



Update

UPDATE FROM THE PHOENIX RESIDENCE, INC.



WINTER 2020



Close the Gap Update

Thank you for helping us raise \$180,812.10 to support our Direct Support Professionals!

Your support for this campaign continues to grow every week! Thanks to all of you, we are able to continue to pay our direct care staff what they deserve. This winter, we've hosted several holiday parties, a holiday singalong, and many of the homes have participated in community outings. Thank you for your continued support! **To learn more about our campaign or make a donation, please visit our website at www.phoenixresidence.org/give.html.**

Darlene Scott, President & CEO



Holiday Singalong 2019 at English House

Close the Gap Spotlight: Dave Tueffel



Every newsletter, we highlight an individual who is helping us close the gap. This issue, we would like to highlight Dave Tueffel, a parent of an individual at Ludden House.

How one family member equipped Phoenix home with assistive technology

"Alexa, turn on my bedroom lights." And just like that the lights in Valerie Tueffel's room turn on within a brief moment. Five years ago, Program Manager Shawna Zechmeister never would have imagined all the tools Ludden House would be equipped with to make life easier for the individuals who live there.

But now, nearly half a dozen devices are set up throughout the house to help Val and her roommates live a more independent lifestyle – all thanks to Dave Tueffel, Val's dad.

UPDATE FROM THE PHOENIX RESIDENCE, INC.

Close the Gap Spotlight: Dave Tueffel

When Val moved into Ludden House in 2017, Dave brought in the technology she used, Amazon Echo, and set them up for her. "At the time, Phoenix was new to it; now everyone knows about it," said Dave. Since then, Dave has installed Amazon Alexa, Echo Dot, Echo Show, and Smart Plug. With these devices, she's able to turn on her lights and TV, control her fan, and video chat with her parents, among other tasks.

Building a Smart Home

"This has freed up a lot of staff time and gives Val more independence," said Dave. "She's a lot like her older sisters. She's very independent and likes to do things on her own. Before, she felt bad for having to ask the staff for help when they were busy; now, she can do it on her own."

Ever since Val moved in, Dave continues to be a resource for the entire Phoenix family. "He's a fantastic support for Val," said Alan Berner, Vice President of Community Services. "That involvement has been huge for Val, but it has also trickled down to help for her roommates as well."

Now, other Phoenix homes have introduced technology into their day-to-day living as well. For example, the individuals at Howard House use an Amazon Cube to control the TV with their voice and those at Afton House use Amazon Echo Dot to play music and call for staff in the other room.

Back at Ludden House, Dave helps out whenever he can. "I've told them to contact me if they need something fixed," said Dave. "I work with my hands for a living, so it comes naturally to me."

Thank you, Dave, for all you have done for Phoenix!



"Family & Friends of Phoenix, We truly appreciate your gracious donations for the Close the Gap campaign. This donation brought great joy and laughter all week ... We're grateful."

Phoenix Direct Support Professional

Meet the New Board Chairman: Garret Colao



As we welcome in the New Year, The Phoenix Residence would like to congratulate Garret Colao on his newly-elected position of chairman on the board of directors. Garret joined Phoenix's board in 2017 after meeting former board member Mary Jo Bailey in an airport of all places! The two instantly connected and after much conversation, Mary Jo suggested Garret joined Phoenix's Board of Directors because she was retiring soon. The rest, they say, is history!

"I wanted to be a part of the board because I wanted to be a part of something big," said Garret. After college, Garret spent a couple of years overseas, then returned here ready to make an impact. "I knew I wanted to be more involved in the community and this position presented itself...and I'm so glad it did."

Garret said one of his favorite experiences on the board so far has been when he attended the 2019 Disability Services Day at the Capitol. "It was the first time we really got into the trenches," said Garret.

"It's been pretty eye-opening, seeing the impact the services have on the folks."

As the new Chairman, Garret hopes to maintain what former board chairman Steve Pfeiffer brought to Phoenix and help the organization move closer to accomplishing its goals, particularly with the Close the Gap campaign. This year, the Phoenix board welcomed three new members as they said goodbye to two retiring board members.

Garret currently resides in Woodbury and is a financial consultant with North Star Resource Group in St. Paul. Before entering the financial world, Garret played professional football in Sweden and Germany for two years. In his spare time, he enjoys golfing and spending time at the cabin.

Congratulations on your new position Garret!

UPDATE FROM THE PHOENIX RESIDENCE, INC.