

Fall 2010 Newsletter

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Pima County Community Development and Neighborhood Conservation Department Receives Multiple Awards and National Recognition!

Recently, the Community Development and Neighborhood Conservation Department was awarded with national recognition for three programs! The Harvard Kennedy School of Government selected the Ajo Curley School Project for a Bright Ideas Award, the NACCED (National Association of County Community and Economic Development) Awards Committee selected the Pima County Project Action as the winner in the Homeless Coordination/Assistance category, and the HUD Awards Committee has selected Pima County CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) program for a Strengthening Communities Award for the improvements made to the Green Valley Food bank.

Bright Ideas Award for Ajo Curley School

The Bright Ideas program -a new program administered by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government- is designed to recognize and share creative government initiatives around the country with interested public sector, non-profit, and academic communities. This program seeks to

recognize promising government programs and partnerships that government officials, public servants, and other might find useful when faced with similar challenges.

Programs recognized by the Bright Ideas Award are chosen by a team of expert evaluators comprised of academics, practitioners, and former public servants. Selected from a pool of nearly 600 applicants, recipients of the 2010 Bright Ideas Award address a wide range of pressing issues, including poverty reduction, environmental conservation, and emergency management. The award-winning Ajo Curley School project was chosen a Bright Ideas recipient because it has been able to combine historic preservation, affordable housing, and microenterprise activities to generate economic development in Ajo, Arizona. The Ajo Curley School Project demonstrates collaborative, interdepartmental innovation that uses a non-sequential problem-solving process that serves as a shining example for other government programs.

Gary Bachman and Tracy Taft spearheaded the effort to get the Ajo Curley School Project

recognized by the Bright Ideas program; however, the credit for this award belongs to Pima County Supervisor Sharon Bronson for her efforts to create a single coordinated approach by Pima County departments during the Curley School design and development process.

NACCED Award for Pima County Project Action

The National Association for County Community and Economic Development (NACCED) recognizes the many achievements of America's counties through its Annual Awards of Excellence. Counties can apply for awards in the following categories: Community Development, Economic Development, Homeless Coordination/Assistance, Affordable Housing, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Planning/Policy/Program Management, and Innovation. All of the applicants for these awards are competitively evaluated by the NACCED Awards Committee using a point system in the following four areas: Tangible Results, Innovation, Sustainability, and Transferability.

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Barrio Anita gets Major Park Improvements!

The Barrio Anita Neighborhood Reinvestment Park Improvements were dedicated at a July 31, 2010 ceremony at Oury Recreation Center

This project removed an old and deteriorated asphalt basketball court and replaced it with a new regulation-sized basketball/volleyball court with a steel cover. The new complex has two side courts and one main regulation-sized court, all with retractable backboard standards. Bleachers have been installed on one side of the courts, and a low, concrete stage was installed at the south end of the courts. Additionally, the courts and stage received a new lighting

and a sound system. Two water collection tanks installed adjacent to the court provide passive water harvesting. These collect rainwater from the roof structure. These improvements greatly enhance Oury Recreation Center programs and provide a facility that is widely used by surrounding residents for community sports and cultural events.

"These improvements provide Barrio Anita and other nearby communities with superb recreation and entertainment facilities for years to come," said District Five Pima County Supervisor Richard Elías, whose support for this project was instrumental in its success.

Other guests at the dedication included Ward 1 Council Member Regina Romero, who helped obtain City of Tucson funds needed for the, and Barrio Anita residents who worked for many months with county and city staff members to ensure the final product met their community's needs and wishes.



Supervisor Richard Elías with CDNC Staff

CDNC Awarded with National Recognition

(Continued from Previous Page)
Pima County's Project Action was selected as the Annual Award of Excellence recipient for the Homeless Coordination/Assistance category. Project Action is a collaborative effort between the City of Tucson and Pima County that offers a comprehensive Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing program that provides assistance to individuals and households who find themselves in sudden and significant financial difficulty. Assistance is provided in the form of rent, deposits, utility assistance, temporary shelter, and moving and storage assistance. Those enrolled in the program are eligible for assistance for up to 12 months and are required to attend financial education classes, and provide a job seeking log.

Project Action demonstrates a successful and innovative collaboration between City and County governments to provide a seamless and coordinated approach to ameliorating a serious problem. Thanks

go to CDNC staff member Jane Kroesen for her efforts as Program Coordinator for Project Action; Jane's work demonstrates collaboration, initiative, and innovation.

Phoenix HUD Field Office Most Valuable Partner Award for Green Valley Community Food Bank

These Projects All Demonstrate a High Level of Collaboration, Initiative, Hard Work and Dedication

Each year HUD recognizes the partner organizations it works alongside with to accomplish goals and carry out programs that directly impact our communities. Recently at the 2010 Phoenix Field Office Open House HUD awarded the Pima County Community Development Neighborhood Conservation Department with its Most Valuable Partner Award for the Green Valley Community Food Bank. HUD recognized the Green Valley Food Bank for its exemplary practices in promoting HUD's initiative for strengthening communities.

HUD's initiative for strengthening communities is one of its primary goals. To accomplish this goal HUD funds activities that promote community and economic

development. Through these programs HUD has taken significant strides toward rebuilding infrastructure, rehabilitation of homes, job creation, and the overall improvement of community health.

The Green Valley Community Food Bank has worked towards these goals by supplying food to many local charities, and over 4,500 residents who rely on the food bank to provide for them when they have emergency needs. In late 2009 Pima County used Community Development Block Grant funds (provided by HUD) to add an additional freezer unit to the food bank. The added freezer space has greatly improved the storage capacity of the food bank and has enabled it to accept large donations that it previously would not have been able to. In fact, due to the added freezer space the Green Valley Community Food Bank was able to accept over 7,000 pounds of additional meat and 6,000 pounds of chicken over the three month span of March to May.

Thanks go to CDNC staff members Al Kullwin and Gloria Soto for their hard work on the Green Valley Food Bank Project.

AL Skorupski Honored by Pima County Board of Supervisors

Al Skorupski, a community leader and the executive director of Catalina Community services, recently received recognition from the Pima County Board of Supervisors for his many accomplishments and years of dedicated service to communities throughout Pima County. Al has dutifully served his community for more than 25 years and has served as the Executive Director of Catalina Community Services since 2005.

During his tenure as the Executive Director of Catalina Community Services he has guided the agency through a period of tremendous growth and community need, and has served as the Chairperson of the Pima County Neighborhood Reinvestment Committee. Mr. Skorupski has

used his vision of collaboration and teamwork to accomplish many tasks and projects, most recently partnering with Pima County to construct the new Catalina Community Center.

Additionally, Al has provided great insight, wisdom, and leadership to a myriad of community organizations that serve those in need throughout Pima County including the Community Food Bank, the Elks, Pima Health System, La Frontera Center and the FEMA Citizen Review Committee. To quote the Pima County Board of Supervisors: "the community is grateful for Alfred Skorupski's example of commitment to excellence, service, and integrity and his numerous contributions to community

development and social services in Pima County."



AL Skorupski Receives Award from Pima County Supervisor Anne Day

Jefferson Park Dedication

Recently, the Jefferson Park Neighborhood received Neighborhood Reinvestment Safety Improvements. These improvements were dedicated at a November 20, 2010 ceremony at Jefferson Park.

The Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association received funding for sidewalks, driveway aprons, ADA accessible ramps and 4 traffic circles. The traffic circles were beautified with landscaping and artwork and were installed in highly pedestrian areas to mitigate traffic and speeding concerns.

Jefferson Park Neighborhood (JPN) encompasses the area bounded: on the north, by the south side of Grant Road; on the south, by the south side of Lester

Street; on the east, by the west side of Campbell Avenue; and on the west, by the east side of Euclid Avenue.

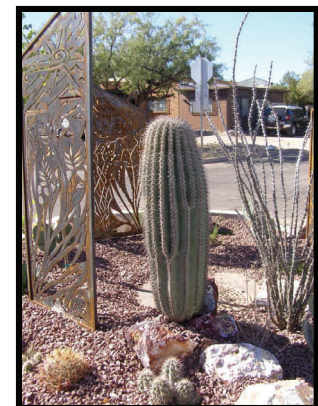
District Five Pima County Supervisor Richard Elias was present, whose support for this District Five project was instrumental in its success. Other guests at the dedication included Ward 3 Council Member Karin Uhlich, and Jefferson Park residents who worked for many months with county and city staff members to be sure the final product met their community's needs and wishes.

This project, and the Neighborhood Reinvestment process has inspired commu-

nity building, and has lead to the creation and strengthening of relationships in Jefferson Park area; enabling the neighborhood to become safer, more secure, and much more vibrant for its residents.



Jefferson Park Ribbon Cutting at Dedication Ceremony



Decorative Traffic Circle in Jefferson Park

NSP Program Moves to New Office, Creates New Partnership!!

The neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) has moved to a new office! With the addition of a new program (NSP 2) and new staff the NSP program needed more office space! The new location for the NSP program is 3810 s. Evans Blvd Suite 130, just a stones throw away from the Kino Service Center where the program was previously located.

Along with the move two additional interns were hired to help administer the NSP 2 program. Elena Rivera joined the team as a Planning and Design Intern. Elena has had a career as a school teacher, chemical engineer and salsa instructor. She is a graduate of the Conway School of Landscape Design, in Conway Massachusetts., and was a resident of Austin, Texas. Additionally, Katy Lancaster will also intern with the program for Fall 2010 semester. Katy is currently enrolled in the ASU School of Social Work and is a graduate of the University of Arizona.

Moreover, Marc Holden, the former planner for the NSP 1 program, has accepted a position with the National Park

Service in Madison, Wisconsin, where he will oversee continued development of the Ice Age Trail. This project will take advantage of Mark's skills as an environmental planner. Marc has been replaced by Daniel Tylutki who previously had worked as the Senior Planner for the CDNC department.

In addition to these changes the NSP 2 program has also created a new partnership entitled the Pima Neighborhood Investment Partnership (PNIP). PNIP is a collaboration between Pima County and seven subgrantees, along with several important community partners who are working together to implement the NSP 2 grant, which is funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA).

Through the NSP 2 grant PNIP seeks to provide safe, decent and affordable housing; expand home ownership, economic development and employment opportunities, and create sustainability initiatives.

PNIP activities under the NSP 2 program include:

- Down payment assistance to new homebuyers
- Free housing counseling services to new homebuyers
- Demolition of blighted structures
- Construction of new homes
- Acquisition and rehabilitation of homes for sale or rental and homes for a community land trust
- Land banking of homes or parcels
- Acquisition or development of rental units in multi-family housing units
- Improving or building all housing units to meet Pima County's Green Building Program standards.

More information on the program can be found on their website at www.pnip.org

*Over the Next Three Years
PNIP Activities Will Lead to a
Dramatic Increase in
Affordable Housing Units in
Certain Targeted Areas in
Pima County*



CDNC Staff Helps Local Family for CDBG Day

Each year the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program works to ensure decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses.

Each year an event called CDBG day is held to honor and celebrate this program. This year, the event, held on April 7th, 2010 honored Community Home Repair Projects of Arizona (CHRP) with a CDBG Award for their 21 year partner-

ship with Pima County. After the award was presented, CDNC staff, CHRP, and officials from the town of Marana partnered to rehabilitate a local home.

CDNC staff assisted in replacing a water heater, stripping and painting the trim around the house, replacing the fascia boards, and re-coating the roof. The house belonged to a single mother and she was very grateful for all the work that was done.

The project was yet another example of how the Community Development Block Grant program helps those in need and impacts our community in a positive manner.



Supervisor Elias Presenting CHRP with CDBG Award

Weatherization Program Update

Bolstered by ARRA funds, the Weatherization Program has been able to steadily increase the amount of homes repaired over the past year. During the past six months (5/01/10 - 10/31/10) the weatherization program has been able to assist 36 households, a nine house household increase over the 6 month period prior to that.

The Weatherization Program has an overall goal of retro-fitting and repairing 190 homes in the 3 year American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant period. So far they have completed 45 projects and will be repairing another 45 homes between now and June 11th, 2011. The remaining 100 homes will be finished during the final year of the ARRA funding period.

The Weatherization Program provides a great service to the community as it assists residents by retrofitting and repairing their homes to improve energy efficiency and reduce their utility bills. In fact, one client recently stated that they saw a 30 percent reduction in energy costs after repairs were made to their home!

Furthermore, the program helps those who are in need and would not otherwise be able to afford the repairs as exemplified by the following quote: "I want to say thank you very much for all you have done for us and it is greatly appreciated. As a single mother it can be hard at times to make ends meet. Last winter we did not have a heater, now we can stay warm this winter and many more to

come. I hope your program can continue to help people in need. Your program truly is a blessing."

Typical repairs to homes include duct repairs, envelope and duct sealing, replacement of heating and cooling systems, installation of blower doors, and the replacement of doors and windows that leak air.



New CDNC Employees

Joshua Hope

Joshua Hope, originally from Phoenix, is a graduate intern working on the NSP 2 program. Joshua received his Bachelors degree from the University of Arizona in Public Management and policy and is currently pursuing his Masters Degree in the same field. Joshua expects to receive his degree in May and is excited for the opportunities that await him. In addition to his studies and his internship, Joshua also works for the University of Arizona in the Parking and Transportation Services Department driving temporarily and permanently disabled students to and from class. In his spare time Joshua likes to keep active playing basketball and other sports, and enjoys keeping up with world news and current events.

Samantha Romero

Samantha Romero has worked with the Community Development and Neighborhood Conservation Department as an intern for the Affordable Housing Program since her junior year in high school. Recently, she accepted a position as an AWEP employee working in the same department. Some of Samantha's responsibilities include tracking each Notice of Sale filed with the Pima County Recorder's office, and sending out a letter with foreclosure prevention information to each Notice of Sale recipient. She also reviews applications for the Pima County Roadway Development Fee Affordable Housing Waiver Program. Samantha is a senior at the University of Arizona, and will graduate in May 2011 with a degree in Spanish Translation and Interpretation, and a minor in Portuguese. In her free time, she enjoys playing her violin with Mariachi Sonido de Mexico.

New CDNC Employees (Contd.)

Katy Lancaster

Katy Lancaster is currently the new Social Work Intern with the NSP2 project. Katy is currently pursuing her Masters of Social Work at Arizona State University in Tucson. Katy received her Bachelors of Arts from the University of Arizona majoring in Communications and Psychology. Prior to her position with the Community Development and Neighborhood Conservation Department she interned with KVOA News 4 as a producing intern, and with McFadden/Gavander, a PR company. She loves to bake and spends her free time creating new recipes.

Elena Rivera

Elena Rivera has temporarily joined the Pima County Community Development and Neighborhood Conservation (CDNC) department as a Planning & Design Intern in support of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program-2 (NSP2) managed by Gary Bachman. Trained as a chemical engineer, after a career as an environmental & safety consultant to the chemical and other manufacturing industries, Elena returned to school and recently completed a Masters degree in sustainable landscape/land use planning and design from the Conway School of Landscape Design. In the past Elena has also taught high school science, freelanced as a technical translator, and taught Salsa dancing. Outside the U.S., Elena has traveled to Canada, Chile, Hong Kong, China, Brazil, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii.

Pima County Board of Supervisors

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Sharon Bronson
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District 5

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www.pima.gov/ced/CDNC