



Spina Bifida Association of Arizona

Fall 2008

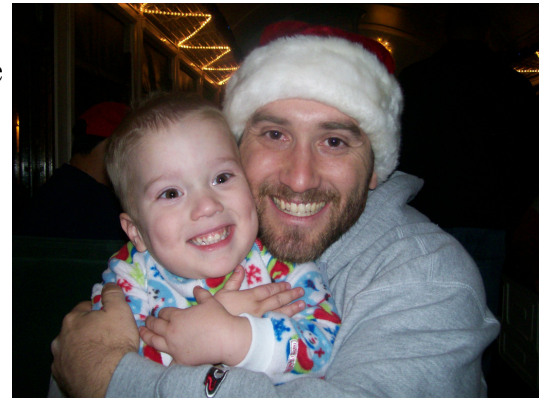
Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter Date December 2008

The mission of the Spina Bifida Association of Arizona is to promote the awareness of Spina Bifida and enhance the lives of those affected.

Meet your new president

Hello, my name is Benjamin David Scanlan and I am the new President of the Spina Bifida Association of Arizona (formerly the Arizona Spina Bifida Association). My life changed on October 17, 2005 when my son Gabriel was born with Spina Bifida in Nashville, Tennessee under the MOMS study. We have met and become acquainted with many families facing the same obstacles we have and



will face. My wife and I have since become involved with the local golf tournament as well as the association in many events. We feel that there needs to be more awareness of Spina Bifida because of the amount of lives that it affects. With the increased awareness, more innovative technologies will begin to emerge to help those living with Spina Bifida as well as more funding for programs to help those here in our Arizona community.

As you can see from the name change there are a lot of exciting changes happening with the Association. As a board of directors we have just renewed our commitment with the Spina Bifida Association. We are now a chapter under the Spina Bifida Association nationwide. By joining together as a chapter of a national organization we will be able to tap into the resources they have as well as stay up to date with the most recent updates on medical advances. Another change that has been made is the update of our website; www.sbaaz.org. The new website now has all the information you need to keep you informed of upcoming events as well as programs and fundraisers.

I am grateful to have met so many wonderful people in the community and hope to meet many more. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly by email: member1@sbaaz.org with any questions or concerns. We as a board need your input to help make this association better than ever.

Thank you,
Benjamin David Scanlan

Table of Contents

Page 1 Letter from the President

Page 2 Meet the new BOD

Page 3 Para-Olympian: Erik Hightower

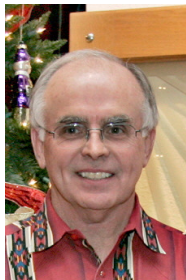
Page 3 Mesa Disabled Sports

Page 4 Program & event updates

Page 5 Program & event updates

Page 6 Calendar of Events

Meet your Board of Directors



Ron Whiteside:
Treasurer

Ron has been involved in the lives of people with Spina Bifida nearly all his life. He has been an Orthotist for over 25 years and loves working with people in the Spina Bifida community. He has owned his own orthotics company and now works for Hanger.



Ben Scanlan:
President

Ben has lived in Arizona for over 4 years now. He has two children, Kamree 5 & Gabriel 3, and a beautiful wife. He has a Bachelors degree from the University of Utah and an MBA from Arizona State University. He is excited to be able to contribute some to the growth of the Spina Bifida Association of Arizona for many years.



Dolores Herrera:
Chair of Hispanic Relations

Dolores has been involved in SBAAZ for over 5 years now. She has a son that is 10 years old with Spina Bifida. When she is not being a model mother she works for Raising Special Kids in Arizona along with the Hispanic community leaders.



Susie Ragsdale:
Chair of Programs

Susie is a 4-year member of the Board of Directors of the Spina Bifida Association of Arizona. She has proudly served and advocated for individuals with disabilities and their families for 30 years--16 of these years dedicated to Arizona families. She is also the proud mother of two grown sons and has two adorable granddaughters.



Michelle Miller:
Chair of Public Relations

Michelle has just recently joined the board of directors and is excited to be involved. Michelle has a beautiful 3 years old granddaughter with Spina Bifida who has a smile that brings sunshine to any room.



Stephanie Begley:
Chair of Governance

Stephanie is a student at Arizona State University and is active is pursuing a degree in business. She has been involved with the Spina Bifida Association for over a year now. She is excited to be able to bring a young outlook to the organization.

If you have any interest on becoming a member of the board please feel free to contact the Spina Bifida of Arizona Office for an application. 602-274-3323.

Erik Hightower: Paralympian

Paralympics



The Paralympics were held this year in Beijing from September 6-17. Local resident **Erik Hightower** was 1 of 44 who were selected to be on the Track and Field Team.

Erik has been racing since he was 10 years old. He absolutely hated it at first, but thanks to parents that would not let him quit he is now one of the top 5 athletes in his racing class.

He qualified for the team at the trials held right here in Tempe at ASU. Then before arriving in Beijing, he stayed about a month in Japan for training.

When they finally arrived Eric had been told by His coach Troy Davis that the stands would be half empty, but much to their surprise the stands were filled everyday with spectators cheering them on. When asked about his trip he said, "It was amazing, far better than I could have hoped for. It was definitely a life changing experience."

Although Erik did not medal he did achieve some personal best times, and will continue achieving his goals. He is currently training to participate in the Boston Marathon, and plans to compete in London in 2012 and Chicago in 2016.

If you would like to learn more about Erik and keep track of his racing please visit his website: www.gimp4liferacing.com.

MASD is also doing business as Arizona Disabled

In response to the need to provide sports and activities throughout the state, Arizona Disabled Sports has evolved from Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled. Established in 1989, MASD has been a forerunner in providing quality sports competitions and leisure activities to athletes and individuals with physical and intellectual disabilities. This organization emulates the philosophy "Let No One Sit On The Sidelines".

The Association is the only organization in Arizona providing opportunities for people with all types of disability; therefore, the athletes involved with the weekly sports programs have traveled to Mesa from all across the state of Arizona. Athletes and coaches also come from across the United States and other countries to compete in annual events hosted by the Arizona Disabled Sports Organization.

The Arizona Disabled Sports was established as a trade name for MASD in order to better represent the statewide population of which the organization serves. The overall goal of the trade name is to eliminate any confusion from community members, sponsors, coaches or athletes that the MASD programs are strictly for people residing in Mesa or that our programs are restricted to the Mesa area. Arizona Disabled Sports is a trade name for MASD; therefore, Arizona Disabled Sports will not be the new non-profit organization name, but simply another identity for the programs.

Please contact Lane Jeppesen, MASD Executive Director with comments or questions in regards to the new identity of the organization at 480-835-MASD or lane@mesadisabledsports.com

Program & Event Updates

Support Group

Come and join our support group. It's held the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. It's a chance to meet other families and talk about issues that are important to you. The meeting is held in the TLC which is located next to the SBAAZ offices at 1001 E. Fairmount Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85014.

Bike Event

It's almost time again for the Annual Bike Event. It will be on March 7, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. So be sure that you have submitted an application, which you can find on our website www.sbaaz.org. The deadline is December 20 so be sure to apply. Thank you to Chandler Regional Hospital and Barb Farmer for making this possible every year as well as generous donations from companies like CVS.



Urinary Care Supplies

Just a reminder that we have urinary care supplies for sale. You can find an order sheet on our website at www.sbaaz.org or you can call Arlene directly at the Office at 602-274-3323 to place your order.

Welcome Baby

We are trying to welcome all of the new babies that are born with Spina Bifida and help their families get the help they need. We currently have packets in four hospitals and are working to get into more. If you would like to help or know someone that needs a packet please call Sandee Scanlan at 480-219-2602.

Video Baby Monitors

We have video baby monitors available for loan for new mothers or if your child has had a recent surgery. You can call the Spina Bifida Office at 602-274-3323 if you are interested.

Insights Magazine

Insights Magazine is published by The Spina Bifida Association. It is a quarterly magazine that is full of up to date information and helpful resources. A yearly subscription is \$25.00. You can purchase your Insights magazine by going to the Spina Bifida website, which also has many other resources available: www.spinabifidaassociation.org.



Mylar Balloon

We want to let you know that you are not alone when have to go the hospital, and would like to bring you a Mylar balloon to help cheer you up. If you know of a hospital stay of a family member or yourself, please let us know a week before if possible by calling the Spina Bifida Office at 602-274-3323, so we can make arrangements and offer any other needed assistance.



Program & Event Updates

Christmas Parties

Phoenix:

The SBAAZ (Phoenix) Christmas party will be held on December 14, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Shrine Auditorium located at **552 N. 40th Street Phoenix, Arizona 85008**. There will be a \$10.00 charge for immediate family members and \$5.00 for other family members or friends.



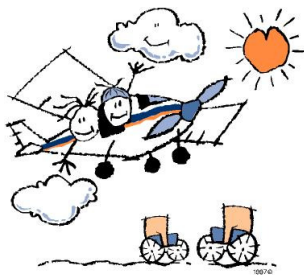
Thank you to the El Zaribah Shriner's and PRN for making the 2007 party a huge Success!

The Spina Bifida Association of Arizona wants to thank you both for your very generous donation which allowed us to provide a fabulous Christmas party for the 350 individuals and families who are affected by Spina Bifida. The Shriner's provided a delicious lunch and spacious auditorium, which comfortably accommodated many people. Through the donation from PRN Medical Services, we were able to purchase gifts for the children, decorations and hire a magician. You have graciously donated again this year and for this we are truly grateful. Your generosity will give us the opportunity to provide a bigger and better holiday celebration for many deserving children and adults on December 14, 2008.

Tucson: The SBASAZ (Tucson) Christmas party was held on December 7th



Challenge Air Event



CHALLENGE AIR
for kids & friends

WANNA FLY? Challenge Air for Kids & Friends offers motivational, inspirational, and life-changing experiences to physically challenged children and youth through aviation. Challenge Air is hosting an event on February 7th 2009 that will provide an opportunity for anyone with Spina Bifida to fly. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for anyone to enjoy. If you have any questions or would like to register for

the event, either contact the SBA office or go to the following web address. www.challengeair.com





Spina Bifida Association of Arizona

1001 E. Fairmount Ave.

Phoenix, AZ 85014

www.sbaaz.org

Email: office@sbaaz.org

**Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Phoenix, AZ
Permit #3431**

Return Service Requested

DECEMBER 2008

- December 7** Tucson Christmas Party 1-4 pm
- December 14** Annual Meeting 12:30-1 pm
- December 14** Phoenix Christmas Party 1-4 pm
- December 17** Support Group Meeting 7 pm—9 pm

February 2009

- February 7** Challenge Air for kids and friends

MARCH 2009

- March 7, 2009** Bike Event @ Chandler Regional Hospital

MAY 2009

- May 14, 2009** Golf Tournament @ Superstition Mountain



SBA Conference 2008

This year's conference was held in Tucson from June 22 to June 25, and was a great success. Information on the classes is on our website.

Next year it will be held in **Orlando, Florida at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort from June 30 – July 3, 2009. Start planning now!**

