



PRO Neighborhoods

People, Resources and Organizations in Support of Neighborhoods

PRO on the web: www.proneighborhoods.org

In This Issue:

PRO Neighborhoods builds community by nurturing grassroots neighborhood groups in Tucson and Pima County.

We envision a Tucson/Pima County community made up of groups of diverse residents and associations working effectively together and in partnership with existing institutions, businesses and organizations to mobilize resources essential to enhance their neighborhoods. Our ultimate goal is that everywhere you go in Pima County, neighbors are helping neighbors, diversity is celebrated, and people are proud of where they live.

PRO Neighborhoods believes that communities are built upon the assets of individuals, groups and organizations. Based on this belief, PRO Neighborhoods upholds the following values:

People's Abilities

People have the experience, skills and knowledge to make their neighborhoods more livable.

Associations

Associations composed of volunteer residents magnify and mobilize the gifts of individuals.

Grassroots Change

Action at a grassroots, neighborhood level is critical in bringing about positive community change.

Responsiveness

PRO Neighborhoods is committed to flexibility and creativity in our work so that we are most responsive to our community.

Partnerships

Founded on the private-public partnership that is PRO Neighborhoods, we encourage efforts that bridge across gender, racial, cultural, generational and economic boundaries. We also promote collaborations between individuals, groups, organizations and institutions.

The Vistas Historians

by *Luis Luquez, Yanely Sanchez, Maria Cordova, Naylea Rosas & Dominic Romero with the help of their adult advisor Freja Joslin*

The name of our project is the Vistas Historians. The Vistas Historians is about the history of the Vistas neighborhood. Five middle school students at Southside Community School volunteered to go around the neighborhood and interview family members, friends, neighbors, and strangers. We wanted to find out more about the history of the Vistas - how things have changed from the way they were before to how it is now. It has been really cool meeting new people and learning about their experiences and the history of our neighborhood.

We like where we live. We don't have far to go to school because our school is in our neighborhood, and they're also building a new high school in the neighborhood. It's also fairly safe because there are not a lot of gang members living here. From the interviewees we have learned the neighborhood has gone through some changes: there are a lot of new houses, bigger parks, more warehouses and schools, and also the new juvenile detention center. There are old and new families living here, some for ten to twenty years.

Once we're done interviewing the neighbors using a recorder we transcribe onto the computer. In the end, we will make a magazine about it all. We want people to *(continued on page two)*

The Vistas Historians

por *Luis Luquez, Yanely Sanchez, Maria Cordova, Naylea Rosas & Dominic Romero con el ayuda de la instructora Freja Joslin*

El nombre de nuestro proyecto es Vistas Historians. El proyecto es una historia sobre el vecindario Las Vistas. Cinco estudiantes de la escuela Southside Community School dieron su tiempo a andar por el vecindario a entrevistar a miembros de familia, amigos, vecinos y desconocidos. El propósito fue a encontrar cuentos sobre la historia de Las Vistas. Por ejemplo, como el vecindario ha cambiado, como fue y como es hoy. Nos ha encantado conocer a nueva gente y aprender sobre las experiencias y historia del vecindario.

Nos gusta donde vivimos, no



The Vistas Historians: Luis Luquez, Maria Cordova, Naylea Rosas and advisor Freja Joslin.

tenemos que viajar mucho para ir a la escuela porque la escuela esta en nuestro vecindario, también estan construyendo una escuela secundaria en el vecindario. Nos sentimos seguros porque no hay muchos miembros que pertenecen a pandillas. Atravez de las entrevistas aprendimos que el vecindario ha cambiado. Por ejemplo, hay nuevas casas, parques grandes, más almacenes, escuelas y un nuevo centro de detención para juveniles. Hay familias que han vivido en el vecindario diez o veinte años.

Después de entrevistar usando grabadoras, pusimos en palabras la entrevista en computadora. Al terminar todo, lo vamos a pone en forma de revista. Queremos que gente oiga y lea sobre nuestro vecindario porque tal vez alguien tenga planes *(continuado en la página dos)*

Stories From the 'Hood:
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Community Information Exchange

PRO Neighborhoods is a partnership of the City of Tucson, Pima County, the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, and United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona. We welcome your stories and comments. Phone: (520) 882-5885. Address: 320 N. Commerce Park Loop, Tucson, AZ 85745.

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hear and read about our neighborhood because they might be planning to move and they might like our neighborhood. By doing this project we have met people we might have never met. It's been a challenge transcribing material because some people talk too fast. We have also had to translate interviews that were done in Spanish. Some people in our neighborhood rejected our requests for interviews because bad things had happened to them and they didn't trust us. We had to have people sign release forms before we could interview them.

We think this has been a good experience for us. Members of our project have gotten along fairly well, despite the challenges. Unfortunately one of our members had to change schools. But we have learned new things: we have learned to transcribe and to use Microsoft Publisher. We also had to learn to run because dogs chased us.

Our Newest Grant Recipients

PRO Neighborhoods is pleased to announce the recipients of its October 28th grant round:

Peter Howell Safe and Beautiful- Awarded \$2,750 to construct traffic-calming centers which will reduce traffic speeds in an area of the Peter Howell neighborhood that is subject to cut-through traffic from cars at nearby intersections.

Poets Square Neighborhood Assn.- Awarded \$4,500 to plan the conversion of Midway Wash into a "greenway" that neighbors can use. Plan will include landscaping with native vegetation and the installation of pedestrian and bicycle paths.



Poets Square Neighbors Accept Their Award.

Oro Valley Land Conservation Committee- Awarded \$2,750 to promote the preservation of three historic sites in Oro Valley: the Steam Pump Ranch, a Hohokam site, and the Kelly Ranch, which includes a home built by Tucson architect Josias Joesler.

Prince Folklorico- Awarded \$1,000 to purchase material and sew costumes for this youth group, who perform Folklorico dance in the Tucson community.

**Congratulations
to all of you!**

de mudarse a Las Vistas. Durante el proceso de completar este proyecto, hemos conocido a gente que tal vez nunca hubieramos conocido. Ha veces se nos ha hecho difícil porque algunos hablarón muy rápido. También hemos tenido que traducir las entrevistas que hicimos en español. Algunas personas en el vecindario rechazaron nuestra petición de entrevistar porque nos no tenían confianza.

Este proceso ha sido una buena experiencia para nosotros. Todo los miembros se la han llevado bien. Desafortunadamente uno de los miembros tuvo que cambiar de escuelas y no pudo poner el tiempo necesario al proyecto. Hemos aprendido a entrevistar y usar el programa Microsoft Publisher y también aprendimos a correr porque algunos perros nos corretearon.

Grant Application Deadline

The next deadline for submitting a PRO Neighborhoods grant application is **Monday, February 9th at 4:00 p.m.** Completed applications may be mailed or dropped off at our office, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop. Mailed applications must arrive on or before that date. Sorry, we cannot accept faxed or e-mailed applications.

Do you need help with your grant application? PRO Neighborhoods staff will be offering help on a walk-in basis on **Monday, February 2nd, from 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.** No appointment is necessary; please feel free to come in with your grant applications/and or questions.

Meet PRO's Newest Staff!

Anne Albrecht is the new Project Associate at PRO Neighborhoods. She recently moved to Tucson with



Mennonite Voluntary Service, a program of the Mennonite Church. She works part-time at PRO Neighborhoods and volunteers the other half of her week at Community Home Repair Projects of Arizona. Anne has a B.A. in psychology from Goshen

College in Goshen, Indiana, and grew up in Eureka, Illinois. So far, she loves the Tucson sunshine, and is looking forward to working with PRO Neighborhoods' four newest groups of grant recipients. Please stop by and say hello to Anne. She is a wonderful new addition to our staff!

2004 Fiesta de los Barrios

The second annual *PRO Neighborhoods Fiesta de los Barrios* will take place on Saturday, May 8th, from 6-10 p.m. at Silverlake District Park (near Kino Parkway and 36th), and will feature live entertainment, delicious food and the presentation of awards to outstanding neighborhood groups throughout Pima County (see nomination form in this newsletter). If you would be interested in participating, please let us know. We are looking for neighborhood groups who would like to sell food, provide entertainment, or volunteer to help in many capacities. Please call us at 882-5885 if you'd like to be a part of this exciting event.

Upcoming Workshops

Ideas To Action: Projects Involving Seniors

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona recently received a federal grant to strengthen the abilities of community groups and faith-based organizations to provide social services for Pima County's seniors. PRO Neighborhoods is participating in this grant, and one of the activities funded includes offering workshops. In this workshop, neighborhood groups will learn how to turn their ideas into action. All groups interested in working with seniors in their neighborhoods are welcome, whether they just have an idea or they already have activities going on. Brainstorming, discussion, and information on neighborhood projects and programs will be included.

Tuesday, January 20th, 6-7:30 p.m.
Himmel Park Library Meeting Room,
1035 N. Treat
(one block south of Speedway)

Your Story: How to Tell It, How to Sell It: Publicity Through Media

Neighborhood groups often do great things, and this workshop will present useful and effective tips to "get the word out" to the local media about your group's projects and events. Learn ideas for making your story newsworthy and strategies for writing press releases. In addition, a panel of local media representatives will be available to talk about what they look for and to answer your questions.

Saturday, March 13th, 9 a.m.-noon
320 N. Commerce Park Loop,
Sentinel Building

The Homeless In Our Community

Do problems of homelessness trouble you? If you'd like to learn more, including what you can do to help, come to this workshop. Date: Saturday, May 22nd. Location details to follow on our web site, or call 882-5885 to find out more. Co-sponsored by the Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless.

Asset Mapping for Communities & Organizations

Did you know that Mary down the street is great at running a meeting? Have you heard that your next-door neighbor is a skilled carpenter? Do you know that the chairperson of the PTO is a talented singer? Imagine how you could use all of these gifts to build a better neighborhood! During this workshop, you will learn how to inventory the gifts, talents, and knowledge of people and organizations in your neighborhood, and how to put them to use. Participants will gain an understanding of how to do an asset mapping/inventory to build community upon the strengths of its members.

Saturday, January 24th, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
320 N. Commerce Park Loop, Sentinel Building
Light lunch included

Great Things Come In Small Packages: Planning & Leading Kids' Projects

Are you a kid who has ideas about how to improve your neighborhood?

Are you an adult who would like to help children with projects they create? This workshop will teach kids how to turn their ideas into do-able projects.

Adults will learn how to be facilitators who bring out each child's ability to plan and carry out a project. There will be two concurrent sessions, one for children aged 8-13 and one for the adults who work with them.

February 21, 9-11AM
Jefferson Park Elementary School
1701 E. Seneca Street

All workshops are free.
Space is limited and you must
register to reserve your spot.
Call 882-5885 or go to our website:
www.proneighborhoods.org.

Technical Assistance Grants

PRO Neighborhoods staff works with neighborhood groups at any stage of their projects, whether the group is just organizing and exploring project ideas, or with more experienced groups who want to take their work to the "next level." If your group would like to improve how it works, you may want to consider applying for a PRO Neighborhoods technical assistance grant. Technical assistance grants are awarded year-round, after the submission of a short application from your group. Groups are not awarded funds, but PRO Neighborhoods will commit a certain amount of staff time to your group, or contract with an individual or organization that can best work with your group. Types of technical assistance covered under this grant are:

What's New at PRO?

Our web site (www.proneighborhoods.org) has some new features. You can now:

- Register for our workshops. Just click on the *Events* button and follow the *Workshops* link.
- See samples of other neighborhood newsletters and web sites. Just click on the *Resources* button and go to *Technical Assistance*, then click on *Idea Exchange*.
- Learn about our Technical Assistance Grants. Click the *Resources* button, then follow the *Technical Assistance* link.

1) Assistance in the *running of a grassroots neighborhood group* (examples: effective fundraising and managing money).

2) Assistance in gaining the skills needed for the *day-to-day work of grassroots groups* (examples: how to get people involved, basic community-organizing skills, project planning and management, designing newsletters and fliers, and working successfully with the media).

3) Assistance in *working for the "long haul,"* (examples: building alliances and partnerships, solving community problems, and addressing diversity issues).

For an application to receive technical assistance or more information, contact PRO Neighborhoods at 882-5885 or visit our web site.



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320 N. Commerce Park Loop
Tucson, Arizona 85745

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Community Information Exchange



Community Development Block Grant Program. The CDBG program provides residents of Pima County with the opportunity to improve their communities by funding activities that provide decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate-income persons. Grant awards are made to carry out a wide range of community development activities directed toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development and the provision of improved community facilities and services. For an application, call Gloria Soto at Pima County Community Services, 243-6777. The deadline for submitting CDBG application is February 2, 2004.

Grants Collection Orientation, Part One. Thursday, March 11th, 9:15-11am. Sponsored by the Tucson-Pima Public Library. Learn to research grant funding sources for nonprofits. Practice using FC Search, the Foundation Center's database of grant-makers & past grants to nonprofit organizations. Find out about useful Internet sites for nonprofits. Learn about the Web-based Arizona Guide to Grants and Giving. Orientation is geared toward volunteers, staff and board members of nonprofit, community and neighborhood organizations. Location: 2nd floor Computer Center of the downtown Main Library, 101 N. Stone. Space is limited, registration is required. Call the Communications Room, Main Library, 791-4393, M-F, 9am-4:30pm. Web site: <http://www.lib.ci.tucson.az.us>

Grants Collection Orientation, Part Two. Thursday, March 18th, 9-11a.m. Sponsored by the Tucson-Pima Public Library, this session reviews and builds upon the basics of grant researching covered in Part One. Additional topics include Corporate Philanthropy, detailed information on specific funders, government funding, resources on proposal writing, Internet resources, and advanced searching techniques of the FC Search database and the Arizona Guide to Grants and Giving. You MUST have attended Part One to attend Part Two. Location: Lower Level Meeting Room, Main Library, 101 N. Stone. Registration is required; call 791-4393, M-F, 9am-4:30pm.

Legal Aid Organizations announce the launch of a statewide website to help low-income individuals in Arizona find legal assistance. www.AZLawHelp.org helps users find legal aid organizations closest to where they live. The website has articles, forms and links to legal information on these topics: Family, Kids

and Seniors, Housing, Immigration, Native American Law, Public Benefits, Work, Your Money, and Your Rights. This easy-to-use website is free.

Post Your Community Group's events and happenings on *Midtown: The Garden District* web site: www.thegardendistrict.org

Tucson-Pima Public Library- Grants and Non-Profit Information Center. Visit the center at the Main Library, 101 N. Stone, or check out their web site (www.lib.ci.tucson.az.us/grants) for extensive information on local workshops, fundraising, becoming a non-profit organization, grant-making organizations and proposal writing. Upcoming workshops of interest: "*Selling Social Change: Earned Income Strategies for Grassroots Groups*" presented by Andy Robinson, Thursday, January 15th, 9a.m.-12:30p.m. at the Main Library, 101 N. Stone, and "*Grassroots Grants*," also presented by Andy Robinson at Wilmot Library, 530 N. Wilmot, Saturday, January 17th, 9a.m.-12:30p.m.. Workshops are free, but registration is required. Call 791-4393.

Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless. Do problems of homelessness trouble you? In your neighborhood? In your community? In your nation? If you'd like to learn more about homelessness, including what you can do to help, representatives of the Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless are available to give presentations on this difficult topic. To schedule a presentation at your neighborhood or community meeting, call the chair of the planning council's education committee, Eva Ponder, at 722-2217 or 245-2896.

Information and Referral Services Training Opportunities. I&R offers a variety of trainings: *Accessing Community Resources*, *Crisis Intervention Strategies*, *Flying Right and Avoiding Emotional Hijacking*, and *Crisis Postvention*. Fees vary; call Information and Referral Services at 323-1303 for dates and times.

Community Mediation Program at Our Town has been assisting residents of Pima County with the peaceful resolution of conflicts since 1979. Mediation sessions between neighbors, co-workers and family members are offered without charge. Mediation is a voluntary process in which trained and neutral mediators assist the disputing parties in communicating and exploring ideas for mutually-acceptable solutions. Group mediations, trainings and workshops are offered for a fee. For anyone interested in becoming a mediator, the next 40-hour training will begin on February 28th and will take place two evenings per week through early April. Call 323-7862 for information about mediation or training.

