

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



Murray-Halberg Community Park Makeover

written by Joyce Yeomans

In July, 2001, Murray-Halberg Community Park Improvement Committee received a \$5,600 grant from PRO Neighborhoods to improve an abandoned, underused park. Today the park is is being used by many Avra Valley area children and families.

In May 2001, as a group of neighbors, we formed the Murray-Halberg Community Park Improvement Committee to refurbish Murray-Halberg Park in Avra Valley, which had stood abandoned for many years. We were concerned that our children had no place to play and juvenile crime had become more and more prevalent. Our goal was to work side by side with the children, which we have been doing since day one, in an effort to instill a sense of pride and ownership and also a sense of accomplishment in working together to make this dream come true. In doing so, we hope to deter some of the problems brought on by boredom.

We are so very thankful to PRO Neighborhoods for their guidance and education in the writing of grants and their wonderful support in all phases of our formation. We recieved our grant from PRO Neighborhoods last fall and it has meant so much in helping us to move forward with our plans and achieving many of our goals. We have been able to purchase and install picnic tables for our vacant ramadas. We have bought supplies and paint for donated play equipment, such as the concrete culverts which the children painted and decorated with colorful handprints in November. We have received a very large play set from the Marana School District, which volunteers have been assembling and are just about ready for paint. We know the kids are anxious to play on them. We are getting two barbeques ready for the ramadas and are also preparing to shade the play equipment as summer is on its way! The Girl Scouts in our area installed a tetherball set out of money they received for a prize-winning community project. We have been planting trees donated by *Tucson Clean & Beautiful* and *Trico Electric Co-Op*. The children are tagging their trees with their names which are placed on a map for future reference, so they will always be able to come back and find their tree. We have held several fundraisers and a swap meet to earn money as well as to make people aware of our location and our goals. More and more people are taking an interest, and of course the sound of joy and laughter coming from the children playing is music to our ears!



Volunteers assemble playground equipment



Girl Scouts paint a cement culvert

One thing we've learned about working on a project to help the community is that if you are willing to ask, you will usually receive- especially when it benefits children. Our future plans include an outdoor classroom, a butterfly/hummingbird garden, and a wildlife habitat and observation area to provide water to wildlife which is in an area thick with mesquite trees. Our plans also include a new basketball court, an upgraded irrigation system and finishing an incomplete baseball diamond. Yes, our dreams are big, but so are our hearts. And when it comes to kids, you do all that you can to keep a promise!

PRO Neighborhoods provides small grants and organizing assistance to grassroots neighborhood groups towards furthering their ability to collectively solve problems. We welcome your stories, comments, questions and requests for future newsletters. Call: 888885; email: info@proneighborhoods.org; Write: 320 N. Commerce Park Loop, Tucson, AZ 85745. Hablamos Español. PRO Neighborhoods is a partnership of the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, the City of Tucson, and Pima County. Please let us know if you've moved or have new contact information so we can update our mailing list.



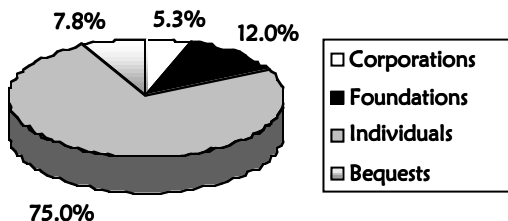
PRO Neighborhoods Highlights Grassroots Fundraising Workshop

presented by Andy Robinson

THE BREAKDOWN OF GIVING BY SOURCE

INDIVIDUALS 75% CORPORATIONS 5.3%
FOUNDATIONS 12% BEQUESTS 7.8%

2000 Charitable Contributions: \$ 203.45 billion



In 2000, 203 billion dollars was available to non-profits & of that amount, approximately 150 billion was given by individuals. If this is true, the rationale is to spend 3/4 of your time seeking funds from individuals & 1/4 of your time on grantseeking. For more info on who gives what and to whom, go to www.aafrc.org (source).

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, May 20, 2002: Spring Grant Application Deadline

PRO Neighborhoods provides grants of \$500 to \$5000 to grassroots community groups. Groups applying must fit the following criteria:

1. Have defined geographic boundaries of a community within Pima County
2. Be organized and led by the community they represent

If your group fits the above criteria, consider applying for a project which:

- Develops leadership within a community
- Relies on the skills and experiences of community members to address a community issue or concern
- Actively brings people together across lines of race, age, class, religion, culture, ability, gender, and sexual identity
- Increases a group's access to skills and resources
- Builds relationships, networks, and alliances across the community and across issues

To request an application call 882-5885 or email: info@proneighborhoods.org

..... Questions About a Grant Application?

Come to an Application Help Session for Tucson-Pima Arts Council & PRO Neighborhoods Grants

Free

- ...develop your project description
- ...get tips on creating a budget
- ...hear about the funding process for PRO Neighborhoods and TPAC grants

Where: Quincie Douglas Multi-Purpose Room, 1575 E. 36th (NW Corner of 36th & Kino)

When: Monday, April 22, 6:30-8:30pm

How: Call 624-0595 x23 to reserve your place

..... **Volunteer As a PRO Neighborhoods Outreach Worker!**

Help PRO Neighborhoods spread the word if you're interested in:

- How to deliver the PRO Neighborhoods message to the public
- Sharpening your presentation skills
- Meeting community groups throughout Pima County
- Informing groups about PRO Neighborhoods grants and organizing assistance
- Sharing your success story

Outreach Worker Orientation: Thursday, May 9th, 6-8pm at PRO Neighborhoods, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop
RSVP 882-5885. Dinner will be on us!

Success Rate	Ways to Reach a Donor		
25- 50%	Most effective	-Face-to-face request asking someone you know	
25-50%		-Face-to-face request with two askers	
15-30%		-Personal telephone call	
15-30%		-Personal letter on personal stationary	
15-30%		-Door-to-door canvassing with paid canvassers	
10-25%		-Personalized form letter with personal note	
3-5%		-Impersonal telephone call (telemarketing)	
.5-2%		Least Effective	-Impersonal form letter (direct mail)
			-Media/Advertising (newspaper advertisement)
		-Fundraising benefit/ special event (takes lots of time)	

DOG LOVERS UPGRADE THE CITY OF TUCSON'S FIRST DOGPARK

written by Linda Fousse and Roxanne Washington

P.U.P.S. (Puppies Uniting People on Silverbell) received a \$1475 grant from PRO Neighborhoods to make improvements to Christopher Columbus Dogpark and to remove the barriers impeding users and their pets: no lighting, not enough space, dust, and mud after rain.

P.U.P.S. (Puppies Uniting People on Silverbell) is a group of dog owners who support the City of Tucson's dogpark at Christopher Columbus Park, on Silverbell Road (north of Grant and Pima Animal Control). P.U.P.S. members (park users) have been working with, on and around the City's Parks and Recreation Department to improve and maintain the dogpark. The group got its start meeting daily in the park as people talked to each other about the park's problems. Frequent users especially took notice of the dust, lack of lighting, lack of space, and that during the monsoons after a rain the park would turn to mud. The park was also in need of grading and a lot of dirt and grass. One of the members adopted the park through a Tucson Clean & Beautiful program, much like adopting a highway. This opened communication with Parks and Recreation on a bi-monthly basis about the park's needs and demands, on the amount of time spent there, any damages to the park, etc.

By talking to the park regulars, complaints and suggestions were discussed and the group P.U.P.S. formed and began meeting with the City to discuss the group's ideas. Not only did meeting daily in the park solidify the group's requests, but it also served as a means for building new relationships and recruitment of new members. Talking with new people meant finding out what each individual's skills and talents were so that everybody had a part in the work done and was plugged into the group's activities and events. Most often there was nothing expected in return when people gave and, in fact, a greater commitment and investment in the park was achieved. Amongst the park regulars there is an artist who can design pavers with dogs' names, an electrician who can install lights to code, and a woodworker who can install and maintain park equipment. Currently members are looking for someone who does concrete. In meeting people daily at the park, the group also developed a barter system for trading dogsitting turns when group members or friends were out of town.

P.U.P.S. received a grant from PRO Neighborhoods in December 2000 to cover part of the cost of fencing (which was purchased at a discount) and enlarged the park. A table, grass and stepping stones to improve the surface were purchased. A lot of the other materials needed to improve the surface with grass and dirt was purchased from funds raised at picnics. P.U.P.S. T-shirts, pins and dog biscuits were made and sold. The group has already expanded the off-leash area and added a grassy area (paid for by individual donations plus the grant from PRO Neighborhoods), and installed solar lighting for evening play. Individual members have also built agility training equipment, and donated the time and effort to clean and maintain the park. Future plans include expanding the park, which is approximately 15,000 square feet to two or three times the size, installation of six more lights, an area for small dogs, two time-out caged areas, an asphalt walkway path along the perimeter of the fence for safer walking, and also a wheelchair-accessible path which will run throughout the park.



P.U.P.S. raised money for park improvements



Daily park users socialize at celebration of improvement

Come visit us with your dogs and keep watching for further improvements. Visit our website at: www.subnormal.com/dogpark/PUPS where you can find events, a monthly newsletter, and a bi-dog-raphy.

....Community Information Exchange....

Post your community group's events and happenings on the Midtown Garden District's website: www.gardendistrict.org

The Volunteer Center of Tucson has mini-grants of up to \$500 per service day available to community groups who plan and host a service project on one of the three upcoming National Days of Service. Youth and adults must be included in the planning and implementing of the project. For more info call Steven Zoncki at 881-3300x111.

Grants Collection Orientations are offered at Tucson Pima Public Library. Learn to research grant opportunities, use *FC Search*, the Foundation Center's database of grant-makers and past grants to non-profits, access the Web-based *Arizona Guide to Grants and Giving*, and find out about useful Internet sites for non-profits. This free workshop is offered Thursday, April 25th, 9:15-11am, Saturday, May 4th, 10-11:45am, and Thursday, May 23rd, 9:15-11am. *Reservations are required. Call 791-4393 or for more information visit their website at: www.lib.ci.tucson.az.us/grants*

Gateway will be donating up to 4500 computers used at the Olympics. Grant consideration is limited to eligible organizations, with priority given to schools and community centers whose programs help enhance access to technology for traditionally underserved communities. Any organization interested in being considered must complete an online application. The application will be posted on this website from April 2 to July 31, 2002: www.gateway.com/olympics/donations.shtml.

Request For Proposals (RFPs) for U of A College of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture are due Friday April 19, 2002. The *Community Planning and Design Workshop* is offering its skills and knowledge in architecture, planning, landscape architecture and urban design to community projects. Apply online: <http://architecture.arizona.edu/outreach/cpdw/default.htm> or call Corky Poster at 623-1722.

Self-Development of People Program of the Presbyterian Church has \$30,000-\$50,000 grants available for grassroots groups who are oppressed by poverty or social systems and have a project that will address the problems they are facing. Call Maria Gomez-Murphy at (520) 287-4531 for info in both English and Spanish.

Tucson Botanical Gardens offers *Tree Smarts* classes on desert-adapted tree selection, care, and maintenance for homeowners and neighborhood groups. Call Greg Corman at 326-9686x20.

Learn how to develop printed materials for your organization and get practical tips for working with a printer--from bid process through delivery. Tuesday, April 23, 2002, 4-6pm. Repeated Thursday, April 25, 8:30-10:30am. Presented by Libby Czopek at Information and Referral Services, 3130 N. Dodge. \$25. Call 323-3130.

Southern Arizona Grants Network (SAGN) is offering the following free workshops: *Meet the Grantmakers: Networking with Tucson's Funders*, facilitated by Joan Davis, City Manager's Grants Office, on Wednesday, May 8th, 2002, 12-2pm.; and *Polishing Your Proposal*, facilitated by Eric Lybeck-TUSD and Georgia Ehlers-UofA, on Wednesday, September 11th, 2002, 12-2pm. Bring your lunch and info about your program for networking during and after the meeting. Location: Community Resource Center, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop, Tucson. Call 791-4551 to register.

JustGrants!Arizona offers an extensive listing of current Arizona RFPs. For information, go to <http://www.azgrants.com/rfp/rfp.cfm> or call their Glendale office at (623) 412-8650.

NEST provides fiscal support for community building. Contact Bob Cook, 323-0242 or e-mail him at unispan@azstarnet.com



PRO Neighborhoods bids a fond farewell to Project Associate Debbie Becher. Debbie is leaving PRO to pursue her PhD in Sociology. Good luck Debbie, we will miss you!



