

PHOENIX Business Journal

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Phoenix's World Egg Bank building international connections

BY ANGELA GONZALES
Phoenix Business Journal

Diana Thomas was in Canada this week working on an international expansion for the Phoenix-based World Egg Bank.

Thomas, founder and CEO of the company, also was in Australia recently. She's nearing a deal with an Aus-

tralian consortium of fertility clinics to provide frozen donor eggs to women hoping to have children.

Thousands of women around the world struggling with infertility have limited options in their quest to bear children because of various government restrictions. Thomas is working out agreements with several fertility clinics in foreign nations to provide frozen eggs to those intended parents.

The European Union, for example, created legislation in 2007 that wiped out the egg donor population when it prohibited women from receiving compensation for their eggs, Thomas said. And in Australia, there is a five-year waiting list for women seeking eggs.



SEE EGG | 35 Thomas

Zanjero Falls idles while owners wait for market recovery

BY MIKE SUNNUCKS
Phoenix Business Journal

Glendale Mayor Elaine Scruggs and other city officials are frustrated that the Zanjero Falls office and commercial real estate complex remains fenced off and empty after being foreclosed on more than two years ago.



Scruggs

Scruggs said there is interest in the development at the northwest corner of 91st and Glendale avenues, across from Westgate City Center and University of Phoenix Stadium.

"There are companies coming all the time asking about being located there," she said during a recent Glendale City Council meeting.

But the property owner, Pacific Coast Capital Partners LLC, is sitting on the land despite some tenant and user interest, she said. PCCP,

SEE ZANJERO | 35



AMY MORRISON | PHOENIX BUSINESS JOURNAL

Caring for kids

John Whiteman was a driving force behind creation of Educare Arizona

BY JAN BUCHHOLZ | Phoenix Business Journal

John Whiteman spent much of his adult life leading Empire Southwest, the Caterpillar dealership for Arizona, Southern California and northern Mexico.

Since his retirement in 2003, however, he's been following a different passion: early childhood development.

It's that commitment that led Whiteman to help establish an Educare program in Arizona. Started on the south side of Chicago, the nonprofit early childhood development program has been supported by the likes of Warren Buffett, Bill Gates and George Kaiser.

The Arizona facility opened its doors in September to about 200 children and their families, and it includes a community health clinic run by Scottsdale Healthcare. It represents a major investment in a transitional neighborhood near 48th and Van Buren streets.

"We raised \$11.3 million in capital in this economic climate," Whiteman said.

Of that total, more than \$2 million came from the Whiteman Foundation,

SEE EDUCARE | 36

John Whiteman, left, with EduCare Arizona Executive Director Billie Enz, helped raise \$11.3 million to build this Educare facility near 48th and Van Buren streets in Phoenix.

TIM KOORS | SPECIAL TO PHOENIX BUSINESS JOURNAL

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PROFILE:

Michael Bill, CEO, MJ Insurance. **26**



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Michael Bill

CEO | MJ Insurance

MJ Insurance CEO Michael Bill places great value on employee involvement in community service.

"The more we give as an organization, the more beneficial it is to the community and all of our associates and clients," he said.

Under the company's Charitable Giving Program, when employees donate money to a nonprofit organization, MJ Insurance will match the first \$250.

In addition, MJ Insurance allows each associate one paid day off per year to use for charitable work for the nonprofit of their choice.

"This gives our team more flexibility, and if you're passionate about something, we think that's a good allocation of time," Bill said.

For the holiday season, MJ Insurance employees voted as a team to help Phoenix Rescue Mission, an organization that serves the homeless. On two days in December, they will serve meals at the mission. The company also donated proceeds from a raffle to the organization.

Up Close

WIFE: Laura

CHILDREN:

Michael, Hank, Elizabeth

EDUCATION:

Bachelor of Arts in political science, University of Arizona

HOMETOWN:

Indianapolis

Favorites

TV: Sunday night football

MOVIE: My 16-year-old is a hockey fan, so we enjoy watching "Miracle."

BUSINESS BOOK: "The Breakthrough Company," by Keith McFarland. As a company, we have used a

lot of advice from that book. We use it as a model for our quarterly strategy reset meetings.

HOBBIES: I enjoy snow skiing and hiking Camelback Mountain. I also love to travel.

VACATION SPOT: Park City, Utah. I

JIM POULIN | PHOENIX BUSINESS JOURNAL

Professional

WHAT MAKES AN EFFECTIVE BUSINESS LEADER? It is important to be persistent and patient in the same breath.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE CLIENTS GAIN FROM MJ INSURANCE?

Value, transparency, advocacy and proactive advice

WHAT MAKE MJ DIFFERENT FROM OTHER INSURANCE COMPANIES? From the feedback we receive from our associates, our culture and long-term commitment to being a privately held company stand out. The

company is going to be 48 years old in June 2012. We also have a very young ownership group.

— Erin Kennedy

30

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The 17th annual Faces of Success Luncheon was made possible with support from our gracious sponsors.

We're also deeply grateful for the incredible generosity of The Bruce T. Halle Family Foundation, the Robson Family Foundation and Michelle King Robson, our Honorary Chair.

Congratulations to Dr. Marilyn Seymann, the 2011 Jeanne Lind Herberger Award honoree.

And, many thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers from Wells Fargo, APS, Phoenix Suns, Mercury, SRP and AWEE.

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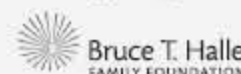
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