

# PEOPLE & PLACES

## Piper Trust gives non-profits \$4.2 mil

### Museum gets largest award of \$1 million

By Love Bhakta

LOVE.BHAKTA

@ARIZONAREPUBLIC.COM

The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust recently awarded 15 local non-profit organizations more than \$4.2 million.

The largest grant of \$1 million went to the Children's Museum of Phoenix. The money will help renovate the Monroe School in downtown Phoenix, and help house the museum.

"We believe engaging children in interactive learning in a creative environment prepares them to succeed academically and develops their imagination," said Judy Jolley Mohraz, president and CEO of the trust.

The trust, which began awarding grants in 2000, was set up by the family of the late Virginia G. Piper. Piper had wished to give charitable donations to local organizations that improve lives and strengthen communities.

The trust has invested more than \$156 million in non-profit organizations and programs in Maricopa County.

It awards grants based on need. The trust seeks proposals from local non-profits, and then staff members and trustees evaluate the pitches and de-



NICK OZA/THE REPUBLIC

Jordan Wiener plays in sand outside the Children's Museum of Phoenix at Monroe School.

cide how much to give.

Two grants support local religious foundations: \$700,000 for Interfaith Community Church in Surprise to support a new multiuse campus and cafe for seniors, and \$480,000 to the Foundation for Senior Living in Phoenix to back the Monsignor Edward J. Ryle Life Center, which helps avert isola-

tion and improve health care among the elderly.

Several grants were awarded to first-time applicants.

The Phoenix Bach Choir snared \$50,000 for long-range planning, and the Southwest Shakespeare Company in Mesa received \$160,000 to support growth and market the company's programs.

### Piper Trust grants

- Amblyopia Foundation of America, Chandler — \$115,000.
- Anasazi Foundation, Mesa — \$50,000.
- Arizona Museum for Youth Friends Inc., Mesa — \$85,000.
- Audubon Arizona, Phoenix — \$350,000.
- Chandler Cultural Foundation — \$286,000.
- Children's Museum of Phoenix — \$1 million.
- Foundation for Senior Living, Phoenix — \$480,000.
- Heard Museum, Phoenix — \$250,000.
- Interfaith Community Care, Surprise — \$700,000.
- Phoenix Bach Choir — \$50,000.
- Phoenix Theatre — \$237,500.
- Southwest Shakespeare Company, Mesa — \$160,000.
- Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine, Tempe — \$24,000.
- St. Joseph's Foundation, Phoenix — \$150,000.
- Valley Christian Centers, Phoenix — \$263,530.

Source: The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust.