

Showhouse Gives Back

Written by Written by Ryan Lorenzo

Each weekend in the month of April, tour the Arizona Foothills Magazine Designer Showhouse—a modern-day mansion, with each room decorated by respected Valley interior designers. The best part is, all proceeds will benefit four local charities.



In years past, Arizona Foothills has created numerous successful Showhouses where the Valley's top designers have worked their magic on posh palaces and then opened the doors to the public. Readers were given the opportunity to purchase tickets and see the extravagant homes' eye-popping décor with all of the profits donated to one selected charity. Past beneficiaries include The Phoenix Symphony in 2002 and the Phoenix Children's Hospital in 2004 and 2005.

This year, the money raised will be contributed to four worthy causes. Each ticket to Arizona's most expensive spec home on the market will benefit the Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS, Child Crisis Center, Southwest Human Development or Xavier College Preparatory Mother's Guild. Choose your cause and visit on the charity's dedicated weekend.

April 4-5

Since 1990, the Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS has focused on H.I.V. prevention and education, wellness services and clinical research. As the only AIDS service center in Phoenix, it offers free on-site testing, clinical trials, support groups and nutritional and behavioral therapies. Major Gifts Manager Helen Tanner says funds from the tour will go directly to the center's three main focal points. "We are extremely grateful," Tanner says. "The majority of our work depends on private support so we were just very thankful to be considered for this opportunity."

April 11

For 28 years, the Child Crisis Center has been dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect through services in child and family counseling, emergency shelters, parental classes and an adoption program. Since its inception, the Child Crisis Center has sheltered more than 12,000 children through its emergency shelter program, and proceeds from the Showhouse tour will help finance emergency shelter beds. "We were thrilled at the opportunity to be involved. It's very unique and not something we've had the opportunity to do in the past," says Director of Development Jodi Stoken, also noting that April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

April 18-19

Southwest Human Development's mission is building success in schools and in life for abused children, children from low-income families and children with mental health problems or developmental delays. Founded in 1981, the organization offers more than 40 programs geared toward children 5-years-old and younger, as well as a toll-free advice hot line for parents. C.E.O. Ginger Ward says that proceeds will go toward early literacy programs, which provide new books to poverty-stricken children and educate parents on supporting their child's early literacy skills. "We are totally thrilled," Ward says. "This provides us an opportunity to help more children start school ready to learn through our literacy programs and help spread the importance about early childhood [development]."

April 25-26

The Xavier College Preparatory Mother's Guild raises money annually for numerous scholarships that help allow girls from all walks of life attend this prestigious all-girls private school. The Showhouse weekend proceeds will go directly to the scholarship fund, says Sabrina Nikel, fashion show chair. "It's such a great opportunity for Xavier to be involved in the greater community and to have an opportunity to expand our fundraising ability especially in light of this economy," Nikel says.

To Buy Tickets:

Child Crisis Center
480.969.2308, www.childcrisis.org/events.

Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS
602.307.5330, ext. 2221, www.swhiv.org.

Southwest Human Development
602.266.5976, ext. 2150, www.swhd.org.

Xavier College Preparatory's Mother's Guild
480.329.5054, www.xcp.org.

*Tickets also available at the door.
\$25 each or two for \$40.*