



“Help! Big Nasty’s Coming!”

by Cali Knowlden, Tortoise Helper, age 14



Tortoise Helper, Naomi, constructs a home for Big Nasty. In December 1999, The Tortoise Helpers received a Youth Led Community Change award from PRO Neighborhoods to design and build a habitat for three desert tortoises.

I’ll bet you have heard that tortoises are extremely slow. But in fact, Henry, one of three tortoises that live in captivity, (which includes myself, Bob), can run rather swiftly. Henry can maneuver his tiny clawed feet so quickly that he could beat a cheetah in a race! OK, so maybe I exaggerated a little . . . ok, maybe a lot. But, getting back to the point, Henry out ran the biggest tortoise living with us, Big Nasty.

I believe that it was a Saturday afternoon, our first day in the enclosure . . . the Tortoise Helpers at Colossal Cave Mountain Park had just finished our enclosure made of rocks and cement, when they placed Big Nasty,

Henry, and me in our new home. I believe they made over 50 trips to the nearby wash collecting rocks for the walls. Anyway, myself, being particularly tired even though I had just awakened from hibernation, started to travel to my den on the north side of the enclosure. I figured I would count tortoises until I fell asleep. This is when I heard a loud clamor from a short distance in front of me. It was the sound of clawed feet against the grainy desert floor of our enclosure. Henry was making a horrid noise and was seen sprinting for all he was worth. I guess he had wandered in front of Big Nasty’s den, and was now being furiously chased. At least this is what the cactus wren who had witnessed it told me. You see, tortoises are very territorial and don’t like anyone coming around their 110 feet of space unless they want them to. Big Nasty ended up chasing Henry all the way to the century plant! Still irate at the intruder he trudged back to his den. Don’t worry, Henry got away!

The other day, Big Nasty had put out his welcome mat, so we all slept in the same den together. Now that is seriously surprising after that big incident happened between Henry and him. Big Nasty must have had a change of heart!

Our dens provide a nice cool shelter from the Arizona sun and are also stylish. They are made out of a sort of pipe slanted into the dusty ground, halfway covered with soil and rock, with an arched opening neatly decorated with small rocks. Those kids who helped must have gone through a lot of water and sunscreen when they were building our home.

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PRONeighborhoods staff welcomes your stories, helpful comments, questions and requests for future newsletters. Call: 882-5885; e-mail: prohoods@azstamet.com; write: 320N. Commerce Park Loop, Tucson, AZ 85745. Hablamos Español. PRONeighborhoods is a partnership of the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, City of Tucson and Pima County. Please let us know if you have moved or have a new phone/fax number or email so we can update our mailing list.

UPCOMING PRO NEIGHBORHOODS EVENTS

Grant Review Orientation

For those interested in becoming a volunteer grant reviewer for PRO Neighborhoods, our next orientation will be on Tuesday, September 26, 2000 at 5:30pm. 320 N. Commerce Park Loop, Sentinel Building. Please call 882-5885 to RSVP or for more information.

Neighborhood Strength Through Stories Workshop Series

“Sharing Stories” A panel of people who have uncovered and shared their neighborhoods’ stories.
Español: Tuesday, October 17 from 5:30 to 8:00pm at the Valencia Library, 202 W. Valencia Rd.
English: Thursday, October 19 from 5:30 to 8:00pm
320 N. Commerce Park Loop



“Making Neighborhood Stories Come Alive: Nuts and Bolts of Project Planning”

Saturday, November 4

English: 9:00 to 12:30pm **Español:** 1:30 to 5:00pm
Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop
Please call PRO Neighborhoods at 882-5885 to RSVP and for directions.

Making Meetings Work for You

A workshop to help you make meetings more efficient, productive and to improve group participation. Presented by Sally Reynolds MSW and Cooperative Leadership Trainer
Sat., October 21 9:00 am-12:30, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop Seating is limited, call 882-5885 to register.



Basic Grant Writing Workshop

When: Saturday, December 9, 2000
from 8:45am to 1pm

Where: 320 N. Commerce Park Loop,
Sentinel Building

This workshop is for first time grantwriters who are seeking grants for neighborhood or rural communities. Presenters are Pat DeVito and Jennifer Allen of PRO Neighborhoods and Jean Lewis of Tucson Pima Public Library. The workshop is free of charge. Space is limited. Registration is required and begins Nov. 1st. Call 882-5885 to RSVP.

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We had to have this home built, because the lady who owned us before couldn’t take care of us anymore; and we can’t be placed back into the desert again because we have had contact with humans. Once tortoises have contact with humans, they can carry diseases back to the wild ones, making them become sick!

The Tortoise Helpers started this project by writing a grant to PRO Neighborhoods for help to get the necessary building supplies for the enclosure. It took nine months to build it! The Tortoise Helpers also learned all about our diet and lifestyle, made a web page during the building period, and even had a story teller come for the Grand Opening ceremony.

We are totally dependent on our helpers to feed and take care of us. The Tortoise Helpers come out to Colossal Cave Mountain Park to feed us fruits and vegetables. We also eat the plants that grow there naturally. They also check to see if we tortoises are healthy. They do this by examining our poop, or ‘scats’ as they call it to see if there is anything unusual in them.

Although our enclosure construction is complete, you can help out the Tortoise Helpers or become one yourself. Just call (520) 647-7121 and ask for J.J. Lamb.

“Pssst! Hey Henry! Could you pass the grapes please, I’m getting hungry again. We’ve got to hurry before Big Nasty gets here and eats up all the good stuff!”

PRO Neighborhoods has Moved!

We are now located at 320 N. Commerce Park Loop, Tucson, AZ 85745 (near Congress and I-10). Please send all correspondence to this address as we will **no longer** be using the P.O. Box. Thank you!

Resource Library Project Continues

Intern Gabe Zimmerman joined the staff of PRO Neighborhoods for the summer. Gabe diligently worked on the development of resource packets for the library. The packets were created to respond to frequently asked questions. They typically include local resources, a reading on community development, a success story and a list of contacts. Gabe contacted local groups and organizations to serve as contacts and points of reference for those pursuing similar changes in their communities.

We are working on a wide variety of topics. So far the following packets are complete and can be requested from PRO Neighborhoods: **Community/School Gardens & Habitats, Getting the Word Out: Media/Publicity and Steps for forming a Neighborhood Association.**

“FINDING STRENGTH IN STORIES”: Creative Interpretations of Neighborhood Stories Sought

You may have seen one of the local publications of neighborhood stories by *Voices, Inc.* such as *Looking into the Westside*, *Visions of Barrio Anita*, or the new bilingual stories about the Connie Chambers housing projects, *Don't Look at Me Different/ No Me Veas Diferente*. *Voices, Community Stories Past and Present, Inc.* finds teenagers to conduct oral history interviews in and about their own communities. Throughout the process, the youth listen to older generations, explore neighborhood and individual identity and sharpen writing, typing and transcribing skills. It is from these stories that we find strength--strength in listening, in remembering and in our commonalities.

PRO Neighborhoods and *Voices* are working together to encourage neighborhoods to share their stories by offering a series of workshops, grants, and technical assistance for groups interested in celebrating their identity. These community history projects can be expressed however your neighborhood wants, for example, through the painting of a mural, videotaping an evening of storytelling, a theatrical production, or the creation of a “living museum” where personal objects can be displayed.

PRO Neighborhoods and *Voices* will offer two workshops, in both English and Spanish. The first will be a panel discussion of successful community history projects and the second will address the “how to’s” of project planning. Grant applications and individualized group assistance will then be available to groups. Applications will be due Feb. 12, 2001 and again on April 3. PRO Neighborhoods and *Voices* encourage groups to let their own skills, interests, and abilities guide and determine the outcome of their projects.



“DESCUBRIENDO EL PODER EN LOS CUENTOS”: Buscamos Interpretaciones Creativas de Historias Comunitarias

Quizá ha visto unos de los libros locales de historias comunitarias por la organización *Voces*, por ejemplo, *Visions of Barrio Anita* o el libro bilingüe *Ne Me Veas Diferente/Don't Look at Me Different*. *Voces, Cuentos Comunitarios Pasados y Presentes, Inc.* buscan jóvenes para hacer entrevistas en y sobre sus vecindades. Durante todo el proceso, los jóvenes escuchan a los mayores de edad, exploran la identidad personal y la de la vecindad, y mejoran sus conocimientos de escritura, escribir a máquina y transcribir. Es de los cuentos de donde encontramos el poder, el poder en escuchar, en recordar y en nuestras propias semejanzas como seres humanos.

PRO Neighborhoods (PRO Vecindades) y *Voces* están trabajando juntos para apoyar a los vecindades para compartir sus cuentos. Van a ofrecer una serie de becas, talleres, y asistencia técnica para los grupos interesados en interpretar sus historias comunitarias. Estos proyectos históricos pueden ser comunicados al pintar murales, grabar cuentos, hacer una obra de teatro, crear un “museo vivo” en donde objetos personales pueden ser mostrados o cualquiera hacer.

PRO Vecindades y *Voces* van a ofrecer dos talleres, los dos en inglés y en español. El primero será un panel de ejemplos de proyectos históricos exitosos de la comunidad y el próximo explicará cómo planear un proyecto. Después aplicaciones y asistencia técnica individualizada estará disponible para los grupos. Los grupos deberán entregar sus solicitudes el 12 de febrero y también en el 3 de abril. PRO Vecindades y *Voces* quieren que los propios intereses, capacidades y conocimientos del grupo les guíen y determinen los resultados del proyecto. Llame al PRO Vecindades para más información sobre los talleres.

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona

P.R.O. People, Resources, and Organizations in Support of Neighborhoods
Neighborhoods

320 N. Commerce Park Loop
Tucson, AZ 85745

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.... Community Information Exchange

Westside Coalition Weed & Seed is having a potluck and recognition event on Sept. 19 at 6pm at El Rio Neighh'd Ctr.
Southern Arizona Grants Network is offering "Successful Grantwriting" on September 20, 12 to 2pm with Georgia Ehlers and "Grantmaking in Southern Arizona" date, time and location TBA. Call Jeanine Domicone at 791-5620 for more information.
Arizona Guide to Giving will be holding one-on-one and small-group tutorials and demonstrations for guide users on September 22, 3-6pm and September 23, 10-2pm at the Tucson Pima Main Library, 3rd Floor Conference Room. Please call Marilyn Boess at (602) 412-8650 for more information.

LibertyPartnership Social Services Fair, Saturday, September 23 10am-1pm at el Pueblo Neighborhood Center 202 W. Irvington. For more information call Roxanna at 573-3320.

Information and Referral is offering a training on Community Resources: How to Find Help, presented by Libby Czopek. To attend, you must have a copy of the 1999-2000 Directory. Offered: September 26, 4-6pm; October 10, 8:30-10:30am; October 26, 4-6pm; November 7, 8:30-10:30am. Fee is \$40. Please call Libby or Mark at 323-1303 for more information.

Tot Shots is offering child immunizations at Centro del Sur in South Tucson, 1631 S. 10th Ave. Call 624-5181 for a schedule.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tucson is looking for Spanish speaking mentors. Call Laura Villa at 624-2447 to volunteer.

Listening Skills, a workshop offered by Information & Referral, will be presented by Mark Levine on two dates: September 26, 7-8:30pm; November 7, 7-8:30pm. Fee is \$15. Please call Libby or Mark at 323-1303 for more information.

Tucson Neighborhood Association Citywide Conference will be held on September 30th, 8-5pm at TCC. Theme is "Building Blocks for Stronger Neighborhoods: Agencies-Businesses-Communities". Reg. deadline is September 15. Contact Renee Sowards or Arlene Lopez at City of Tucson Citizen and Neighborhood Services at 791-4605. Free.

ParkwayTerrace Festival 2000 Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2pm-7pm. In the Parkway Terrace Neigh'd, SW of 22nd St. and Tucson Blvd.

Developing Printed Materials, a workshop presented by Libby Czopek, of **Information & Referral**, will be held on October 12, 8:30-10:30am; November 14, 4-6pm. Fee is \$20. Please call Libby or Mark at 323-1303.

AIDSWALK 2000, a benefit walk for Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, will take place on October 22 at Rillito Downs. Call Lindsey at 791-WALK (9255) for more information.

The Arizona League of Women Voters has contracted with the Citizens Clean Elections Commission to organize educational forums. If you would like more information about arranging a forum please call (602) 997-5218 or 1(877)-711-8683.
