

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: David Jacobson, MSW Wayne Washburn Winner

He rides a unicycle for exercise and entertainment, calls himself the Arthritic Man and uses his sense of humor and a talent for writing poetry to temper the pain of his rheumatoid arthritis. He's **David Jacobson**, recipient of the 1997 Wayne Washburn Memorial Award, a member of the Southern Arizona Chapter board and co-coordinator of the Young Adults Support Group. David has a Master's in Social Work and is manager of Volunteer Services in the Department of Development and Community Services at University Medical Center. Prior to his current job, David was an instructor in the UA College of Medicine, teaching med students how to communicate with patients, and served on the Governor's Children's Justice Task Force from 1993 to 1996. During the years that the Arthritis Foundation was a beneficiary of El Tour de Tucson, David rode his unicycle 50 miles in the event, no small feat for a healthy person and a major feat for someone with arthritis. He credits the Foundation's Arthritis Clinic at TMC, where he received his first



Immediate Past Chair Marjory Vals Maud with David Jacobson, recipient of the Wayne Washburn Memorial Award.

*Photos by Freeze Frame
Fotography*

methotrexate injection, with having helped get him back on his feet. David's sense of humor and upbeat attitude were a major reason why he was selected to receive the Wayne Washburn Award, which he says reaffirms his longtime dream — to be an inspiration to others with arthritis. His sense of humor has also resulted in a second career as a public speaker. He travels the Southwest speaking on Humor & Health and will be a keynote speaker at a May Conference for Caregivers here (See the calendar). David and his wife Laurie have three children: Shira, 12; Samuel, 7 and Yosef, 2-1/2.



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