



Arizona Women's Partnership, Inc.

Grant Recipient Profiles

Each non-profit provided their own information

If you have questions or would like to volunteer,
please follow up with the non-profits directly.

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An Introduction to Arizona Women's Partnership, Inc.

The Arizona Women's Partnership, inc., a 501 (C) 3 non-profit, was created at the end of 2002 to assist grass roots non-profit organizations which help under-served women and children at risk in Arizona. Grants recipients are selected by an annual application and review process. The total money awarded annually is dependent on the successful outcome of fundraising efforts.

The all volunteer philanthropic Arizona Women's Partnership, inc. has attracted corporate, small business and individual support to achieve this end. Media coverage of its mission, fundraising efforts, grant recipients and volunteers has been extensive.

Gubernatorial and Mayoral proclamations have been issued in support of the Arizona Women's Partnership, inc.

Since its inception, the Arizona Women's Partnership, inc.. has had support from over 100 volunteers, as well as, numerous chefs, restaurants, culinary schools, resort hotels and jazz artists. Its featured events: Getting Our Just Desserts, which showcased female pastry chefs (now transferred to the Careers through Culinary Arts scholarship Program C-CAP), and Wine, Women & Jazz were both created by AZWP, inc. founder and President, Paula Cullison.

The following profiles of many of the AZWP grant recipients will provide an insight into the important social services offered by the smaller non-profits in this state.

For more information on the Arizona Women's Partnership, inc. please visit www.azwp.org
e-mail: azwpinc@aol.com or call Paula Cullison at 602-863-9744.

Alice's Place

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Alice's Place is a small grassroots non-profit organization dedicated to providing safe and confidential services to victims and survivors of domestic violence throughout a much underserved rural population of Navajo County. We provide 24 hour crisis services including shelter, basic needs such as food, clothing and hygiene products, court advocacy, victim advocacy, transportation, educational programs, community education, awareness programs and more.

Our educational programs include a Workplace Skills Class and a Personal Budget/Finance Class. These classes were started to help our clients transition to a life where they are no longer dependent on the abuser. We now offer these classes to everyone in the community to help them through these economic times. We also partner with the Winslow Police Department to provide self defense classes to the entire community. We began a Teen Dating Violence Awareness campaign last year and received a Mayoral Proclamation in January 2010 announcing February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month in the City of Winslow. We believe that teaching our youth about healthy, respectful relationships now can reduce the risk of adult domestic violence incidents in their future.

In 2009, we took 353 crisis calls through our 24 hour crisis lines (many of these calls came from the hospital emergency room and law enforcement whom we respond directly to 24 hours a day), provided shelter and/or advocacy services to 126 adults and children, provided 354 shelter bed nights along with food, clothing from our thrift store, hygiene products, toys, etc. We made over two dozen trips to court, mainly to obtain orders of protection but we also accompany our clients to criminal and civil hearings (child custody, divorce, criminal cases involving the abusers, etc.) Sometimes, the safety risk of our client is too great to stay in our small community and therefore going to shelter or family out of this area is needed. Through our transportation program, we helped 25 families reach safety. Separate from our domestic violence program, we provide Community Aide through our thrift store, Alice's Attic. This program assisted an additional 39 families with free clothing, shoes, coats, blankets, and more.

Our 24 hour crisis lines are extremely vital to our program as they are the entry point for the majority of our clients. One hundred percent of the AZWP grant proceeds will be used to help cover the cost of our crisis line program. With continued support, Alice's Place will strive to help overcome the effects of domestic violence one life at a time.

Arizona Association for Foster and Adoptive Parents

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Kris Jacober-President
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The Arizona Association for Foster and Adoptive Parents was founded by foster, adoptive and kinship families in 2003 to serve the foster, adoptive and kinship families who care for Arizona's most vulnerable children. Foster care, kinship care and adoption can be difficult and isolating work.

The main goal of our association is to support and empower the state's foster and adoptive families by providing information, connecting them to each other and speaking with one voice as advocates for continuous improvements in the State's child welfare system.

Our programs include:

Jose's Closets. Six storage units run by volunteers across the state that take in donations of children's clothing and supplies, sort and clean them and distribute to families as needed for the children in their care.

Town Hall Series: Bi-monthly training series for foster and adoptive parents to learn about the unique issues that face foster and adoptive families including "Parenting the RAD Child," "Tax Tips for Foster and Adoptive Families," "Navigating the Foster Care System" and more.

Foster Care Awareness Month Event. May is foster care awareness month. Each year, our foster care awareness month event attracts foster and adoptive parents, licensing workers, caseworkers, attorney's, judges, CASA's and others to celebrate together and recognize and honor the children in the state's foster care system and those who work on their behalf.

Courage for Children Awards Banquet is our annual event to recognize foster and adoptive families from across the state.

Holiday Toy Drive. Last year, the Association solicited and distributed toys for more than 250 children in the foster care system.

Networking and support events. Each year, the Alpha Kappa Psi fraternity at Arizona State University hosts two picnics for the Association. In addition, we have nights out at the Diamondbacks and parents' nights out activities.

AZ Blankets 4 Kids

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www.azblankets4kids.com

The quilters, sewers, knitters and crocheters of AZ Blankets 4 Kids believe every child deserves the comfort of a homemade blanket. Seriously ill, needy and traumatized children from infancy to eighteen years of age are able to face difficult times through the tender loving care that is in every blanket. Since the organization began, over 34,700 blankets have been delivered to children suffering from serious illness, fire or major auto accident, sexual or physical abuse, mental or physical disabilities, or homelessness, providing something medicine alone cannot, love. “The children really treasure their blankets, it becomes like a friend, a source of security,” explains President Carole Willsey. The blankets are so meaningful that the children often take their blankets with them, through various medical treatments, group homes, and even off to college later in life.

The volunteers of AZ Blankets 4 Kids join regularly for Blanket Bees to sew together and serve a good cause. The Blanket Bees provide a fun and social atmosphere for the volunteers all for the benefit of children. Many of the volunteers began with Project Linus, a similar foundation, because they loved to quilt and sew, but had no one to give their blankets to. For those not interested in the bees, blankets, fabric, and other supplies can also be donated to the organization. Absolutely nothing is wasted and the women have found ways to turn salvage scraps in to beautiful blankets. If there is anything left over they feel they can't use, scraps are given to other organizations, such as Ugly Quilts, which make bed rolls for the homeless. The women then personally deliver the blankets, which are sewn in various sizes to accommodate various age groups, to children's hospitals and organizations such as Aids Project of Arizona, Child Protective Services, and Save the Family. One of the most challenging aspects of running the organization is finding enough donations of child-friendly fabric, batting, and flannel for the premie blankets.

The 2007 grant from the Arizona Women's Partnership has helped greatly when donations just aren't enough. The grant has enabled the women to buy much needed supplies, which allows them to produce more blankets, add more eligible recipient agencies, and subsequently reach more children in need.

Arizona Coalition for Tomorrow Charitable Fund

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The Arizona Coalition for Tomorrow is committed to improving the health and education preparedness of low-income children by providing the environment for comprehensive health screenings and immunizations through an annual health fair. ACT began by providing “the missing link” for children eligible for the Phoenix Head Start program, but lacking the necessary medical resources, and therefore unable to qualify.

ACT broadened its reach in 2006 by including Valley preschools in the program as well, and now helps children aged 2 to 13 years. Since 1991 over 18,000 children have been screened at the annual health fair. Once a year, children and their families attend the health event and are able to have all of their health needs met in one location. Dental, eye, hearing, and asthma screenings take place, as well as blood tests, immunizations, physicals, and Tuberculosis tests. Blood-pressure and diabetes screenings are made available to the adults. Establishing and maintaining health records and arranging for continued care, as well as transportation to and from the event is provided as needed.

In 2005, literacy and reading readiness screening for 4 to 5 year olds was added. The health fair isn't all business; children and their families are entertained by clowns and other Valley mascots during the event. The Phoenix Fire Department is usually in attendance with their truck on display, and arts, crafts, and face painting are provided by volunteers. An event like this is made possible by partnering with various individuals and organizations like the Arizona Women's Partnership. “We are so grateful for their contribution. Support from an organization like theirs is such a delight,” says Patti Herington.

Financial support from the community as well as private organizations makes it possible to purchase supplies, plan the event, and raise awareness. Through the joint efforts of the Arizona Coalition for Tomorrow Health Fair and Head Start, the community is able to enhance the quality of life for Arizona's children, their families and the neighborhoods in which they live.

Arizona Rising Suns Track Club

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The Arizona Rising Suns Track Club was formed to provide after school activities for inner city and at-risk youth from the ages of 5 to 18 years. Through this club children are taught that the most important kind of success resides in their ability to improve themselves, give their maximum effort, and be the best that they can be. The coaches for the track club are all volunteers, and all have prestigious track backgrounds.

In 1980, coach Sabestine Onyepunuka was a contender for the Nigerian Olympic Team, until a hamstring accident kept him out of the games. However, Onyepunuka's two daughters have become quite successful with the support of Rising Suns. Jessica and Judith Onyepunuka of Peoria joined the track club over a decade ago, and both may have the Olympic Games in their future; Jessica even received a full track scholarship to the University of Southern California in 2005.

Participating on sports teams is an expensive privilege many inner city families can't afford. Rising Suns is able to aid the city's children through the support of its community, fundraisers, and organizations such as the Arizona Women's Partnership. "Arizona Women's Partnership really helped Arizona Rising Suns with their financial contribution. It allowed for athletes that would have otherwise not been able to go, travel to Nationals", explains Judith and Jessica Onyepunuka. Although coaches are all volunteers, the track club incurs many other expenses. Coach Eddie Robinson remarks, "The funds provided by the AZWP will be used in a number of ways, such as uniforms for athletes that can't afford them, replacement equipment, and travel expenses. Without caring individuals in organizations like yours a lot of kids would not have a chance."

The same can be said for the track club. With the support of Rising Suns, many children are able to engage in a positive after school activity that keeps them off the dangerous streets. Through sports activities children learn about team work, perseverance, humility, and most importantly, how to have fun. With the encouragement from the Arizona Rising Suns Track Club, these city children will not only become better athletes, but more successful citizens as well.

Arizona Sexual Assault Network

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www.azsan.org

Through a collaborative statewide network, the Arizona Sexual Assault Network identifies and addresses sexual issues in the hopes of achieving a society free from sexual violence. Founded in 1998, AzSAN was born out of Arizona's great need for a statewide sexual assault coalition. The organization was incorporated in 1999, and is currently headquartered in central Phoenix. The network has one full-time staff member, a Board of Directors, dedicated volunteers and a growing membership of individuals and organizations. The support of members, volunteers and organizations such as the Arizona Women's Partnership, help to keep the network operational.

AzSAN serves the general Arizona population, but their principle stakeholders are Arizona's Child and Family Advocacy Centers and Rape Crisis Centers. According to the AzSAN website, "Advocacy Centers were created more than a decade ago, based on the premise 'together we're smarter' when responding to victims of violent crimes. These centers are designed to provide comprehensive victim services, while improving the investigation and prosecution of family violence." There are a variety of advocacy centers located throughout Arizona, and some are designed to provide onsite services to child victims of physical and/or sexual abuse or neglect. Other centers provide services to both children and adult victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and/or vulnerable adult abuse.

AzSAN also works to educate the public on the truth about rape by debunking many myths, as well as providing statistics and ways one may take action to end sexual violence in this state. Such tips include encouraging legislators to fund victim service programs, educating one's peers on the realities of sexual assault, and recognizing that no one deserves to be assaulted. In the years to come, the Arizona Sexual Assault Network hopes to continue to work on increasing their capacity so that they may adequately serve the entire state of Arizona.

Arizona South Asians For Safe Families

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The Arizona South Asians For Safe Families, (ASAFSF), is a non-profit, all volunteer organization that was established in October 2004 by members of the Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani communities in Arizona, to provide support services to victims of Domestic Violence in the Arizona South Asian community.

Our mission is to emphasize the importance of maintaining a safe family environment, to increase awareness of Domestic Violence, and to provide support services to victims of Domestic Violence in the South Asian community.

Domestic Violence remains a tabooed phrase for most Asians and South Asians, more so in our Diaspora community, than back in the home-countries, simply because Diaspora communities tend to ward off negative scrutiny by remaining sheltered and closed. While this helps preserve traditions and culture, it also perpetuates many negatives, one of which is family violence.

Our goals are to have Community Outreach programs to support our mission, and to provide Support Services for South Asian victims of Domestic Violence. To date we have had 84 contacts, mostly on the toll-free line, and a few by e-mail. Calls and e-mails also include referrals from other out-of-state Domestic Violence organizations, from in-state Prosecutor's offices, and from local DV shelters. We provide both direct and indirect services, including financial assistance for childcare, rent money, lawyers' fees, transportation, and emergent personal needs. Our family advocates accompany and support victims and their dependent children to courts, medical appointments and much more.

ASAFSF has organized several trainings, general and culture-specific, for members and volunteers. One of our successful grassroots outreach activities has been the **Chai Chat**, (Tea with ASAFSF), a community driven initiative, focusing on smaller groups hosted by community members. Ongoing trainings and workshops for ASAFSF members is an important part of the Organizations growth and development. ASAFSF members are required to attend the DV 101 40 hours training in order to be able to provide direct services. ASAFSF also encourages participation in other trainings such as for Immigration services, and Legal Advocacy. Members are also encouraged to attend related conferences out-of-state. We are hosting our first one-day conference " Shakti-The Power in Empowerment" on April 18, 2009 as part of our continuing outreach effort. Assistance from organizations like the Arizona Women's Partnership will greatly help us in our outreach effort to increase awareness of this issue.

ASAFSF is an official member of Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence (AzCADV), the National Network for Training and Advocacy (NATN) and of Community Information and Referral (CIR). We are listed in the National list serve of Asian and South Asian Domestic Violence support services organizations. We hope through our efforts we will be able to bring about a change in our society where all individuals can be treated with respect and compassion.

Arizonans for the Protection of Exploited Children and Adults (APECA)

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"How can we as a community help young victims when the very nature of the crimes committed against them makes them 'unspeakable?' On behalf of APECA, I would like to thank all those who have given voice to victims of exploitation and trauma through their support of our efforts. APECA will continue to work to accomplish our vision of communities free of exploitation and abuse, communities where everyone is valued." --Janet Olson, RN, MN, Executive Director

APECA focuses on all aspects of sexual exploitation, trauma, abuse, and self-abuse of children and adolescents. Our mission: to mobilize people and resources in the fight against sexual exploitation and abuse.

Our organization offers free community presentations and hosts informational tables to promote awareness of sexual exploitation/abuse/violence and self-injury of children and adolescents. APECA developed and uses its DVD, *Staying Safe for Teens*, to promote awareness among teenagers of the dangers of sexual exploitation.

APECA provides support activities and a support group for teens recovering from self-injury and abuse. Our programs give teens the opportunity to fellowship with others who have had similar experiences, and to enjoy some fun activities, including therapeutic games, crafts, outings, etc. Our motto: *Helping One Another to Heal*.

Free life skills workshops and presentations are provided by APECA to children and teens at various locations throughout the Valley. Some of the topics offered include: *Staying Healthy in an Abusive World*, *Courage in the Face of Fear*, *Dating Violence*, and *What Every Teen Needs to Know about Love*.

The completion of the Natalie's House project will mean an expansion of APECA's services to include an 8-bed therapeutic home for girls ages 11-17 recovering from sexual trauma due to exploitation and abuse. This safe house program will offer shelter, food and clothing. In addition, residents will receive an intensive recovery program that includes counseling, equine therapy, life skills training, recreational outings and educational strategies to assist them in making the transition to a normal, healthy life.

Asian Pacific Community in Action

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The first challenge physician Kelly Hsu had to attend to back in August 2002 when she began the Asian Pacific Community in Action was to dispel the “modern minority myth”. This myth assumes that all Asians and Pacific Islanders are an affluent, highly educated and successful group. Because of the continuation of this stereotype, the API community is often times ignored in the academic and health care support system.

Awareness in the rapidly growing API community, as well as the medical community, was lacking and causing serious problems, including fatalities. As many as one in every ten Asian and Pacific Islanders carries a chronic form of the virus Hepatitis B, and most do not know. Twenty-five percent of these individuals will eventually die from a liver disease. The medical community’s awareness of Hepatitis B in Asian and Pacific Islanders is inadequate, and many do not request their patients be tested. Another problem in Maricopa County is that seventy percent of the API community is foreign born, and twenty percent of those born outside the U.S. are linguistically isolated, making access to health care difficult.

The Asian Pacific Community in Action hopes to curb the number of people undiagnosed with Hepatitis B, as well as other medical problems, through health education, translation assistance, and providing free health services. The APCA conducts health fairs with free education about cardiovascular disease, diabetes, dental health, and tobacco use. They also conduct free screenings for cholesterol, blood pressure, and Hepatitis B screenings and vaccinations. Breast cancer awareness is also a high priority for the organization. The APCA is trying to provide the resources for the large API community in Maricopa County.

Most of the APCA’s support comes from grants, pharmaceutical companies, government contracts and organizations like the Arizona Women’s Partnership. The Arizona Women’s Partnership has been raising money for APCA since 2003, and according to Doug Hirano, is a great morale booster. The money has also allowed the organization to increase its staff. Two years ago the APCA had only one staff member and had to hire outside of the organization for tasks such as grant writing. Now with more staff, the organization is able to help more individuals seek the health care they deserve.

Camp Verde Adult Reading Program

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http://cvarp.org

The mission of the Camp Verde Adult Reading Program is to offer adults in Camp Verde and adjacent communities the opportunity to achieve personal goals through improved basic reading, writing, math and life skills. The needs of the people over the age of 16 that CVARP addresses range from having little to no reading skills and limited English language skills, to only requiring a small amount of aid to achieve a GED. The programs utilized by CVARP include: one-on-one tutoring in adult basic literacy, small-group classes in English for non-English speaking peoples, computer-aided instruction in literacy, English, and pre-GED skills, and Workplace Education classes and Skills for Living classes.

Although funding is the biggest challenge Director Gwen Gunnell faces, support from the community has been extremely generous. CVARP's volunteer base donates roughly 2,000 to 3,000 hours per year, and because many come from rural areas, some must drive over 20 miles. The recent Arizona Women's Partnership grant has also been of great contribution. "We were thrilled. Due to the nature of government funding, we can't buy food with their grants, but we can with the AZWP money. Their extra source of support has made a big difference!" exclaimed Gwen.

The AZWP money has been directly used to fund the six to eight week program for non-English speaking women currently in session this summer. In the program participants keep a notebook of English words they don't understand, as well as learn about proper nutrition, the correct way to clean and prepare food, home safety, basic first aid, and simple fitness routines. The participants are all instructed by professional nurses, nutritionists, and paramedics. Gwen remarked that she had seen several success stories pass through CVARP, but one woman stood out in particular. The woman had escaped to the US from a war torn country where her young son still resided. After learning English through a CVARP program and working three jobs, she was able to send for her child. With the continued help of CVARP, she recently passed her naturalization test, bought a brand new home and now works only one job. Through the advancement of language and basic life skills, CVARP is helping those in need meet their potential and achieve better lives.

Community Kids of Globe

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Community Kids of Globe began as a program dedicated to providing local foster children with a Christmas celebration. This program eventually grew to a large annual party, and currently Community Kids of Globe has progressed to providing disadvantaged children and their community with a multitude of programs and scholarship opportunities. Through the support of volunteers, government agencies and organizations such as the Arizona Women’s Partnership, Community Kids of Globe has been able to award 3,060 high school students with scholarships to further their education.

“The Arizona Women’s Partnership gift also contributed to numerous fifty-dollar gift cards that were awarded to deserving local teachers, and all were greatly appreciated,” said Community Kids Director, Donna Jones. Through the advisement of Child Protective Services, local pastors and individuals, the organization has been able to help the disadvantaged young people and their families with medical care costs, summer tuition programs, and added needs such as swim lessons.

Community Kids of Globe also raise money through an annual fund drive by mail, as well as support that come from the growing mining industry. The community of Globe has likewise benefited from Community Kids; they have donated money to the local libraries, women’s shelters, and a community arts program. What began as a small effort to give foster children an enjoyable holiday has now become a way for the Globe community to not only help their underprivileged youth, but also a way to benefit the Globe collective.

Coolidge Youth Coalition

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www.CoolidgeYouthCoalition.org

The Coolidge Youth Coalition is a small, rural non-profit that began in 1989 as a Community Drug Alliance. Over the years it has expanded its focus, changed its name, and finally, decided to incorporate in an effort to seek ongoing funding for its many projects. The VISION of the Coolidge Youth Coalition is to promote the well-being of all children and families residing within Coolidge and the surrounding areas and communities. Its MISSION is to create an environment where children and youth have access to five fundamental resources: caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, marketable skills, and the opportunity to serve.

CYC projects and programs include:

- 5-year Drug Free Communities Initiative
- Learning Support Center that hosts pre-GED tutoring, adult services, job-readiness classes, independent living skills, youth leadership training and drop-out recovery support
- Community/School Character Counts Program
- Annual “Grad Night” Celebration for graduation high-school seniors and guests
- County-wide collaborative effort supporting Pinal County’s Anti-Meth Coalition
- Youth Council
- Variety of workshops and community training opportunities on issues related to “minors in possession” and the new medical marijuana legislation
- Involvement in every community celebration possible (Cotton Days, Calvin Coolidge Days, 4th of July Celebration, local Town Halls, Arizona League of Cities, G.A.I.N. Night, Coolidge Halloween Event, School Assemblies, Christmas Light Parades, O’Odham Tash Celebration)

The Coolidge Youth Coalition is served by a volunteer board and collaborative partner from the basic twelve sectors of community. It prides itself in serving all segments of the community with prevention education and educational supports with a special emphasis on underserved children and their families. Ethnicities served are approximately 42% Hispanic, 38% Anglo, 12% African America, and 8% Native American residents. It is estimated that CYC will have impacted over 1,000 individuals in direct service this year alone, not counting group events, assemblies, and community celebrations.

CYC greatly appreciates all organizations and individuals that support our programs.

Defenders of Children

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Phoenix, AZ 85064

Donnalee Sarda

Phone 602-710-1903

www.defendersofchildren.org

Defenders of Children provides assistance to child victims of abuse and the families seeking to protect those children, post CPS* involvement, yet when *evidence of ongoing abuse* remains. In these days of reduced services by traditional avenues of protection, Defenders helps pick up the slack in child protection. Defenders provides *free* and reduced-fee assistance, and free legal services through our in-house legal department, headed by Staff Attorney David Lujan. Our small army of volunteer attorneys and mental health professionals step forward on behalf of these children for cases that meet our criteria.

Our newly released book, Child Advocacy 101: Essays on Child Protection in America (Bridgewood Press) is called “*A must read*” by Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard, as well as by nationally respected psychologist Barbara A. Kerr, and covers how to fix inadequacies in our family court and CPS. Executive Director Donnalee Sarda and David Lujan speak at statewide conferences, at trainings for judges, attorneys and social service caseworkers.

In more rural parts of Arizona and along the AZ/Utah border strip, Defenders provides information to families with children, especially those having once lived in the FLDS or polygamous communities there. We network with other child advocacy groups around the nation to ensure ideas and best information is known and shared.

Defenders manages this *without* being an “anti-agency agency.” In 2008, Defenders facilitated the rescue of 305 children in Arizona plus 250 family members. Eighty percent (80%) of our client-families are in Maricopa County; Sixty-five percent (65%) are poverty level or below. By working with the AG’s office, CPS and law enforcement, we provide a voice for the children when the first line of defense, their parents and guardians, failed to do so.

Our mission includes striving to end the intergenerational cycle of abuse, and to provide educational outreach on family violence prevention; to effect positive change in public policy to ensure children’s rights to safety, to education and other rights to which they are entitled.

* Child Protective Services, the state investigative body charged to ensure child safety in their living environment.

Desert Sounds Performing Arts

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The arts are the gold and silver threads that weave the tapestries of our communities together. Over the past decade, studies have shown that the benefits of music training are far more reaching than most people realize. Music has the ability to facilitate language acquisition, reading readiness, and general intellectual development. Music fosters positive attitudes, builds strength in character, expands the mind, and helps develop the building blocks for success in school and in life.

Desert Sounds Performing Arts is an organization of local community residents who understand the benefits of participating in the arts, both personally and professionally. Our goal is to provide access to instruments for underserved students so that they can participate in their schools' musical programs. We believe appreciation and use of the arts assists in bringing diverse communities together and fosters similar communities to build greater bonds. By giving back to the community, we teach those who benefit from this activity that they, too, need to give back and create a greater circle of volunteerism and community involvement.

Our flagship project, The Jeremy Project, assists underserved children with access to band and orchestra activities by providing them with an instrument of their choice that will follow them throughout elementary school, junior high school, and high school. The student agrees to attend school, maintain acceptable grades, practice, and participate in their school's music program.

Current economic conditions require us to do more with less. Desert Sounds has found a way to support our community by purchasing used instruments, accepting donations of gently used instruments, and having them refurbished here in the valley by certified instrument repairmen. In our first year, our organization has been able to distribute seventy (70) instruments to students who would not have otherwise been able to participate in their school program.

Our premise is that the use of an instrument is not an entitlement; it is earned through hard work, achieving goals, and fulfilling basic requirements. We are helping to instill responsibility in the participant with the care of the instrument, and commitment through practice and attendance.

El Centro - Adelante Juntos Coalition

A program of El Centro for the Study of Primary & Secondary Education

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Adelante Juntos Coaliton (**AJC**) is a private not for profit organization dedicated to strengthening family bonds and enriching the lives of rural residents in Eastern Pinal County. Our mission is: *“To mobilize communities to reduce and prevent substance abuse among youth and ultimately among adults and to provide information, education and resources that empower them to help build safe, healthy, drug-free communities.”*

The coalition membership is a diverse group of community leaders and concern citizens that represent and reflect the populations of the rural areas. The synergy of staff and coalition members drive the programming targeted at youth and families to address issues and/or problematic behaviors identified by school officials, faith-based communities, parents, health experts and our youth.

Prevention education and community enrichment activities are two major components of AJC programming. While all of our youth programming is designed to reduce the risk factors and increase the protective factors as it relates to youth development, each program has specific objectives. **AMIGOS** mentoring program aims to increase the academic performance of our students in grades 6th -10th as well as provide a positive role model and caring friend for ‘at risk’ youth’; while also providing social and recreational activities.

Project **STOP** is a ‘prevent underage drinking’ program that combines a school-based curriculum with after school activities. ‘*Sembrando Salud*’ (sowing the seeds of health) is the curriculum-10-weeks long- that teaches kids resiliency skills as well as the negative social, physical and legal consequences of underage drinking. After school activities include homework help, video games, and socialization time in a positive, supervised environment. The kids also participate in community service projects and planning the annual community wide alcohol-free events, Cinco De Mayo con Orgullo, National Night Out and Easter Fiesta Blast.

Projects **CHARLAS** (Spanish word for chats amongst us) and **WAIT** (Why am I tempted) are prevention programs that address and educate about HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases and the virtues and value of abstinence, respectively. The practice of youth teaching youth has proven have a powerful and successful impact. In one year the **CHARLAS** program increased the number of local youth getting tested for HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases by 300%.

Our work is supported and funded by donations from individuals, and foundations, as well as federal, state and county grants; fee for service and fundraising efforts throughout each year.

Eve's Place

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Eve's Place is a non-profit agency that serves victims of domestic violence in Surprise, Arizona and the surrounding communities. Through the use of an Emergency Shelter, support groups, and an anonymous hotline, women in the Surprise region are able to access a place of safety and resources to combat domestic abuse. Support groups enable women to receive education and advocacy through a variety of community collaborations. Domestic violence survivors also receive support to increase their independence and self-sufficiency to ensure and continue a life-style free from abuse.

The Emergency Shelter is available for women and children for up to six weeks. Here survivors are placed in a home-like atmosphere that is secure and quiet. Eve's Place provides counseling and transportation, as well as assistance with filing legal paperwork, looking for employment, and finding a new place to live.

In 2006 Eve's Place opened Eve's Treasures, a thrift store run predominantly by volunteers whose proceeds benefit the shelter and the women they help. Support for Eve's Place is also made possible by the Arizona Women's Partnership. "Without our contributors we could not open our doors and help all of the women and children that go through our house. We could not go to churches, clubs, organizations and businesses to assist in educating the public about the devastation of domestic violence," remarks President Velda King.

Domestic violence occurs in all types of families, and affects one out of every three Arizona residents. Eve's Place hopes to continue aiding the women and children most affected by this violence by providing them the safety and resources they so desperately need.

Foster Angels of Arizona Serving Together / Arizonans for Children

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In September of 2000, a group of foster parents came together in the hopes of providing foster children with the resources and knowledge to enable them to break the cycle of abuse and poverty. With the aid of volunteers, donations and community support, FFAST has been able to develop numerous programs benefiting school aged foster children, who typically have nothing but the clothes on their backs.

Programs offered by FFAST include *Kids Learn FFAST*, a tutoring and mentoring program that matches children with a committed volunteer who provides educational and personal support for up to one year; *FFAST Track Transitional Learning*, a program aimed at foster children 14 and older focused on developing an education and career path to ensure foster children may transition out of the system successfully; *Kids in Action*, which focuses on the special interests of children like art, music, and computer skills; and *FFAST Friends Peer Mentoring*, a program that matches high school aged foster children with older alumni of the foster care system that can provide a positive role model.

There are over 10,000 children placed in the Arizona foster care system, and FFAST is but one small organization trying to fill a huge need. Community support has been generous, but grants like those from the Arizona Women's Partnership make a difference. "Support from the AZWP and other organizations allow us to retain our small staff, pay the operating expenses and ultimately keep our doors open. Without our services, many foster children would have nothing," notes Lauri Brown, the Director of Operations at FFAST. Foster Angels was recently acquired by a larger Phoenix organization, Arizonans for Children.

In addition to the FFAST tutoring and mentoring programs, foster children will now also have access to a variety of Arizonans for Children resources including three Children's Visitation and Activity Centers, the LifeBook Program, monthly birthday parties and more. The growth of FFAST will hopefully guarantee that Arizona's foster youth continue to receive the care they deserve.

Gabriel's Angels

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When Pam Gaber began volunteering at the Crisis Nursery in Phoenix, she had no idea it would lead to the birth of her pet therapy organization, Gabriel's Angels. After having told the children at the nursery about her new Weimaraner puppy, Pam decided one Christmas to bring the dog in dressed as Rudolf. The children's response to Gabriel amazed Pam. The once vulnerable and troubled children were suddenly gentle and serene with Gabe; their demeanor changed completely. Shortly after Gabe's initial visit, Pam had him certified as a therapy dog and in August of 2000 Gabriel's Angels came to fruition.

With the help of grants that support grassroots organizations like those from the Arizona Women's Partnership, as well as donations and community support, Gabriel's Angels has doubled in size. The organization now has more than ninety Certified Therapy Teams, consisting of owner and dog, made up completely by volunteers. Each team visits facilities serving abused and at-risk children in the Greater Phoenix Metropolitan Area, and visit the same location either weekly or biweekly. Consistent visits by the same dog are paramount for the children and allow them to build trusting relationships. Through petting, brushing, hugging, and playing with the dog, the at-risk children are taught core behaviors such as trust, respect, and empathy.

The children are also able to walk the dogs, feed and water the dogs, and reward the dogs for obeying basic commands. Learning how to interact with the animals properly provides the children with a framework for positive control in a relationship and also heightens self-esteem. Because the children Gabriel's Angels visit come from abusive and negligent environments, the child's interaction with the animal often provides the very first example of unconditional love.

Gabriel's Angels not only provides healthy relationships, but also hopes to end the cycle of violence for both child and animal. Children raised in abusive homes often grow up to exhibit violent behavior. This behavior is typically inflicted on animals first, and humans later. By teaching the children to respect and nurture animals, they hope to stop the future abuse of people as well.

Through these efforts Gabriel's Angels is offering neglected and at-risk children an opportunity to love and trust again.

Girls On The Run

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In today's rapidly-shifting world, young girls face incredible hurdles: Adolescent pregnancies, eating disorders, depression and suicide attempts, substance/alcohol abuse, confrontations with the juvenile justice system, obesity rates and related health ailments. The Girls on the Run (GOTR) compassionately addresses these serious issues through intensive yet enjoyable training for the participation in competitive running events.

GOTR's mission statement is "To Educate and Prepare Girls for a Lifetime of Self-Respect and Healthy Living." GOTR is a life-changing, "hands-on" educational program for girls aged eight to eleven years old. The program combines training for a 5K (3.1 mile) running event with self-esteem enhancing, uplifting lessons and workouts that reinforce the lesson concepts. Our curriculum addresses all aspect of girls' developments: Physical, emotional, mental, social and spiritual well-being. We train highly motivated and competent volunteers to teach and coach the girls after school 2 days per week for the 10-week season. During practices the girls learn lessons that teach them to value themselves and make wise choices. These lesson concepts are then incorporated into running activities, which are geared to prepare girls for the end of season 5K. Lesson topics include:

Effective Leadership, Teamwork, Establishing Healthy Eating Habits, Body Appreciation, Respecting Self, Making Wise Choices, The Media's Influence, Speaking up for Yourself & The Importance of Community Service.

Molly Baker, four-time Ironman Triathlete, founded GOTR in 1996. Baker holds a Masters Degree in Social Work and is a former high school teacher, counselor and track coach. Starting from its humble roots, GOTR has grown to an astounding 100 chapters across the nation with over 50,000 participants! GOTR of Maricopa County (GOTRMC) is 1 of 100 chapters. We were established in March of 2004 by Sharon Baltmanis, Ashley Crossman and Cathy Kent-Murtaugh with just two teams of 28 girls. Now, Maricopa County has over 200 girls participating in the Wondergirl 5K this past Saturday in Kiwanis Park in Tempe.

It costs approximately \$125 per girl to administer GOTR. Program costs include: curriculum (purchased from GOTR National), insurance, teaching materials and visual aids, coaches training, T-shirts, coolers, snacks, ice, water bottles, banquet dinner, awards and finishing medals.

GOTRMC is committed to helping girls from all socioeconomic backgrounds. We offer a scholarship program to allow underprivileged girls with limited family income to participate. At present, over 70% of participants in Maricopa County receive at least a partial scholarship to participate in the program, a cost currently absorbed by GOTRMC.

Arizona Women's Partnership has helped us provide scholarships to these underprivileged girls through generous grants in both 2008 and 2009. Without this financial assistance, these girls would probably not have been able to participate in our program. We would like to thank AZWP in helping Girls on the Run to help us educate and prepare girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living.

Good Neighbor Food Services

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The volunteers at Good Neighbor Food Services are committed to providing nutritious food boxes to the needy families, children, and the elderly; and to service all low income families of the Chino Valley community. The majority of those assisted by Good Neighbor Food Services are single mothers and their children. At least ninety-nine percent of their clients are living below the poverty level, with an average income of seven hundred to eight hundred dollars per month. Jobs in the Chino Valley area for women are mainly in retail, the service sector, and housekeeping. These jobs are often located miles from their homes, and transportation to and from work can be very limited. The majority of these jobs are low paying, most under seven dollars per hour.

On a predetermined day, mothers and other clients may visit the Good Neighbor Food Services facility and pay fifteen dollars for a food box, and must then return at a later date to pickup the box. Food boxes are ordered from the Westside Food Bank, usually about one hundred and twenty per month, and contain frozen meat, fresh produce, canned fruits and vegetables.

All of the workers at Good Neighbor Food Services are volunteers and the budget is sustained by grants, donations, and fundraisers. A grant from the Arizona Women's Partnership was of great benefit to the organization, and was primarily used to supplement operating expenses and add other food purchases to each box. "With additional funds, we can add such staples as eggs, flour, sugar, salt, cooking oil, and toilet paper. We do receive emergency requests for food which we have difficulty in filling, but we can expand this aspect of our organization with help from the AZWP," remarked Board President Ginny Fincher. By supplying the needy families, mothers, and elderly of their community with basic necessities, Good Neighbor Food Services is hoping to curb the pain of hunger and improve lives.

Growth Improvement for Female Teens

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Growth Improvement for Female Teens began in 1999 when schoolteacher Kristen Bradfield-Parrack discovered the young girls in her classroom were in desperate need of improving their self-esteem. Through her organization, Kristin hopes to empower young women to overcome life's challenges and recognize the gift of their full potential. By girls, and for girls, GIFT is one of the only programs to be truly run by a teen board of directors. "GIFT is driven by the philosophy that girls have the best solutions to the problems they face in their own communities," explains Kristin. The Teen Advisory Group, also known as TAG, meets monthly to determine the direction of the GIFT program and to learn about non profit governance through direct participation.

A spin-off of TAG, the Youth Facilitator program was partially funded with a grant from the Arizona Women's Partnership. "I appreciate AZWP's strong support of this project, as it is directly in line with their mission of promoting the status of Arizona women and empowering women's grass roots organizations through mini grants and publicity", notes Kristin. This new program teaches young women strategies for facilitating group discussions and planning sessions, so they may lead community organizing in their home neighborhoods and schools. The main objective of this program will be for girls to operate programs at GIFT's Sister-to-Sister Camp for 8th grade girls.

Sister-to Sister provides a transition program for teen girls moving from middle school and junior high to high school. The program includes a summer retreat for over 200 teenage girls entering high school, and an ongoing school based empowerment program throughout the year. GIFT also runs the Inside-Out program which collaborates with the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections and the Girls' Circle Association. Together they provide a weekly support group to the girls in the Black Canyon Correctional Facility, as well as their community parole programs. With the aid of GIFT, the women in and outside of the correctional facility are able to increase their resiliency, self esteem, and have a better chance for a more positive life.

Havasu for Youth

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Twenty-two years ago in the small community of Lake Havasu City, concerned parents came together to discuss the dangers their youths faced with regards to such issues as drugs and alcohol consumption. What started as a simple exchanging of information among parents has blossomed into a non-profit agency dedicated to empowering the youth of their community, especially disadvantaged children. Havasu for Youth now offers several programs geared toward enriching the lives of children, including their original program, *Project Graduation*, which has helped teenagers enjoy a safe graduation celebration free of drugs and alcohol for over twenty years.

The most successful programs for Havasu for Youth are those that provide after school support and added infrastructure in a child's life. Some of these programs include *Peer 2 Peer*, a tutoring and job training opportunity; *L.E.A.R.N.*, an after-school program for teenagers which provides prevention classes and mentoring; and the *Youth Enrichment Program*, which offers opportunities for children to play sports and participate in art classes and join summer camp programs.

Grants, help from United Way, and community support are what make these programs possible. Support from the Arizona Women's Partnership has been crucial in helping children in youth enrichment programs. A single grant from the AZWP can lead to as many as twenty-five children being able to play sports, take dance classes, and other activities when they normally would not be able to. Most of the children Havasu for Youth seeks to help come from single parent homes or are being raised by grandparents. Eighty-seven percent of the families Havasu for Youth sees are living at the poverty line or below.

President Melissa is exceptionally inspired by the great-grandparents who have taken to raising their great-grandchildren, calling them "amazing". These children are often left with their great-grandparents after two generations of family members have been sent to jail, usually due to the effects of drugs. Because Social Security and disability funds are hard to access and usually not equipped to cover the expenses of raising children, these guardians must work extra hard to find resources. But through the generosity of community, Havasu for Youth is able to provide the skills necessary for their youth to become empowered and take on productive roles in society.

H.A.V.E.N. Family Resource Center

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Working together with Social Services, the Police Department and other agencies, the H.A.V.E.N. Family Resource Center assists children and adult victims of sexual and domestic violence by reducing their trauma and increasing the success rate of prosecutions. Rather than sit in the stark and often cold surroundings of a police department or hospital, victims may visit the safe and comforting environment of H.A.V.E.N., which joined with Lake Havasu Abuse Prevention Project.

In either the medical examination room, living room, or interview room people are able to speak with police officers, physicians, lawyers and counselors all in one location. Often times the comforting atmosphere of H.A.V.E.N. draws in victims who weren't comfortable at a police station or hospital, and would not have reported their abuse otherwise.

After visiting H.A.V.E.N., victims of violence are able to access counseling services specialized for abuse issues, and assisted with navigating legal matters. This assistance has been influential in producing more arrests and helping people overcome traumatic experiences. The center also offers a twenty-four hour Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Hotline as well as a Child Abuse Prevention program. Grants from the Arizona Women's Partnership were directly used to fund such services, particularly counseling programs. According to H.A.V.E.N. Director Mary Lou O'Connell, "finding funds for these services can be extremely challenging."

Community awareness is also a huge challenge. Although organizations like H.A.V.E.N. have had many successes, abuse is still very prevalent, a fact that is difficult for much of the community to admit. The lack of awareness in the community furthers the difficulty to raise money; thus making grants and donations extremely important. Through the organized efforts of social services, the police department, volunteers and the community, H.A.V.E.N. will be able to continue helping the vulnerable victims of assault and abuse.

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies (HMHB), Maricopa County

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Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies (HMHB), Maricopa County, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving birth outcomes through the utilization of community based prevention and intervention programs. HMHB enhances the quality of prenatal and infant care education by increasing the accessibility of health information to professionals and members of the community through its network of state and local HMHB coalitions. HMHB works to connect diverse organizations ranging from community groups to government agencies in order to strengthen communities through the promotion of positive health outcomes for mothers and babies.

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, Maricopa County, was formed in response to the consistent findings by the Maricopa County Department of Public Health that not only were infant mortality rates in the lower-income South and West Phoenix regions of Maricopa County disproportionately higher, but also that a third of those infant deaths could have been prevented through routine prenatal and newborn health checkups.

Moved by the high levels of infant mortality, in Maricopa County, community leaders, including the current President of HMHB, Maricopa County, Martha Garcia, took on the task of hiring and training “community mobilizers” to educate women and families in the community about the importance of prenatal care in producing positive birth outcomes. But as the founding members of HMHB thought about this notion of hiring “community mobilizers” to combat the unacceptably high rates of preventable infant mortality, they realized this model was similar to the *Promotora* model that had been widely and effectively used in many of Mexico’s border cities.

The *Promotora* model was typically employed to address health disparities in lower-income communities and relied on the work of natural leaders from within the community to educate their neighbors and peers about positive health practices. Thus, rather than posting job advertisements and hosting scores of interviews to find “community mobilizers”, the local HMHB recruited *Promotoras*, women who were already leaders within the community, to jump start the efforts to provide more effective prenatal care in Maricopa County. Since then, the *Promotora* model has not only boosted the energy and enthusiasm in HMHB’s efforts, but has also instilled a deep commitment and sense of urgency in their work towards building a healthier community.

Through the support of HMHB, the *Promotoras* continue to make an important impact on their community and inspire others to make a difference as well through their energizing passion and unwavering dedication to the health of mothers and children in their community.

Make Way For Books

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MAKE WAY FOR BOOKS (MWFB) promotes early literacy in limited resources areas of Tucson, Arizona by providing young children an opportunity to fall in love with books and reading. Our vision is that all children enter school with the necessary early literacy skills to be successful. Each child, regardless of socioeconomic status, race, or gender will have daily exposure to books and reading.

MAKE WAY FOR BOOKS has four core programs designed to encourage families and childcare providers to incorporate reading in their daily lives to encourage children to fall in love with books. Our Preschool Program is designed to meet the early literacy needs of children in child care and to enhance the skills of their caregivers.

MWFB provides each childcare center with teacher training, a circulation library, and a story time volunteer that share their love of books with children by reading aloud to them weekly. The Babies Program provides literacy kits that contain a board book, a "Read to Me" bib, and a calendar giving simple tips on fostering early language and literacy. In our Summer Reading Buddies Program, school-age children are paired with preschoolers for book sharing sessions twice a week during the summer. Preschoolers receive theme-related hardcover books, game boards for "buddies" to chart their progress, and incentives. Our Family Literacy Events provide parents and children an opportunity to celebrate books and reading together. These include bilingual story times, puppet shows and early literacy materials for the families.

The generous support of the Arizona Women's Partnership has enabled us to provide 130 early literacy kits for at-risk new mothers and their babies in Pinal County. The support from the Arizona Women's Partnership helped us to further our mission of promoting early literacy.

Maricopa County Task Force Against Domestic Abuse

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The Maricopa County Task Force Against Domestic Abuse is dedicated to increasing public awareness, improving the care and treatment of those affected by domestic violence, and reducing violence in the community. The task force intends to reach these goals through networking, advocacy, political cooperation, and coordinated service delivery. The organization is comprised entirely of volunteers who are committed to providing services to survivors in critical need, and also strives to prevent family abuse in Maricopa County.

One vital way the task force aides individuals fleeing abusive relationships is through its Relocation Project. Victims in need of assistance with travel costs are referred through advocates from domestic violence shelters and other social service agencies to the members of the task force. Applications are then reviewed by the Relocation Committee and funds are awarded within twenty-four hours after verification that a place of safety and support is secured. The financial assistance provided may include airfare, bus fare, gas, car repairs, and truck rentals. Food, lodging, and other travel expenses are also supplied.

In 2001 and 2002 the Relocation Project aided 77 women, 2 men, and 100 children; however, funds for this project are severely limited. Assistance from organizations like the Arizona Women's Partnership has been crucial. According to Chairwoman Leah Myers, "The continued success of the Relocation Project relies entirely upon donations from the community and grant funding. One hundred percent of the AZWP grant was deposited into MCTFADA's Relocation Fund, and used to assist battered men, women, and their children. With these funds they are able to relocate to freedom, and a place of safety and support."

With continued support the task force will be able to advocate for underrepresented women. The task force also hopes to keep up with legislation and public issues that concern domestic violence. The Maricopa County Task Force Against Domestic Abuse persists in providing a safe place for members to freely share hopes, frustrations and ideas, and builds a base from which to create a mechanism for change in our society.

Mini Miracles, Inc.

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Mini Miracles was founded in 2007 to provide animal assisted activities to children with special needs, at risk, and in foster care in southern Arizona. We are a small grassroots non-profit organization comprised of non-paid staff and volunteers, along with miniature horses and donkeys, who work together to engage this special population of children.

Our programs were developed to help children transition to a life where they are more confident and socially prepared to engage in activities that are available to the general public. Our animals go to the children in their school or home setting. Often this is their first experience with a miniature horse or donkey and they may be afraid. Overcoming this fear is a real confidence booster and opens the door for their experiences in communication, empathy, respect and trust. At times the animals even make learning math skills fun for children with learning disabilities.

Since its inception in 2007, Mini Miracles has provided services to over 1500 children in southern Arizona free of charge. We work with organizations such as Casa de los Niños, Tucson Alliance for Autism, Tu Nidito, Arts for All and Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind on a regular basis. Working with school districts, we have traveled as far south as Elgin and Rio Rico, which is fifteen minutes north of the Mexico border.

Our goal is to enhance the quality of life for southern Arizona's children, by providing life changing experiences through animal assisted activities, which develop skills that reduce barriers for children with special needs.

Financial support from the Arizona Women's Partnership will allow Mini Miracles to increase the number of children we reach this year.

National Advocacy & Training Network (NATN)
Support, Education, Empowerment & DirectionS (SEEDs) Project

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The mission of the National Advocacy & Training Network (NATN) is to address the health, safety, economic and social justice issues related to domestic violence, sexual assault and substance abuse through education, public awareness and direct services. Support, Education, Empowerment, DirectionS (SEEDs), a project of NATN, was established in January 2003 to address the unmet needs of homeless, battered and/or sexually abused women in recovery. This community-based project provides transitional housing and comprehensive supportive services committed to the physical, mental, and emotional healing of women whose lives have been affected by abuse and addiction. NATN operates three SEEDs homes - one in Mesa and two in Phoenix. Between the three homes, 24 women are served each night.

SEEDs provides transitional housing, case management, support groups, life skills, domestic violence and substance abuse education, legal advocacy and information and referrals. NATN partners with inpatient and outpatient treatment programs, domestic violence shelters and the prisons to identify women who would benefit from the agency's array of services.

With generous support from the Arizona Women's Partnership, SEEDs provided 5,840 transitional housing bed nights to 72 homeless, abused women in recovery in 2008. Seventy-five percent of the SEEDs residents who stayed six months or longer transitioned out of the program and into their community as self-sufficient members of the community. Ninety percent of SEEDs residents who participated in the residential program for six months or longer volunteer for NATN or in their community.

“SEEDs is the only project in Arizona offering transitional housing and comprehensive supportive services to battered and/or sexually assaulted women in recovery. We are very thankful for the financial support from Arizona Women's Partnership”, stated MonaLou Callery, Founder/Executive Director of NATN.

Payson Community Kids

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Marcy Rogers began her mission to improve the lives of low income children and their families out of her small apartment in 1996. Rogers' mission began by chance one day after she approached a small child walking alone at night outside of her apartment. The child, a three year-old girl named Stephanie, and her sister became Rogers' first children. Today, Rogers currently has 60 children and teenagers on her roster.

Due to the organization's rapid growth, Rogers quit her job as the Payson Housing and Development Coordinator and purchased a bi-level home, with the entire first floor devoted to PCK. The privately funded organization provides free after school and summer programs for local children six days a week. Each day the children receive a healthy snack upon arrival, and then begin the numerous activities that await them, which include piano lessons, art classes, tending the vegetable garden, swimming, playing on the playground, drug prevention classes, and Kung Fu, just to name a few.

With the financial support of Arizona Women's Partnership and other organizations, older children and willing parents can also receive work experience and a minimum wage income through Marcy. She currently has ten teenagers on the payroll whose duties include tending to younger children, cleaning, and preparing food.

Low-income mothers are also able to benefit from Marcy's employment opportunities. One mother Marcy employed was eventually able to take a manager's position at the local golf course, and now makes enough money to support her family. "I want to help children in every aspect of their lives to make a big change, rather than just helping little bits here and there. If the parents can change their own lives, that benefits their children as well," explains Rogers.

Rogers not only provides a safe play environment and job skills for low-income families, but also basic needs such as clothing and food. Donations from local food banks are handed out to the children to take home to their families, as well as necessities like underwear, socks, and toothbrushes. Through the combined efforts of Marcy Rogers, the community, and annual grants from the AZWP, the Payson Community Kids are able to lead more productive, healthy, and happy lives.

Power Paws Assistance Dogs

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Power Paws Assistance Dogs is dedicated to providing highly skilled assistance dogs to adults and children with disabilities throughout the United States. Power Paws also provides education and continuous support for working Assistance Dog Teams, as well as resources for individuals in the community with disabilities.

Power Paws trains Golden Retrievers and Labrador Retrievers in 90 commands focusing on assisting those with mobility impairments, such as paraplegics and quadriplegics. Power Paws also provides dogs to the hearing impaired and individuals with psycho/social disabilities, such as fears, phobias and Post Traumatic Distress Disorder. Some of the commands the assistance dogs learn are to open and close doors and drawers, turn lights on and off, push elevator buttons, and retrieve dropped items. Above all, the dogs provide love and companionship to their owners. Since 2001, Power Paws has certified 32 dogs and currently has over 40 dogs in training.

The dog trainers of Power Paws have all graduated from The Assistance Dog Institute where they learn how to select and identify puppies abilities based on their personality, as well as how to cultivate the puppies' talents while they grow to help them succeed. Trainers are also responsible for matching the puppy with their new owner to ensure a long and happy relationship. Power Paws also trains dogs through their High Schooled Assistance Dog Program. This educational program is designed to enhance the lives of at-risk teens through personal contact with animals, and the responsibility of caring for and training dogs. In this program teens learn self discipline, teaching skills, and disability awareness.

With aid from private donors, community support, and a recent grant from the Arizona Women's Partnership, Power Paws is not only helping the disabled, but also helping puppies find good homes, and troubled teenagers find guidance. Most importantly, through their specialized programs, Power Paws Assistance Dogs is able to empower adults and children with disabilities for greater independence.

Recovery Centers of Arizona, Inc

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Recovery Centers of Arizona is a women's grassroots non profit organization. RCA provides women with drug and alcohol dependency education and a safe place to live in order to start the healing process from domestic violence, imprisonment and the degradation of drug use. Working together with Tucson's social services, other non profits, rehabilitation facilities and law enforcement RCA's mission is to educate and empower women to overcome the stigma of addiction and recognize their full potential. It is RCA's goal to give underserved women tools for life skills and the opportunities to become productive active members of society.

While living in this modified therapeutic community RCA and its programs aim to enhance the quality of life for these women. Services offered include: housing, clothes, food, case management; referral and facilitation of individual and group therapy; domestic violence, chemical dependency education, anger management, relapse prevention, parenting training groups; GED referral; money management training; HIV testing and counseling; vocational assistance and job placement; computer classes; linkages to Narcotics Anonymous, Big Book, and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, and connection to medical services, including application for government health insurance. RCA works with multiple nonprofits and organizations in Pima County so the women may receive all the support that is available to them.

With the help of Arizona's Women's Partnership and other organizations RCA is implementing the Holistic Whole Women Program which emphasizes self esteem, self image, and a feeling of competence about one's physical, intellectual and spiritual self. Sample of program activities include Nutrition students and coaches working with the women on nutrition, disease prevention, healthy weight, and mood/mind functioning; outside women speakers will present on topics such as fitness, finance, health, alternative medicine, self image, education, and more.

With continued support RCA can carry on and enhance their programs. RCA promises to stay on the front lines in order to better serve the women of Tucson who are in need of healing from the degradation of drug addiction and domestic violence. RCA's mission is to make available learning tools in order to provide life skills to offer the opportunity for women to become productive members of society.

Shoebox Ministry

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Shoebox Ministries was founded in 1988 by Judy Borgeson when she saw there was a great need for hygiene products by the homeless and working poor. What began as a small venture in the spare room of her home has grown to a full functioning organization with an outreach that has extended across international borders.

Shoebox Ministry continues to be the only organization in the Phoenix area dedicated to restoring dignity to Arizona's homeless through the distribution of toiletries. "There are more than 15,000 homeless men, women and children in the Valley, and helping them can sometimes be a daunting task," explains Director Laura Borgeson. The Shoebox Ministry collects donated toiletries and assembles four different types of personal hygiene kits into a shoebox, all of which last about one month. These shoeboxes are then sent to various shelters and agencies where they are handed out to deserving individuals, making sure they reach those who really need them. Kits are made for men, women and children and include such necessities as shampoo, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, women's sanitary products, socks, and razors.

The ministry also holds drives for special kits during certain times of the year, including Easter Boxes in April, Mother's Day Purses in May and Father's Day Boxes in June. By providing these necessary grooming items, the ministry hopes to build self-esteem, thus improving the chances of homeless men and women returning to the work force and securing a place in society. "Because Shoebox Ministry is always in need of items, and toiletry donations are sometimes hard to come by, support from organizations like the Arizona Women's Partnership have been important," conveys Laura Borgeson.

Volunteers have also been vital to the ministries success, which has impacted not only the local area, but has now become a state wide program. Through the continued support of the community, Shoebox Ministry will be able to further their outreach and help America's homeless and working poor.

Soroptimist International of the San Tans

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Soroptimist International of Mesa

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Soroptimist International of the San Tans is a service club for business owners and professionals dedicated to improving the quality of life for women and families. Serving the East Valley since 1984, Soroptimist International financially supports several different awards programs such as the Making a Difference for Women Awards, which supports individuals, businesses and organizations that advance the status of women; Women's Opportunity Awards, which aid women who need training, education or upgraded skills to become employable; and the Violet Richardson Awards which honor high school seniors who have made outstanding contributions to home, school, community, country and the world.

The club also makes contributions to local non-profits and women's shelters such as Girls Ranch, The Desert Cancer Foundation of Arizona, Paz de Cristo, and My Sister's Place. In addition to these programs, Soroptimist International also provides cash grants for GED candidates, food drives, and other support to the House of Refugee East transitional housing/self sufficiency center for the homeless.

Assistance for these programs is made possible through the contributions of various agencies and organizations including the Arizona Women's Partnership. "The grant funds received from AZWP were utilized to award scholarships to women who have overcome tremendous odds and obstacles, and to advance their education and career dreams. Additional awards were made to recognize women and young girls as well as regional organizations that work in our local community to improve the status of women in society. These awards were made at the club's annual Awards Luncheon in March of this year," explained Public Relations Chair, Deborah Arteaga.

The name 'Soroptimist' is derived from the Latin words "soror" and "optima", literally meaning "the best for women". And through the support of the community, these professional women are achieving just that, the best for the worthy women of the East Valley.

Southwest Valley Literacy Association

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The Southwest Valley Literacy Association promotes pride, self-worth and productivity to adults through the use of immersion style English and literacy programs and community involvement. SVLA, formerly the Buckeye Literacy Association, was started by local librarian Dorothy Hunsman who traveled to the regional dairies and taught workers how to read, write and speak English. Today, SVLA helps individuals from all walks of life not only become literate in English, but also earn their GED and US citizenship. During its pilot years the literacy association classes were taught predominantly by retired teachers.

Director Kim Tengler is appreciative of the community support she receives, but notes that volunteers are becoming more difficult to recruit, especially tutors. "Literacy on any level is so important," says Kim. "Without communication many people can't function in their day to day lives. You hear so many say 'foreigners need to learn English'. Well here's a chance to step-up and help them. Without our help they have no other way to obtain these skills," she notes. Those who participate in the SVLA programs are each given their own reading material so they may study at home.

Support from the Arizona Women's Partnership has provided enough funding for 75 people to receive study materials. "When we received the AZWP grant, I said 'Wow!'" exclaimed Kim. "We had almost depleted our supply of extra books and information pamphlets, it was perfect timing!"

Southwest Valley Literacy Association has changed many lives, including a Dominican man and his family who had been working as a janitor at a local school. He spoke little English, and had tried to take classes, but was forced to move around for work. As a result, he was unable to complete one program. With the help of SVLA he was able to pass his naturalization exam in only six months. "He was so dedicated and just thrilled to death when he passed. It was amazing how much he accomplished in such a short time and great to see how proud he was afterwards," explains Kim.

The Sudanese American Center in Arizona

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The Sudanese American Center in Arizona is a non-profit and non-political organization. It is a cultural, social, and charitable organization for the welfare of the Sudanese Americans, and for the purpose of promoting and celebrating the Sudanese heritage and cultural identity. The Center was organized and incorporated in 2005 and granted 501(a) (3) status in 2006.

To help ease the transition of the members into a more productive life in the local American society is a major Goal for the Sudanese American Center in Arizona. The process of refugee integration begins with resettlement and then assisting them to achieve economic self-sufficiency as quickly as possible after arrival in the United States. Many refugees from Sudan came to Arizona and are still coming.

The Center helps in the integration process by providing the following programs and activities:

- 1) Help the social office and the Sudanese Women's Society organize social days and field trips for women and kids especially for science museums, children museums, libraries, and art museums.
- 2) Workshops and seminars about Health Insurance in America, Tax laws & Income Tax preparation, Applying for Colleges and Universities in Arizona, Real Estate Market, Challenges in Raising Kids in America, Immigration Laws and forms preparation.
- 3) Improve the life style of its members by providing educational, training, business and job opportunities at the local and national levels.
- 4) Provide orientation and guidelines for the advantages and disadvantages of the American culture and lifestyle
- 5) Social Solidarity Fund to help members during unexpected and harsh events.
- 6) Provide translation services for members to help them when filing legal papers.
- 7) Programs for the youth and new generations.
- 8) Organize sporting events and youth activities. The Center has a soccer team for the youth. There are also volleyball, table tennis, and snooker tournaments.
- 9) Electronic mailing list to help us broadcast announcements, programs, activities, and improve the communication level in our Center and community.
- 10) Provide translation services for members to help them when filing legal papers.
- 11) Newsletter every quarter to reflect activities, community news and special topics

The Grant from Arizona Women's Partnership will help the social office and the Sudanese Women's Society organize social days and field trips for women and children. The Center is an All-Volunteer organization and all Grant money will be used for activities. We strongly feel this grant will help us build very strong and good American Citizens with a proud Sudanese heritage.

Timber Trails Children's Project

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Many children that come from low income families in the Greater Phoenix Metropolitan Area have never been outside of the city. Fresh air, pine trees, adventure and the thrill of summer camp are but a distant fantasy for most of these children. However, the organization Timber Trails is helping Phoenix's less fortunate youth experience the summer of a lifetime. When a group of children were preparing to leave for Colorado recently, they described the trip as "exciting" and "emotional...happy". One boy described Timber Trails as "generous" saying, "This is usually a really expensive trip, and it's really nice that kids like us can go, when we normally wouldn't be able to".

This year Timber Trails offered two different programs, one in northern Arizona and another in southern Colorado. Partnering with Deer Hill Wilderness Backpacking Expeditions and Centaur Leadership Horse Program, the children experience one week of backpacking, hiking, riding horses and sleeping under the stars along with an experienced wilderness staff. Both expeditions provide camping gear, sleeping bags, warm clothing and other necessities to the campers as needed.

Through these programs the children learn leadership skills, patience, team-building and self esteem, all important skills to help them better their difficult lives in the inner city. All of the children involved with Timber Trails are living below the poverty level, some qualifying as homeless. Fifty percent of these children are from single parent homes, most with mothers struggling to support her children, and some with one or more parent in prison. They often come from rough neighborhoods, and some have been innocent victims of gang violence, while others face violence in their own homes. Timber Trails provides the children an escape from the sweltering hot Arizona summer, idle days, and an unsafe environment.

According to Timber Trail's founder Elizabeth Hunzicker, the most challenging aspect of Timber Trails is raising funds and writing grants. The Arizona Women's Partnership has been effective in aiding Timber Trails since 2003 through its fundraising and easy grant application. With the support of organizations like the AZWP and several others, more than 575 Phoenix children have been able to experience the lasting joy of summer camp, and hopefully a more promising future.

Tucson International Alliance of Refugee Communities

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The Tucson International Alliance of Refugee Communities promotes the well-being of refugees and immigrants by assisting them to become self-sufficient and integrated into American society. This is accomplished through programs that assist refugees and immigrants, who have been resettled in the Tucson and Pima County region, in areas of family strengthening, social services, housing, child care, education, crime prevention, community health, civic engagement, cultural preservation and leadership development.

Since its founding in 1995, TIARC has become an umbrella organization for refugee communities in Tucson, and every year aids roughly 150 refugees. The most challenging aspect for TIARC is helping the numerous single young mothers, with three to five children, who are illiterate with little to no working experience. Helping them to become as self-sufficient as possible in a short amount of time requires a large supply of funds. The Arizona Women's Partnership contributions over the past five years have specifically aided these single mothers and their children. "The AZWP grant allowed the TIARC to help illiterate women learn basic reading and writing and assist them in finding a job," said TIARC directors, Amra Sabanic and Erina Delic.

Single mothers have also been aided through collaboration with the University of Arizona Honors Civic Engagement Team by running the Liberian Family Literacy Project. Students from U of A visit families twice a week. One group of students worked with mothers in improving literacy and daily life skills, while the other group provided support and assistance to children with homework, study skills, cultural adjustment and other related issues. "We have children who improved their grades at school, a 64 year old woman who learned how to write her name, and a 34 year old single mom of four who learned basic writing skills and was able to find a job," explained Amra.

With continued support from the community and organizations like the Arizona Women's Partnership, TIARC hopes to continue its goal of assisting refugees to achieve economic self-sufficiency, an acceptable measure of social integration into American society, and the ability to utilize mainstream public and private resources so they may thrive in their new home.

United People Who Care Organization

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At the United People Who Care Organization, at-risk youth from the Winslow area are given aid and assisted in developing the qualities they need to become successful, responsible, and contributing citizens. UPWCO is a grassroots, non-profit organization and participants at its youth center could be classified as those who “fall through the cracks,” explains Director Wanda Wilhoite. Participants this summer range in age from 8 to 15 years, and come from poor homes where many of their needs are not being met. Many of the children are part of a cycle of poverty, and experience such setbacks as academic failure, juvenile probation, thoughts of suicide, drug addiction, and detention center and prison incarceration.

UPWCO’s Youth Center and Youth Safe Haven program offer children welcomed respite from the heat and idle summers spent in un-air-conditioned motel residences and city housing. Through these programs participants gain access to mentors and tutoring, predominantly from retired educators. “We serve because we love children, and we loved teaching and mentoring when we were in the classroom,” notes Wanda. Children are encouraged to succeed through homework supervision, computer literacy, drug prevention, diversity, the arts, and a caring environment.

Nearing its ninth anniversary, UPWCO has been made successful due in part to its generous contributors, including the Arizona Women’s Partnership. “UPWCO's budget seems to be too small to generate much interest from the large donors. I am so happy that a board member saw AZWP’s first article in the Arizona Republic and suggested that I send in a request for funding. I am so pleased that AZWP empathizes with the needs that grassroots organizations have. AZWP's contributions are greatly appreciated and helped in getting more recognition as a needed Winslow, small, grassroots charitable organization,” remarks Wanda. By helping the Winslow youth succeed academically, the United People Who Care Organization hope to see them strengthen every aspect of their lives and break the cycle of poverty.

Unlimited Potential

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Unlimited Potential works to empower women, foster the healthy development of young children, and strengthen south Phoenix families and communities. Their philosophy is that education is a means to empower individuals for their own self-fulfillment and participation in the decision-making of the community. Unlimited Potential has offered community based education programs since 1986 to low-income families. Programs offered by Unlimited Potential include early childhood development, family activities, and social services.

The Early Childhood Program works with preschoolers, aged 6 months to 5 years, and their mothers. Parents are actively involved in the activities which help children gain communication, language, socialization, and preschool skills. Other family programs work to build and strengthen family and community ties and include frequent activities such as potlucks, movies, cultural events, and mountain hikes. Social service programs help families acquire needed resources to resolve legal, medical, financial and domestic problems. Many participants also receive assistance so they may enroll in job training and college programs.

These programs are made possible through the hard work of volunteers, board members, instructors and donors. The 2006 grant donated by the Arizona Women's Partnership was specifically influential for a teacher at Unlimited Potential. "The grant will cover partial payroll costs of a preschool teacher, Maria Rivera, in our Early Childhood Program. Maria learned English and got her GED at Unlimited Potential, and is enrolled part-time at South Mountain College working on her AAS degree in Early Childhood Development," explained former Director Jeanne Devine.

"We believe individuals can acquire the skills necessary to overcome formidable economic and social barriers, and become proactive in changing their lives and communities. To this end, Unlimited Potential places considerable emphasis on the power of education and self-esteem," remarked Jeanne. Through the continuation of these educational programs and support of low income families in south Phoenix, women and their children are empowered to discover their potential.

Washington Elementary Education Foundation

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The Washington Elementary School District is committed to achieving excellence for every child, every day, with every opportunity. The mission of the Washington Elementary School District is devoted to student achievement, and preparing all students to become responsible, successful contributors to our diverse society.

United by a passion for learning, the Washington Elementary School District honors achievement, respect, integrity and responsibility as the form of their foundation. By emphasizing honest communication, safety, equal opportunities, and teachers and staff that lead by example, the Washington Elementary School District hopes to aid its students in achieving their dreams.

Washington Elementary School District (WESD) serves a diverse population of more than 25,300 students in north central Phoenix and east Glendale. The largest elementary school district in Arizona, WESD comprises 32 schools; 21 K-6 schools, one K-5, one 6-8, two K-7 schools, three K-8 schools and four middle/junior high schools. All 32 WESD schools earned an achievement profile of performing, performing plus, highly performing, or excelling from the Arizona Department of Education during the 2005 and 2006 school years.

With support from the community and grants from the Arizona Women's Partnership, the Washington Elementary Education Foundation has aided WESD students with such programs as *Head Start*, a free lunch, reading performance through *Read First*, and an English language program supporting the 50 different languages represented at WESD schools.

According to the WESD website, "All WESD students are challenged to achieve through the outstanding educational programs delivered at every level. All of the WESD curricula have been carefully aligned with the state-mandated academic standards, and WESD is a leader among districts in developing and implementing comprehensive student assessments that align with the curricula."

By bringing together students, educators, and community programs, the Washington Elementary School District and Education Foundation are able to supply their students with the skills they need to achieve success in the future. The AZWP, inc. grant enabled classroom teachers to provide enrichment projects for their students.

The Welcome to America Project

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The Welcome to America Project (WTAP), furnishes the apartments of refugees newly resettled by the UN to Phoenix, Arizona from war-torn and oppressed countries worldwide. This mostly volunteer organization collects high quality furniture and household items from donors throughout the Phoenix area, and delivers them free of charge, *on Saturdays all year long*, to refugee families arriving from Somalia, Sudan, Iraq, Burma, Bhutan, Cuba, Afghanistan, and many other countries in conflict. WTAP has two primary, ongoing goals:

- 1) **To furnish the bare apartments** of newly-arrived refugees with quality home furnishings
- 2) **To build bridges of understanding** between the local community and new refugees

Since November of 2001, WTAP has delivered over \$600,000 of in-kind furniture and home essentials to over 550 refugee families. The organization has won many awards for its grassroots, volunteer-driven work, and currently has over 150 active volunteers.

The families that WTAP serves arrive in the US with just the clothes on their backs after spending an average of 6-8 harrowing years in a refugee camp outside their homeland. Although we frequently see refugee stories on the nightly news, we rarely see what happens to them once they find safe haven in a new, foreign land: refugees in America are a forgotten, invisible population. However, the kindness of neighbors and a comfortable home help them heal their painful scars and give them confidence to tackle the issues of assimilating and becoming citizens.

WTAP fills a gap in services to refugee families in Phoenix. *To our knowledge, no other organization or state or federal department provides the furniture and home essentials that WTAP provides to refugees.* Refugee families we have helped tell us again and again that they gain comfort, pride and increased rest from their better equipped homes. In turn, this gives them more confidence to tackle the larger issues of assimilation into a new culture. We believe that a dignified home and neighborly welcome give refugees a better chance for success as they build new lives here in the US.

WTAP operates almost entirely on the efforts of volunteers. From weekly deliveries and home visits to sorting donated household items to admin and fundraising, we offer volunteers a myriad of roles and opportunities to directly improve the lives of refugee families.

WellCare Foundation

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After watching mothers' faces drop when they were told how much a single visit to the pediatrician would cost, Marge Ebeling realized she had to do something to help. In 1999 she used her nursing and chaplain experience and began the WellCare Foundation to aid single working mothers whose incomes are too great to qualify for government aid, but too low to afford health insurance. Body, mind, spirit and emotion are assessed by the nurses at WellCare upon a patient's initial visit, and the women and their children are then given their own health care plan and referred to a practitioner. WellCare and the participating practitioners provide continuing and preventative care all free of charge. The help mothers receive from WellCare can transform a woman's life, and allow her to improve her children's quality of life as well.

The foundation has seen many success stories, such as Francine, a mother and domestic violence survivor who was working a minimum wage job and having trouble making ends meet. After restoring her health, Francine became a "self sufficient warrior," as Marge described her, and was able to earn a college degree, as well as see her two children succeed in school. Women are referred to the program through partners of the foundation, such as Homeward Bound and the YWCA, as well as from medical practitioners and children's schools.

The WellCare Foundation also reaches mothers with their Pay It Forward Bears. The small purple teddy bears are given to mothers in need, and then passed on to others providing information about WellCare along the way. Community exposure has been a large factor in the success of the foundation, and one of the ways the Arizona Women's Partnership has helped. By providing awareness of the foundation, more than 90 practitioners have donated their time and services to the mothers and children in need. Support from the community has enabled WellCare to expand their staff, purchase medical supplies, add more clinics and ultimately reach more mothers. As Marge and her staff say, "everyone knows a WellCare mom". With the support and care this foundation provides, mothers are empowered to raise their children in healthier, happier and more stable environments.

WHEAT Clothes Silo

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The Clothes Silo, a nonprofit program of the World Hunger Education Advocacy and Training organization (WHEAT), began in 1985 and is a women's resale boutique providing professional clothing at no cost to women entering or reentering the work force through client assistance programs. The Client Assistance Program serves over 105 agencies (such as Homeward Bound, Fresh Start Women's Foundation, and the Phoenix Self Sufficiency Program) in the Valley which help Arizona women find suitable work and teach or update their job skills.

In 2004 The Clothes Silo also began the Job Training/Mentoring Project thanks in part to the funding provided by the Arizona Women's Partnership. "The effect of the Trainee Program goes far beyond the life of the Trainee, but to their families and to the additional women that we have been able to serve!" notes Executive Director Tamera Zivic. The Trainee Program serves three distinct job markets, Volunteer Coordination, Retail Management, and Non Profit Management. The program has been quite successful in providing women with the job training and experience they require, as well as increasing their self-esteem.

The very first Trainee in the program, K.M., found a job immediately after completing 200 hours of training, and is pursuing a degree in Nonprofit Management. "We appreciate all that the AZWP do to support women in becoming the best that they can be. You are helping WHEAT and its Clothes Silo make hunger a thing of the past. We are women helping women succeed!" mentions Tamera.

The Clothes Silo is also open to the general public, with proceeds supporting the training and mentoring programs. By purchasing clothing and accessories from the resale store, women are able to help other women better their lives. Through The Clothes Silo's education and mentoring program, new work attire, and the support of partner agencies, Arizona women are able to achieve the necessary skills to become self sustaining and successful.

Women 4 Change

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Women 4 Change is a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing the recidivism rate by teaching incarcerated women to recognize and change the patterns that lead to their arrest and conviction. Our 80-hour proprietary program entitled LifeScripting is specifically designed for women who are about to be released from prison and provides each participant with the ability to conduct her life in the outside world in such a manner that she can control her own destiny, return to her children and family, make a contribution to society, and not return to prison.

LifeScripting takes a unique approach to helping women heal from traumatic experiences including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse incurred as children or adults. Once introduced to the positive systematic processes of LifeScripting, participants can utilize the information and techniques to create their desired behavioral changes. This empowerment enables each woman to experience her uniqueness and ultimate purpose. The result is a new sense of self-love and acceptance at the deepest possible level.

The LifeScripting program provides the tools for the women to change the interpretation and response of any negative experience. Positive results occur by developing new and insightful perceptions and as a result the negative events can become the catalyst for a new and exciting approach to the future. Working with these past experiences allows women to put into perspective the effect that the events have had on their lives; they are then able to reframe the same experiences into learning opportunities. With this information and the tools provided by the LifeScripting program the women can make true internal and lasting change. LifeScripting also addresses drug addiction and recovery.

The unprecedented success of the LifeScripting program has been validated in a ten-year study of released women who have graduated from the program. This study indicates that only 3.2% of our LifeScripting graduates have ever returned to prison. (Our 3.2% return rate is in sharp contrast to the national statistics, which state that 67.7% of those released from prison will return within three years) Over one thousand women have graduated from the LifeScripting program. These women have 3,000 children who will be directly affected in a positive way.

The Arizona Women's Partnership grant helps the women of Perryville prison obtain the LifeScripting materials that are necessary to have these life-changing skills. 100% of the AZWP grant is applied directly to these materials

Yavapai CASA for Kids, Inc.

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The mission of Yavapai CASA for Kids (C for K) is to serve the unmet needs of abused, neglected and/or abandoned children who are in the care of the Court (often living in foster homes) and to support the work of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program and the CASA volunteers. There are numerous instances in which a child needs an item or service that is not funded by any other organization. This is where C for K steps in, providing grants for such things as bedroom furniture so that the child can reside with a relative after being removed from his/her home; essential, non-cosmetic dental work not covered by state medical care (e.g. wisdom teeth extraction); clothing and other personal care items; travel expenses for school activities or dance competitions; after-school program fees, etc. Since 2002, C for K has funded over 280 grants, totaling over \$63,000 (as of Dec. 2009).

CASA for Kids also sponsors family-oriented activities for foster children; operates an Adoption Exchange Mailbox for confidential letter and gift exchanges between adoptive and biological families; provides “celebration cards”: gift cards that are given to foster children when they experience a milestone as positive reinforcement of their achievements; operates a Family Visiting Center to facilitate supervised visits between parents or other family members and children to promote reunification and bonding; and Christmas gifts for all children in the foster care system through the generosity of local individuals, groups and merchants.

In 2010, with the help of the Arizona Women’s Partnership, C for K has undertaken a supplemental clothing project to help offset the impact of statewide budget cuts in 2009 which reduced the already meager clothing allowance for foster children (53¢ per day or \$140 for the year) by 20% to \$112/year! This annual allocation is woefully inadequate when one considers that so many children enter foster care with only the clothes they are wearing at the time. The need for clothing, then, is compounded by the reality that kids wear and outgrow their clothing during the course of a year. When children are already living away from their parents, often separated from siblings, and struggling to adjust to a different home and possibly even a different school, having to wear old or poorly fitting clothing only adds undue stress. Our goal is to provide annual \$50 supplements for as many children in foster care as funding allows.

Y.E.S. For Dine Bikeyah

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Dine' Bikeyah – the Navajo Nation – is a land of rugged beauty and amazing landscapes. It is also a place where many children and families face unique challenges, often while lacking some of the resources that others in our society take for granted.

As a result of these two realities, we have created an outdoor adventure and enrichment program for youth, schools and families across the Navajo Nation. In 1994, Y.E.S. for Dine' Bikeyah was established as a nonprofit organization to address some of the unique situations that Navajo youth face. Over the past 15-plus years, we have offered over 190 outings for youth. Thousands of students have taken part in backpacking, mountain biking and winter sport outings at Grand Canyon, Rainbow Bridge, Navajo Mountain, Chuska Mountains and across the "rez".

Throughout all four seasons and across the vast, West Virginia-sized reservation, Y.E.S. offers great trips for students. Additionally, we also provide school and community-based presentations, service projects and enrichment activities that foster a message of healthy, drug-free living and promote lifelong wellness among the youth. We also publish a student newsletter and a calendar – "A Celebration of Dine' Bikeyah" – that offers youth an awareness and sense of pride in their homeland.

Tour de Rez is a summerlong, 1000-mile+ mountain biking/hiking journey that combines adventure, education and service for the hundreds of participants that take part throughout the summer. The experiences of the Tour helps to reaffirm the students' Navajo identity, while providing amazing adventures and offering opportunities to feel the empowerment that comes from making a difference in the community around us.

While our budget and size are modest, we believe that the impact of our programs – and the youth who take part in them – is very significant and lasting in the lives and communities that comprise the great Navajo Nation.

"We strive to provide opportunities for parents and their children to have positive experiences together in nature. Whether it is spending time together on Tour de Rez, taking part in one of our Grand Canyon family outings or backpacking to Rainbow Bridge, we firmly believe that positive time together as a family can provide lasting healing that leads to a more healthy family life," Tom Riggerbach, Y.E.S. Director