

Mentoring Magic

Pima County Juvenile Court Center

A Challenging, Yet Rewarding Experience

Let's be truthful, mentoring court-involved youth is no easy task. Youth in various stages of court involvement, not to mention diverse backgrounds, present never ending challenges for mentors. Overcoming these challenges can be a rewarding experience for both the mentor and mentee. Suzin Marshall says this about her experience mentoring a youth in Juvenile Detention:

"Mentoring is an opportunity to help others to simply discover their own self worth and establish life goals, also to have some fun!" Another of our mentors, KC Stanford, said that "in a different time mentoring would have been called being a good neighbor". Our mentors are helping youth by being positive influences and another caring adult in that youth's life. Tom Deneke states the following about his mentoring experience thus far:



Tom Deneke, mentor, meeting with his mentee.

"As a mentor, I find the interaction with my kid very enriching and positive for both parties. It is absolutely amazing to me how just the slightest positive influence can go a long way in changing the future of a minor in this program. I believe this is one of the best programs to be involved with, and it doesn't take much time

or money to make a BIG difference in the life of a juvenile." Suzin states that her "experience with JCC mentoring has been both rewarding and a learning experience". Thank you to the scores of PCJCC Mentors who have enriched the lives of youth in so many ways.

Youth Experiences

The youth involved in the mentoring program have always expressed positive experiences. Mentors have exposed youth to community and cultural events which many of our youth would not have had the opportunity to explore previ-

ously. Mentors help keep the youth occupied in positive activities and motivated to maintain law-abiding behavior. Jose said "it really helped me and kept me busy". He further commented that his mentor "kept me off the streets

and out of trouble". Another youth, Brianna, states that her mentor "helps me think positive" and "puts me in a good mood". These statements reflect the positive feelings shared by youth when involved with a mentor.

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2011

Did you know?

- 14 million youth under the age of 18 are at-risk
- Youth are desperate for guidance and are seeking mentors
- A small commitment can have a big impact on a youth's life
- 73% of youth with mentors increase their goals for the future

Inside this issue:

A Challenging, Yet Rewarding Experience	1
Youth Experiences	1
Did You Know?	1
Fun and Interesting Things to do In and Around Tucson	2
A Brief Historical Perspective	2

Pima County Juvenile Court Center

Monica Dominguez—Project Supervisor

Phone: 520-740-4572

Fax: 520-243-2201

E-mail: monica.dominguez@pcjcc.pima.gov

Guy McLee or Amanda Espinoza—Specialists

Phone: 520-243-2252

E-mail: guylan.mcleee@pcjcc.pima.gov

amanda.espinoza@pcjcc.pima.gov

2225 East Ajo Way

Tucson, AZ 85711



Fun and Interesting Things to Do In and Around Tucson:

- Now-February 18, 2012—Carnival of Illusions at the Double-tree at Reid Park
- April 7-10—UofA Spring Fling
- April 14-24—Pima County Fair
- April 15-August 28—Tucson Padres Minor League Baseball
- April 16—16th Annual Earth Day Festival
- April 23—Chess Fest 2011 at Wheeler-Taft Abbott Library
- April 29-May 1—Blue Man Group at Centennial Hall
- April 30-May 1—Tucson Folk Festival at Presidio Park
- May 7-8—Fiesta Grande Street Fair—Free on Grande Ave. between Speedway and St. Mary's
- May 28-29—Wyatt Earp Days in Tombstone, AZ
- June 4—Meet Me Downtown 5k Night Run/walk

A Brief Historical Perspective

In September 2005 Pima County Juvenile Court Center partnered with Davis-Monthan Air Force Base to develop a mentor volunteer program that would benefit youth who were involved with the Pima County Juvenile Court Center. The program has since expanded to include several different partners in the community including Raytheon, the Drexel Heights Fire Department, the Sueno Mentor Project/ Pima Bar Association, students from the University of Arizona and Pima Community College, as well as other community members.

The initial connection with a youth and their mentor begins while the youth is in the detention center and continues after their release. Mentors meet with their mentees at least once a week with a focus on supporting the youth in the development of law-abiding living skills, accountability skills, self sufficiency skills and the

skills to maintain a positive support system. Mentors also support their youth by attending court hearings and child and family team meetings.

Mentors help their youth develop their life skills by:

- Supporting youth and encouraging positive choices
- Being a positive role model to the youth
- Teaching youth and helping them learn

So far this year, 4 new mentors have completed the process to be matched with a youth. We are lucky to have mentors who volunteer from all over the Tucson community and beyond. Two new matches have been made and are successful thus far and 15 mentors are currently active

with their assigned youth. The program is actively recruiting additional mentors.

Please contact Monica at 740-4572 or by email monica.dominguez@pcjcc.pima.gov if you have any questions about the Community Mentoring Program or if you are interested in becoming a mentor.

