



# CENTRAL PHOENIX WOMEN

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Central Phoenix Women is an organization for women who have established themselves professionally and demonstrated their commitment to the community. Members are individuals who wish to enhance their leadership by connecting with like-minded women to share information, ideas, contacts and opportunities. Members value relationships that enhance their business, social and community endeavors.

**February 18, 2008**

**Lunch • 11:30 a.m.**

**The Ritz-Carlton, Phoenix**

**March 7, 2008**

**Breakfast • 7:30 a.m.**

**The Ritz-Carlton, Phoenix**

**Reservations**

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## Phoenix Entrepreneur Launches Firm Promoting Community Stewardship Via Socially-Conscious Birthday Celebrations Inspired Birthdays Forges Alliances with Leading Nonprofits to Inspire a New Generation of Community Leaders

How do you instill values of civic responsibility into an event presided over by a clown? How do you inspire children to become the community stewards of tomorrow while deluging them with extravagant presents and sugary treats? In short, how can the \$10 billion birthday party industry redeem itself by becoming a force for social responsibility rather than gratuitous excess?

Phoenix entrepreneur Rhonda Bannard firmly believes that birthdays can serve as invaluable opportunities to enrich a child's character and broaden their horizons. Her new company, Inspired Birthdays—the first of its kind in the nation—is dedicated to creating memorable and unique birthday celebrations that help children learn and embrace the concepts of community stewardship, social responsibility and sustainability.

Starting in February 2008, Inspired Birthdays will offer four customized party packages geared to children ages five to 14. Through alliances with leading nonprofit organizations including the Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center (SARRC), The Wellness Community and Gabriel's Angels, the company will leverage the birthday celebration to expose children to their world through five themes: the environment, arts and culture, health and wellness, animals and the community. Every element of the party, from the decorations, food and entertainment to the games, crafts and goodie bags, will explore the chosen theme in ways that are informative, inspiring and fun.

"As a busy professional with two young children, I know how difficult it can be to juggle the demands of career and family while sustaining the important relationships that help keep us engaged with our communities," says Bannard. "In today's fast-paced world, it is the connections we develop with others that bring true meaning and value to our lives."

It was this passion for connections that inspired Bannard to morph her nonprofit consulting company into Inspired Connections in 2005. "Inspired Connections provides individuals, families, nonprofits and for-profit businesses with strategic 'connection opportunities' that bolster their business and personal relationships. Inspired Birthdays is a natural evolution of this concept, enabling children to forge equally meaningful and lasting bonds with their friends, family and communities," she explains.

Every Inspired Birthday party is designed to celebrate the child on their special day while spotlighting their essential role as citizens and community stewards of tomorrow. Another key objective is to generate awareness and support for the participating nonprofit by incorporating information about their activities and goals into the party programming. Hosts can spotlight the nonprofit in a variety of creative ways; for example, they can ask their guests to make a contribution to the organization in lieu of presents and/or include membership cards in the gift bags.

According to Phoenix-based SARRC Founder and Board Chair, Denise D. Resnik, "Inspired Birthdays is a fun and innovative way to help instill a sense of community responsibility and civic pride that inspires children and their parents to join with others to make our world a better place to live. There's no better birthday gift than the matchless joy and satisfaction of knowing you've made a real difference in someone else's life."

"Inspired Birthdays is a natural extension of our community outreach efforts, which are designed to show how loving relationships with animals can change the lives of abused and at-risk children," says Pam Gaber, Founder of Gabriel's Angels, headquartered in Mesa. "We're proud to partner with Inspired Birthdays and look forward to spreading our message of hope to attract new members, supporters and donors."

Bannard's ultimate goal is to produce a lasting impact on children that expands and enriches their lives. "Our hope is that children will incorporate the messages they've learned at our parties into their daily activities," she says. "When a child taps into their unlimited potential for inspired citizenship and good works, they gain a source of meaning and satisfaction that transforms both their lives and those of our shared community."

Inspired Birthdays was founded by Phoenix entrepreneur Rhonda Bannard to create unique and memorable customized birthday parties that celebrate children on their special day while instilling the values of community stewardship, social responsibility and sustainability. Through alliances with leading nonprofit organizations, the company offers four customized birthday packages focused on five themes: the environment, arts and culture, health and wellness, animals and the community. Inspired Birthdays is a spin-off of Inspired Connections, which provides companies, families and friends with "connection opportunities" that enrich their business and personal relationships. For more information, contact Rhonda Bannard at (602) 370-3560 or visit [www.InspiredBirthdays.com](http://www.InspiredBirthdays.com).

*Photo Caption: Instead of tearing into gifts, blowing out candles and knocking candy out of a piñata, 4-year-old Kayden Jarnagan of Chandler, celebrated her birthday by walking to raise money for autism in support of her friend, 3-year-old Sophia of Chandler, who was recently diagnosed with the disorder. Tim and Stephanie Jarnagan decided they wanted to do something different for their daughter's fourth birthday and made the second annual Arizona Walk Now for Autism event on November 4th the backdrop for Kayden's party. Inspired Birthdays, part of Phoenix-based Inspired Connections, organized a special moment for Kayden, in which the guests had their Polaroid taken and wrote down a special wish for Kayden. They then placed the wish inside a 4-foot tall birthday card featuring a wishing tree.*



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