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FINAL

S. TUCSON KIDS' PLACE MAY BE CLOSED



PHOTOS BY BENJIE SANDERS / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Viviana Quijada, 8, left, Airam Delgado, 5, Soraida Franco, 7, and Mary Ann Moreno, 5, may have nowhere to go if the center closes for good.

Officials scramble to fill \$80K deficit

By Stephanie Innes
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Dozens of South Tucson kids are facing the loss of a neighborhood center that for six decades has provided local children with a place to go after school.

The House of Neighborly Service on West 33rd Street will shut down Tuesday for at least 30 days as officials try to fill a financial shortfall of about \$80,000.

The non-profit agency has experienced reduced funding from its three sources of revenue — Pima County, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and private

donors — and Executive Director John R. Irey said he's got few options left.

He said he's asked the city of South Tucson for money but so far has had no luck. South Tucson Mayor Jennifer Eckstrom was unavailable for comment Wednesday.

To save money, the staff took 30 percent pay cuts, Irey said.

The after-school program, which for years was free for families, began charging \$5 per month. Now it's up to \$1 per

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South Tucson children have called the House of Neighborly Service their after-school hangout for 60 years. The program used to be free; the current charge is up to \$1 per day.

LUTE SIGNS LOCAL PLAYER

Former Santa Rita High School star Darnell Shumpert, 18, becomes only the seventh Tucson-area athlete to play on scholarship for Arizona basketball coach Lute Olson and the first since 2000.

MORE IN SPORTS



Drug firm opts out of cheaper eye medicine

Genentech makes 2 Rx's for ailment causing blindness, at \$60 and \$2,000

By Kevin Freking
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — What does a company do when there's anecdotal evidence that two of its drugs are equally effective in treating a leading cause of blindness in the elderly, one costing patients \$60 per treatment and the other \$2,000?

In the case of Genentech Inc., nothing.

The company declined to seek federal approval for the cheaper drug, Avastin, to treat the wet form of age-related macular degeneration.

Nor would it help finance — or cooperate with — a National Eye Institute study comparing the effectiveness and safety of Avastin, a cancer drug, and the more expensive eye drug, Lucentis.

The financial stakes stemming from the study are huge. Medicare officials estimate there could be 50,000 or more additional cases of macular degeneration a year.

Treating just one year's worth of new patients with Lucentis would cost \$1.2 billion a year, compared with \$60 million if they're treated with Avastin, Medicare officials said.

Genentech is making no promises that it will act on the trial's final results, which are expected in two to three years.

The company has raised concerns that safety issues were not properly addressed.

In particular, the trial doesn't have enough patients to show some of the rare but serious side effects that could occur with the cheaper drug, the company contends.

"No matter the outcome, we continue to believe Lucentis is the most appropriate treatment for wet AMD," said Krysta Pellegrino, a company spokeswoman.

Wet AMD occurs when abnormal

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2008 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION, DAY THREE

Bill Clinton, Biden fire up crowd for Obama's big day

COX NEWS SERVICE

Amid chants of "Yes we can," Democrats nominated Barack Obama for president Wednesday, a historic moment in American politics.

For the first time ever, a major political party in the United States chose a black as its presidential candidate, doing so on the eve of the 45th anniversary of the late Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech about his vision of a colorblind America.

And at the conclusion of the

ELECTION 2008



events Wednesday, Obama paid a surprise visit to the convention hall, embracing running mate Joe Biden and praising wife Michelle, vanquished foe Hillary Clinton and former President Clinton.

The convention, which ends today with his formal acceptance speech, has "gone pretty well so far," Obama deadpanned.



Former President Clinton

"Most important, Barack Obama knows that America cannot be strong abroad unless we are strong at home. People the world over have always been more impressed by the power of our example than by the example of our power."



Mass. Sen. John Kerry

"We must listen and lead by example because even a nation as powerful as the United States needs some friends in this world. We need a leader who understands all our security challenges, not just bombs and guns, but global warming, global terror and global AIDS."



Del. Sen. Joe Biden

"The choice in this election is clear. These times require more than a good soldier; they require a wise leader, a leader who can deliver change — the change everybody knows we need. Barack Obama will deliver that change."



Florida Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz

"We believe passionately in Barack Obama's message of changing the direction of our country. We support ... his plans to restore the American dream for American families."

MORE INSIDE: CLINTON CHARISMA: Former president pitches Obama. Page A5
IT'S OFFICIAL: Biden accepts VP nomination. Page A5

SN On StarNet: Be sure to visit go.azstarnet.com/politicalblog to get the latest news and guest blogs from the floor of the Democratic National Convention.

WEATHER, C8
More scattered storms
High 94 / Low 75



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COMING UP, DON'T MISS ...

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LIGHTS ARE ON: Everything you need to know about high school football. FRIDAY »



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