

PRO People, Resources, and Organizations in Support of Neighborhoods

Neighborhoods



Greetings from Levonne Gaddy, PRO Neighborhoods' Director

The last twelve months were busy for PRO Neighborhoods. We delivered fifteen workshops to over three hundred residents of Tucson and Pima County, distributed \$50,000 in grants to twenty groups, outreached to sixty-five groups and provided over five hundred hours of technical assistance. PRO also networked or collaborated with more than thirty Tucson and Pima County agencies and organizations.

The next twelve months will be as busy as the last, and we hope to have even more fun as we work with grantee group members from PRO's past and present. Alumni group members and current grantee group members are advising PRO's Evaluation of Impact project, helping to plan our celebration of neighborhood successes for May 2003, and passing what they've learned from doing their neighborhood projects along to others. PRO Neighborhoods Ambassadors are volunteers who are helping us outreach to new community groups. Our volunteer grant reviewers continue to enhance our grant-making function. We truly appreciate all the help we receive from our wonderful volunteers.

What do we have planned for the next year? PRO is planning a Youth-Led Community Change grant round similar to the one in 1999. We have a full slate of workshops planned from helping potential applicants fill out applications to learning about when and how to access local government agencies. We promise to keep our events updated on our website for your convenience.

We hope that you will mark your calendars for PRO Neighborhoods' first annual Fiesta de los Barrios, a celebration of neighborhood successes, to be held on May 31, 2003 at the Northwest Neighborhood Center, 2160 N. 6th Avenue. The Fiesta promises to be an evening filled with fun, food and entertainment for the whole family.

Finally, the PRO Neighborhoods staff thanks each and every one of you for your support. We look forward to seeing and talking with you in the months to come. Always feel free to call our office or drop by if you want our help or if you have some exciting news of your own to share with us.

PRO will make three "Neighborhood Successes" Awards at the Fiesta in recognition of and to celebrate the extraordinary creativity, resourcefulness, commitment and accomplishment of grassroots neighborhood groups. Each award carries with it a \$750 cash prize to further the efforts of the group and the neighborhood. If you would like to nominate a neighborhood group for a "Neighborhood Successes" award, call PRO Neighborhoods at 882-5885 and we'll send you the criteria for nomination and a nomination form. Or, you can go to our website at www.proneighborhoods.org/events to check the criteria and download a form from there.



Please Welcome our Newest Staff Members!

Michele Ream began working with PRO Neighborhoods as a Project Associate on April 11th. She had volunteered over the past two years as a grant reviewer and as a general helper at many PRO Neighborhoods workshops and events. Michele spent the last two and a half years at Pima Youth Partnership working as a Community Development Director. Her experience includes designing, planning and implementing workshops and providing technical assistance to community and neighborhood groups. She is also active in the neighborhood where she lives – Barrio Viejo – and has spent the past year volunteering as a Project Director for a mural project in downtown Tucson. Michele is completing the last year of her Bachelor of Social Work degree at Arizona State University.

Diana Olivares joined us on April 15th as a Project Associate. For the past two years Diana has worked as Project Associate for Pima Prevention Partnership. She taught entrepreneurial curriculum, job and life skills to youth, and prepared youth for internships and apprenticeships. Prior to entering the

non-profit world, Diana worked in retail sales. She completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish with a minor in Mexican-American Studies at the University of Arizona in 1998. Levonne and Nancy are extremely pleased and proud to have both Diana and Michele as part of the PRO Neighborhoods team. Please feel free to call them with questions about your neighborhood project, if you have a new project idea, or just to say hello!

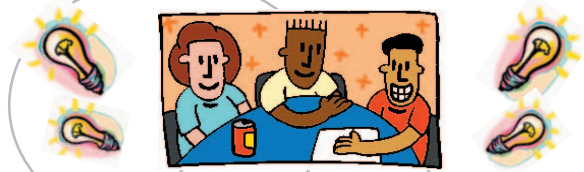
PRO Neighborhoods provides small grants and organizing assistance to grassroots neighborhood groups towards furthering their ability to collectively solve problems. We welcome your stories, comments, questions and requests for future newsletters. Call: 882-5885; e-mail: info@proneighborhoods.org; Write: 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.



Diana Olivares, Michele Ream and Nancy Colville



Youth Grant Round Announced



In order to acknowledge the resources and contributions of youth and to break down barriers to youth participation in community work, PRO Neighborhoods, with the aid of a grant from Vision Mark, is conducting a special Youth-Focused Grant Round. Projects must be geographically based and meet the following criteria:

- youth will be in leadership roles, including planning, designing and doing the majority of the project's work. Adults will play a supporting role
- youth are engaged in their own growth, contributing to the beauty, health, safety and diversity of their community while encouraging volunteerism and community service
- the project is well thought out and can be accomplished within one year of receiving funding

Grants will range between \$500 and \$2,500 and applications are due November 4, 2002. To receive an application and project idea brochure call PRO at 882-5885. (Sorry, youth agencies or organizations are not eligible to apply.)

We are also seeking youth grant reviewers to review these applications and make funding decisions. To learn more about this opportunity call Michele at 882-5885. Pima College credit will be available to youth grant reviewers.

A New Kind of Workshop

On June 16, 2002 PRO Neighborhoods held its first Issues Workshop at the beautifully restored Robles Ranch in Three Points, Arizona. Current and former grantees joined both staff and community members to discuss their personal stories, successes and challenges around the subject of creating Parks. This new type of workshop allowed for lots of networking and information-sharing. We are planning future Issues Workshops on the topics of community gardens, water harvesting, public art, and live-at-home programs. Please call us to be added to our contact list if you are interested in any of these topics, have ideas for other networking workshops you'd like to attend, or to help facilitate.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

URBAN ROUTES: RECLAIMING OUR PUBLIC SPACES



Portland's First Neighborhood Square

PRO Neighborhoods, DCAT, and Art In Reality are teaming up to bring Mark Lakeman, Co-Director of City Repair in Portland, Oregon to Tucson. City Repair is a community-based organization that implements urban design

projects to help people make their communities more socially and ecologically sustainable. In City Repair projects, community members have reclaimed neighborhood intersections as public squares--places where people can stop and interact with each other. Ways in which this has been accomplished range from turning the streets themselves into canvases and painting them, to creating stations where people can gather to have tea, exchange items, or post information. Images of these projects and more information can be found at www.cityrepair.org.

When: Saturday, Sept. 21st 10:00-2:00

Where: The MUSE, 516 N. 5th Ave.

"From Ideas to Action: Getting Your YOUTH Project

Done With A PRO Neighborhoods Grant"

- Do you know a youth group with a project idea?
- Are you involved with a group of youth and need a project idea?
- Need help completing a PRO grant application?
- Or just curious about our grant process?

Come to our FREE workshop and learn more!

Space is limited!

When: Tuesday, October 15, 2002, 6:30-8:30pm

Where: PRO Neighborhoods, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop, Sentinel Building, Tucson

Call PRO at 882-5885 to reserve your place or for more information. Food will be provided.

"How To Write A Winning Nomination"

Have you been impressed by the creativeness of a grassroots neighborhood group's project? PRO Neighborhoods is asking you to nominate them to receive a \$750 cash award to further their efforts. Go to our website's events section at www.proneighborhoods.org to read about the criteria for nominating a group, or call us for more information at 882-5885. You can also come to our free workshop on Saturday, September 7, 2002 from 9AM-10:30 am, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop, Sentinel Bldg. to learn how to write an effective nomination.

“Finding Arivaca”
An Oral History Project
Written by Mary Kasulaitis

“Finding Arivaca” is an oral history project that came out of an ongoing, long-standing desire on the part of Meg Keoppen and Mary Kasulaitis of Arivaca to commit the stories of local people to paper and to document events of importance. Arivaca is one of those towns whose history could easily be lost, and much of whose history has already been lost. Arivaca is a little too far away behind the hills and not on the way to anywhere. One of Arizona’s first towns, close to the bottomlands of Arivaca Creek, Arivaca first developed as a mining and ranching town. Some of the descendants of those first pioneers are still here, including those in Mary’s family. In 1993, Mary began collecting historical documents and writing articles for “The Connection”, a monthly open-forum newspaper, founded in 1982.

Arivaca’s remote location has attracted a certain type of people; those who desire to live away from the pressures of big city life and enjoy the benefits of a rural lifestyle. This lifestyle is what brought Meg to Arivaca in the 1970’s. She has been collecting oral histories for several years with the desire to promote a sense of community. Meg and Mary both work at the Tucson-Pima Public Library’s Arivaca Branch Library, which gives them an opportunity to connect with members of their community and also a place to archive the stories they collect. The “Finding Arivaca” project is a way to contribute to the pool of information about Arivaca and also to assist various and diverse groups within the community to better understand each other.

Modeling their history project after the book produced by the Tucson youth group “Voices”, entitled “Community Stories Past and Present”, several teens in the Arivaca community began to be involved in the oral history project. Although some residents are reluctant to speak into a tape recorder and prefer to write their stories instead, we have found that it is the story itself that is important, not the method of delivery, and that we want people to feel comfortable when telling us about their personal lives. The “Finding Arivaca” oral history project is still in the beginning stages, and we hope to continue discovering stories about the people and history of Arivaca.



Children interview each other for the project

“Descubriendo Arivaca”
Un Proyecto Histórico
Escrito por Mary Kasulaitis

“Descubriendo Arivaca” es un proyecto histórico que nació a través de un deseo de dos mujeres, Meg Keoppen y Mary Kasulaitis, a poner los cuentos de los habitantes de Arivaca en papel y documentar eventos importantes. La historia de Arivaca se puede perder fácilmente y por lo tanto mucha de la historia ya está perdida. Algo que ha contribuido a esta pérdida es que Arivaca queda un poco lejos de la ciudad, escondido entre lomas y en camino a nada. Uno de los primeros pueblos de Arizona, Arivaca se estableció como un pueblo minero y ranchero. Algunos de los descendientes de los pioneros todavía viven aquí, incluyendo la familia de Mary. Desde 1993 Mary empezó a coleccionar artículos históricos para “El Connection”, un periódico publicado mensualmente y empezado por Meg en 1982.



Cows on Ruby Road in Arivaca

La distancia de Arivaca de alguna ciudad de gran tamaño ha resultado en empleo limitado y por consiguiente poca población. Esta soledad es lo que ha atraído a ciertos grupos que buscan escapar sus vidas rutinarias. Con escape en mente, Meg en los 70’s también llegó a Arivaca. Meg lleva algunos años coleccionando historias orales con la intención de promover comunidad. Meg y Mary trabajan por la biblioteca pública de Arivaca donde les da la oportunidad de conectar con los miembros de la comunidad y un lugar en donde archivar los cuentos. El proyecto “Descubriendo Arivaca” es un modo de contribuir al estanco de información sobre Arivaca y de ayudar a varios grupos dentro la comunidad entenderse mejor.

Modelando el proyecto después de los libros proveídos por Voces: “Cuentos de la Comunidad Presente y Pasado”, pareció ser un plan que valió la pena. Algunos adolescentes de la comunidad han ayudado con las historias orales, pero la participación de un grupo organizado no se materializó. Miembros comunitarios han sido muy cooperativos, ofreciendo fotos y cuentos del pasado, pero algunos se sintieron incómodos al hablar en grabadora, en lugar decidieron escribir sus cuentos. Después de todo, son los cuentos que importan y no tanto el modo en que son entregados. Y queremos que los habitantes se sientan agusto cuando nos están contando sus vidas personales. Este proyecto es solamente el comienzo, esperamos encontrar muchos cuentos más sobre Arivaca.



. . . . Community Information Exchange

Post your community group's events and happenings on the Midtown Garden District's website: www.thegardendistrict.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, September 26th, 9:15-11am, Saturday, August 24th, 10-11:45am, and Saturday, September 7th, 10-11:45am. Registration is required. Call 791-4393 weekdays 10am-5pm, or for more information visit their website at: www.lib.ci.tucson.az.us/grants

Arizona State Parks FY 2003 Grant Application Workshops will consist of detailed instructional sessions on how to complete an Arizona State Parks grant application. The Recreational Trails Program Motorized Portion supports motorized trail development, mitigation, acquisition, and education for off-highway vehicle recreation. State Lake Improvement Fund supports boating related facilities and access on water where boating is permitted. Local, Regional, and State Parks Heritage Fund supports land acquisition and facility development for parks, outdoor recreation, and open space preservation. Trails Heritage Fund supports nonmotorized trail acquisition, construction, and improvement of trails on the State Trails System. Workshops are free of charge and do not require reservations. Please note that application points are awarded for workshop attendance. Workshop schedules and grant application manuals are provided at: www.pr.state.az.us or call (602)542-4662.

"Neighborhood Link" provides free interactive neighborhood web sites as well as information about local clubs and organizations. For more information, go to: www.neighborhoodlink.com

YWCA is scheduled to have its second annual It's Time to Talk Youth Forum on Thursday, October 17, 2002 at Amphi High School. The forum is designed to bring middle and high school students and adult advisors together to work on the elimination of racism and prejudice, and launch on-going discussions and activities in their schools and the community. For more information contact Jackie Nichols, 884-7810 or jnichols@ywcatuson.org.

Tucson Lego Club, sponsored by Midtown Neighborhood Association, offers its youth members many benefits; for example, a 10% discount for LEGO products at TOYS 'R' US. The club orchestrates activities aimed at enhancing socialization and resiliency skills. It also provides perfect opportunities for kid-sized problem solving by presenting situations which call for an invented solution by using LEGO bricks and perhaps other materials. Members receive a free LEGO set with paid membership fee of \$10. For more information on the LEGO club and a schedule of upcoming meetings visit their website: www.tucsonlego.com.

Notice of Funding Availability for Revitalization of Severely Distressed Public Housing HOPE VI Revitalization Grants. Revitalization grant applications are due November 29, 2002. Go to www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a020731c.html for detailed information or contact Milan Ozdinec 202.401.8812.

Attention PRO Neighborhoods Group Members

If you received a grant between 1998 and today, would you join us at the PRO Office, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop on Tuesday, October 22nd, from 6 - 8:30pm to talk about PRO Neighborhoods' performance? This will be a focus group to help us find out from you how well (or not) we worked with you. You can help us improve our work by participating. Please call 882-5885 by September 20th if you are willing to attend or to get more information. A light dinner will be served.