

June 24, 2005/Sivan 17 5765, Volume 57, No. 43

## **Barness foundation to award \$10,000 matching grants**

**SALVATORE CAPUTO**  
Staff Writer

The Barness Family Foundation is offering 10 matching grants of \$10,000 apiece to Maricopa County nonprofit groups in an effort to stimulate more donations for new programs, a foundation official said last week.

"The foundation's goal is to get other people to step up and give, especially new dollars," said Evan Bernstein, the foundation's executive director.

To qualify for one of the grants, the applying agency would need to be approved by the foundation and raise \$10,000 in new dollars before receiving the foundation's funding, he said.

"The organization will have to do some legwork in applying for the grant and finding the matching funds, but if they do the two things successfully, they get \$20,000," he added.

"We are working hard to maximize the potential of our gift giving," said Ron Barness, who established the foundation with his wife, Daron. "We feel that if a charitable organization knows that its hard work in cultivating additional gifts will be matched, they will work even harder to reach out to other members of our community to help them."

The grants can't be used for general operating costs of the applying agency but "strictly for new programs that actually have impact," Bernstein said.

The foundation will choose programs based on the Barness' perception of what the community needs, he said.

"It's going to be very generalized," Bernstein said. "It could be for health and human services, it could be for children's programs, it could be for the arts."

Ron Barness said that he and his wife are particularly drawn to youth organizations.

"We are always looking for organizations that help young people understand the power that they have to change the world for the better," he said. "We are strong supporters of the Barness Center Youth Endowment Board at Temple Chai and the newly created B'nai Tzedek Youth Philanthropy Board run by the Jewish Community Foundation."

He also explained that Jewish programs will take precedence over secular ones.

"With fewer people in the population to help Jewish causes as opposed to secular causes, we will give preference to Jewish organizations," he said. "However, we do feel strongly, that we are part of a larger community, and therefore, approximately 20 percent of our charitable giving is to secular organizations."

The application deadline is Sept. 1, and grants will be announced in January 2006, Barness said.

For more details or to apply, call Bernstein at 480-607-6624.