

Scully Foundation hosts Cirque du Chilî

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Foothills Focus Staff

The Scully Learning Center Foundation will host Cirque du Chilî from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, at The Holland Center, 34250 N. 60th Street, Scottsdale.

The Scully Learning Center Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that works with developmentally disabled adults in the Desert Foothills area. By hosting this event, the foundation hopes to raise awareness of critical unmet needs faced by these adults and teenagers.

Because of the foundation's commitment to this cause, many parents and guardians seek it out in times of need, doubt and confusion. In order to meet participants and their families halfway, foundation members hope to recruit and highlight the organizations that can improve their members' quality of life and hope for the future.

Scully Learning Center Foundation founder Paula Scully spoke to the importance of gathering the community around this cause.

"We are excited for families and friends to make connections," Scully said. "We want our community to embrace and recognize how important our developmentally disabled population is and what gifts they bring to our community."

"We want everyone to recognize the importance of diversity and realize that

each of us has something to share."

Cirque du Chilî will promote local resources available to developmentally disabled people and raise funds for their needs, all while treating attendees to a fun, family-friendly time. The event will feature carnival games and prizes, chili tastings and informational booths with developmental disability community experts and career planning consultants.

Dalton and fellow foundation members are excited about the community cook-off, during which local chefs, community leaders and citizens compete for the Hottest Chef in Desert Foothills title.

"The chili cookoff is going to provide great fun and food tastings. We have a lot of friendly competition brewing," Scully said.

All event proceeds will go to the building fund for Preserving Families Home, a residential center that, once completed, will be a place for physically and developmentally disabled adults and their siblings to live after transitioning out of their family homes. At the home, residents will find a nurturing, family-like environment and comprehensive care tailored to their needs.

Cirque du Chilî's central issue is the housing shortage facing intellectually and developmentally disabled (IDD) adults. According to Maureen Casey of First Place Global Leadership, approximately 77% of the 159,000 Arizonans with IDD live with their aging families.

This "invisible population," as IDD ex-



The Scully Learning Center is hosting Cirque du Chilî to raise awareness of critical unmet needs faced by disabled adults in the Desert Foothills Area. (Scully Learning Center/Submitted)



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perts call them, will need independent housing and support as their families transition to nursing homes or die. If unmet, this critical need has the potential to metastasize into a widespread emergency and exacerbate the existing homelessness crisis in Maricopa County.

At Cirque du Chilî, the foundation will present its strategy to address this shortage, which includes its ambitious plans for Preserving Families Home.

This event is made possible by donations made by families and friends of Scully Learning Center. To cover additional costs, the foundation is encouraging local busi-

nesses to sponsor different carnival games in exchange for publicity. **FF**

Cirque du Chilî

WHEN: 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28

WHERE: The Holland Center, 34250 N. 60th Street, Scottsdale

COST: Free admission. Chili tastings are \$2 per taste or \$20 for unlimited tastings. Beer from local breweries will be available for \$5 and wine from local wineries for \$10. Donations, which are tax deductible, will be accepted.

INFO: scullylearningcenter.com