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Keep your
face to the
sunshine
and you
cannot see
a shadow.

Helen Keller

The Tungland News

Supporting ALL people to
be part of their community

June 2013



*For Maddison there was an enchanted evening at the prom,
then graduation from Mingus Union HS in Cottonwood, AZ*

In May 2012 we ran a story about Maddison, a bright young lady in Cottonwood AZ living in an adult developmental home (ADH). Maddison won school honors for boosting her grade point average at Mingus Union High School. We're now delighted to print the following story, written by her ADH provider, Bernadette Dionisio. We join with Bernadette in wishing Maddison the brightest possible future—and many, many more dances with Prince Charming!

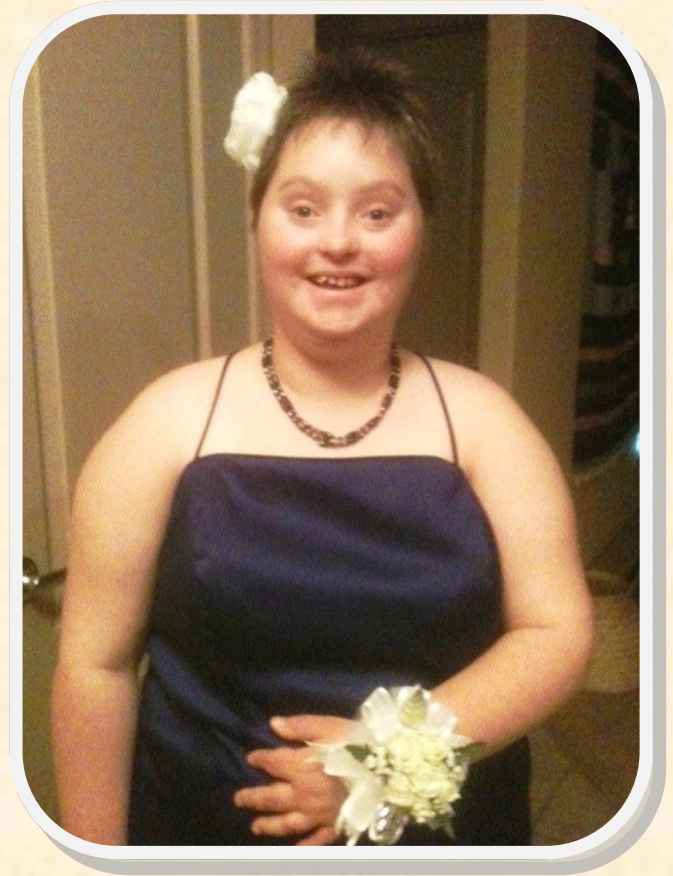
Maddison is the apple of my eye. I have known her for eight wonderful years as her provider. Maddison lives in our Adult Developmental Home with her roommate.

Maddy recently had her Prom Night, where 'Prince Charming' requested a slow dance. Maddy accepted wholeheartedly. Until that night she had never met this dashing young man. Wouldn't you say this was a magical moment in her life? Maddy certainly thought so!

Maddy just turned 22 and is preparing for her high school graduation on May 24th after which she will celebrate at her graduation party the next day. Is she ever excited! Maddy has prepared for this journey all of her high school days, never once deviating from her goal, thinking sometimes that it would never happen. Her faith, courage, and enthusiasm has sustained her in accomplishing this dream.

In those years we've been together, I have never seen Maddison as passionate about anything as she was about graduation. While it was her long-term goal to graduate from high school, not once did Maddy rush her years along just to graduate, but instead took tremendous pleasure in the journey, enjoying every step of the journey.

Maddison, we are all as proud of who you are as we are proud of your many accomplishments. You



have grown into a very precious and mature young woman whom we can all learn from, which is "enjoying every step of the journey."

Maddy will be attending a Day Program on a full-time basis after graduation. She is so looking forward to making yet another dream come true.

You go, Girl!

—Bernadette Dionisio



School colors: red and white

Bobcats varsity track star Brandun graduates Central High in Phoenix

Earning a varsity letter in track at Phoenix Central High School in his senior year, Brandun is justifiably proud of his athletic and school accomplishments. On June 22, 2013 Brandun graduated from Central High.

In only one year in which he ran track on Central's Bobcats team Brandun made varsity, winning a special award for Most Improved Athlete in Track and Field (*below right*) and a number of other awards.

Brandun, a resident at Tun gland's Cactus group home, is enthusiastic about starting his first paid job at the Marc Center later this month.

An avid sports fan, Brandun also loves soccer, basketball, football, video games, and Ping-Pong.

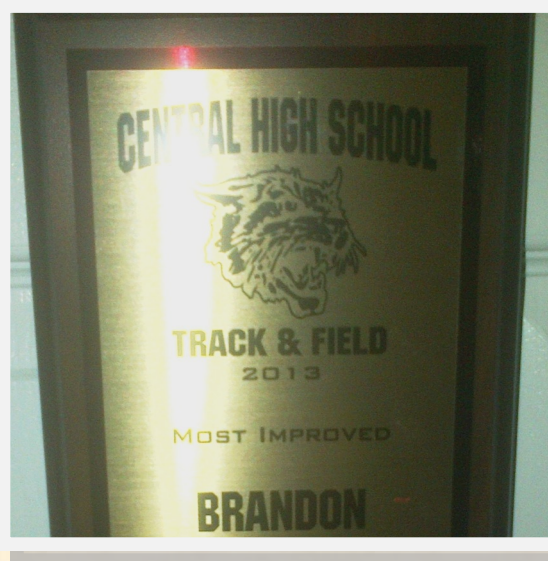


Brandun, Class of 2013

▼ **Brandun's Most Improved Award**



Brandun proudly displays his varsity letter.



It's a party at Phoenix's Shangri La for Kelsey and her friends as she graduates Shadow Mountain High School

Bright and determined, Kelsey is known to be a hard worker who treasures her friendships. Several of those friends—among them her teacher for the last two years—turned out at Shangri La house in Phoenix on Saturday evening, May 25, 2013 to celebrate Kelsey's graduation from Shadow Mountain High School in Phoenix.

Hosted by Shangri La Manager Nancy Britz and staff Abby and LaRhonda, housemates Erin and Jamie joined Kelsey's classmates and good friends Leila and Kelsee.

Among the guests were Diane Reece, Kelsey's teacher for the past two years; Erin's parents Lynda and John; Jamie's mother Evelyn and their friend Dorothy.

Kelsey told *The Tunland News* that she enjoyed her years at Shadow Mountain, and is especially proud of having served as a tutor to several fellow students, helping them with their math lessons and other classwork.

Her goals? "Go to college and get a job," said the grad without hesitating. Kelsey said she was planning to start hunting for a summer job near her home the day after her party and start looking at colleges. Not a woman to waste time.



The ambitious young lady hasn't settled on a career goal yet, but is interested in studying art and child care studies in college.

We know Kelsey will enjoy great success in her future life and wish her happiness!

▲ *Kelsey oversees the graduation cake, a scrumptious home-baked lemon cake a la Chef Nancy Britz.*

◆ *Kelsey made some great friends at Shadow Mountain High School. Here Kelsey is flanked by Kelsee (left) and Leila whose energy and enthusiasm helped keep the party going.*





◀ *Diane Reece, Kelsey's teacher for the last two years joined Kelsey's graduation celebration at Shangri La house. Ms. Reece is a dedicated special education teacher who has taught at Shadow Mountain High School for about 20 years.*

The three personable Shangri La ladies keep things from ever getting dull at the house: (l-r) Jamie, Kelsey, and Erin. ▶

No party at Shangri La is complete without a game of Uno. All the Shangri La ladies are expert Uno players. Clockwise left to right: Kelsee, Jamie, (partially hidden) Mgr. Nancy Britz, Kelsey, Evelyn (Jamie's mom, standing) Leila (sitting), Kelsey's teacher Diane, Jamie's friend Dorothy, and Erin (sitting, back to camera). ▼



Lynda (left) always lends support and encouragement to daughter Erin and her housemates. An avid photographer, she makes sure all three share pictures of all the events at the house. ▶



To our friend Valeria, from everyone at Palisades house
on her graduation



To our good friend Valeria,

Congratulations to Valeria G. on her graduation from the ACES school, Class of 2013. Valeria has been with The Tungland Corporation for several years, living in the Palisades group home. A young lady who enjoys movies, fashion, and writing, Valeria has a loving and caring personality. She is extremely energetic, and has worked hard to be the first to graduate high school in her immediate family. Valeria has shown what can happen when you work hard and persevere; her tenacity inspires us all.

Valeria, we are all very proud of you and your accomplishments, and we hope you continue to strive for greatness in everything you do, with your life and choices. Congratulations once again, and may you have a wonderful summer!

Your friends at Palisades Group Home





During Valeria's three years at the ACES school Valeria made new friendships that she says was the best part of school.

During her junior year Valeria's talents for art led her to win several awards for art at the county fair.

Valeria's goal is to participate in a day program until she finds the job she likes best.

Graduation day was May 29, 2013.

We all wish Valeria happiness and much success in her future.



*Only those who will risk going too far
can possibly find out how far one can go.*

—T. S. Eliot



Congratulations to the Class of 2013

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