



Bridging AZ Furniture Bank

Happy New Year!

Farewell, Tara

Agency Coordinator Leaves But Not Without Memories



Tara Hughes, Bridging's Agency Coordinator, will be leaving us next month after her yearlong commitment to Bridging as an [AmeriCorps Vista Volunteer](#) comes to an end. As the Agency Coordinator, Tara established many invaluable relationships with partnering agencies and case managers. In her 12 months at Bridging she assisted Case Managers with over 200 client visits to the furniture bank. During that time she saw approximately 800 pieces of furniture leave the warehouse, a lot of smiles and a few tears of joy from clients.

"Serving clients was a life-changing experience for me," says Tara, explaining, "I saw lives change so dramatically...people went from having nothing to receiving a house full of furniture." She adds, "I'm happy to have been a part of this."

We will miss you, Tara! From the Bridging Team

Plans are currently underway to fill the Agency Coordinator position.

Bridging News

Christmas Day Bridging AZ was featured in the *Arizona Republic's* Valley & State section as part of the [Season For Sharing](#) series. Highlighting the story of one [AWEE](#) (Arizona Women's Education & Employment Inc.) client, the article tells how Bridging helps in the process of rebuilding lives and creates a better home environment with the donation of furniture.

Read the article [Turning a House Into a Home](#).

Volunteer Spotlight



A dedicated volunteer, Shawn Elledge has been assisting Bridging once a week for the last three months. Why is he so dedicated? "It's fun and it's feel good to give back to the community," says Shawn, adding, "I move furniture for

If you or someone you know would like to help families in their furniture selection process, volunteer to be a Bridging Shopping Assistant. Email inquires to:

info@bridgingaz.org

Raffle Proceeds Total More Than \$800

Case Managers Pull Through For Bridging



Our non-profit friends raised more than \$800 with their participation in Bridging's raffle which offered prizes ranging from a 40" flat screen television to an Oriental rug. On the Friday before Christmas, The Bridging Hope Chest was filled with activity as Case Managers collected essential household items for their clients and also purchased a few more raffle tickets before the drawing later that day. Although the raffle ran for a month nearly half of the tickets were purchased by Case Managers on that Friday. Raffle proceeds will help fund operational costs of Bridging AZ.

Thanks to Best Buy and Fenwick Rugs for their donation of raffle items.

Artwork, Artwork and More Artwork

A Personal Touch For a Client's Home

More than 150 framed pictures of Southwestern art were recently donated to Bridging by The Mezona Inn, a Mesa Best Western hotel. Bridging was excited to receive such a large amount of artwork that clients can use to decorate

clients, ride along on pick-ups and do other oddball stuff." Shawn is earning his PhD in Math at Arizona State University. When he is not studying or volunteering at Bridging, Shawn enjoys socializing with friends, reading math books and training for the Rock & Roll Marathon that will take place later this month.

Become a Bridging volunteer!

Contact us at

info@bridgingaz.org

Mission Statement: To provide basic furniture and household goods to economically disadvantaged individuals and families living in our community.

Vision Statement: No child within our reach sleeping directly on the floor.

their homes, adding a more personal touch. At Bridging, we strive to offer a wide selection of items so a client's selection is always personal and the artwork from The Mezona Inn is a great addition.

Thank you, Mezona Inn, for your support!

Do you have furniture or other household items you wish to donate? [Click Here](#)

Year To Date:

Bridging provided furniture and household goods for **190** people through caseworkers from social service agencies. We have distributed **2,635** items with a value totaling **\$182,201**

Thank you for your support
