Dear Friends,

As 2012 comes to a close, The Blair Charity Group has much to report. We’ve been working feverishly to find new and innovative ways to help improve the Tucson Metropolitan region. Starting in January of this year the roster of activities and events seemed to multiply with each passing month as we worked hard to provide philanthropic support to the community. I hope that as you read the newsletter, you will learn not only about Blair Charity Group sponsored events, but also about the passion and dedication of the non-profits with whom we collaborate.

My deepest thanks to all of you who attended and contributed this year, as participants, committee members, vendors, or volunteers. Know, that I truly understand that our successes would not have been possible without your efforts.

As Executive Director and member of a remarkable Board of Directors, my hope is the Blair Charity Group continues to find ways to help this great community soar.

Believe with me, that the best is yet to come!!!

Please visit our website www.BlairCharityGroup.org to sign up for volunteer opportunities and guarantee you are on the mailing list to continuously receive our newsletter. Thank you for your continued support of the Blair Charity Group and this great community!

Joseph Blair
Executive Director/Founder
Past Events

25th Annual Lute Olson Golf Tournament & Celebrity Auction

The Blair Charity Group was excited to partner with the University of Arizona Arthritis Center for the 25th Annual Lute Olson Celebrity Auction & Golf Tournament! Over 200 golfers helped Coach O raise funds for the cure and treatment of arthritis.

Many of Coach Olson’s former players attended including: Bennett Davison, AJ Bramlett, Derrick Williams, Jamelle Horne, Nic Wise, Ben Davis, Corey Williams, and more.

This tournament marked Blair Charity Group's first collaborative effort with another non-profit organization. We look forward to many more successful events in the future!

Be sure and check out more pictures from this and other events on our website: www.BlairCharityGroup.org

Arizona Basketball Academy 2012

In its 12 years of existence the Arizona Basketball Academy has been able to serve over 1,000 of the Tucson area youth to a free of charge basketball camp. Basketball both facilitates and provides the social and leadership training needed to succeed in the ABA.

Campers learned from celebrity guests and community leaders about fiscal responsibility, college preparation, work ethic, and community involvement.

Special thanks to Mayor Jonathan Rothchild for his motivational talks with the kids and to Peter Piper Pizza and Skate Country for providing a great pizza experience and a night out at the rink!

This year’s camp was held at the Downtown Tucson YMCA and marked the beginning of a great collaboration between the Blair Charity Group and the YMCA of Tucson. For more information and pictures of the Arizona Basketball Academy please visit: www.azbasketballacademy.com
Past Events

Eagles & Aces Man Maker Challenge

Blair Charity Group partnered with Desert Diamond Casino and the American Diabetes Association to present the Desert Diamond Eagles and Aces Man Maker Challenge. We are extremely proud to collaborate with an organization that works tirelessly to save lives here in Tucson and throughout the nation!

This first year event consisted of 36 holes of golf and a poker tournament — all in the same day! It was a great day of “grueling fun!”

Thank you to all of the participants that showed up to prove that they were “man enough”! For more info on the Eagles and Aces Man Maker Challenge visit: www.EaglesAndAces.org

2nd Annual Stand Up to Stop Violence Comedy Fundraiser

Although, this was the 2nd annual Stand Up to Stop Violence comedy show, it was the very first time it was held at the historic Fox Theater and that it enjoyed the collaboration of the Blair Charity Group. The event benefitted Emerge! Center for Domestic Abuse.

What a fun night of raucous local comedy acts, culminating with the comedic genius of Eric O’Shea!
Upcoming Events

First Annual Putt-ing Kids Mini-Golf Tournament & Family Fun Night

Blair Charity Group is proud to announce our first solo fundraiser, **Putt-ing Kids First Mini-Golf Tournament.** A unique event for the whole family! Adults and kids alike will enjoy this evening of fun with delicious foods, drinks and prizes.

All of the attractions of the venue will also be open to the attendees at no additional charge, including the use of the go-carts, bumper boats, laser tag, batting cages, and all of the video games. The event will also feature a silent auction, raffle, face painting, food, games, and even a beer garden for the adults.

Money raised through the Putt-ing Kids First event will fund the Social and Physical Well-being program (Arizona Basketball Academy) run through the Blair Charity Group. This program provides free of charge basketball camps and clinics to the Southern Arizona community.

The **Putt-ing Kids First Mini-Golf Tournament** will be held on **Saturday, April 6, 2013, at Golf N Stuff, 6503 E. Tanque Verde Road.** Join along with the Blair Charity Group and the Event Planning Committee members, in our dedication to making this event a huge success! Learn more by visiting: [www.putt-ingkidsfirst.com](http://www.putt-ingkidsfirst.com)

Volunteers Needed

2013 is going to be a busy year for the Blair Charity Group and we need your help! We are currently seeking gracious volunteers for our fun and exciting upcoming events. We have a variety of ways for you to become involved in enriching our community. We appreciate any time, services or skills that you have to share.

To sign up please go to our website: [www.blaircharitygroup.org](http://www.blaircharitygroup.org) and click on the volunteer link. Once your information is received our volunteer Coordinator will contact you at your convenience.

“The ultimate expression of generosity is not in giving of what you have, but in giving of who are.” — Johnnetta B. Cole
Board Member Spotlight

“As a community we should collaborate, network, and inspire each other to do what is best for our children and what is best for the community as a whole. It is possible for us to work together to create the Tucson of our dreams.” — Mary Okoye

A Conversation With Board Member, Mary Okoye

Mary, how long have you been in Tucson?
I have been in Tucson over 20 years.

What excites you the most about the Blair Charity Group?
It is energizing to serve alongside thoughtful and dedicated board members who freely give their time and resources to support the Tucson metropolitan community. This group assists those in need through collaborations, networks, and inspiration. I am enthusiastically aligned with the mission of the organization.

Where do you see the biggest need in the Southern Arizona community?
I have currently been conducting focus groups, interviews and surveys regarding K-12 educational opportunities in the Tucson Metropolitan area. The need of a high performing educational system that prepares students to excel in a global economy is a recurring theme. Without a world class education, our children cannot obtain gainful employment and will find it difficult to reach their goals, dreams, and desires. Without a competitive education system and workforce, our community will not be able to recruit, and retain high paying, quality jobs. Our community needs a high performing well paid citizenry to develop effective transportation systems, world class infrastructure, and maintain and improve the quality of life we all desire.