

Southern Arizona's Lesbian,  
Gay, Bisexual & Transgender  
Community Center

300 East 6th Street  
Tucson Arizona 85705  
Telephone 520-624-1779

wingspan.org

Volume XVI Number 4  
Winter 2004



## Inside

*Holiday Events*  
**02-03**

*Children of LGBT  
Parents* **04**

*Free Assistance on  
Legal Issues* **04**

*Local Author Wins  
Lambda Literary  
Award* **05**

*Wingspan's New  
Giving Circles* **06**

# Wingspan Reaches Out to Rural Areas

Wingspan is increasing its presence outside the City of Tucson to provide services to rural areas in Pima County and beyond. Thanks to a grant from the United States Office on Violence Against Women, the Wingspan



*Safford residents attend Anti-Violence Project presentation*

Anti-Violence Project (AVP) is conducting presentations on LGBT domestic and sexual violence issues. Lori Girshick, AVP Coordinator, has traveled to Ajo, Nogales, Safford and points in between to educate rural citizens on the services the AVP can provide. The grant also enables Wingspan to run advertisements in local rural newspapers to heighten awareness of the AVP toll-free number (1-800-553-9387) and the Wingspan web site ([www.wingspan.org](http://www.wingspan.org)).

"One challenge facing rural LGBT persons is that frequently there is no visible LGBT presence in outlying communities," says Girshick. "The audiences for these initial presentations consist mainly of professionals from area agencies, and community members. It can be threatening to attend a presentation of this type in an area where everyone knows everyone's business, but we are hoping these presentations can help get the word out."

Deanna Bellinger, a straight woman who works with the National Alliance of the Mentally Ill, attended one of Girshick's presentations in Sierra Vista. "I was glad to be able to attend Lori's presentation. Smaller communities can lack resources in so many areas, so it's great to know there is some place to contact for more information." Bellinger also requested the services of a volunteer from the AVP to speak at a local event on diversity and behavioral health issues, another way in which Wingspan can provide an LGBT presence in rural communities.

The AVP presentations and advertisements are a good first step to increase Wingspan's visibility in all of Southern Arizona, but local community members agree there are many other issues that affect rural LGBT people.

The Pride Family of Cochise County is an organization that has worked in Bisbee since July 2000 to provide outreach to those "who are affected by their own or someone else's ignorance or intolerance based on cultural prejudice or sexual orientation," according to Conrad Cambron. Pride Family sponsors a monthly social gathering that provides some solidarity to persons who might otherwise be isolated. For more information, see [www.cochise-pride.net](http://www.cochise-pride.net). However, he recognizes this is not enough. "The biggest area of need is any kind of outreach for youth. I thought Pride Family might effect some kind of intervention, but we didn't," he says. "The difficulty lies in trying to mobilize such a geographically diverse population."

A rural woman adds, "We know there are LGBT folks out there because we socialize with them or see them at events. However, the isolation of some of our community members can create its own problems." Isolated people might face discrimination, harassment, or violence, making it more difficult to escape the situation.

Wingspan hopes to partner with rural LGBT organizations like Pride Family. Wingspan can offer its experience and resources, while the local groups can identify the needs of the area and rally the local population for support.

**by Michael Callahan**

## Goodrum Mental Health Advocacy Project



*Alexander John Goodrum*



*Alison Davison*

In the fall of 2002, Alexander John Goodrum, founder and director of the well-known local advocacy group TGNNet Arizona, took his own life while under suicide watch at a local mental health facility. The death of Goodrum, an outstanding leader and effective advocate, received nationwide attention and raised many concerns about the availability of adequate mental health care for transgender people. In response, the Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA) has developed the Alexander John Goodrum Mental Health (*continues on page 5*)

02

**Wingspan Board of Directors**

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Wingspan publishes *The Center* quarterly. Notices of events, news entries, and articles must include the name of the contact person or writer, telephone number and/or email address and may be sent to: Newsletter/Wingspan  
 300 East 6th Street  
 Tucson, Arizona 85705-8426  
 or [wingspan@wingspan.org](mailto:wingspan@wingspan.org)  
 Please email text as a Microsoft Word attachment.

**Lesbian Shorts 11/05/04 - 11/07/04**

The Bloody Unicorn Theater Company, in conjunction with Old Pueblo Playwrights, presents *Lesbian Shorts – A Festival of Original One-Act Plays with a Sapphic Slant*. The shorts include both comedies and dramas, each with a lesbian relationship as a central feature. Performances will take place Friday through Sunday, November 5-7, at 7:30 pm on Friday and at both 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm on Saturday and Sunday. The show will be at the Cabaret Theater, upstairs in the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Ave. Tickets are \$13 and can be reserved by calling 520-990-3628 or emailing [kyraroc@yahoo.com](mailto:kyraroc@yahoo.com).



**Gay American Smoke OUT 11/18/04**



The LGBT community has the highest rate of smoking of any marginalized population. Typically held on the third Thursday in November, the National Gay American Smoke OUT was created to coincide with the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout. Come to Wingspan on Thursday, November 18 at 6 pm

to commemorate the Gay American Smoke OUT. The event is free and open to the public – smokers, non-smokers, and ex-smokers are all invited! Contact Cathy Hammer, Wingspan Health and Wellness Program Coordinator, or visit [www.wingspan.org](http://www.wingspan.org) for more information.

**Two LGBT-Themed Films: *Tarnation* and *Hedwig* 11/19/04 & 11/20/04**

Come out to the Loft Cinema on both Friday and Saturday to see two LGBT-themed films and meet the creative talents behind them. On Friday, November 19 at 7 pm, enjoy a screening of *Tarnation* with director Jonathan Caouette. *Tarnation* is the moving autobiographical story of Caouette's life. On Saturday, November 20, John Cameron Mitchell, the creator and lead actor in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, will be present to share the film for this special screening. For more information, contact the Loft at 520-322-LOFT or visit [www.loftcinema.com](http://www.loftcinema.com).

**Transgender Day of Remembrance 11/20/04**

The Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA) will be sponsoring Tucson's observance of the National Transgender Day of Remembrance on Saturday, November 20 at 4:30 pm at Catalina Park (N. Fourth Avenue). There will be a candlelight ceremony at the park followed by a march down Fourth Avenue and a reception at Wingspan. The Day of Remembrance is an annual event commemorating the lives of transgender people who were murdered because of their gender identities. The event is held in November to honor Rita Hester, whose murder in 1998 led to the "Remembering Our Dead" web project ([www.gender.org/remember](http://www.gender.org/remember)). Since then, the event has grown to encompass memorials in dozens of cities around the world.



**Festival For Life 11/21/04**



The Jérôme Beillard Festival for Life celebrates its 16th anniversary on Sunday, November 21 at the Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort. This fundraiser for the programs and services of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) includes a live and silent auction featuring an impressive selection of artwork, holiday items, home accessories, one-of-a-kind gifts, and more. Festivities also include live music by Molehill Orkestrah, hors d'oeuvres, and a no-host bar. The evening will be hosted by Lupita Murillo and Allen Kath and this year's honorary chairs are Dr. Kevin Carmichael and Dr. Tejal Parikh. See [www.saaf.org](http://www.saaf.org) or call Michele at 520-628-7223 for more information.

## 03

*Holiday music  
with a twist >>*

*Latkes, jelly donuts,  
dreidel Twister and  
more >>*

## Desert Voices Concert 12/04/04

Desert Voices, Tucson's LGBT chorus, will present its annual holiday concert, "Naughty... or Nice?" on Saturday, December 4 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 5 at 2 pm at the MUSE at 516 N. 5th Ave. The production will feature songs about Solstice, Chanukah and Christmas with Desert Voices' typical LGBT twist. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door and are available at Antigone's, [www.desertvoices.org](http://www.desertvoices.org), or by calling 520-791-9662.



## Reveille Concert 12/11/04 - 12/12/04



Reveille Gay Men's Chorus will present its holiday concert, "Tidings of Comfort and Joy," on Saturday, December 11 at 8 pm and Sunday, December 12 at 3 pm at Grace Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, 2331 E. Adams. Tickets will be available on site for \$15 or in advance for \$12 at Desert Pride on Fourth Avenue or through members of the choir or by mail. The concert will present traditional Christmas/holiday tunes with special guest soloists. Reveille's second CD, *Sing We Noel*, will also be available at the concert. See [www.Reveillegmc.com](http://www.Reveillegmc.com) or call 520-617-3100 for more information.

## Gertrude Stein Salon Chanukah Party 12/11/04

The Gertrude Stein Salon, Tucson's group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Jews and their friends, families and allies, will host its third annual Chanukah Party on Saturday, December 11 at 8 pm at 1422 N. Painted Hills Rd. Join the Salon as it celebrates the Festival of Lights with latkes, jelly donuts, rainbow candles, a white elephant exchange and dreidel Twister. For more information, join the Gertrude Stein Salon mailing list at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gertrude\\_stein\\_salon](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gertrude_stein_salon), or contact Meredith Trauner at 520-405-4841 or [mhtrauner@yahoo.com](mailto:mhtrauner@yahoo.com).



## La Fiesta de Los Osos 01/14/05 - 01/17/05



The weekend of Friday, January 14 – Monday, January 17 will be the ninth annual Fiesta de Los Osos, a premier annual event for the Southwest bear community. This year's theme is "Mexican Fiesta and Lotería." This is a familiar, friendly festival of fur, fun, friends, feasting, frolic and fellowship! Activities include day trips to nearby attractions, a Saturday evening banquet, bear contests and a Sunday afternoon cookout. You can find further information about the festival at [www.botop.com](http://www.botop.com) or by calling the info line at 520-970-5775.

## Distorting Mirrors: The Global Careers of Queerness 01/30/05

On Friday, January 30 from Noon-2 pm in Douglass Building Room 102 at the University of Arizona, Dr. Ashley Tellis will present a paper entitled "Distorting Mirrors: The Global Careers of Queerness." In this paper, part of his larger project, "Postcolonial Same-Sex Sexualities in India and the Non-West," Dr. Tellis examines three sites of same-sex location in India through a mixture of ethnographic work, literary analysis, cultural studies analysis and critical queer theory. These are a) the Indian male same-sex subject as figured around the denomination "gay," b) the Indian female same-sex subject as conceived of through the phenomenon of "lesbian suicides," and c) the hijra subject as delineated through recent hijra attempts at political organizing and representation.

## COLAGE: for Children with LGBT Parents

COLAGE (Children Of Lesbians And Gays Everywhere) is a group for kids ages 6-11 who have a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender parent. COLAGE was started by Brennan Cain-Nuccio, age 9, and McKenzie Liberty-



McKenzie Liberty-Bibbens and Brennan Cain-Nuccio

Bibbens, also age 9. Brennan relates, "My mothers went to San Francisco one day, and they brought me home a COLAGE flyer. There wasn't a chapter in Tucson or Phoenix, and one of my really really good friends McKenzie also has lesbian moms, so I called her and asked her to lead it with me." The girls made flyers and put them up around town, and Tucson's chapter of COLAGE was born.

Brennan explains, "If you don't have any friends that have gay and lesbian parents, you can feel that no one can understand what you feel like. At COLAGE, people can get a sense of reassurance – that if there's a problem, there are people to talk to." At meetings, she says, "We always have pizza, and sometimes we play games. We have a young adult in the room just in case something gets serious." Meetings are held the last Saturday of every month at Wingspan, and Brennan and McKenzie invite children ages 6-11 to join them. For more information, call Shannon Cain at 520-971-9502 or email Tucson's COLAGE chapter at [tucson@colage.org](mailto:tucson@colage.org). **by Louis Tancredi**

## Wingspan Registers Over 300 Voters During Drive

Since April 2004, Wingspan volunteers, working at numerous community events, registered over 300 LGBT and allied people to vote. "The Wingspan voter registration drive," stated Rebecca Curtiss, Wingspan volunteer, "mobilized LGBT people and our allies

to create positive social and political change." The initiative's goal was to help LGBT and allied people increase their participation in politics and democracy.

Wingspan volunteer Eric Taylor, who headed up the voter drive, shared why he got involved. "Voting is central to how democracy works. It is especially important for people who are disenfranchised to vote and use their collective voices to create change."

Wingspan thanks all the wonderful volunteers who helped register people to vote, and thanks all the wonderful LGBT and allied people who voted!

**by Cathy Busha**

## Free Pride Law Clinic

"I think my lease application was denied because I am gay." "What family leave rights do I have if my lover is ill?" "My longtime partner and I have separated; most of the finances were in her name. What should I do now?" These are some of the questions the Pride Law Clinic might help visitors sort through during a typical drop-in session each Wednesday from 4:30-6:30 pm at Wingspan. Although not dealing exclusively with LGBT issues, the Clinic, which is staffed by University of Arizona law student volunteers each week and pro bono attorneys the first week of each month, reaches out to the LGBT community. The Clinic is free and confidential, and a typical meeting lasts thirty to forty-five minutes. While law students cannot give actual legal advice, they can direct people to a variety of community resources. Dan Stimson, Clinic Director, adds, "Some people just have questions about how to deal with the court – how to file a document, for example – and we can give them some guidance. When people come in with more complex legal problems, we can help them spot the main issues and organize their thoughts so that they're better prepared if they decide to take legal action."

**by Richard Whitmer**



Pride Law Clinic volunteers in action

*"If you don't have any friends that have gay and lesbian parents, you can feel that no one can understand. At COLAGE, there are people to talk to."*

– Brennan, age 9 >>

*LGBT seniors access services 70% less frequently than their heterosexual counterparts >>*

## All Aboard the Wingspan Rainbow Train!

In September, eighteen Tucson professionals, representing the social service, health care and LGBT elder fields, volunteered three days of their time to become certified Rainbow Train trainers for our community. Rainbow Train is a curriculum designed to address the underserved needs of LGBT elders. Originating in Seattle, the Rainbow Train recently came through Tucson, stopping at Wingspan, and eighteen activists for LGBT elders hopped aboard!

LGBT seniors access eldercare and health care services 70% less frequently than their heterosexual counterparts, probably because of fears of homophobia and mistreatment. Rainbow Train offers a 2–4 hour cultural competency training for professional and direct care workers who assist elders. By educating eldercare workers, case managers, social workers, hospital staff, lawyers, doctors, clergy, etc. about the silent and hidden population of LGBT elders – considered to be upwards of 10% of today’s elders – professionals learn to create welcoming environments, inclusive of LGBT individuals.

Rainbow Train came to Tucson through a grant from the United Way’s Southern Arizona Compassion Initiative. Tucson is only the second small city, after Portland, in the nation to conduct a Rainbow Train program.



Tucson's Rainbow Train Steering Committee

Rainbow Train has been well received in the Tucson community, with the group of eighteen having set up local presentations this fall to a variety of agencies serving seniors. The two-hour presentations include skits played twice – the first time with a discriminatory provider, and the second time with a diversity-minded provider. The results are eye-opening and model ways that providers can recognize and meet the needs of LGBT elders.

For more information on Rainbow Train, contact Wingspan’s Senior Outreach Coordinator, Bernice Greenberg, at seniors@wingspan.org, or call Wingspan at 520-624-1779. **by Fran Coleman**

## Fenton Johnson Wins Lambda Literary Award



University of Arizona Associate Professor of Creative Writing Fenton Johnson was honored with a prestigious Lambda Literary Award for his book, *Keeping Faith: A Skeptic's Journey*. The 16th

annual awards ceremony, held in Chicago on Friday, June 4, honored the best in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender literature. Fenton’s book was recognized in the Spirituality category. *Keeping Faith* explores what it means for a skeptic to have and keep faith through personal memoirs and stories from both Buddhist and Christian monks. Researching the book provided Fenton with a new understanding of the relationship between sexuality and faith, body and spirit. Congratulations, Fenton! **by Michael Callahan**

## Goodrum Project

(from page 1) Advocacy Project. The Goodrum Project works to ease the challenges faced by the transgender community as consumers of health care. It offers individual support, general guidance, and peer-based advocacy for any gender-variant person involved with the public mental health care system as a consumer. Alison Davison, SAGA board member, explains that “the peer advocate’s job is to make sure the mental health system is responsive to the transgender client’s special needs and gender issues.” The Goodrum Project also provides transgender awareness education to staff and service providers, especially those front-line staff who work directly with consumers on a daily basis.

Alison notes, “One of the most common complaints that I hear from trans people who have been in the mental health system is that mental health providers are not familiar with trans issues. Out of that lack of familiarity, what happens – at the least – is that trans people are in the position of needing to educate their providers about their gender status before any mental health work can take place. At the other end of the spectrum, there might be abuse or other hurtful situations.” The Goodrum Project envisions and works toward a mental health system free from all these kinds of problems, where transgender people’s situations are understood and their mental health needs are met.

For more information on the Goodrum Project, call SAGA at 520-867-0083 or email info@sagatucson.org. **by Greg Reiter**

*1,000 Wingspan Supporters gathered under a rainbow at the Tucson Convention Center for an inspirational evening >>*

## Wingspan's Record-Breaking Benefit Dinner!



*Guests enjoy big band music at the Benefit Dinner*

On Saturday, September 18, driving rain couldn't prevent nearly 1,000 supporters of Wingspan's 7th Annual Benefit Dinner and Awards Ceremony from gathering under a rainbow at the Tucson Convention Center for an inspirational evening. The event was a great financial success, raising more than \$125,000 for Southern Arizona's LGBT community center. Event chair Catherine Luminello reminded all participants that by showing up and lending support for this event, "we are all activists that show a strength of community and support." Catherine's enthusiastic speech opened the event, which continued in great form with other speakers including award recipients and keynote speaker Evan Wolfson of Freedom to Marry. One particularly impressive part of the evening was the attendance by large numbers of local politicians, law enforcement and straight allies of the community. The event demonstrated that Tucson is a city with a progressive edge, and with numerous supporters who want to see Wingspan's programs continue to grow and flourish. **by Louis Tancredi**

## Wingspan Seeks LGBT People for Friendship, Possible LTR

On September 18, Wingspan supporters stepped forward to demonstrate their long-term commitment to Southern Arizona's LGBT community center. In addition to the nearly \$40,000 that guests at the 7th Annual Benefit Dinner generously contributed to meet this year's \$25,000 challenge gift, more than a dozen supporters pledged their ongoing commitment to Wingspan by joining four new giving circles.

These giving circles are comprised of donors who have chosen to support Wingspan at unprecedented levels, pledging thousands of dollars a year to Wingspan for

the next three years. Gifts at this level ensure a solid and lasting foundation for Wingspan's future, and this September marked the inauguration of these giving circles.

"It's important that we, collectively, are guaranteeing a future for Wingspan, and for our community," explained Kathy Altman. Altman and her partner, Ivy Schwartz, joined the Ruby Circle, pledging to contribute \$10,000 a year to Wingspan for the next three years.

Wingspan thanks the inaugural members of the giving circles, and welcomes our newest supporters to the Wingspan family. For more information about the Giving Circles, or if you're thinking about an LTR with Wingspan, call Miriam Barnard, Director of Development, at 520-624-1779. **by Miriam Barnard**

## Wingspan Giving Circle Inaugural Members

### **Ruby Circle (\$10,000/year for 3 years)**

Kathy Altman & Ivy Schwartz

### **Sapphire Circle (\$2,500/year for 3 years)**

Anonymous  
Lonnie Foster & Jose A. Mason

### **Topaz Circle (\$1,500/year for 3 years)**

Joyce Bolinger  
Janette Bunge & Carol Saylor  
Kent Burbank & Vicente Talanquer  
Pamela Day  
Larry Deutsch & William F. Parker  
Jorge Favela & Terry Gale  
Raúl & Ramona Grijalva  
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Alan Storm & Bill Jones

## 07

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## Wingspan Volunteers to the Rescue

Did you know that only 5% of Wingspan's workforce is staff? Wingspan has over 350 volunteers – enough people to make an enormously positive impact in the lives and cultures with which we intertwine. This Volunteer Update highlights three volunteers who came to the rescue for a variety of urgent Wingspan needs.

Tanya Ramos-Quintero lived in Mexico City for the past ten years working on women's health issues and studying healing arts before returning to Tucson, where she spent August as Gal Friday to a very new Volunteer Coordinator. Tanya called hundreds of volunteers, set up trainings, filed, copied, translated, spoke at orientations, and lent her organizational skills and indefatigably positive attitude to our cadre.

Michael Tapia, an Eon youth program participant, has recently begun working at the Wingspan Front Desk nearly thirty hours weekly at a time when we've been very short-staffed. Michael has also performed last-minute duties at OUToberFEST, the Annual Dinner, and the Pride Parade. Michael earned his GED in April at sixteen years old. His ambition is to be a paralegal by day, drag queen extraordinaire by night. Michael currently performs as Daisy at the monthly Eon Gender Bender nights.

Matthew Lynn sprang into the fray when a host of nasty viruses attacked the Wingspan CyberCenter, disabling all but one of the machines. After collaborating with other members of the CyberCenter committee to diagnose the problem, Matthew worked closely with the Bohnett Foundation to set up all new state-of-the-art computers and get them running as quickly as possible. When he's not driving to national parks on photo shoots, Matt helps maintain the CyberCenter.

Now's a fabulous time to step right up and jump in. Wingspan has a weekly volunteer opportunities publication! Contact Volunteer Coordinator Quintan at [qwiksw@wingspan.org](mailto:qwiksw@wingspan.org) or 520-624-1779 to subscribe.

**by Quintan Ana Wikswo**

## Wingspan's New Staff



*Quintan Ana Wikswo and Cathy Hammer*

Wingspan welcomes two new staff members this quarter. Cathy Hammer started a new position as the Health and Wellness Program Coordinator. She will work with outreach, screening, and early intervention on chronic disease issues facing the LGBT community. Cathy is originally from Wisconsin, and she and her partner moved to Tucson earlier this year from Kansas City, Missouri. Cathy is enjoying her new job and says, "Wingspan rocks!"

Quintan Ana Wikswo is our new Volunteer Coordinator. Quintan is also a recent transplant to Tucson, having moved from San Francisco after growing up in South Texas and Nashville. Quintan is "glad to be working again as an activist in a city that needs activists." She feels that Wingspan is the best organization she's worked for because she admires the ethics of the organization. Welcome, Cathy and Quintan! By Michael Callahan

## Our Award-Winning Board



*Wingspan's fabulous Board of Directors at the Benefit Dinner*

In October, Wingspan's Board of Directors received the Silver Award for Excellence from the Volunteer Center of Southern Arizona. The Silver Award is given in recognition of excellence in non-profit Boards of Directors. The Wingspan Board received well-earned praise for its seamless transition over the last few years, shifting the Board's role dramatically from hands-on work to governance responsibility. The Board was recognized for its leadership and commitment to Wingspan as the Center grew from an all-volunteer organization to one of 16 staff people, and more than quadrupled its budget. Congratulations and thank you to a truly outstanding Board of Directors!



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# 2005 Wingspan FilmFest Save the date!

Wingspan's **Annual Film Festival** will be taking place **March 10-13** at the Loft Theater in Tucson. For more information, keep checking [www.wingspan.org/FilmFest](http://www.wingspan.org/FilmFest).

**Wingspan is looking for a long-term relationship! Sign on and offer your support every month of the year.**

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**\$10** per month for the next 12 months  
 **\$25** per month for the next 12 months  
 **\$50** per month for the next 12 months  
 **\$100** per month for the next 12 months  
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 Please charge my: Visa / MasterCard / AmEx # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**One Time Contribution**

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to "Wingspan"  
 Please charge my: Visa / MasterCard / AmEx # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please do not include my name in Wingspan's donor recognition materials.

Wingspan is a not-for-profit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by the law. **Mail this form to Wingspan at 300 East 6th Street, Tucson, AZ 85705**