

BRIDGING AZ furniture bank



ABC 15 Shoots Story on Bridging AZ

Jim Piscopo, Founder of Bridging AZ, being filmed by Channel 15

Bridging AZ was recently featured in a segment on Channel 15, the ABC affiliate in Phoenix. The segment explains Bridging's urgent need for furniture donations. [Watch and read the story here.](#) So far the news story has helped Bridging to collect multiple furniture donations.

Demand For Furniture on the Rise

How You Can Help Fulfill the Need

"We are at a critical level, says Al Gonzales, Operations Manager for Bridging AZ." A few months ago we received two or three furniture donations a day, now we are down to two or three a week, sometimes even less".

Calendar Item for Non-Profits

Thursday, April 23 - [IABC Phoenix](#) Non-profit

Communications Forum, a half-day workshop focused on the communication needs of non-profits. Presenters will speak on a variety of topics including grant writing, social media, and strategic communication plans. For more info [click here.](#)

We're On Facebook

Bridging AZ is now on Facebook! Look at videos and pictures, share your Bridging stories and express your thoughts on our discussion board. [Check it out.](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

Bridging Shopping

Assistant: Assists clients with selecting furniture through the Furniture Bank. Works closely with Bridging AZ Furniture Bank Agency Coordinator and client case manager. Duties include greeting and reassuring

As a result of the economy, there has been a greater need for social services. With demand for furniture items increasing and supply dwindling, providing a family with a house full of furniture is becoming progressively more challenging.

We need your help to serve the community with the items families and individuals need to make a home for themselves. Your gently-used furniture can make all the difference to a family living with nothing.



Boy Scouts Moving Mattresses

Bridging is in great need of mattresses, kitchen tables and chairs. If you have any of these items that you no longer have a need for, please consider donating them to our cause!

If you would like to help but don't have furniture to donate, consider one of the following:

- Choose a monetary amount to spend and then search a yard sale, [eBay](#) or [craigslist](#) for furniture to purchase and then give back to the community.
- A Phone Campaign! Call your friends and family to find out if they have items they wish to donate.
- Identify and encourage your church, organization, company etc. to hold a furniture drive. If interested please contact michelle@bridgingaz.org.

For more info on how to donate visit www.bridgingaz.org or call 480-833-3997.

Remember the items do not have to be new but do need to be in good condition! Bridging Appreciates Your Support.

clients, assisting clients with selecting furniture, and logging furniture distributed. Good verbal and written communication skills. This position requires a confidentiality agreement.

Furniture Drive Volunteers:

Works closely with managers in other organizations, updating policies and procedures for future furniture drives, proactive communication with community partners via telephone, email, or regular mail; managing database records; drafting status reports on customer service issues; and supervising event staff.

Hope Chest Manager:

This position, which reports to the Hope Chest Coordinator, will receive and count stock items, and record data manually or using a computer. Pack and unpack items to be stocked on shelves in stockrooms, warehouses or storage yards. Store items in an orderly and accessible manner in warehouse. Provide assistance or direction to other stockroom workers.

For further volunteer information contact Eric Mejia, Volunteer Coordinator,

Sewing Club News



Al Gonzales, Kirsten Gilbert, Michelle Schmid and Eric Mejia

Thank you to everyone that helped make our first sewing club meeting such a success! We have had some wonderful support from our partner agencies, friends, and colleagues. A very special thanks to Amy Butera of Maricopa County Sail Program, and *Karen Plante* for their generous donations of sewing machines and supplies. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and will be used to make a difference in the lives of the families we serve. Another special thanks to Kirsten Gilbert of Encore Productions whose energy and willingness to assist the program is sincerely appreciated.

Volunteer Spotlight: Peter & Karen Plante



Volunteers Peter and Karen Plante

Peter and Karen Plante are dedicated volunteers and are invaluable to Bridging AZ. Peter volunteers his time grant writing and Karen is in the sewing club, she is also training to

eric@bridgingaz.org

Next Months Issue:

The Healthy Home Series
Volunteer Spotlight

Larry's Big Debut!

Introducing Larry's Corner



For those of you who do not know Larry, he is Bridging's rescued warehouse cat. He enjoys closing documents without saving first, greeting everyone who enters with a high-pitched hello and eating iceberg lettuce. Larry's newest gig is Larry's Corner, a place where he can express his thoughts.

This Week

Larry Asks: What would you do with 80,000 Straws?

Would you build a straw house, play pick-up straws, or make straw art? That's our dilemma. Bridging recently received 80,000 red straws, so now we want to hear your creative ideas on how we can best use them to benefit the community! Email your suggestions to

larrythecat@bridgingaz.org.

become a volunteer shopping assistant.

Interview: Karen Plante

1. *How did you hear about Bridging AZ?* I read about Bridging in the Season For Sharing article back in December.

2. *Why do you choose to volunteer at Bridging?* I think it is a worthy cause. I like to provide support to the case-managers and families who come into the furniture bank. I wanted to help people set-up their homes.

3. *How long have you been quilting?* I have been sewing actively for three years now but I have been doing it on and off for many years.

4. *How do you hope your blankets, quilts, etc. help the children we serve?* I wanted to provide the children with security and warmth. We make everything bright and cheery to bring the children happiness. I envision children dragging their blankets with them everywhere!

If you, your friends or your family would like to learn how to sew, or would like to spend some time helping us make pillow cases, curtains, or quilts, come to our sewing club that meets on the first and third Saturday's of the month from 1-3PM at Bridging.

Mission:

**No child within our reach
sleeping directly on the
floor**