

pinal county town hall volunteers



**Step Up, Involve, Connect: Uniting
Communities Through Volunteerism**

Group in AJ provides support for victims

By Alison Stanton
Copper Area News

Fifteen years ago, the Community Alliance Against Family Abuse (CAAFA) opened its doors in Apache Junction. Since then the CAAFA, which is the only non-profit domestic abuse service provider in Northern Pinal County, has helped many victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

“The CAAFA was

founded by a group of concerned citizens who saw that there were no services in the area for people who are dealing with domestic violence,” said executive director Elizabeth Ditlevson Garman.

“It started out first as a crisis line and then began to offer support groups and now the CAAFA also offers a domestic violence shelter.”

In addition to providing

one-on-one support for victims of domestic violence, Garman said the CAAFA also helps to facilitate youth violence prevention programs in schools throughout Northern Pinal County and far Eastern Maricopa County, including the SanTan Valley.

Garman said although the CAAFA works primarily with women

who have been affected by domestic violence and/or sexual assault, men who are victims are also welcome to contact the non-profit organization for help.

“We can arrange to put men up in an emergency hotel and then into a shelter that will take male victims,” she said.

In addition to providing shelter services, Garman

said the CAAFA also offers legal advocacy services from experts who help victims navigate the often-confusing legal system.

“They can help people with orders of protection, and information about custody and divorce,” she said, adding that going to court can often make victims of domestic violence feel intimidated

or overwhelmed.

“They work to help the victims understand all of this.”

Not everyone who comes to CAAFA for help is necessarily ready to leave their abuser, Garman noted. In those situations, they may choose to only get one-on-one support.

“People want the abuse to end, but not necessarily

Governor Brewer honors Community Advisory

FLORENCE, AZ – They represent business, farming, education, corrections, law enforcement, public health and other professions.

They give tirelessly – each of the 12 logging in excess of 500 volunteer hours per

year. But Pinal County’s Juvenile Court Community Advisory Board just got a big statewide thank you from Governor Jan Brewer in May 2013 after they earned the Governor’s Volunteer Service Award in the Small Organization

category.

The 12 members making up the Community Advisory Board, or CAB, hail from nine different communities and provide essential community support to the juvenile justice system in Pinal

County. Their mission is to ensure that the county’s practices reflect the best interest of youth, families, victims and the community. The CAB provides special services to youth on probation and in detention. An annual

pinal county town hall volunteers

James Carnes.....Publisher
Michael Carnes.....General Manager
Jennifer Carnes.....Managing Editor
Mila Besich-Lira.....Advertising Director
Vicki Clark.....Reporter
Nina Crowder.....Reporter
John Hernandez.....Reporter
Andrew Lubarda.....Reporter
Brittney Smith.....Reporter
Alison Stanton.....Reporter
Annette Barajas.....Office Manager
Courtney Trumbull.....Office Manager

This Special Publication was produced and published by Copper Area News Publishers in cooperation with Pinal County Town Hall for the

26th Annual Pinal County Town Hall

October 16-17, 2013

Harrah’s Ak Chin Resort
City of Maricopa, Arizona

Published at 139 W. 8th Ave., PO Box 60,
San Manuel, AZ 85631.

Telephone (520) 385-2266

Fax (520) 363-9663

Copper Area News Publishers is a proud member of the Arizona Newspaper Association and the National Newspaper Association.

“Volunteering is an act of heroism on a grand scale. And it matters profoundly. It does more than help people beat the odds; it changes the odds.” – President Bill Clinton



Community Advisory Board of Pinal County was honored in May with Volunteer Service Award. Pictured from left are: Representative TJ Shope, member Carson McWilliams, Chair Debbie Martinez holding the Governor’s Volunteer Service Award, Program Administrator Donna McBride, member Trudy Keenan, Deputy Director Denise Smith, member Linda Bakker, member Audrey Longstreet, member Steven Sekrecki and Barbara McGuire. (CAB members who were not present for the photo were John Hernandez, Carmen Duarte, Robert Mendez, Yolanda Ewing and Robert Dolson.)

of domestic violence in STV and QC

the relationship. To take the step to say that domestic violence or sexual assault has happened is scary," she said.

"They need to get to the point where they feel ready to leave, and we will support them until they are."

Garman said she and other staff members at CAAFA definitely see

a demand and need for their services. Although it's hard to see how many people need their help, Garman said watching people overcome the impact of domestic violence is incredibly satisfying.

"That's why we do the work we do, providing a safe place for people," she said, adding that she often sees tangible positive

changes in people over time.

"The way they carry themselves, and the way that they talk and their goals can all change."

Garman recalls a mother of five who arrived at the shelter feeling scared and lacking self-confidence.

"She told me, 'before I came here, I never wanted anything and I never thought I could do or be



anything, but now I know I can.' It's a privilege to be able to help people like her."

To make a financial donation or donate needed items like diapers, toiletry products or toilet paper,

please call 480-982-0205. For more information about the CAAFA, visit <http://www.caafaaz.org>

Board with Volunteer Service Award

Youth Summit provided 80 probationers education on topics ranging from health and fitness to substance abuse and domestic violence prevention.

"This is a very involved group of volunteers, it's not just a steering committee – these people are involved with the youth providing mentoring, support and enrichment," Program Administrator Donna McBride said. "Youth on probation or in detention depend on the involvement of adults who can mentor them and be models of success. No matter how they arrived in the juvenile justice system, our volunteers are there to illuminate the path forward and onward to a successful future."

One of the annual signature events that the CAB presents is the Mock Trial Competition and it's

the only one of its kind in Arizona. Nearly all of the county's Superior Court judges volunteer their time for the day while as many as 200 middle school and high school students take over the courthouse. The students learn firsthand about the justice system by being part of it. This year's event in March marked the 11th annual Mock Trial Competition.

Several of the CAB's other high profile activities include: TALK! Visitors' Mentoring Program, Probation and Youth Justice Center Incentive Program, Drug Court, Youth Summit and GED graduations.

Several years ago, 11 Arizona counties had CABs but many folded due to a lack of state funding. Pinal's CAB got together to discuss the funding plight.

"There was no question

in anyone's mind, this group would carry on their work because it was too important to support the youth of Pinal County," Program Administrator Donna McBride said. "The work they do on behalf of the young people we serve was too important to let money stand in the way."

"Governor Brewer's recognition of the value and importance of Pinal County's Juvenile Court Community Advisory Board is an incredible honor," said Todd Zweig, Juvenile Court Services Director. "Our volunteers support the juveniles, provide educational value to schools and help initiate community service programs that allow youth in the justice system to repair the damage done by their crime. We hope this program can serve as a model for others."

"And in my own life, in my own small way, I've tried to give back to this country that has given me so much. That's why I left a job at a law firm for a career in public service, working to empower young people to volunteer in their communities. Because I believe that each of us - no matter what our age or background or walk of life - each of us has something to contribute to the life of this nation."

~ Michelle Obama

Domestic Violence Statistics

According to information from the CAAFA website:

- A woman is abused every 9 seconds.
- Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury for women ages 15-44.
- 30-45% of teen dating relationships are violent.
- Over 50% of all female homicides are related to domestic violence.

Proudly supporting the Copper Basin communities

Hayden Operations, Hayden, AZ • Ray Operations, Kearny, AZ
P.O. Box 8, Hayden, AZ 85135 • 520-356-7811 • Fax 520-356-3802

profiles in volunteerism

Arline Studley
*Community Activist, Pinal
County Sheriff's Office
Volunteer*

When did you first become interested in public service?

I have a volunteered all of my life from local choir, fundraising events and safety fairs. Since coming to what is now San Tan Valley, I have volunteered for the transition team for San Tan Heights when the Board of Directors was to become homeowner-controlled. I belonged to the Southeast Valley Optimist Club, and have served on the Communications Committee and Elections Committee for San Tan Heights and volunteered for Pinal County Sheriff's Office. I have been on the Board of Directors for Friends of the San Tan Mountain Regional Park for five years and have been President for the last two. I am on the Pinal Partnership Open Spaces Committee. There are other projects that I have been involved with. I've had a hard time saying no to someone or group that needs help and can benefit so many others.

What is your proudest achievement thus far?

There are many achievements that I am proud of but being named 2010 Volunteer of the Year for the Pinal



County Sheriff's Office is probably number one.

What additional improvements to the District 2 region do you strive to achieve?

Better communication on a local level. The Ledger and online news sources are helping but there is still a long way to go. We need better infrastructure and the most commonly heard improvement: Hunt Highway. The county is starting on it and I look forward to seeing it completed. Another improvement this area needs is representation with the County. With a County Supervisor that is now basically devoted to San Tan Valley, hopefully that will improve. I believe there are so many needs here that Supervisor Chase is going to have her hands full. We are a micro-city without the benefits and services of a city.

Who are your personal heroes or role models?

There are a few personal heroes. The trait that all of them share is to give without ever expecting anything in return and to give to those most in need for the betterment of community.

Joyce McClung, 18 years and going strong at the Tri-Community Food Bank

By **Brittney Smith**
*Copper Area News
Publishers*

Joyce McClung has seen big changes with the Tri-Community Food Bank during her 18 years of service and says that volunteering has always been a part of her life.

Joyce, 65 and recently retired, grew up in southern Oregon and moved to Arizona in the 1970s. She earned a Bachelor's Degree at Oregon State University. Looking for an adventure, she then joined a volunteer organization called Vista Volunteers and moved to Casa Grande in their job training program. After that, she attended the University of Arizona and earned her Master's Degree in early childhood special education in 1986. Joyce then moved to San Manuel to teach and is now retired from teaching.

Joyce has been a part of the food bank for 18 years. A friend, who was the chairperson of the food bank at the time, introduced Joyce to volunteering and she started in the mid 1990s. Joyce has an interest in the food bank because she believes it's helping to meet a big need and basic necessity.

Joyce gives 10 hours of her time volunteering per week as the treasurer and secretary where she can be found organizing records, reporting, and purchasing food items at the Mammoth location.



From left to right Joyce McClung, Roberta Coffee (5 years as volunteer), Elaine Ramsey (5 years as volunteer)

Joyce is the lead person on her shifts and other volunteers exchange leading roles when she or the chairperson is absent. Her duties also consist of moving food and packing boxes. Volunteers organize, sort clothing, and process transactions with the congruent thrift store, which helps pay the utilities of the building.

Joyce's favorite things about volunteering are working with others and helping the community. She appreciates the energy of the other volunteers and the friendships she's built with them.

"It also gives the volunteers something.

We become friends, you know," said Joyce.

Joyce believes volunteering is always needed and feels she has learned a great deal as a volunteer.

"I think it's taught me compassion for our community and how many people are in great need," said Joyce.

During her 18 years, Joyce has seen improvements with the food bank. After multiple relocations, it has now settled into a much bigger building which Joyce believes has enabled them to grow thanks to donors, supporters, and the city of Mammoth. She said the

previous locations were a challenge to work with, as one location had a leaky roof which sometimes led to food damage.

The Tri-Community Food Bank officially became a formal nonprofit organization in 2001. It has been volunteer run since its informal beginning in the early 1990s. The food bank currently has 25 volunteers and during the month it services around 370 families, or about 1100 people.

To get involved at the Tri-Community Food Bank, call 520-487-2010 or visit the food bank at 108 Redwood Dr. in Mammoth, AZ.

City of Maricopa CERT

Volunteers ready to serve in the event of an emergency

By Jim Fuller

The City of Maricopa Fire Department organized in 2007. The City was the fastest growing community in the nation in 2005. It's comprised of approximately 52 square miles with a population of 42,000. The department has 63 career personnel, utilizing interested community volunteers.

Volunteering has been a part of the fabric of American life since colonial days. Volunteerism continues across America today, and it continues in many forms in Pinal County and in the city of Maricopa.

In spring of 2012, a form of volunteering grew within the city offering a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training class. What began as a Cadre of seven CERT trained individuals trained in other communities grew to 17 with the completion of Maricopa's first CERT training class. The City of Maricopa became one of the first CERT in Pinal

County. Today, it continues to grow with the start of two additional classes which will graduate 30 new volunteers in November 2013.

When disaster strikes and life safety needs available resources, whom do we turn to in this time of crisis? When our calls for emergency services result in busy signals or the inability to respond because public safety personnel are overwhelmed what do we do? The answer could be as close as our next door neighbor.

While mutual-aid will be activated from adjoining jurisdictions, there may be a delay before they arrive. The primary reason for CERT training is to give people the leadership, decision-making and physical skills to offer immediate assistance.

While people will respond to others in need without training, the goal of the CERT program is to help them do so effectively without placing themselves in unnecessary danger.



These skills can help save and sustain lives until professional help arrives.

The city received a non-matching grant from AZ Department of Homeland Security to equip interested community volunteers with a CERT ready pack to prepare their neighborhood in the event of a disaster.

As people are trained and agree to join the community emergency response effort, the number of members grows; a single community-wide team may be organized to deploy. This follows the Incident Command System principle's of span

of control as regulated through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Maricopa, Arizona doesn't have disasters like a lot of the United States but has Monsoons, Haboobs and flooding as well as a major double-tracked railroad going through town. The major goal is to assist in life safety and protect property for the city of Maricopa until professionals arrive.

For more information, please contact the City of Maricopa at (520) 568-3333 or www.maricopa-az.gov.

profiles in volunteerism

Karen Berg

Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce

When did you first become interested in education/public service?

I honestly don't remember when. It's been such a long time. I



to ensure that this is maintained, even with our explosive growth in the area! There is nothing quite like having the social/entertainment advantages of

Phoenix nearby, but still only know that it was a surprise to me at the time that I received so much from being involved and serving. I thought it would be one way street, that we were the people who would be giving, but what was received in return was much, much greater.

What is your proudest achievement thus far?

I am not sure "proud" is the word that describes it, but I have twice professionally reinvented myself and my career. When I left corporate America, I was able to start and run a successful business from scratch and then sell it. I have accomplished that again in real estate and have been fortunate to find myself in the top five percent of production in the state. Additionally, I am also personally honored to have served with two Hon Kachina Award winners.

What additional improvements to Queen Creek and the surrounding region do you strive to achieve?

I think the Queen Creek area is a wonderful place to live, work and relax outside of the large city lifestyle. I like to strive

to ensure that this is maintained, even with our explosive growth in the area! There is nothing quite like having the social/entertainment advantages of

Phoenix nearby, but still only know that it was a surprise to me at the time that I received so much from being involved and serving. I thought it would be one way street, that we were the people who would be giving, but what was received in return was much, much greater.

What's your favorite thing about this region?

I absolutely love being surrounded by farmland and orchards. I know this won't last forever into our future, but hopefully, QC and STV can work to maintain that open feel. We have a fabulous opportunity as a community to grow and I know that maintaining our own little piece of country feel will be a challenge, but a worthwhile one.

Who are your personal heroes?

My parents are probably my personal heroes. My mom as instilled in me a wonderful enthusiasm and optimism for life. My Dad has taught me what it means to work hard and truly understand what can result from it.

What are your favorite hobbies?

In my spare time, I am an avid veggie gardener and love to hike our local trails. I also love to fish and appreciate that we have so many places close by to enjoy casting that line!

"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love."

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Putting their lives on the line: Mammoth

By **Nina Crowder**
Copper Area News
Publishers

The Mammoth Fire District was founded in 1950. If the members of the community didn't care and remain dedicated the Fire District wouldn't be here today.

Copper Area News Publishers met with five members of the Mammoth Fire District who were available. Each and every one of them show concern for their fellow man and would do anything in their power to help an individual in need. The Fire District isn't just about putting out fires it is any type of emergency situation day or night including calls for rattlesnakes, car accidents,

falls or accidents in the home or any emergency. Fire Department Members are offered and provided training: Fire Fighter 101/102, Emergency Medical Technicians and Emergency Medical Services.

Marty Ponce became Chief of the Mammoth Fire District August 2013; prior to this date Marty had been with the volunteer fire department for about eight years.

"Volunteerism is something I can give back to the community," he said. "It takes a unique individual, someone who is willing to dedicate his time, showing up for meetings/drills on their own without someone to harp on them



Volunteering at the Mammoth Fire Department is rewarding say (from left) Rick Sanchez, Monica Hernandez her two kids, Al Anaya and Chief Marty Ponce. (Nina Crowder photo)

Proudly Serving Arizona

APS is Arizona's largest and longest-serving utility employing thousands of Arizonans. Our company and our employees share a commitment to creating a sustainable energy future for Arizona. We are proud of each and every one of our employees who are dedicated to delivering safe, reliable energy to meet the needs of our customers, our communities and our state. We also appreciate our employees' devotion in providing a helping hand in the communities we serve by contributing more than 133,000 volunteer hours and serving on 300 nonprofit organization boards and committees in 2012.

To learn more about our commitment to building a better Arizona, visit aps.com.



and wanting to help others. When people in the community are in dire situations you are there to help, to comfort, help distract the troubled minds of others and to care."

The drills help prepare members for fire or any other situation they may be inclined to come across.

"You can never be prepared for every situation continually going over what may be expected at a scene or incident by going through the drills hopefully everything clicks when you need it to," he explained.

Monica Hernandez has been with the Mammoth Volunteer Fire District since February 2013. She is always ready to learn, even if the material seems repetitive.

"What may seem repetitive to some of the other members who are familiar from past experience, to the newer

members it is exciting and the opportunity to learn something new," she said.

Monica is a mother of two children ages 18 months and 4 years and a wife to a police officer. Monica has a very caring nature and even as busy as she is with her life she has made the time to give back to the community of Mammoth.

"My first encounter with the Fire Department was last year when I got bit by a rattlesnake and Marty Ponce and Shannon Dominguez came to help me," Monica said. "I am so glad they did!"

Monica had moved here from Tucson and her husband informed her of an opening at the Fire Department she felt that this was something she would enjoy doing because she loves to help others. Nine months later and Monica is still at it and enjoying herself.

Rick Sanchez, another volunteer, said, "The Mammoth Fire District will look at anyone who is interested in joining the Fire District. We want them. We want to make this a big department, a department that people are proud of."

He explained that there is often negativity associated with volunteers who are often overlooked. "Firefighters, first responders, anyone that is volunteering – sometimes the community looks down on them because the community feels they are not capable," Rick said, adding strongly, "I'll stake my life on this fire department."

Rick has been with this Fire Department for almost a year. He started as the Administrator and now is the Chairman of the Fire Board.

"You can't be overly

Fire District Volunteers

prepared," he said. "Heaven forbid if we were to have a Boston or another disaster where the whole town is on fire. We can't be bickering saying that's not my job. We need to help each other and how do we do that, by being proactive instead of reacting to the negative things."

In 2012, the Arizona State Legislature mandated that Volunteer Fire Districts have a Board of Directors. Sanchez was approached to run for the Board and decided he would pursue this. Little did he know he would be appointed Administrator of the Fire Department. It has been a good learning experience and Rick considers each member like a member of his family.

"Everyone needs to be trained if equipment is needed we need to find a way to purchase it, I don't want anyone hurt," Rick said.

Technology has also come a long way. The Fire

Marshall can actually come into a scene and pinpoint where a fire was started with the technology of today imaging machines.

Juan Ponce was Captain of Mammoth Fire District in the mid 1960s. Since he came to Mammoth, Juan said, he noticed the need for volunteerism and has tried to continue in many areas of his life. Juan has spent 15 years as a Scout Master with the Boy Scouts, has been with the Lions Club for many years and anything else he can do in the community. "Marty forgot to mention that he is an Eagle Scout and I am very proud of that," Juan said. Regarding volunteerism Juan said, "It is self satisfaction and you get to keep that in here (pointing to his heart)."

All the members present agreed with Juan.

"I'll tell you what," another volunteer Al Anaya said. "Other than having the Police Department here, the Fire Department

is one of the best things a small town like Mammoth can have. They have been to my house before for me and they did a great job of taking care of me, the response time was very quick which is a good thing since unlike San Manuel we do not have an ambulance service." Al is hopeful some of the younger generation in the area will feel the desire to give back to the community and want to help by volunteering some of their time to the Mammoth Fire Department, he as well as others would like to see some of the younger generations participating.

During the interview with this group of people Jerry from the Knights of Columbus dropped by an award and presented it to Chief Marty Ponce for all the Mammoth Fire Department's hard work and dedication.

The overall feeling from this wonderful group of giving, caring people is

volunteerism is all about helping people and not expecting someone to come up and give you a pat on the back saying good job. It's not to be on the news or be recognized. It is something that you yourself take pride and respect in, you feeling good about what you are able to give back to your community. Being respected in the community and the surrounding communities is important to this Fire Department especially because respect is something that has to be earned it is not just given out freely.

Every Monday at 6 p.m. the Mammoth Fire District holds their drills/meetings. If anyone is interested in volunteering, they are welcome to stop by and pick up an application. Men and women are encouraged to apply. The Mammoth Fire District is located at 114 East Copper Street, Mammoth, AZ or call 520-487-2050.

profiles in volunteerism

Janet Anderson

Polarfest

When did you first become interested in public service/ the community?

All my life I have donated time to different organizations. I am from Billings, Montana where I was a High School Special Ed. Teacher for 13 years. I also was the Area Director for Special Olympics for the same amount of time, for Yellowstone County, in Montana. When I moved here I became very involved with the PTOs at the different schools my children attended and involved with the local Chamber. **What is your proudest achievement thus far?** My three children are my most precious achievements. My goal is to get positive individuals in today's society and once that is done my major job will be accomplished.



Also in my profession, I am one of the top producers for MetLife Auto and Home. In addition it is my 11th year of doing a Winter

Event (Polarfest) and I just love to give our community something to do!

What additional improvements to Queen Creek/ San Tan Valley and the surrounding region do you strive to achieve?

I continue to work with the Greater San Tan Chamber of Commerce to help all businesses strive to be the best they can be. I also help promote the Copper Basin YMCA by being involved and on the board.

Who are your personal heroes?

My brother is one of my Personal Heroes. He is so smart and such a kind person and I just wish I could be more like him!

Margaret Gaston – Kearny Food Bank

By Vicki Clark

Copper Area News Publishers

Not long after the Kearny Food Bank closed its doors, Margaret Gaston along with several others decided that there was a need for such a facility in the community. The group first met to decide how this could be accomplished perhaps with a fund raising effort.

Margaret soon made contact with the Food Bank in Coolidge who offered to bring in food once a month and the Copper Basin Food Bank was born.

Margaret worked tirelessly to make it work, doing everything from setting up tables to handing out the commodities. She also served as

president of the organization.

But the food bank is not the only group she volunteers with. She has also lent her time for years to the Copper Basin Chamber of Commerce coordinating the Pioneers Days Parade and the Electric Light Parade and also helping out during these celebrations.

She is active with the Volunteers in Police Services and volunteers in many capacities at her church.

Margaret volunteers because she sees a need and enjoys giving time to her community.

To find out more about the Copper Basin Food Bank, contact Donna Maydew at 520-363-5346.



Margaret Gaston

Through the system: CASA volunteer is

By Donna McBride and Pam Burke

*Pinal County Juvenile Court
CASA Program*

I want to tell a story. The ending hasn't really happened yet. This is a journey about my life. You see I was a foster kid along with my brothers and sister. I was afraid from the day we were taken away from our parents.

That fear has been my shadow, turning into distrust, shame, feeling sorry for myself and depending only on myself. Nothing was explained to me and my future was uncertain. I was separated from my family. I was so confused; why did my parents let this happen to me, was it my fault, don't I deserve a family? What did I do wrong?

I grew up in the foster care system drifting in and out of relationships and trying

to be 'normal' whatever that was. But the fact is, I never felt 'normal.' How can that happen when you don't know from day to day where you will be living, where you will be going to school or who will be there for you. I was on 'survival mode' just trying to get by. I had 4 different case workers, lived in 6 placements including juvenile detention and a number of group homes and attended 5 different schools.

Every time I had to change places my personal stuff was usually tossed in a trash bag. Some of my childhood is just a blur with no school pictures, no mementos of achievements from school or a parent cheering me on at my little league games. Living in the foster care system meant that no one was permanent in my life. It was a revolving door of case workers, attorneys, foster

parents, therapist, teachers and judges.

Then I turned 18, a time for young people to spread their wings... I was an adult in the eyes of the court; 'aging out' of the child welfare system is what they call it. I call it fending for myself. I had never paid rent, bought groceries or managed my own expenses. I went from someone telling me what to do and how to do it on a daily basis to being lonely and afraid. On my own for the first time in my life, I had no one to catch me if I fell... I was responsible for surviving in a world on my own. I felt so alone – again.

As a child I was an innocent victim but as an adult I had to make decisions and those decisions would help me to shape my destiny. I was forced into a system that tried to care for me but did not prepare for

being an adult. I knew could continue to be a victim of my circumstances or I could turn those negatives memories in my life into motivation to push forward. If only I had made more positive choices I would have no regrets. I cannot erase my past but I can tackle those obstacles head on and move forward.

Even though I grew up away from my family, who were dysfunctional at best, I met some great people that looked beyond my fears and distrust and accepted me for who I was. One of those people included my Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Volunteer. He listened to me when no one else was willing, he believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. He advocated for my best interest in/out of court and he encouraged me to follow my passion. I will never forget



what my CASA did for me even though I didn't always tell him thank you.

My journey is not over but I do see light at the end of the tunnel. After struggling with homelessness and not being able to hold down a job, I finally earned my high school diploma. I now have a fulltime job and go to school part-time. I am unsure of what I want to be when I "grow up"...but I do know that I have forgiven my past, triumphed over the challenges and can now focus on the person I was meant to

be.

My 'hometown heroes' are all the kids in foster care that have decided to change their life by looking beyond their past to a future that is whole and bright. These youth cannot do it alone. They need the support and compassion of healthy adults and a community willing to give them a chance. According to United Friends of the Children (UFC), "Youth often state that it was the presence of one caring adult that made all the difference."

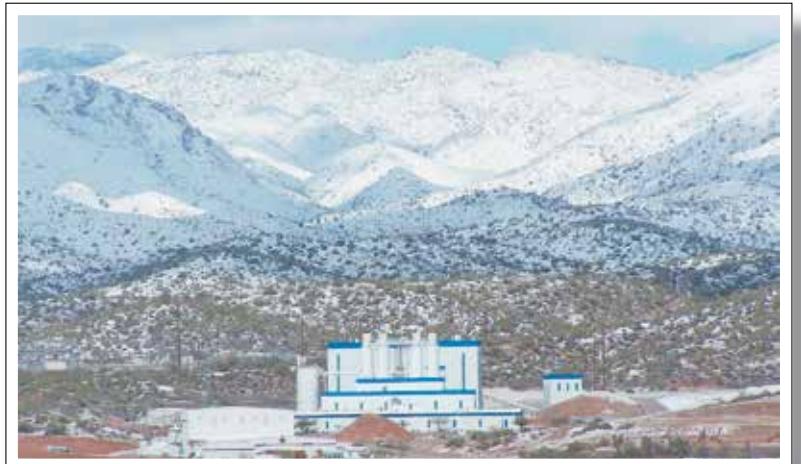
6 N. Mesquite Road
Superior, AZ 85173



For Information call:
520.689.2501

Omya Arizona supports through donations:

- Superior School District
- Town of Superior
- Superior Little League
- Superior Fire Department Christmas Toy Drive
- Superior Optimist
- Superior Chamber of Commerce



hometown hero

Fred Roger's from "Mister Roger's Neighborhood" said, "We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say 'it's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.' Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider these

people my heroes."

As a community you can be an advocate to one of our 'hometown hero' youth by becoming a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), becoming a foster parent, being a mentor, or employing a youth and help them to start their future.

Only 1 out of 9 foster children in Arizona has a CASA Volunteer. Pinal County has approximately 700 children in foster care with 65 active CASA volunteers. Would you like to get involved? Call the Pinal County CASA Office at 520-866-7076.

CASA Volunteers Making a Difference!

- Assisted 18,203 children to find a safe and permanent home
- Spent over 1.2 million hours serving Arizona's abused and neglected children
- Driven over 8.8 million miles to visit and assist foster children in Arizona

Bill Loehr – Copper Basin Area Volunteer

By Vicki Clark

Copper Area News Publishers

President George W. Bush in his inaugural address in 2001 said that Americans should be "citizens, not spectators," says the all time ultimate Copper Basin area volunteer William (Bill) Loehr.

He has always sensed a need to help and through that need he has volunteered in the following ways in the past and current. In the Boys Scouts as a Scout Master, serving in the United States Navy as Petty Officer 1st Class, Vice President of the Copper Basin Chamber of Commerce, Past President of the Kearny Rotary Club, Exalted Ruler for the Kearny Elks Lodge, and Sergeant as an Arizona Ranger where he continues to serve.

He is also a member of the Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) in Kearny, is board member and trustee at the Church of the Good Shepherd,

and has served on the board for Arizona Rural Education Alliance (AREA).

He has also helped create the Cyber Café and serve on the board for Hayden area kids, coordinate Basketball Summer Camps for the kids in Kearny and Hayden and in the surrounding areas, helped to coordinate proper disposal of electronic waste in the Hayden and Kearny areas, participated in the 100 year Celebration of Arizona, and organized the 100th year Hayden Operations celebration.

He can be spotted helping with Soccer Shoots, Hoop Shoots, Pioneer Days celebrations, Oktoberfest celebrations and much more events throughout the Copper Basin area.

He said that he could not do all that he does without the help and support of the people and the company he works for ASARCO LLC.



Bill Loehr

He added this: Bush said. "My call to people is, there's always a need. You should be volunteering not because of 9/11; you should be volunteering because our country needs you."

Contact any of the above organizations for more information about volunteering.



**Come See Why
Everybody's Smiling
at the Goose!**



Our Profits Support:
SaddleBrooke Community Outreach &
Catalina Community Services

15970 N. Oracle Rd., Catalina, AZ

**Open: Tues-Fri 10am to 2pm & Sat 9am to 2pm
Donations Accepted: Mon-Sat 8am to 3pm**

GoldenGooseAZ.com

520-825-9101

The Golden Goose Thrift Shop is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization.

Superior Food Bank – Volunteers feeding Superior

By Mila Besich Lira
Copper Area News
Publishers

In the community of Superior, there is a natural sense of neighbors helping neighbors, families coming together in times of crisis and joy. Year after year headlines in the *Superior Sun* told how the community comes together, often despite their differences. Feeding each other has long been a priority for the community.

Decades ago there was not an official food bank in the community, but rather a small group of committed individuals who kept a project running called Project Happy Face. These selfless volunteers were the go to people in Superior when a family needed a hand up in times of need. Project Happy Face volunteers' major project each year was to ensure that everyone who needed a holiday meal had a holiday meal or the ingredients to make their own, delivered to their

homes. This group would also send special holiday packages to those who just needed a little cheer over the holiday season. These dedicated volunteers set a strong foundation for what would become the Superior Food Bank.

Once long term economic uncertainty became a reality in Superior the need for a dedicated food bank became a necessity, not just a nice thing to do, thus Project Happy Face turned into the Superior Food Bank, a 501c3 non profit, whose mission it is to ensure that no one goes hungry in Superior.

Today the Superior Food Bank is one of the few food banks in Arizona that does not have any paid staff; fifteen volunteers work together each month to order, purchase pack and distribute food. Those volunteers also do all the grant writing and fundraising for the organization. From pancake breakfasts, fried chicken dinners and their

annual Valentine spaghetti dinner these volunteers work tirelessly to keep residents of Superior from going hungry. The Town of Superior allows the food bank to operate out of one of their buildings, for no rent. In exchange for the space, the food bank manages the repairs and utilities for the building.

As the holidays approach, the board of the food bank looks forward to the corporate, individual and business support they receive, but they also look most forward to working with the kids at the school, who assist the food bank with a district wide grocery drive.

The Superior Food Bank receives the majority of its food from United Food Bank. When the United Food Bank is low that often means the smaller communities will receive less food.

The cycle of hunger is something that never really ends, the race never complete to feed everyone



who needs a meal. Dennis Van Gorp a board member of the food bank explained that as the community lost jobs this year, the demand for food boxes went up. Somehow, somehow they continue to find a way to serve everyone who needs food.

The board remains resilient, despite the never ending cycle. Currently their biggest needs are more groceries for the shelves or funds to buy more groceries and they are working on a grant to help purchase a new commercial freezer. The board is also

looking for two more board members.

To support the Superior Food Bank or find out if you qualify for their services please contact Denis Van Gorp at superioraz.foodbank@gmail.com or 520-827-0988.

Mike and Shona Brinkerhoff – Coolidge Bears Youth Football and Cheer

By Andrew Luberdia
Copper Area News
Publishers

Mike and Shona Brinkerhoff have been married for 15 years and have four children – Jaren (25), Hayden (14), Brodee (12), and Emillia (9). Mike has been coaching in the organization for the past six years and currently is the coach of Brodee's Pee Wee team. Shona also has been involved with the organization, primarily with Cheerleading, during the past six seasons. Shona said this is the first year she has not been actively involved in the cheer program; instead transitioning to the increased clerical

duties. Three years ago Mike and Shona accepted the positions of President and Vice President, respectively, in addition to their ongoing coaching and clerical responsibilities. Mike and Shona say they spend between 9 – 12 months per year working in some capacity for the CBYFC and enjoy the opportunity to give back to the community.

“Because we care about community, that’s it,” Shona answered when asked why her and her husband volunteer so much of their time. “We care about the kids in our community.”

“(CBYFC) is something

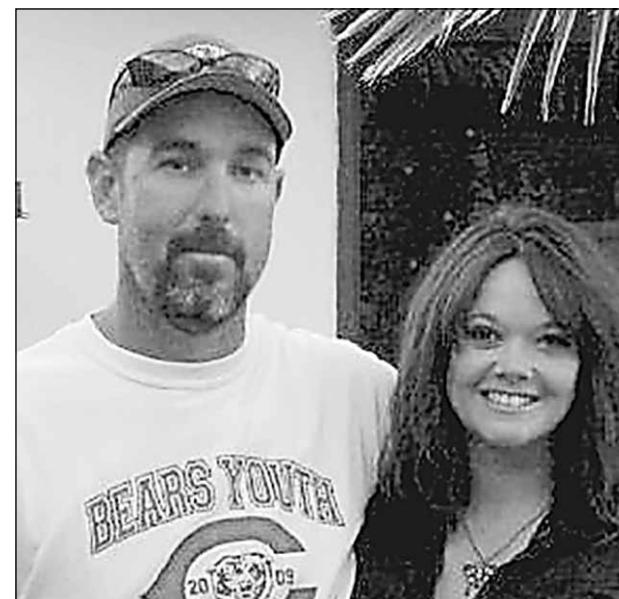
we really care about it’s something we’re really passionate about.”

Mike added that the cooperation from the City of Coolidge, the Parks and Recreation Department, and Coolidge High School is equally important to the success of the CBYFC organization.

“I love the game, I love football, and I love to see the kids’ progress,” Mike said when asked why he donates his time and effort. “I love to see them start at six years old with two left feet and by the time they get up to the Pee Wee league – 11 and 12 years old – it’s fun to watch the kids’ develop.”

CBYFC is a member of the Desert Storm Youth Sports League with three teams competing in the league – Mighty Mite, Jr. Pee Wee, and Pee Wee. It teaches local area youth the fundamentals of football in safe and supervised setting. Additionally, it provides cheerleaders the instruction to increase the participation of the fans at their sporting events. Both football players and cheerleaders learn the value of teamwork, leadership, and sportsmanship.

More information on the CBYFC organization can be found at: www.coolidgebearsyouthfootball.com.



Mike and Shona Brinkerhoff

Nan Nasser and Ken Sharkowicz, SaddleBrooke Community Outreach: It's All About the Kids

By John Hernandez
Copper Area News
Publishers

SaddleBrooke Community Outreach has been making an impact on the lives of thousands of needy children for the last 15 years. Their programs provide support for children in communities throughout the Copper Corridor area, from Catalina to the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation. The 100 mile service area includes the communities of San Manuel, Mammoth, Oracle, Winkelman, Kearny and Superior. Their programs include Kids' Closet, Teen Closet, Tutoring, College Scholarships, Enrichment Programs, Holiday Food Baskets & Adopt a Family, Back Pack/School Supplies and they support the Tri-Community Food Bank. SaddleBrooke Community Outreach is run entirely by volunteers. Two of these volunteers are Nan Nasser and Ken Sharkowicz.

Ken Sharkowicz is originally from Rome, New York where he worked as a civil servant for the Air Force for 37 years. Ken was a Technical Program Manager. He joined SaddleBrooke Community Outreach in 1999. He was one of the first men to join the group. Ken is an advisor to the Board. He organizes the fundraisers such as the Walkathon and Home Tours. The Health Fair he helps organize brings in 70 medical agencies and provides free medical screening for people in the area. Ken also helps provide transportation for people to doctor's appointments and to pick up prescriptions. He

also designed the brochure used by SaddleBrooke Community Outreach.

Ken started volunteering at a young age. He said his father was a good role model, volunteering over 40,000 hours for a hospital. "I get great satisfaction out of providing for the kids in our service area and working with hundreds of nice people," he said. He believes that people should volunteer because everybody at some point in their life is fragile. "I was one of them," he said. "There is always somebody who needs something from older people in SaddleBrooke to kids in the community whose families are going through hard times. I have the knowledge and skills and can put them to use to help somebody else."

Nan Nasser moved to Arizona from New Jersey. She did clerical work in a school system. She was a Girl Scout leader for 13 years and volunteered at the school. Nan volunteers because she likes it and believes kids are the future. "We see the good we can do by getting involved with kids," she said.

Nan told the story of how the Kids' Closet got started.

Dorothy Stefano had a daughter Laurie who worked at the school in San Manuel. She would tell them about kids that were having to share clothes with their siblings and that some of these kids would not go to school because some days they did not have nice clothes to wear. Some of the women in SaddleBrooke began researching what was needed and what organization was meeting



Nan Nasser and Ken Sharkowicz

the needs. They found out no one was providing the needed service to the area. The ladies began collecting used clothing. They took enough clothes to the school in San Manuel to provide 325 kids with clothing. The next day every kid was at school. The Kids' Closet now provides new clothing for needy kids in eight school districts and 20 schools.

Nan believes that volunteering provides health benefits. The many volunteers that live in SaddleBrooke keep active and say they feel better when they are volunteering. Nan said, "There is more to life than tennis and bridge. Our lives have been good and now it's time to help somebody else."



Central
Arizona
College

Thank you to those who
volunteer in our communities.



San Tan Campus



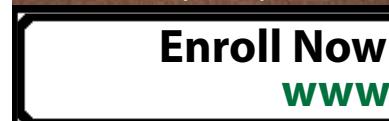
Maricopa Campus



Signal Peak Campus



Superstition Mountain Campus



Aravaipa Campus

Enroll Now for Spring Semester
www.centralaz.edu

profiles in volunteerism

Mary Gloria

Founder, Pan De Vida Foundation

When did you first become interested in community activism/public service?

My parents were very compassionate. They

helped our neighbors by picking fruit or vegetables left in the fields after the harvest, and taking it home, where folks would come and carry away a bag or bucket of the items our family had picked for their use. By their example, my parents instilled in us their values: love, help and compassion of those in need.

What is your proudest achievement thus far?

Each program that we have started has been an accomplishment in itself. Pan de Vida started a food bank to improve the nourishment of area children. At the time, there was only one other food bank, now there are many. I was very pleased, that Pan de Vida Foundation was able to partner with the town of Queen Creek to start a senior center for folks who wanted and needed to socialize near



home.

Recently, it was the promotion of paving of dirt roads in the Valley of the Sun Estates. This area turned into a dust bowl

in the mornings as folks left for work and in the evening when they came home. The neighborhood lived in a cloud of dust, which was a danger to the children, as well as, to the senior citizens and adults of the area. We have also been doing health fairs for years.

What additional improvements to the San Tan region do you strive to achieve?

Pan de Vida Foundation has an explorer's program in the works which we hope to start at the end of February. It will be a monthly, kids and parents walking, hiking, swimming, horseback riding.

What's your favorite thing about this region?

The desert and mountains, the wide open spaces and the people.

Who are your personal heroes?

Mother Teresa, Gandhi.

Environmental Concerns Organization,

Environmental Concerns Organization, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that focuses its efforts on the promotion of environmental stewardship and sustainable community development projects. Environmental Concerns Organization, Inc. (ECO) was established in 1996 and operates three divisions:

The Recycling Association of Maricopa (RAM) is a community solid waste transfer and recycling "drop-off" facility located in the City of Maricopa servicing a 400 square mile area. RAM accepts more household recyclable commodities for recycling than any other collection facility in the State of Arizona.

ECO Restoration Society (ERS) was established to assist in the cleanup and restoration of a critically threatened riparian wildlife habitat area. Since its inception, ERS has sponsored cleanup events that have helped clear thousands of tons (millions of pounds) of waste

and tires from our beautiful Sonoran Desert - the majority of which, ERS volunteers recycled.

ECO One Earth Products, "Products for a Sustainable Future" was created to stimulate economic development through the marketing of environmentally conscious products. ECO One Earth Products are made exclusively from post-consumer, recycled materials. The mission of ECO One Earth Products is to promote the "buy recycled" message.

ECO's Executive Director, Gina D'Abella, believes that if you want to make the world a better place, start in your own backyard. Ms. D'Abella has volunteered over 40,000 hours of her time with ECO and on many local community committees and task forces over the past 18 years. Following the incorporation of ECO in 1996, she attended the 1997 Pinal County Town Hall, "Environment & Growth, the Delicate Balance", wherein she was nominated

the Chairperson for the Pinal County Environment & Growth Task Force. That year-long appointment resulted in a final report presented at the 1998 Pinal County Tall Hall and volunteer involvement in numerous Pinal County planning efforts from then to now.

ECO facilitates volunteer projects by collaborating with local community residents, businesses, civic & nonprofit organizations, and governments. ECO has been awarded numerous grants since its inception to further along its mission, which would not have been made possible without the collaborative efforts of the aforementioned entities. For example, ECO works directly with the Pinal County Juvenile and Superior Courts, Municipal and Justice Courts as a Community Service Provider. Thousands of juveniles and adults have been court-appointed to "volunteer" for ECO and their nonprofit environmental

projects since 1997.

"It is our moral and social responsibility for each of us to make an effort to positively affect the betterment of our local community to sustain the quality of life for future generations", says Ms. D'Abella. She advocates volunteering on local committees, for local nonprofits, or choosing to volunteer for a local community Event each year. She started by volunteering in 1995 on the Motorola Recycling Committee, which led her to learn more about founding ECO and its first d.b.a. the Recycling Association of Maricopa. A native Arizonan, she moved to a rural Pinal County community in 1989 called the Town of Maricopa. After moving into her new home, she discovered that there lacked a curbside refuse collection service. Upon riding her horses in the neighboring desert, she soon learned how many local residents chose to dispose of their trash and tires. She

Heritage District Citizens Advisory Committee

The City of Maricopa adopted a Redevelopment District Area Plan in 2009 to improve quality of life in the community and encourage private investment and revitalization in the city's core. The plan was developed through extensive public input and provides a 20-plus year strategy for the revitalization of a 3.1 square mile area known as the Heritage District. This area includes the community's three oldest neighborhoods, which were built long before incorporation and houses Maricopa's longest tenured residents. The vision is to make it a destination place for residents and visitors with a look and feel celebrating Maricopa's roots as one of Arizona's original agrarian, railroad communities.

The Heritage District Citizens Advisory Committee was es-

tablished to monitor progress towards achievement of the plan, champion specific projects, and promote the continued involvement of community stakeholders in all decision-making. The seven-member committee is appointed by the Maricopa City Council and represents Heritage District residents, businesses and property owners. The following are just some of the many ways these dedicated volunteers have worked to improve quality of life in the Heritage District.

Cleaning Up the Area

Grant funds were received from the Gila River Indian Community in 2009 and 2010 to provide cleanup assistance in the Heritage District. A three-week bulk garbage cleanup in early 2010 resulted in the removal of more than 130 tons



of trash and a large amount of recyclable materials, including 783 automobile tires, 62 bike tires, 26 appliances, 49 televisions/monitors, five car batteries and 44 cubic yards of miscellaneous scrap metal. More than 25 residents participated directly in the cleanup efforts and 159 volunteer hours were generated. Special request projects were also completed, such as construction of an ADA accessible ramp to a resident's home, repainting of a home and demolition and removal of a blighted trailer and shed.

In 2011, phase two of the

cleanup efforts provided additional tire cleanup (8,488 at project completion), general refuse removal (over 138 tons of material) and blighted structure removal. This was highlighted by more than 400 cubic yards of waste and 1,767 tires being removed from one property alone.

"The cleanups were a great way for us to help people in the Heritage District," said Renate Chamberlin, longtime Heritage District resident and Committee member. "Many of the older residents had always wanted to clean up their properties, but

Inc. – Starting in their own backyard

vowed then to get involved in beautifying her community.

There are many other ways in which we can affect change for the better in our local communities; how we vote, what we purchase, and how we participate in our local recycling programs. ECO's Recycling Association of Maricopa began a residential curbside recycling program for Maricopa residents in 2004. Although no longer processing the items collected curbside, ECO assisted the City of Maricopa by writing and administering grants for residential curbside recycling - resulting in over 90% of the City residents now having a curbside recycling bin service via contracts with their homeowner's associations. This was a tremendous help to ECO's, then all-volunteer staff, who were trying to keep up with the processing of the recyclables collected - in the fastest growing City in the U.S. under 100,000 people - during that time.

"The simplest and least expensive way that you can

make a difference in your community, is to simply learn what is and is not acceptable in your residential curbside recycling program", says Ms. D'Abella. She also recommends keeping updated on:

- 1) learning where you can "drop off" other recyclables that are not accepted in your curbside bin,
- 2) participating in Community Cleanups in your neighborhood, and
- 3) participating in Special Recycling Events in your community.

"Your only investment is time," she exclaims, adding "ECO's RAM facility offers a safe and convenient location for annual Copa Cares Community Cleanup Events, Free "dump" Day Events, Tire Recycling & Household Hazardous Waste Events, and Electronics and Appliance Recycling Events." In an effort to expand ECO's philosophy of facilitating Maricopa residents with diverting as much as they can from the landfill, they also



offer a location where local residents can "rummage" through usable furniture and other household items, "Our RAM facility is conveniently located in the heart of the City, where residents can donate their usable furniture, clothing, and other household items for others to enjoy!"

ECO is currently seeking volunteers to mentor young adults and "at-risk" youth

in job skills training for transforming locally collected recyclable items into usable treasures for purchase at RAM. Whether you are skilled in woodworking, metals/welding, jewelry-making, sewing or would like to help with the sales and marketing of ECO One Earth Products, please contact Gina D'Abella by email at: learth@cox.net.

– Improving quality of life in Maricopa

didn't have the means to do so. I'm proud that we were able to provide that assistance."

Building toward a Vision

The grant funds secured in 2010 were also used to complete a Heritage District Design Guidelines document to promote future development that reflects the desires of the local community and appropriately represents Maricopa's heritage. The design guidelines address both commercial and residential development, creating a template for new construction that is "attractive, high-quality, and contribute(s) to a visually cohesive built environment reflecting Western and Agrarian architecture." Adopted by the Maricopa City Council in June 2011, the guidelines have been successfully applied to several recent development and redevelopment projects.

"People in the Heritage District are proud of the area's history and want to preserve it as much as possible," said Brian Foose, Committee Chairman. "The design guidelines were an important step toward ensuring that new development recognizes that history and enhances the Heritage District's unique character within the city."

The Committee was also instrumental in the creation of the Heritage District façade improvement program, which launched in fall 2012. Designed to stimulate revitalization and private sector capital investment, the program enables commercial and residential property owners and tenants to receive reimbursements for eligible, pre-approved façade improvements. Projects incorporating elements from the design guidelines are given

additional points during the scoring process. Three projects, one residential and two commercial, have been completed through the pilot program. **Supporting Neighborhood Amenities**

In spring 2012, the Committee awarded \$1,285 of its remaining grant funds to the Maricopa Rotary Club for improvement projects at Rotary Park. The funds supported new irrigation lines and sprinkler heads, new barbecue grills and repainting of a ramada. A number of other projects have since been completed, including installation of additional grills, two horseshoe pits, a basketball hoop and new picnic tables.

"Rotary Park gives people in the Heritage District a place where they can play, relax and gather for neighborhood

events," said Alma Farrell, former Committee member and past president of the Maricopa Rotary Club. "The Heritage District Committee's generous gift helped us to complete some much needed improvements and make it an even better place for families to enjoy."

Most recently, the Committee supported the creation of the Heritage District's first pocket park. Lexington Park opened in April 2013 and amenities at the 0.34-acre park include a grass play area, decomposed granite path, benches and shade trees.

Visit maricopa-az.gov for more information on the Heritage District Citizens Advisory Committee and to view upcoming meeting agendas. Committee meetings are open to the public and generally held on the second Thursday of each month, at 6 p.m., at City Hall.

profiles in volunteerism

Lina Austin

Future Forward Foundation

When did you first become interested in community activism/ public service?

My public service began in high school and my community activism began in college. My father taught by example, always feeding and encouraging our low-income neighbors. He supported me through Girls State, cooking competitions and regional church meetings where I helped to design the curriculum for teen retreats. Soon after that I lost both parents. I had one brother in Vietnam and another with a low draft number. It was natural to join the campus anti-war activism in college. During my professional career, I always allotted volunteer time including 15 years at the Heard Museum, being a Girl Scout leader & Council member, ARISEIA president and more. In Pinal County, I was the executive director of the Florence Chamber and I ran for Mayor of Florence in 2012. Also, I own a business and serve as the executive director of the Future Forward Foundation, Inc. (3F).

What is your proudest achievement thus far?

Defeating pride. Spiritual awareness means subduing the ego which requires daily diligence.

My greatest achievement is to be in service to others. Early on I was often promoted to the president of most groups that I joined. Great care should be given to which groups you join because the essential journey is often solo. Now I delight in marshaling all of my abilities to complete service projects from behind the scenes.

What additional improvements to Florence and the



surrounding region do you strive to achieve?

Each part of our region has its own needs. Florence needed beautification, so 3F and volunteers painted 14 separate buildings in

the last five months. We focused on properties at the entrances into Florence to help attract economic development. San Tan Valley needs a town center and feeling of cohesiveness. Superior needs new industry and Coolidge is doing great with new ideas and very talented leadership. Queen Creek retains its agricultural heritage, providing leadership in local food production. This spring, 3F is planting eight backyard gardens to have enough locally grown produce for a farmer's market in 2014. We got most of our plants from the Queen Creek nurseries. My major interest is economic development and creating sustainable jobs.

What is your favorite thing about this region?

We all have a chance to build this region from scratch right now. There is a place for everyone's talent and fresh ideas. I love the wide open spaces and rural lifestyle. My hope is that we use an enlightened model to make Pinal County a model place to live.

Who are your personal heroes?

Harold Geneen from ITT who set the standard for a human's capacity to manage huge tasks. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor who said that the Hopi and Navajo judicial systems strive for harmony in legal decisions, not only to win. Oprah who made spiritual discussions normal. Our talented U. S. military, protecting us from harm.

Rosie Nute and Katiee Doll – Casa Grande Regional Medical Center

By Alison Stanton
Copper Area News
Publishers

When Rosie Nute moved to Fiesta Grande RV Resort in Casa Grande two decades ago, she wanted to find a place close by where she could volunteer. She chose Casa Grande Regional Medical Center, which is located just one mile from Nute's home.

Fast forward 20 years, and Nute is still regularly volunteering at the Medical Center. Nute's responsibilities have included working in Admissions, the Gift Shop, Medical Supplies, the Full Service Lab, and Pathology. Currently, Nute volunteers in the GI Lab and Endoscopy departments, where she helps with a wide variety of tasks including checking in the patients' time as they arrive, the time they

go into the lab, helping with the coffee cart that is offered to the patients' drivers and guests, and directing people to different locations in the hospital.

"I have enjoyed it all and have learned new things in each department," Nute said, adding that she is very glad she decided to start volunteering at Casa Grande Regional Medical Center.

"I call it my second home. I love the people who work there. Our President and CEO, Rona Curphy, is doing a great job leading us. We all appreciate what she does to keep improving our hospital, and it is a very nice place to volunteer."

Kaitée Doll, the Volunteer Services Coordinator, Marketing Coordinator and Photographer for Casa Grande Regional Medical

Center, said they currently have over 50 volunteer assignments throughout the 177-bed facility. These include tasks that fall into four general categories: patient contact, clerical, customer service, and support services.

"We typically place volunteers in one 4-hour shift per week on the same day and time so that the volunteer and the department have consistency in their schedule," she said, adding that last year, 279 volunteers provided 27,233 hours of service.

"People volunteer for many individual reasons, but they stay at CGRMC because we value them. This is demonstrated by providing them a free meal on days they volunteer, including them in hospital celebrations, and taking them to the



movies once a year for our annual appreciation. Our departments take the volunteers under their wing and make them feel a part of the team."

Doll said that Curphy also raves about the group of

volunteers every chance she gets, taking the time to learn their names and letting them know how much she personally appreciates them.

For information on becoming a volunteer,

contact: Kaitée Doll, Casa Grande Regional Medical Center, 1800 E. Florence Blvd., Casa Grande, 520-381-6541. People may also apply online at www.casagrandehospital.com/volunteer

Casa Grande Regional Medical Center

CGRMC celebrates the difference our volunteers made in Fiscal Year 2013!

279 Volunteers Contributed 27,233 Hours of Service

Volunteer Hours in Dollars \$598,034

Value to CGRMC Staff, Patients & Guests...PRICELESS!!!

We are always looking for dedicated, positive and service-minded individuals who want to make a difference in people's lives.

To apply, visit casagrandehospital.com/volunteer.

We are currently recruiting for volunteers in the areas of Courtesy Cart, Front Desk/Transport, Gift Shop, GI/Endo Transport, Human Resources, ICU, Physician Offices, and more.

1800 E. Florence Blvd. ♦ Casa Grande, AZ 85122 ♦ (520) 381-6300



Jim Orr – Against Abuse, Inc.

By Alison Stanton

Copper Area News Publishers

Jim Orr has a special place in his heart for helping others. So when he decided to start volunteering, he found that Against Abuse, Inc. was a perfect fit for him.

“My wife and I love people, and we love to help those who are hurting,” Orr said.

“With Against Abuse, we found an organization that is dedicated to meeting the needs of people who are experiencing the effects of domestic violence, and we found an excellent staff who

is committed to helping people get a new start in life.”

When Orr began volunteering about a year ago, he noticed that certain areas like maintenance were difficult for the organization to keep up with.

“I’ve set up a maintenance schedule for the house managers of the shelters, and I also do light maintenance at the shelters and assist the lady who sets up the transitional program by doing things like helping to move furniture, and teaching her how to change an air filter.”

No matter what project he is working on at Against Abuse, Inc., Orr said he especially likes the relationships he has formed with the people who work there.

“It’s really all about relationships for me, so I enjoy everything from sitting down with [founding Executive Director] Pat Griffen, to working with the house managers. I enjoy the relationships that have developed with the people who are part of program.

Griffen said that Against Abuse, Inc. was founded in

1981 and is a private non-profit organization that is dedicated to helping both people and the community at large to understand what family violence is, and how it can impact others. Shelter services opened in 1986, Griffen added, noting that it is the only domestic violence shelter of its kind in Western Pinal County.

For people who want to volunteer at Against Abuse, Inc., Griffen said there are plenty of ways to help, including providing pro bono legal assistance.

“In addition, we now have a therapy dog named Gator, and also numerous opportunities to help us administratively, as well as with fix and repair things at our shelters, the thrift store and the transitional homes,” Griffen said.

“In my opinion, Against Abuse is a great place to volunteer because even the lightest donation of time and talent can change a life from down to up, from happy to sad, from desperate to hopeful, and from doomsday to a bright tomorrow.”

For information on



becoming a volunteer, contact 520-836-1239 and mention wanting to volunteer, or visit the organization’s website at www.against-abuse.org.

Michie Smith – Safe Journey House

By Brittney Smith

Copper Area News Publishers

San Manuel, AZ – Michie Smith has found time to become an advocate for those who are abused by spending her time at the Safe Journey House in San Manuel, Ariz.

Michie, 58, pronounced like “Mickey,” grew up in Southern California. After moving to Arizona, Michie married a traveling man and lived in several different states. Following a divorce, she settled down in Washington where her father lived. She lived there for 25 years and during that time she remarried “a really great guy,” raised kids, and retired. Michie and her husband then relocated to Arizona to join family, including her father, mother, and sisters. The couple bought a home in San Manuel in 2006 but didn’t settle down until 2008, instead they spent the time traveling. Altogether, Michie has six children,

11 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Michie is part-time manager of the San Manuel Self Storage. She also contributes to the Farmer’s Market every week. She bakes on Fridays and on Saturdays she sells home-made jerky, baked goods, purchased vegetables, and dog bones. Michie also enjoys doing crafts, which she puts to use by maintaining the Safe Journey House scrapbook.

After hearing about the Safe Journey House through a friend and her sister, Donna Olds, a paid employee at the center, Michie decided to volunteer. She has been volunteering for a year and a half and gives four hours of her time each week.

“I thought it was a good idea for several reasons. I’ve been in a domestic violence situation before and I just thought it could be something that would help the community,” said Michie.

Volunteers at the Safe

Journey House are responsible for light housekeeping, safety, and care for the children of the clients that come in. Michie writes letters, maintains computer data, and keeps the scrapbook current. She is an official “advocate” for the Safe Journey House. Michie’s training has taught her how to handle domestic violence situations, the different forms of abuse, and how to educate others on getting out of an unsafe environment. She is ready to help others when the time comes.

“It’s hard. It’s a hard thing to get out of and I just want to help people get out of it if I can... and if I could help even one person get out of a situation then that would make me happy,” Michie said.

The Safe Journey House officially opened on Sept. 1, 2011. It was originally started by the Eastern Pinal Regional Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The Safe Journey House was put under Against Abuse,



Michie Smith volunteers her time at the Safe Journey House in San Manuel. (Brittney Smith photo)

Inc. in April after nearly closing due to a lack of funding.

The Safe Journey House provides education, information, safety, and a way for the abused to find a shelter. It is open Monday through Friday, 9

a.m. to 5 p.m. The phone lines are open 24 hours and go directly to Against Abuse, Inc. if the center is closed. To get involved, call 385-4970 or stop by the Safe Journey House at 212 E. Fifth St., San Manuel.



LIVE UNITED™



United Way of Pinal County has been serving Pinal County residents since 1981, with a strong need for and use of volunteers for decision-making. Volunteers are the backbone of any non-profit organization, using their skills and ideas to improve growth and participation. United Way and its partner agencies welcome volunteers at any time for many different projects. For information call 520-836-0736 and visit the United Way website at www.unitedwayofpc.org and click on Volunteers to see a full array of volunteer opportunities.

United Way
of Pinal County



Volunteers Needed!!!

**One Hour of
Your Time =
\$1,200 to a
Struggling
Family!**

**Help Your
Neighbors**

*Make tax
preparation a fun
and affordable
solution*

**Help Your
Community**

*Ensure that no tax
credits go unclaimed
and that the money
boosts the local
economy*

Help Yourself

*Increase your
personal talents and
meet new people*

Assist families with modest incomes, the elderly, and disabled to prepare their tax returns and claim the tax credits they qualify for.

**United Way of Pinal County
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
Call: 520-836-0736 Ext#11**

Frances Ortiz Program Manager, Frances.Ortiz@unitedwayofpc.org

**United Way
of Pinal County**



Friend, Family, and Neighbor Caregivers Outreach Assistance Project

- Do you provide child care for a younger friend, family member, or neighbor in your home?
- Do you care for 4 or less children at one time?
- Are you currently unregulated and unlicensed, but would like a way to change that?



If you answered yes to these questions, we have a wonderful opportunity for you!

This is an exciting time and opportunity for the Friend, Family, and Neighbor Providers throughout Pinal County. To find out more about United Way of Pinal County Friend, Family, and Neighbor Caregivers Outreach Project, visit www.unitedwayofpc.org or call Kim Hampton at 520-836-0736 Extension 17 for further details.

This Project is brought to you by



First Things First (FTF), approved by Arizona voters, works to ensure that our youngest children have access to quality early childhood experiences so they will start school healthy and ready to succeed. www.azfff.gov

**Pinal Regional Partnership Council
&**

**United Way
of Pinal County**



Providers in the Friend, Family, and Neighbor Caregivers Outreach Assistance Program will be visited by a Friend, Family, and Neighbor Home Provider Specialist to discuss further details and set up an initial assessment of the home. Involved providers are eligible for up to \$2,500.00 in scholarship funds to use for environmental improvements, equipment, and supplies and also to help with the cost of licensing. Providers will receive free training, technical support, and once licensed are eligible to participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Quality First! Quality improvement and rating system. www.azfff.gov