

# PRO NEIGHBORHOODS

People, Resources and Organizations in Support of Neighborhoods

## PRO Neighborhoods celebrates its fifth year and honors volunteers

At the end of 1999, PRO Neighborhoods will celebrate its fifth birthday. The City of Tucson, Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, Pima County and the United Way of Greater Tucson formed a partnership in 1994 to support residents in improving their own communities. This partnership has resulted in a number of successful projects and better organized neighborhoods throughout the county.

We invite all of our friends, neighborhood leaders and other supporters to join us for a celebration of our birthday:

Thursday, December 2, 4:30 - 6:30  
Northwest Neighborhood Center  
2160 N. 6 Avenue (just south of Grant).

In addition to the birthday party, we will recognize volunteers that have worked to improve their communities (see below) and announce the fall youth grant awards (for more information see page 3). Please help us celebrate our past successes and our goals for future assistance to neighborhood groups, urban, rural and tribal. Please call 882-5885 to RSVP.

*PRO Neighborhoods has been given a special opportunity to honor volunteers among our past grantees. Mr. Mike Charles, a local philanthropist and long-time community volunteer has made a generous donation to recognize those volunteers that have contributed their skills and abilities to move their PRO Neighborhoods projects forward. Nominations may be made to reward any volunteers on PRO Neighborhoods supported projects from 1995 to 1999. There will be a first, second and third prize of \$300, \$200 and \$100. Call us at 882-5885 to receive a nomination form and more information.*

### **Tucson Neighborhood Associations City-Wide Conference**

Plan on attending the Tucson Neighborhood Associations City-Wide Conference on Saturday, October 2, 1999 at the Tucson Convention Center. Registration for this free conference starts at 8:00 a.m. and workshops are scheduled throughout the day. The four main topics of these workshops are: Growth in the City of Tucson, Parks and Recreation in Neighborhoods, Youth Issues and Safe Neighborhoods. Lunch will be provided. Come and share information and ideas with members of neighborhood associations throughout the city. For more information, call Renee Sowards at City of Tucson Citizen & Neighborhood Services 791-4605

PRO Neighborhoods staff welcome your stories, helpful comments, questions and requests for future newsletters. Call: 882-5885; e-mail: prohoods@azstarnet.com; write: P.O. Box 27287 Tucson, AZ 85726-7287 or stop in at the Food Bank at 3003 S. Country Club. Hablamos Español  
PRO Neighborhoods is a partnership of the Community foundation for Southern Arizona, United Way of Greater Tucson, City of Tucson, and Pima County.

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# Taming the Rain

## Vista del Monte Cistern Building Workshop

By Kathy Rinn



It's hard to find the place to begin my story of what led me to write a grant proposal to PRO Neighborhoods for a Cistern Building Workshop...



In retrospect, the path that led me here seems very clear now. I can assure you it didn't feel that obvious along the way.

But moving to a new neighborhood, buying my first house, discovering the satisfaction of gardening, and designing to embrace more Permaculture principles, were all factors. The vital link to PRO Neighborhoods was a growing need to feel part of the community, serving it as well as receiving from it, the support it has to offer.

I could easily have hired someone to build a water tank to enable me to store water runoff from my roof for my ever-increasing landscaping and gardens. Instead, by creating a workshop on cistern building, I've learned how to build one myself as well as inspire neighbors to do the same. I now know like-minded folks close by in which ideas are shared and labor is swapped. It's a wonderfully satisfying feeling.

Because of the media attention, I now understand that other neighborhoods are talking amongst themselves about how they can apply water harvesting principles to reduce water bills, erosion, mosquitoes, and flooding and increase water quality, shade, and vegetation. This path I'm on seems to be widening to include much more than just the Vista del Monte Neighborhood in which I live. Thank you PRO Neighborhoods for believing in my ideas and joining me on the path.

*This April, the Vista del Monte neighborhood received a \$1,250 grant to hold a workshop in their neighborhood to give residents both "classroom" and hands-on experience in building cisterns to catch rainwater from their roofs. On Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Barbara Rose and Josephine Thomason, from the Permaculture Drylands Institute led the group of 20 neighbors and friends through the entire process of installing a cistern. After the workshop, a drawing was held that gave 4 neighbors metal culverts for building cisterns in their own yards. Work crews of newly trained friends and neighbors will help install the additional cisterns.*



# Workshops

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## Youth-Led Community Change

Thursday, October 14, 5:00 – 8:30 p.m., North-west Neighborhood Center

Tuesday, October 19, Art Room, 5:00 – 8:30 p.m., Udall Center.

Thursday, October 21, 5:00 – 8:30 p.m., El Pueblo Neighborhood Center

In conjunction with **PRO Neighborhoods Upcoming Youth Grant Round**, we are offering 3 workshops on youth/adult partnerships. If you will be applying for a grant in the Youth Grant Round, we require that you attend one of these workshops. We invite and encourage all community members to attend. Please call us at 882-5885 for more information or to RSVP.



## *Sense Of Place: Desert Stories Workshop*

What places make your community special? How many different kinds of desert animals live near your neighborhood? These and other fun topics will be addressed at the Desert Stories workshop which will take place on Saturday, November 6, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Quincie Douglas Center.

change

## **A Call to Youth: request for proposals for Youth-Led Community Change**

**PRO Neighborhoods** is excited to start the new millennium by awarding several small grants to projects led by and for youth. We want to encourage and support youth leadership and volunteerism, as well as noticeable community change in neighborhoods throughout Pima County. Grants can range between \$500-\$2,000. Applications will be due on Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>; awards will be announced at our 5-year anniversary celebration on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. All interested groups must send a team of youth and adults to attend one introductory workshop in October (locations and dates are listed to the left). The workshop will discuss our grant process, distribute our application and talk about how to build working relationships between youth and adults in community projects. So start planning your projects now and talk with us about them in October!

*“City for Sale”* - *The San Francisco Mime Troupe* celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> year in Tucson with a brand new punchy musical satire on gentrification of neighborhoods and residential displacement. **When:** October 3, 7:30 p.m., at the TCC Leo Rich Theater, 260 S. Church. General admission: **\$11** (\$13 at door) and reserved seats: **\$15**, at Antigone Books, 411 N 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. Phone reservations: 327-4809. For more information: 623-1688.

..... **Community Information Exchange** .....

**AIDSWALK '99**, benefit walk for the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation. Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Rillito Downs. Call 791-WALK (9255) to have a registration packet sent to you. Walkers may enter as individuals or as community, school, or business teams.

**Drachman Institute** of the University of Arizona needs help conducting a transportation survey. If you are between 35 and 64 years of age and you drive, you can earn up to \$10 in gas vouchers. Call 623-4993 or email [drvstyd@u.arizona.edu](mailto:drvstyd@u.arizona.edu).

**Tucson-Pima Public Library** is offering Grants Collection Orientation, Part I, September 25, October 14, and October 30 from 9:15 to 11 am for free at the Main Library. Call Jean Lewis at 791-4393 for more information. No registration is required.

**Pima Community College** is offering Effective Grant Writing from September 14 – October 12 or October 26 – November 23, 1999. Cost is \$69.00. For more information, call 206-6468.

**Arizona Human Services** is offering The Grantmanship Game tentatively on November 9 and 10. For more information, call (602) 412-8650.

**University of Arizona** Extended University is offering Get That Grant! done by Andy Robinson on November 20 from 9:00 to 4:00. Cost is \$79. For more information or to register, call 626-4444.

**Community Arts Lab of Tucson** Art Brigade is offering several workshops this fall including Drawing, Halloween Costumes, Painting, Papermaking, and Creating Collectively: Teens and Up. Call 792-6483 for more information and to register.

**Get Ready to FIESTA!**

On November 20<sup>th</sup>., the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum will hold its first *Fiesta del Desierto*, featuring fun-filled demonstrations of music, dance, folk art, regional foods, puppets, and other jewels of the cultures of the Sonoran Desert region, included with regular admission price: Adults: \$8.95, children \$1.75. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,

**Congratulations** to the Good Neighbor Award winners David Kha of Midtown Neighborhood Association, Eb Eberlein and Gwen Goodman of Barrio Santa Rosa and "A" Mountain Community House of "A" Mountain Neighborhood. Keep up the good work!

**United Way of Greater Tucson**



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