

# Turnbow Foundation offers educational opportunities to single parents

By Jamie Larson

Photo by AnnElise Makin

Las Sendas residents Tom and Tina Bambury are the type of people whose philanthropic nature makes the community a better place. With their desire to reach out to those in need, Tom and Tina opened the Turnbow Foundation in January 2003. This organization reaches out to impoverished single parents seeking to ease financial burdens through education.

"We are a non-profit charity whose mission is to improve the lives of underprivileged, disadvantaged children through charitable giving, academic scholarships and access to career training for single parents," stressed Tina. "We believe that we are helping children by helping the parents to get an education to break the cycle of poverty."

The foundation was the dream of Tom's mother, Judith Turnbow Reinartz, who devoted her life to philanthropy. Judith laid the groundwork for the Turnbow Foundation, but she was lost to cancer prior to opening the foundation.



Tina and Tom Bambury

"My husband and I got our guidance for the foundation from her," stated Tina. "Judith was devoted to local community issues her entire life. Seeing her passion and her commitment, I always knew where her heart was. When I start to get involved with other organizations and expanding our foundation, I always ask whether it is something that she'd give to," Tina continued. "This was her dream."

Though the dream may have originated with Judith, Tina's passion for the Turnbow Foundation is obvious when she speaks of the organization's goals.

"We want to help people who are taking steps to help themselves. We are helping parents who are already enrolled in college and helping them to break a cycle," Tina asserted.

Turnbow Foundation is partnered with Helping Hands for Single Moms, Mesa Community College and Glendale Community College.

"Helping Hands really focuses on helping single women to stand on their own two feet," stated Tina. The focus of Helping Hands is to provide support to single mothers while they are getting an education. Turnbow Foundation, with its fund-raising capabilities, provides money to Helping Hands.

Turnbow Foundation also offers scholarships directly to single parents attending Mesa Community College and Glendale Community College.

"So far, 12 students have been rewarded with scholarships since we started offering them in fall of 2005. We have had some renewals. Last spring, we had one nursing student graduate," Tina said proudly.

The scholarships provided are not necessarily intended for academic purposes. Those eligible for the scholarship are already receiving financial aid for tuition and textbooks.

"We want to remove any possible reason that someone would not be able to attend school," Tina stated. "The money we provide can be used to hire a babysitter for an hour while the student studies, to buy a tire for the car if one goes bad. We want to remove all obstacles."

"Some people drop out because there is an emergency situation, and they have to work more to cover that—that is what

we want our money to be used for," Tina stated emphatically.

Tina is devoted to seeing that economically challenged single parents are getting the education needed for a better life.

"Statistics demonstrate that children of a parent who has a college education are more likely to attend college. Conversely, children of a parent who is on long-term welfare are more likely to be on welfare themselves when they get older. The Turnbow Foundation hopes to assist in breaking this cycle," asserted Tina.

Tina and Tom recently began Supplies for Success, a subsidiary of Turnbow Foundation, which focuses on providing children the necessary tools for academic success. They provide backpacks complete with school supplies to the Thomas J. Pappas School.

"I buy and assemble the backpacks so that everything is uniform. Last year, I asked for sponsorship for our first annual Backpack and Supply Drive. To sponsor a backpack, the cost is \$25. We start in the spring and go through mid-summer. Last year, we donated the backpacks on Aug. 2 so that the kids had everything at the beginning of the school year," Tina said.

With the growth the Turnbow Foundation is already experiencing, it is clear the community will be seeing big things from Tina and Tom's generosity.

The Turnbow Foundation is hoping to sponsor 10 students per school, per semester in addition to providing enough backpacks to meet the demand. Anyone wishing to assist them in this goal can make direct donations by calling Tina or Tom at (480) 641-3345 or e-mailing them at [TurnbowFoundation@cox.net](mailto:TurnbowFoundation@cox.net).

The Turnbow Foundation is also linked to Basha's Thanks a Million Program. By linking the Turnbow Foundation to a Basha's rewards card, a percentage of all purchases between Jan. 1 and March 31 will go to the foundation. The Turnbow Foundation's charity ID is 24397 and can be linked by a cashier.

The Turnbow Foundation is also connected with Albertson's Community Program. The Turnbow Foundation can be linked to a rewards card by a cashier or online at [www.Albertsons.com](http://www.Albertsons.com). The Turnbow Foundation charity ID for Albertson's is 49001012337.