

# Holiday 2011 Information

Come join the Sun Riders Saturday, December 10, 2011 for the Pre-party at Kennedy Park from 12 noon to 6 pm. Featuring food, drinks, auction prizes, door prizes, 50/50 drawing, vendors, music and much more.

Sunday, December 11, 2011 is the 30th Annual Toy Parade. Registration starts at 7:00 am at Freedom Park on 29th St. and Swan Rd. The Parade departs for Kennedy Park on Ajo Rd and LaCholla at 12:00 noon.

Pre-registration is \$15.00 and \$20.00 day of EVERYONE brings a toy for the kids.

The raffle is for a new 2010 Harley Davidson, 1200 Custom Sportster. Raffle tickets are \$5.00. Questions about the parade? Please call Robin @ 682-7528.

A list of families will soon be submitted to Aviva from Child Protective Services workers to be screened for holiday sponsorship. We anticipate more families than ever. The families we sponsor have children (in CPS care) in their custody and do not receive support from the state. The family could be the birth family who just reunited and needs a little extra help for their first Christmas together again or a grandmother who has guardianship of her grandchildren. The families vary in size from two to ten, or more, members and have needs ranging from "Santa" gifts to items for the family such as towels, sheets, dishes or pots and pans and food.

This year we are offering several orientations for you to join us at our new facility to obtain information about sponsoring a family. Please bring any family, friends, neighbors and co-workers who may be interested.

Location: Aviva 156 S. Plumer Ave. (south of Broadway ease of Campbell)

Dates and Times: Wednesday, November 9 6 p.m. Thursday, November 17 6 p.m.

Please call at 327-6779 or email holidays@avivatucson.org if you have questions or to RSVP.

**SEE INSERT IN THIS NEWSLETTER TO SPONSOR A FAMILY!!**

## Holidays Are Coming...



Sun Riders Motorcycle Club celebrates 30 years of helping Aviva children.

...and we need you to help us. Aviva coordinates several projects to help children in Child Protective Services have as good a Christmas as possible. The following is a brief description of each. Please feel free to contact Aviva's office at 327-6779 for more information.

•The **Stocking Project** is as simple as picking up one or more handmade stockings from the Aviva office, sharing them with your family and friends to fill, and then returning them to the office. If you have a large group or if your office or congregation is interested, then we are happy to deliver empty stockings or pick up filled ones. To help you with the shopping, we have prepared a list of suggested items to put in the stocking according to age and gender. Contact Michelle for more information at 327-6779 ext. 11 or michelle.rios@avivatucson.org.

•The **Toy Project** involves dropping off toys, games, stuffed animals, balls and books for all ages and gift cards for the hard-to-shop-for teens. These items are then packed into bags and delivered to the children by their caseworkers. Last year we provided toys, etc. plus stuffed stockings to 1850 children and teens.

•**Teenagers in Independent Living Project** is for teens to be adopted for the holidays or supported by contacting Bonnie at 327-6779 ext. 13 or bonnie@avivatucson.org. The teens are asked to fill out their wish list and limit their request to \$50. Typical among their requests will be clothing items, music or music gift cards so they can download their favorite tunes, or any gift card. This project is for teens who live on their own – not in a foster or group home – and who don't have family that will give them presents.

•The **Volunteer Project** is for the huge need for volunteers during Wrapping Week (December 13-16). We receive the names of the children who are in living situations that can provide their basic needs but can't provide the toys and extra presents. CPS caseworkers fill out the wish list for the children with their gender and age to help make selecting the toys a little easier for the volunteer. Then volunteers come to the wrapping location, get lists of children's names, and then select filled stockings, toys, books, games and stuffed animals for each child. They then put them in a green or red plastic bag for delivery. We have morning and afternoon shifts, and invite everyone to help. This is also a great opportunity for families or groups to serve together. Please contact Michelle to sign up – 327-6779 ext.11 or michelle.rios@avivatucson.org.

Please read the article about the Sun Riders Motorcycle Club's 30th Holiday Toy Parade and consider helping on December 11th by riding in the parade (if you ride a motorcycle that is), or helping us with the toy collection and sorting. Or, you might consider standing along the parade route to cheer them on.

Regardless of your participation in any of our projects, Aviva certainly wishes you and your family the happiest of all holidays during the upcoming season.

# Volunteers Are True Winners!



On Friday, September 9th, 2011, Jasmine Easley (shown left with her shoes) was presented a Ben's Bell for saving her money and purchasing 43 pairs of shoes for children in foster care. Jasmine quipped for the Arizona Daily Star, "I used to be a foster kid and I wanted other people to have the things I didn't have when I was a foster kid." "My shoes were usually always torn apart." Jasmine also saved her money two years ago and was able to purchase 17 pairs then.

Aviva volunteers are all special and we know of three others who have been "belled" with Ben's Bells. (For information about what a Ben's Bell is, please visit www.bensbells.org). Pictured at bottom right are Peggy Lucas holding her Ben's Bell with her daughter Linda Scheel.

Also pictured bottom left are recipients, Gene and Erna Rosten, two of Aviva's favorite shoppers. We know that there are other Aviva friends who have been "belled" so if that's you, we would really appreciate hearing from you. Please call Bonnie at 327-6779, ext. 13 or email bonnie@avivatucson.org.



## Back Pack/School Supply Drive Is A Success Thanks to Donors!!

Tucson Electric Power volunteers, led by Mel Dulaney, collected items and helped Aviva stage the backpack drive. Donations included items bought by Aviva staff and volunteers with a grant from Long Realty Cares Foundation and several generous long-time Aviva supporters. Donations also came in from Pima Community College Staff Council. This year's PCC donors collected thousands of dollars worth of backpacks and supplies.



Lysa Crum, Brown Mackie College Sociology Instructor and her class, in photo at left, donated and collected supplies and filled backpacks for kids in CPS care.

## Meet Aviva's

New receptionist, Catherine Ross. Catherine was a visit supervisor for Aviva for over a year before deciding her love for customer service would be an asset at the front desk. Catherine moved to Tucson 16 years ago from Austin Texas. Welcome Catherine!



New Board Member, Chalmers "CJ" James Jr. CJ has been dedicated to providing service to our country and the vulnerable citizens of our nation. He began volunteering for Aviva in 1990. Currently he works in the Veterans's Dept. as a Fiduciary providing Guardian and Conservator services to vulnerable veterans and their dependents. Welcome CJ!

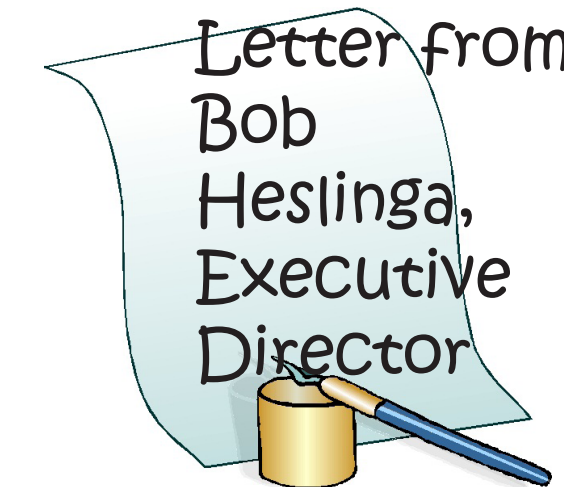


Aviva Children's Services  
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Tucson, AZ 85719  
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Website: [www.avivatucson.org](http://www.avivatucson.org)  
**BECAUSE EVERY CHILD MATTERS**  
is a publication of Aviva Children's Services, a non-profit, non-sectarian organization.

If you have article contributions or ideas for our next issue, please contact Bonnie at 327-6779, ext. 13. All articles and photos by Aviva Staff unless otherwise noted.

Volunteer editor: Kim Beck



Dear Friend of Aviva,

When you were a kid how early did you start hoping for your Christmas presents? When did you start your list?

Aviva kids start pretty early, I'm sure. "Our" kids—kids who are victims of abuse and neglect and who are in the care of Child Protective Services—are no different than other kids when it comes to wishing for good things. "Our" kids no doubt wish to be in a stable, healthy, happy family situation.

While Aviva can't fulfill the most important wishes for a happy family, we can do a lot to make sure that they aren't left out when it comes to presents. And those "presents" can be an expression of the loving "presence" we wish to give.

Each year for the past 30 years, Aviva, with your help, has been able to do a bit more for "our" kids. Last year, we provided significant gifts for 1,850 kids—from newborn to age 18. What we are able to do this year depends on all of us.

On behalf of "our" kids, I invite you to provide a financial present that will enable us to provide gifts for them this holiday season and strengthen our ability to continue to respond throughout the coming year. Details on how you can help are inside the newsletter.

Can "our" kids depend on you?

Sincerely,

Bob Heslinga  
Executive Director

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Permit No. 3341

## AVIVA CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2011 HOLIDAY PROGRAM

### Here are five ways you can help during the holidays:

1. Send a monetary donation, so that holiday food, gifts and gift cards can be purchased for children and families. Please use the enclosed envelope for your convenience.
2. Send a monetary donation, so that gifts and gift cards can be purchased for **teenagers** living in an independent living program. Please use the enclosed envelope for your convenience.
3. Drop off unwrapped toys for children, or gift cards for teenagers, at Aviva's office: 153 S Plumer Ave, Monday – Friday 8:30 – 5:00.
4. Adopt one or more stockings – they are available at Aviva's office or can be delivered to your office or church if you are part of a group. Fill stockings and drop them off at Aviva. Visit [www.avivatucson.org](http://www.avivatucson.org) for the list of suggested stocking stuffers.
5. Sponsor a family by providing toys for the children, household items for the family and a grocery store gift card for the family consisting of \_\_\_\_\_ family members (tell us how large a family you can sponsor) and please fill in the information below so we can contact you.

Please Print:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Organization or Business \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Home or Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and return it to:

Aviva Children's Services  
 Holiday Program  
 153 S Plumer Ave  
 Tucson, AZ 85719

OR fax to: 327- 6052

Call 327-6779 or email: [holidays@avivatucson.org](mailto:holidays@avivatucson.org) if you have any questions about the family sponsorship program.

Visit our website: [www.avivatucson.org](http://www.avivatucson.org) for more information or to donate using PayPal.



## Tutors Wanted to Help children in Need

Would you really like to help make a difference in the life of a child who has suffered abuse, neglect, abandonment or poverty so severe they had to be removed from their parents? It is as simple as sitting down and reading to a child or have them read to you.

Children who live in chaos and then are removed typically move several times, which means they change schools, friends, teachers, and don't have anyone at home making them do their homework. The culmination of all of these occurrences results in the child being a semester or an entire school year or more behind in their academics.

This simple principle of reading with a child can carry over to their math skills as well. Teaching a child how to add, subtract, multiply and divide is also a secret to success.

Don't you want to help? If you are 20 years of age, do not have a criminal history, and have a clean driving record, we would love to hear from you. We ask for a commitment of at least one semester (five months) and for you to be able to work with your child on a weekly basis. For more information, contact Michelle at 520-327-6779 ext. 11 or [michelle.rios@avivatucson.org](mailto:michelle.rios@avivatucson.org).

### Wish List For Bags For Kids

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Fabric</b>       | <b>Cotton quilt fabric</b><br><b>Denim</b><br><b>Drapery weight</b>   |
| <b>Supplies</b>     | <b>Quilt batting</b><br><b>Fiberfill stuffing</b><br><b>Pillow inserts</b>  |
| <b>Notions</b>      | <b>Thread (sewing and serging)</b><br><b>Scissors</b><br><b>Sewing machine needles</b><br><b>Rotary cutting tools and blades</b><br><b>Cutting mats</b> |
| <b>Wooden beads</b> | <b>(macramé or beaded car seats)</b>  |
| <b>Other</b>        | <b>Cording (any color)</b>  |

We are also looking for items to be used for door prizes at the 2012 Sew-A-Thon. Do you have a closet of things that you have received or purchased and never used? How about the teapot and tea cups that never have been used, or maybe the wallet, key chain or purse accessory that aren't your style? We can combine your "white elephants" with those from others and add in a few goodies of our own and come up with really nice gifts for the hardworking volunteers who attend the Sew-A-Thon. Items can be dropped off at Aviva, or you can call Cindy Lingel, 327-6779, ext. 14, to make other arrangements.

### Serging Fridays

Join us on Friday October 14 and/or October 28 to serge fabric that will be used to make Bags For Kids bags at the Sew-A-Thon in March 2012. Bring your serger and zoom the morning away! Space is limited, so please call Cindy Lingel to reserve your spot. 327-6779, ext. 14 or email:

[cindy.lingel@avivatucson.org](mailto:cindy.lingel@avivatucson.org).

Aviva Children's Services  
 Mission Statement  
 Aviva provides enhanced services  
 to improve the quality of life  
 for children in the care of  
 Child Protective Services  
 who are victims of  
 neglect, abuse and poverty.

For current news and information regarding Aviva, please visit the Aviva website:  
[www.avivatucson.org](http://www.avivatucson.org)

Remember to "like" Aviva on Facebook!

If you donate through United Way-use number 1113 for Aviva or if you give through ECAP, use number 9797 or write in Aviva Children's Services. Thank You for your support!

### Save The Date

The 2012 Sew-A-Thon is scheduled for Saturday, March 10, 2012. You will see more information about registering for this event in upcoming newsletters. This annual event is always a great day for all attendees. Come help us make hundreds of Bags-For-Kids bags!

## Because Every Child Matters

Fall 2011



A Publication of Aviva Children's Services Volunteer and Visitation Programs for Child Protective Services

## Sun Riders Celebrate 30 Years of Helping Aviva Children!

The next time you see someone on a motorcycle, we want you to think of the Sun Riders Motorcycle Club. For 30 years, this very small group of tremendously dedicated volunteers has put together the Annual Holiday Toy Parade. The Toy Parade was an idea that originated in 1982 in an effort for the members to "give back" to the community. Fortunately, they were directed to Friends of Child Protective Services, now Aviva Children's Services.

The Toy Parade has moved venues to accommodate the growth it experienced over the years. Some years the turn-out was smaller than anticipated due to inclement weather in December. This hasn't daunted the Sun Riders, though, from working every weekend all year long on some aspect of the Toy Parade. Riders are encouraged to decorate their bikes, and some of the riders get dressed in costume as well. Each rider is encouraged to bring a toy.

Even with a low registration fee for the participants, the Sun Riders have been able to donate **\$504,397** from their organization over 29 years. With additional sponsorship donations the overall total increases to **\$534,543** for Aviva's programs for children. This cash has been put in the Abused Children's Fund (ACF) to be used to provide for the children's needs that the state doesn't provide. Toys are also collected from each rider and those who walk in to the party after the parade. The number collected is estimated to be over **50,000 toys** for this same period.

It is this money and these toys that have provided Christmas to the children in the care of Child Protective Services for the past 29 years. Last year we provided toys and stuffed animals for **1850 children**. During the rest of the year the money helps sustain the ACF for purchases of shoes, food, beds, sports registrations and equipment, dance or music classes, and other requests to help children in care have as typical a childhood as possible.

To register for the Parade go to: [www.tucsonsunridersmc.com](http://www.tucsonsunridersmc.com). To sign up to volunteer to help with the Parade, or to wrap the toys the following week, or to purchase raffle tickets go to: [www.avivatucson.org](http://www.avivatucson.org). We also invite you and your family to stand along the route to wave to the motorcycle riders and thank them for their dedication. The parade route will be posted on Aviva's website.



Participants decorate their bikes for the Toy Parade pictured above and below is the start of parade with all the bikes lined up..



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REMEMBER AVIVA IN YOUR WILL!

## AVIVA CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2011 HOLIDAY PROGRAM