

Phoenix Children's Hospital Donation – May 2017

As chair for community service for the AGA Phoenix Chapter, our chapter donated \$100 to the Phoenix Children's Hospital. The Phoenix Children's Hospital is near and dear to my heart, as I know from real life experiences that this program benefits all kids using it. I have a son who used the services of this hospital for open-heart surgery at six months of age. The cost of his surgery was covered by the insurances that I had but not all kids are lucky to have parents with insurance.

Let me tell you of my story. When I was twelve years, my parents were divorced. I was living with my brother and dad, and we were just managing to get by. My dad would do all he could to provide for us. He would save money by riding his bike to work, to save on gas. His job did not provide us with insurance at the time but that never seemed to be a problem, as our family always seemed to stay healthy. However, that caught up to us, or at least to myself. When I was twelve years old, I contracted a virus that was causing me problems breathing. I did not know what was wrong, all I knew is that I could walk maybe a block or two, and then had to bend over to breath. I tried to let it pass but it just kept getting worse. Finally, I went to the doctors to see what was wrong. The doctors first thought was that I had contracted Pneumonia, but then he looked some more and said it was my lungs, and finally he concluded that it was my heart. I had contracted a virus that was attacking my heart sack. The virus caused mucus to form in the sack rather than the fluid, which was normally there to help protect and lubricate the heart. I went to one hospital to see if they could drain the fluid, which they tried but within hours, it would just come back. My family found out that I was in need of having heart surgery. My family was scared at the time because we did not have insurance and did not know how we would cover the cost of this surgery. Fortunately, a company just like the Phoenix Children's Hospital stepped in and covered all of the costs of my surgery. This surgery took place in 1986 and the cost was \$75,000. I will be forever grateful for those that were able to contribute to this cause as I am still here today because of it.

Thus, each year our organization as well as my family contributes to the Phoenix Children's Hospital. The funds generated by donations such as ours, help to provide services to those who do not have the funds to pay for them. I know that organizations such as the Phoenix Children's Hospital provide the funds to help kids in true need.

If you would like to assist in a project or have an idea in mind that you would want our organization to participate in, please let me know and let's work together to help those in our community grow and develop. Thank you for your support and assistance with our community service needs.

John Schutter—AGA Phoenix Chapter, Community Service Chair