support - that indicates to us, **NFHC's mission matters.**

Kathy's Column

Have you ever...

- ...heard loud and angry voices coming from your neighbor's home?
- ...saw a child shaken with force while being screamed at?
- ...wondered why a person wore sunglasses for weeks, both day and night?
- ...been curious about a friend who never has any cash to spend on himself or herself?
- ...thought a neighbor had a child, a child who you rarely see?

These are but a few indicators, indicators of power and control behaviors that are present in relationship/domestic violence (DV). October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. A month when Northland Family Help Center states loudly and frequently, "That is **NOT** okay!" DV is alive and thriving in this picturesque setting of Flagstaff, AZ. If it were not, then Northland Family Help Center's Women's and Children's Shelters would not have all 38-beds full a majority of the year.

There is a cycle of violence. That cycle is perpetuated when children see one parent hitting another, creating a cycle of violence that will live on within a family for generations. When a child witnesses excessive power and control at home at a young age, they believe it is 'normal.' Normal because they have observed those they love using excessive power and control on a regular basis.

Every nine-seconds, let me restate that NINE-SECONDS, a woman in the United States is beaten. DV is the leading cause of injury to American women. Flagstaff's news frequently has read...Domestic Violence. The Flagstaff Police Department's 911 calls are most often focused on domestic violence.

Northland Family Help Center addresses domestic violence every moment of every day. If you know of someone who may need assistance in developing a Safety Plan – to address where to go, having credit cards for the purchase of gasoline, plus the important documents that are critical when it is time to leave the situation – have them call 527-1900. What can you do if you witness or suspect relationship violence, call the Flagstaff Police Department. Know, it is appropriate for you to say, "That is **NOT** okay!"

Kathy A. Turner, Ed. D.

Kathy A. Turner, Ed. D.
Executive Director

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An organization of this magnitude
requires the dedication & heartfelt support of many Individuals;
It is the help of faithful donors that maintains strength!
Thank You! Northland Family

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These Children are our Future Community Leaders

Hunter Noble, a Knoles third-grader last year, was asked by his teacher Mrs. Kim Fors to; "Think of an idea to change the world and put it into action." Hunter and other students from the class set up a vending booth outside the school's cafeteria for two days. The students sold pickles, chips, and candy. Hunter's parents made a deal with him, if he would buy a jar of pickles, they would buy three more. Hunter recruited other students to help him. According to the Arizona Daily Sun article published, June 8th the following students became actively involved: Lou Stewart, Irene Cheff, Jayla Tubbs, RoxAnn Ribelin, Jessica Johnson, James Lou Stewart, Briana Milligan, Sammie Addingtn, Sarah Brunswick, and other students from Mrs. Fors class.

Help comes in different shapes and sizes – from adult to children. That definitely includes Girl Scout Troop 1680. These girls have been together for quite some time, starting out as Brownies at Sechrist School. They continued their teamwork as they evolved into Girl Scouts and finally high school graduates. This summer, before they went their separate ways however, they decided to go out with some goodwill and donate a significant amount of money from cookie and yard sales to Northland Family Help Center. Thanks girls we are sure you will go far!

Brianna May, an eight-year old celebrated her birthday this summer. Her birthday card read, "No presents please but we will be collecting donations for HALO House (Crisis Nursery).

These children are our future community leaders. Their generosity is heart-felt, its an incredible gesture and accomplishment. Northland Family Help Center's Children Shelter, a 14-bed facility, has children whose stays range from 1 day to 141 days. For some, their stays are repeated: a second, third, and in a few cases four of more times. It is wonderful while also heart breaking to hear a child who has been at HALO House more than once to tell a 'first-timer' how wonderful it is to be sheltered at HALO.

It is heart-warming to see children helping children, not just thinking about themselves but also considering other kids just like them who are homeless or separated from their own families. These unselfish children live their values, which will serve them for the rest of their lives. What do these children have in common?

Values and generosity of the heart!

Northland Family Help Center Endowment Donors

Wesley Anderson
Mary Ellen Armdorfer
Scorro and Santino Bernasconi
Kerry Blume
Lauren Brieihan and David Lang
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Northland Family Help Center

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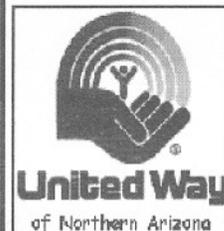
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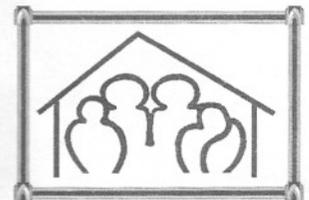
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