



Global problem now being addressed locally

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The two pimps holding the girls are arrested, convicted and sentenced to five and 10 years in prison, respectively.

While the above scenario may sound like a scene from a Lifetime movie or a horrible Third World country tableau, it wasn't.

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Check out these other stories in this month's bulletin:



Learning to climb and prune trees is just the beginning of what kids learn during the YARDS program.

Read more Pages 6-8



The PCJCC held its first ever Employee Recognition and Awards Luncheon this month.

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Work Group: Sex trafficking happening here in Tucson

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While the above scenario may sound like a scene from a Lifetime movie or a horrible Third World country tableau, it wasn't.

It happened here in Tucson. In fact, it's happened more than once.

Sex trafficking and labor trafficking are such a problem here multiple agencies have come together to share information amongst themselves and to educate social service providers and the general public about the issues.

The Southern Arizona Human Trafficking Working Group is comprised of the U.S. Attorney's Office, FBI, Homeland Security, Pima County Juvenile Probation, Tucson Police Department, Pima County Attorney's Office and the U.S. Department of Labor.

Now that Juvenile Probation Officer Sheila Pessingua is more knowledgeable about sex trafficking, she suspects young girls have been released from the detention center simply because no one recognized the red flags.

Determined to do better for these young victims, Pessingua recently arranged for work group members to speak with probation officers at the Pima County Training Center.

The officers learned the legal definitions of sex and labor trafficking, recruitment and control methods and the challenges faced by law enforcement, prosecutors and the victims.

Sex trafficking occurs when an adult is forced to commit a commercial sex act by force, fraud or coercion. (Contd. Page 3)

Did You Know?

Globally, 20 million people are victims of some form of trafficking, whether its labor or sex trafficking.

Of the 20 million global victims of human trafficking, five million are children.

The average American pimp makes \$150,000 to \$200,000 per year per prostitute and the average pimp has four to six girls in his stable.

Many sex trafficking victims are required to make \$500 to \$1,000 per day.

Tucson and Phoenix are part of a circuit because Arizona's laws on sex trafficking are less stringent than other states.

Sex traffickers often brand their victims with code names, nicknames and bar codes.

Sex traffickers often find victims in bus stations, malls, parks, fast food restaurants and courthouses.

It is also sex trafficking when someone recruits, entices, harbors, transports, provides or obtains someone who is under 18 for purposes of commercial sex acts.

According to the national non-profit group StandUp for Kids, 100,000 kids are sold into the sex trade in the U.S. annually.

According to the United Nations, \$9.5 billion was earned through sex trafficking and labor trafficking last year in the U.S. alone, said Deputy Pima County Attorney Kathryn Furtado.

More than 300,000 U.S. children are at risk of being sexually exploited because they

Means to control victims

- Threats against victim
- Threats against family/friends
- Beatings, rapes, starvation
- Isolation
- Psychological abuses
- Drug dependency
- Document withholding
- Debt bondage
- Threats of deportation
- Restriction of movement

are emotionally vulnerable, runaways, molestation victims, domestic violence victims or substance abusers, according to the Department of Justice.

It's scary to realize just about anyone can sexually exploit these victims, Furtado said. Pimps can be family members, friends, acquaintances or a stranger who finds just the right button to press.

"These pimps almost have a sixth sense for girls who are vulnerable," Furtado said.

A girl who suffers from low self-esteem and who doesn't have a strong family network might find herself charmed by the older boy she meets at the mall who tells her she's beautiful, Furtado said.

She'll believe the wannabe rap star when he tells her he wants to marry her, or that he'll make her his backup singer when he hits the big time. She'll believe she's helping him achieve his dreams when he asks her – as a one-time favor – to sleep with another man for some extra cash.

If she does happen to realize the truth, the beatings will ensure her continued compliance.

Another young girl may be mortified to find out her "boyfriend" took nude pictures of her while she was passed out drunk. She may be so ashamed she'll do whatever he asks just so he won't tell her family or post the pictures on Facebook, Furtado said.

Other victims, boy or girl, may find themselves so addicted to drugs, they'll do anything to get a fix.

In yet another scenario, a young lady will pay a smuggler to escort her across the border. She thinks she has a job as a housekeeper only she's forced into prostitution instead. Not only does her pimp take her identification and threaten her with immigration officials, he moves her from one unfamiliar city (Contd. Page 4)

to another.

Although movies may portray pimps as being stupid or silly, they are incredibly manipulative and business savvy, said Deputy Pima County Attorney Deborah Lee.

They convince the girls in their “stable” law enforcement officers and prosecutors want to punish, rather than help them, Furtado said.

The victims tell police officers and prosecutors they voluntarily sell their bodies, their pimps love them and they are the best thing that ever happened to them.

Unfortunately, untrained law enforcement officers and even family members may have actually treated them as criminals or immoral in the past, Furtado said.

“These girls’ experiences have caused them to lose trust in everyone and everything,” Furtado said.

Even if the victims and the pimps are part of a circuit, the pimps don’t just move to another city when a member of their stable gets arrested.

“These victims are their moneymakers,” Lee said. “They’ve invested a lot of time and energy controlling their victims emotionally and physically. They don’t just leave them behind if they get arrested. They’ll find them if they don’t come back on their own.”

Even if the pimp himself has been arrested, that doesn’t mean the victim is ready or willing to receive help.

In one of Lee’s cases, a 14-year-old runaway from Marana ran away from her CPS placement before the two people suspected of being her abusers could go to trial.

One of them received one year in jail and three years’ probation after entering a plea agreement. The case against the other was dismissed.

It is often difficult to prosecute these cases because the victims disappear or refuse to testify, Furtado said. If prosecutors are lucky, they will have text messages, advertisements and social media to use as evidence.

Work group members have a lot on their plate, Furtado said.

They not only need to train people to be on the lookout for potential sex trafficking victims, but they’ve got to convince social service providers to widen their range of services and to prioritize who they help.

While probation officers recognize the detention center may not be the best place for these victims, it will provide them a brief window of time to identify a service provider who can help set them up with counseling and find an appropriate placement, Pessingua said. (Contd. Page 5)

Probation officers need to be on the look-out for frequent runaways, kids with an extensive travel history, frequent shoplifters and kids whose friends are significantly older.

“When you see a child who is a runaway and who has been a runaway for a significant period of time, you’ve got to ask ‘How have they been supporting themselves?’ Furtado said. “As adults we know eating, showering and putting clothes on our back isn’t free.”

It’s also critically important for the work group to teach officers and the general public that working as a prostitute isn’t a choice for many.

“It’s not a glamorous life when you have to service 20 to 40 men a night,” Furtado said.

“No little girl wakes up and says ‘I want to be a prostitute,’” Lee said.

Statistics show most sex trafficking victims enter the life between 12 and 14 years of age, Lee said.

“When you see an 18-year-old prostitute, it’s a mistake to assume they decided to become a prostitute on their 18th birthday,” Furtado said.

Equally alarming is that when they become prostitutes, their life span is only seven years.

“We’re doing everything to find, identify and help these victims,” Furtado said. “That is our priority. That is our goal.”

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

What can parents do?

- Monitor your child’s social media, cell phone
- Keep track of who your child’s friends are
- Know where your children are
- Educate them about sex trafficking
- Assure them they can tell you anything and you will be non-judgmental

Contact information/referrals

Tucson FBI Office: 520-623-4306 or
Tucson.px@ic.fbi.gov

Homeland Security Investigations
 Tip Line: 1-866-347-2324

National Human Trafficking Hotline:
 1-888-373-7888

For more information on human trafficking visit: <http://www.polarisproject.org/>

Teens learn life and landscaping skills in YARDS program

On a recent Saturday, the sun had just risen an hour earlier and the thermometer hadn't yet hit 40 degrees. Neither fact seemed to bother the six teenagers who were wolfing down breakfast burritos.

They joked and laughed as they watched a group of men unload safety harnesses, hard hats and climbing rope at the foot of a 35-foot tall mesquite tree.

Within minutes, half the group was taking turns donning the gear and climbing the tree. The other half was taking turns driving a piece of equipment weighing more than a ton and designed to grind up tree roots and perform a number of other landscaping-related tasks.

It was the final day of YARDS.

Youth Achieving Resource Development Skills is a collaborative effort between Pima County Juvenile Court and Tucson Clean and Beautiful.

Over the course of nine weeks, a small group of handpicked kids on probation learn landscaping and other-job related skills. Every Saturday, a group of instructors teach them about such things as tools and safety, desert plant identification, water harvesting, pruning techniques, job application and interviewing skills.

The program is the brainchild of Tucson Clean and Beautiful's executive director, Joan Lionetti. For years she had been helping Probation Officer Dave Stadle come up with community service projects for kids on probation, but felt she wasn't doing enough.

"I'd say to Dave 'We really need to be giving these kids some sort of job skills,'" Lionetti said. (Contd. Page 7)



Sixteen-year-old Anisa tackles her fear of heights on the last day of the nine-week YARDS program with the help of instructor Alex MacKinnon.

“If we give them some job skills instead of having them pick up other people's garbage, I'll be more optimistic about their future and their education.”

Since January 2010, nearly 70 teens have voluntarily given up their Saturdays so they could learn new skills under the watchful eyes of local horticulturists, arborists and landscape architects.



Instructor Robert McCurdy goes over the controls of some landscaping equipment with Jesus, one of six students who recently graduated from the YARDS program.

Tucson Clean and Beautiful President Michael Jette also talks to

the kids about the criminal justice system and probation officer Jack Forrester does a session on filling out job applications and job interviews.

“We don't expect these kids to go out and become landscapers and nursery owners,” Lionetti said. “We want them to be aware of their surroundings, the environment and the uniqueness of the Sonoran Desert. And, if someday they own their own house, they'll know how to prune a tree. They'll know how to water a tree. They'll also know how to fill out a job application.”

Every YARDS session ends with the tree-climbing exercise, a highly anticipated event, said arborist Juan Barba.

Barba has been teaching kids how to climb and prune trees since the beginning. He wanted to give something back to the community and has found the teens are easy to work with.

While it's true the teens have gotten into trouble, Barba said he's come to realize that “They're just kids, like anybody else's.”

Lionetti said she never thought that at nearly 80-years-old she'd be getting up before dawn to buy a bunch of kids (Contd. Page 8)

breakfast burritos, but has found its well worth it.

“My heart just pounds. These kids are thirsty for information,” Lionetti said. “These kids questions these kids ask are absolutely amazing and (so is) the interest they have.”

On this particular day, the participants said they loved the program for various reasons.

Skye liked the tree climbing. Anisa liked the landscape architecture class. Two young men named Jesus liked the water harvesting class the best and a third Jesus was fascinated by Jette’s session on criminal justice.

"I think they should keep (the program) going because it gives people who mess up an opportunity to go forward in life and get life back on track," said Jesus G.

During a graduation ceremony held later the same morning, student Zach personally thanked Presiding Judge Karen Adam, Stadle, Lionetti and Jette for the program.

“I'd like to thank this program for helping me turn my life around. I used to be heavily involved in drugs and gang violence constantly, almost every day,” Zach said. “This has (helped me) turn my life around and given me tools to be more constructive and definitely put my time to better use.”



Presiding Pima County Juvenile Court Judge Karen Adam congratulates the latest graduates of the court's Youth Achieving Resource Development Skills program, which teaches kids landscaping and life skills. She urged the teens to use their new skills and to always remain curious.

Holiday tradition fosters fun and develops skills

Sixteen years ago, when Kim Chumley was the program coordinator for the Pima County Juvenile Detention Center, she wanted to find a fun way for staff members to develop a better rapport with the kids.

What started out as a holiday poster-making contest between the living units has evolved into a competition that showcases the imaginative and gifted minds of both kids and staff members.

Every year, they come together to turn living units into holiday wonderlands with a bit of construction paper, some glue and glitter.



The kids and staff from Living Unit 300 won the Super Nova Award this year during the annual Pima County Detention Center Holiday Decorating Contest.

Chumley, who is now an assistant division director, announces the contest in October. Some years, she gives the kids themes from which to choose. Other years, she lets the kids come up with their own themes.

This year, the 300 Unit looked like the set of *Monsters, Inc.* while the 100 Unit featured Charlie Brown. Mickey and

Minnie Mouse made an appearance in the 400 Unit and the Grinch showed up in the 500 Unit. A tattooed Santa was prominently displayed in the 200 Unit.

The contest is about team work, decision-making, delegating, exchanging ideas and celebrating the holiday in a positive way, said Dodie Ledbetter, deputy court administrator.

“It also gives them an opportunity to succeed at something,” Ledbetter said.

While an overall winner is chosen by a group of judges, every unit is honored for something, whether it’s having the best Christmas tree, (Contd. Page 10)

fireplace or theme, Ledbetter said.

Even better yet, all of the kids get to take part in an all-they-can-eat buffet made of their chosen cuisine. This year, the kids dined on enchiladas, burritos, refried beans, Mexican cornbread, cheese cake, tres' leches cake and chocolate cream pie.

Some of the kids in detention may not have the best holiday memories, Ledbetter said. Perhaps the contest will prompt them to create traditions they can take home to their families or share with their kids in the future.

During the holidays, the children are also taught about other countries' and religions' traditions and oftentimes speakers will visit to chat about them, Chumley said.

One year, the children and staff members from one living unit decorated every vacant cell to illustrate a different country's tradition.

"They had an 'It's a Small World' theme," Chumley said.

In years past, some kids have performed skits or sung songs to the judges, too, Chumley said.

"I just love the spirit it's brought to detention," Chumley said. "The kids get down and depressed sometimes. It's hard to be locked up for the holidays and I really think this contributes to their mental health and well-being."



More scenes from Living Unit 300 of the Pima County Detention Center. Check out Page 16 to see what the other living units created,

PCJCC staff honored for outstanding work, dedication

On Thursday, Dec. 19, Pima County Juvenile Court celebrated the end of the year by recognizing long-time employees and those who made outstanding contributions throughout 2013.

Probation Officer **Shirley D'Souza** was named Individual Merit Award winner, while the folks in Mediation were named the Team Merit Award winners. They are: **Terry Dalke, Susan Parnell, Stacey Brady, Dr. Jessica Findley, Melissa Silva, Scarlett Garcia, Marie Kermes, and Frances Bravo.**

One of the many unique things about Juvenile Court is the number of people who have spent their entire careers with us. Those who marked 20 years with the court in 2013 were: **Cynthia V. Canez, Becky L. Jorgenson, Anthony J. Lopez, Ernest V. Trillo, Elizabeth J. Parker, Mark A. McConnell, William A. Grijalva, Michael B. Bushey, Brenda Flynn, Kelly A. Bentkowski and Cary Steele Williams.** Those who reached 25 years were: **Mary Anne Nelson, David P. Lopez, Louis J. Estrella, Virginia W. Hatfield, Monica B. Santamaria, Teresa C. Franco, David A. Smith, Michael A. Redondo, Richard J. Delarosa, Bernadette Croteau, Gloria M. Egurrola and William R. Bahrychuk.** The folks who celebrated 30 years with the court were: **Stephen Marrone, David G. Stadle, Edith E. Hurley, Paula J. Burns and Wanda F. Payne.**



Mediation team members Susan Parnell, Jessica Findley, Scarlett Garcia, Marie Kermes, Terry Dalke and Frances Bravo show off their Team of the Year Award. Stacey Brady and Melissa Silva were unable to attend the event.

Probation officer finds niche helping families find resources

After talking to Shirley D'Souza for a little while, you might assume she'd been a probation officer her entire career. In fact, Pima County Juvenile Court Administrator Steve Rubin recently said Shirley has all of the qualities a 21st Century probation officer ought to have.

The truth is Shirley took a rather circuitous route on her way to be a probation officer and has only been one for seven years.

Shirley spent more than a decade in human resources working for a housing finance corporation in India and worked a few years setting up events for a Bollywood actor as an Office Manager.

When she migrated to Canada, she worked with Alberta Children Services in the Family Violence program.

Shirley and her family had the opportunity to come to the U.S. in 2006, after waiting for 15 years to become a legal resident. Her twin sister, who works for CPS, encouraged and supported her to consider a career change towards the Juvenile Probation Department, and believed that Shirley would make an excellent probation officer.

"I was very intimidated," Shirley remembers. "First of all, because of the job title and secondly had no knowledge of the role and responsibilities of a probation officer."

She began to learn the various aspects of the Court and soon assimilated within the culture understanding her role as a PO.

"I enjoy my work and every day is a learning experience for me," Shirley said. "I like helping families and being able to direct them to resources that they are not aware of." She credits all of her supervisors along the way with helping her develop her skills and for believing in her. (Contd. Page 13)



Pima County Juvenile Court Administrator Steve Rubin presents probation officer Shirley D'Souza with the Individual Merit Award for all of her hard work in 2013.

Every family experiences turmoil, and challenges and Shirley has great empathy for her probationers' family. She tries to use her skills and resources to help them.

She thrives on the challenge of locating the right resources and takes pride in successfully being able to address the issues through her collateral contacts in the community.

D'Souza holds her probationers' accountable with just the right blend of compassion and toughness, Rubin said when announcing D'Souza's selection as PJCCC's Employee of the Year 2013.

"I like being at work and could work a 12 hour day and yet go on," D'Souza said.

Additionally, Shirley volunteers as a board member for the Pima Foundation for Youth and also spends some Saturdays teaching a domestic violence awareness class.

D'Souza has a strong passion in helping children be safe and productive citizens. . She believes children need to be held accountable for their actions, but realizes that they need the support from the adults in their lives who will be positive role models to them.

D'Souza has recommended more kids to the Youth Achieving Resource Development Skills (YARDS) program than any other probation officer. She is also a big proponent of the Employee Readiness Program.

"I try to help our youth re-engage in the community in a positive way," D'Souza said.

In nominating D'Souza for the award, Judge Jane Butler said "Shirley routinely works beyond expectations, such as going to emergency rooms with families when a child overdoses, working with therapists, schools, employers and CPS to help children succeed on probation. She is an exemplary employee and a joy to work with."

Shirley feels supported by her husband who is also her best friend and completely understands this line of work. He works at CPS and is able to relate to similar issues on a different level with families.

"Every day is a learning experience for me," D'Souza said. "I will continue to enhance my skills and strive to do the best to serve the youth and families we serve in this community."

"I like helping families who don't know what resources are out there," Shirley D'Souza, Pima County Juvenile Court's Merit Award Winner.

Odds & Ends

Ken Sanders named new commissioner

Presiding Superior Court Judge Sally Simmons and Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Karen Adam announced Dec. 10 that Ken Sanders will be joining us as a commissioner on March 3. Ken was appointed to the bench to replace retiring commissioner Margaret Maxwell. In announcing their decision, the judges said the choice was a difficult one to make because there were four "excellent candidates."

Ken and his wife, Jennifer, are no strangers to the PCJCC. Their law firm has been taking on all matter of juvenile court cases for the last several years. Ken was a high school English teacher in the Tucson Unified School District and he received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Arizona.

Between 2000 and 2002, Ken handled medical malpractice and insurance defense litigation cases while working at Slutes, Sakrison and Hill . Between 2002 and 2005, Ken clerked for U.S. District Court Judge David Bury.



The Bravo team awarded four people with the Whatever It Takes award this month. **Shannon Kinne, Sandra Biggs, Anthony Biggs and Elaine Felix** responded quickly and efficiently during a stressful emergency situation earning kudos from the administrators in Detention Services.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 1, New Year's Day

Jan. 8 -10, ShoreTel rollout

Jan. 20, Martin Luther King Jr.

Milestones

Ernie Villa, probation, 15 years

Carolina Pullum, probation, 15
years

Voices

Since everyone at the PCJCC is here to help strengthen kids and families, it seems only appropriate that the kids in our Detention Center have a platform from which to speak. We'll be asking them questions periodically and printing some of their answers here.

If you could have one superpower, what would it be and why?

I would have extra physical strength so that if someone was trapped under a bus I could lift it up and save their life. If a tree fell on someone I could easily move it off of them. I could also be a private weight trainer. I could motivate, guide and help others become good at weight lifting

Porchia C.

I would be able to see the future. That way I would know if my actions were going to get me into trouble and then I would not do that. I could also see if someone was about to get hurt and keep it from happening.

Kevin T.

I would be able to teleport. If I wake up in the middle of the night, I can teleport myself to my Mom's house and eat her cooking then come back to detention. I can also get away from people who might try to hurt me.

Luis G.

I would like to be able to fly so I can go see my family in Phoenix and then go to New Mexico to see my brother and his son.

Eric J.

Decorating Contest



Christmas Treats



A few of Santa's elves, Judges Lisa Abrams, Jane Butler and Jennifer Langford, stopped by the Detention Center Christmas Eve to share some homemade goodies and good cheer with the few kids who couldn't make it home for the holidays.





A teenager congratulates her dad on his graduation from Family Drug Court as Recovery Support Specialist Andy Mendoza looks on. Five folks graduated from the Family Drug Court in December, bringing the annual total to 41.

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