



UPDATE FROM THE PHOENIX RESIDENCE, INC.



FALL 2020

Close the Gap Update
Thank you for helping us raise **\$346,020** for our hardworking direct support professionals!

This fall certainly has been busy! Not only do we continue battling the COVID-19 pandemic, but we also celebrated the people who are at the heart of what we do! In August, we took a week to celebrate our first-ever Managers Appreciation Week, followed by our Direct Support Professional Week in September. We finished off the month with our virtual Made in the Shade 5K walk, run and roll, honoring the individuals we support. To say we are fortunate is an understatement, and this fall we've had the time to reflect on what's most important to us. To the staff, family members, vendors, individuals we support, and everyone who has makes this organization a success, we say thank you!

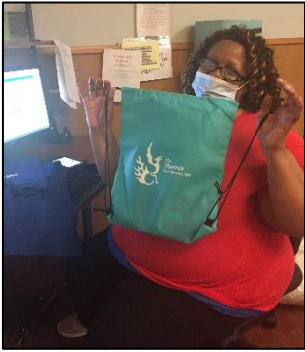
Jackie Larson
Public Relations & Development Coordinator
The Phoenix Residence, Inc.

Celebrating Our Direct Care Staff During DSP Week

This year, Direct Support Professional Week looked a little different. There was no in-person training topics to review or luncheons to gather at with old coworkers. Due to COVID-19, we had to be creative when it came to planning this year's recognition week.



DSP Week is our time to thank our direct care staff for all they do for the Phoenix organization and the house they work at. Although some training is required (virtual this year), we did try to make it a fun week for the DSPs! We sprinkled the week with fun videos, T-shirts, and gift bags for all our direct support professionals. They even received a surprise bonus at the end of the week—all thanks to YOUR donations to our Close the Gap campaign!



And this is why our Close the Gap campaign is so important! This campaign is about advocating for fair wages for our direct support professionals, so all the funds we raise, go directly back to our staff members. Thank you for making this possible!

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Made in the Shade Goes Virtual!

Every fall, we look forward to heading down to the lake for our annual Made in the Shade 5K walk, run and roll. However, due to the pandemic, the committee made the difficult decision to cancel the in-person walk this year—and instead, we made it virtual!

We had a perfect fall weekend as many of us walked in our own backyards or neighborhoods in honor of Made in the Shade. Several of our homes went to a nearby park, while others enjoyed some time in the yard in their new Made in the Shade T-shirts! **Thanks to you, we've raised \$4,113** so far and we are still accepting donations.

We'd like to recognize our Phoenix-level sponsors: the **Dwyer Family** and **Myhr Family**. We appreciate your generosity and support! Thank you to everyone who supported our Made in the Shade event this year—either through a sponsorship or donation or those who joined us in spirit by walking in your neighborhood! We hope to see at you at the lake next year!



Viking House went to a nearby park for a picnic in honor of Made in the Shade this year.

Close the Gap Spotlights

Kayaking for a Cause

When the Made in the Shade walk was cancelled this year, one of our staff took matters into her own hands by fundraising for Phoenix on her own!

Laurie Case, a direct support professional at Chaparral House, kayaked for the first time this year.



As soon as she did, she fell in love! It's the perfect way to support Chaparral and social distance at the same time. And that's how her kayaking fundraiser began!

"The guys at Chaparral are very special to me and everyone who works at the house, so I wanted to do this to bless their lives," said Laurie. As the guys at the house prepared hats for the big day, she started a Facebook fundraising page to spread the word. And from there, it took off! **Laurie successfully raised \$145 from her day on the lake!** The team is currently brainstorming on how they want to use the funds.

"Laurie continuously works to enrich the lives of others," said Program Manager Kim Guderjan. "This act just puts her a step above her everyday intentions. Laurie is a model caregiver and we are so blessed to have her at Chaparral House."

A Legacy of Giving

This edition, we wanted take time to highlight one of our ongoing donors: **Timothy and Laurie Risbrudt**. They have so graciously donated to English House the past several years. To date, the Risbrudts have purchased an entertainment center, a bed, scholarships for summer camps, and most recently an iPad for English House, so individuals can FaceTime with their family during COVID.



Laurie met Barb Husaby, a direct support professional at English House, through scrapbooking retreats she hosts in the Annandale area.

"The past few years I became aware of fundraisers at English House for the home and individuals, and I felt it would be something meaningful to contribute to," said Laurie. "My parents were very humble and generous givers. My husband Tim, along with our three adult children and families, have made it a priority to continue their legacy."

Thank you to you both for all you have done for Phoenix!

To learn more about our campaign or make a donation, please visit www.phoenixresidence.org/give.html.