



Activist tells kids they have the power to change the world

Believe it or not, you are in a good spot, Simón Sedillo told the kids in the Pima County Juvenile Detention Center last week.

“It’s not too late for you. You can hit re-set,” Sedillo said. “You ain’t dead and you ain’t shot up in the hospital.”

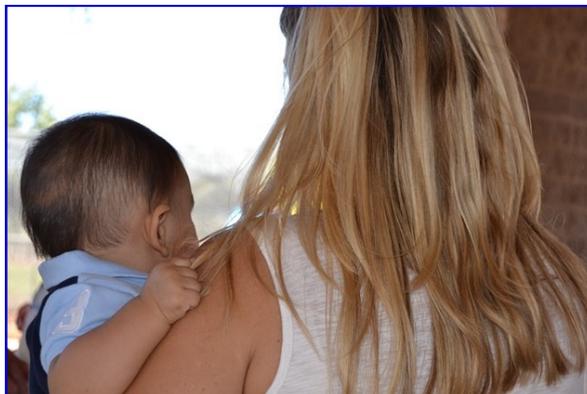
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Check out these other stories in this month’s bulletin:



Court and Calendar Services Clerk Sarah Espinoza arranged a nice surprise for her bosses recently.

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Little ones removed from their homes can be impacted severely, but our Baby Brigade is there to help .

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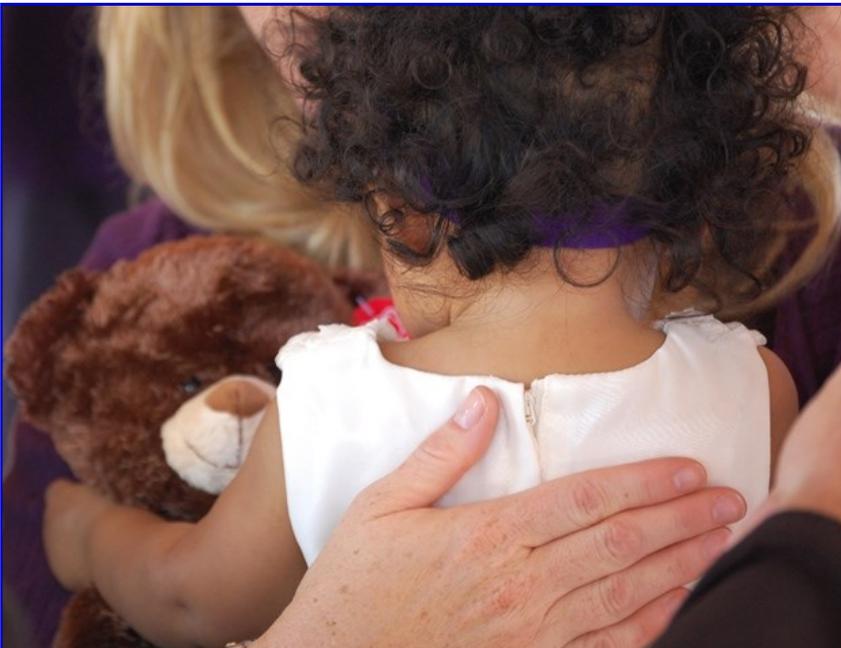
Court working hard to address needs of youngest clients

“Oh, she’s just a baby, she’ll be fine.”

“Thank goodness, he’s too little to understand what’s going on.”

For years, well-meaning people would reassure others with those words whenever they were forced to taken children away from neglectful or abusive parents.

Sadly, we’re starting to find out babies and small children may not remember the



trauma of being removed from their homes and placed in a foster home or shelter, but they are certainly not “fine.”

Whether a baby develops an enduring emotional bond with someone determines how they will view themselves and others for the rest of their lives.

Are they good and loveable? Or not? Are relationships dependable, nurturing and

safe? Or not?

It also influences their brain development, impairing their readiness to learn and develop.

The ramifications are HUGE, but there is some hope.

Faith Edison, a licensed clinical social worker for Easter Seals Blake Foundation and Monica McDonough, an assistant program manager for Child Protective Services, recently spent three hours talking about infant mental health at the county’s training center.

Children are resilient and if they can come to feel loved and safe with others and if their parents are devoted to change, they will come through the experience OK, the women said.

Edison and McDonough told the group there are ways to mitigate the damage done to the children. More frequent visitations can be set up. (Contd. Page 3)

Steps can be taken so that visitations, moves and reunifications aren't as traumatic. Special efforts can be made to match especially nurturing foster parents with small children.

"Children have to be in a safe and consistent place before they can heal from the trauma," McDonough said.

The Children and Family Services division of Pima County Juvenile Court have long recognized the special needs of babies and toddlers.

That's why they created the Baby Brigade in 2009.

The Baby Brigade is made up of specially trained Court Appointed Special Advocates who are assigned to cases in which the children are three and younger.

They know developmental delays are five times greater in these babies and toddlers than in the general population and more than half of them have serious medical problems.

By knowing what to look for, the Baby CASAs can become the best advocates possible for the children. They can speak to judges about the need for stable placements, coordinate services and information between providers, observe relationships and make recommendations.

Linda Koral was a CASA in California for seven years before moving to Arizona nine years ago and taking up the cause here.

A member of the Baby Brigade, Koral is currently volunteering around seven hours a week to make sure the needs of three little ones are being met.

CASAs are required to see their child once a month. She visits the siblings every week.

She also goes to all of their pediatrician appointments and stays in touch with their foster parents, biological parents, extended family members, teachers, daycare workers, attorneys and CPS case manager. She also attends Children and Family Team meetings, Foster Care Review Board meetings and parent/child visitations.

She is constantly watching for things having to do with safety, developmental milestones, social and emotional development, mental health issues, caregiver and child interactions and health issues. (Contd. Page 4)

By the numbers

Final Quarter 2013

68 babies removed for 1st time

26 babies removed again

58 babies had siblings over 3

28 babies taken after being born to moms with active cases

Total: 180

In every case she is assigned, she knows if the foster parents have baby gates, if the baby is eating and what her favorite foods are. She watches to see if the toddler lights up when his mom arrives for her visits or if the foster parents seem overwhelmed. She knows when the child's next dentist appointment is, if her vaccinations are up-to-date and if the baby is shy around strangers.

CASAs are the voice for infants and toddlers because they can't speak up for themselves, said CASA coordinator Christa Coxall.

Babies going through withdrawal can't tell you they are in agony, nor can a baby who was left to cry unfed for hours. A Baby CASA will immediately recognize the signs, Coxall said.

If a Baby CASA spots issues, they will report them to the judge. If they see a possible solution, they will advocate for it, whether it's more visitation time or a therapist or something else.

CASAs are in the unique position of being able to provide judges the whole picture of a family, Coxall said.

For example, a therapist might report that a mother is doing well in therapy with one child, but may not know that she's not doing well when she visits all of her children at once.

In many cases, CASAs are the one consistent person in a foster child's life because case managers and foster parents sometimes change.

Developing rapport and trust with the children and those around them takes time. Koral remembers one case in which a 7-year-old girl trusted her alone with the fact that her little brother had been hit in the head with a TV by his father.

Koral pushed for the boy to be seen by a pediatric neurologist and test results revealed abnormalities.

Although Baby CASAs must be prepared for the fact they may not be remembered by the children later in life, Koral is fortunate in that several adoptive parents have come to regard her as a family friend.

"They invite me to family events like birthday parties and graduations from Pre-K," Koral said. "They keep me informed with how they are doing. They tell me when they've made the honor roll and they send me pictures."

Although the work takes an emotional toll, it is worth it, Koral said.

"It makes me feel good," Koral said. "CASAs can't solve world hunger, but we can help one child at a time live a better life."

Federal grant to help court improve DV response

In 2012, 38 percent of the child welfare cases filed in Pima County Juvenile Court involved allegations of domestic violence. Eighty-six percent of the children interviewed by the probation department admitted they'd physically hurt someone on purpose. Seventy-five percent said their families were involved in "frequent/intense conflict."

Recognizing domestic violence as a significant problem, Pima County Juvenile Court's Children and Family Services applied for and received a two-year grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women last October.

Over the next two years, the court, Child Protective Services, Lutheran Social Services and Emerge! Center Against Domestic Violence will be creating a "best practice-informed" training program for court staff. A best practice is a way of doing something that has consistently shown better results than other ways.

The court hopes to better train its staff on how to respond to domestic violence and improve an already existing court-run intervention program for kids who have been referred to the court on domestic violence charges and their parents.

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges has agreed to look over the curriculum for the court's intervention program and provide suggestions on how to improve it.

It is important all court staff understands the effects of domestic violence on children, knows the types of interventions available and how to connect families to those community-based services.

"The research is clear that children who have been exposed to domestic violence are more likely to be violent themselves and to engage in risky behaviors which lead them to the juvenile court," said Presiding Pima County Juvenile Court Judge Karen Adam. "It is critical that we all know and understand those connections, and use that knowledge to develop the best case plans for all families involved with the court, no matter how they enter the system."

The work is just now beginning, said Rebecca Manoleas, assistant division director for Children and Family Services.

Among the first step is to conduct a court-wide survey to gauge the general knowledge of the staff on domestic violence, to find out what staff members would like to know and what they would like to see in terms of training.

The court and its partners will then develop a curriculum that will likely be implemented late next year.

Pima County lacks resources for both children who both commit acts of domestic violence and are themselves victims of domestic violence, said Cary Steele Williams, probation supervisor.

"As we make more people aware there's an issue, we will hopefully see more resources come into play," Williams said.

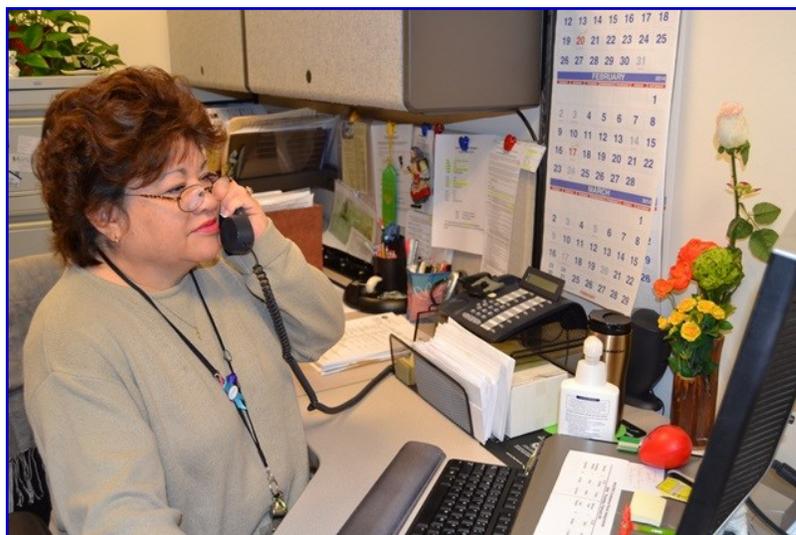
Receptionist's motto: old-fashioned courtesy, respect

Whether she's at the grocery store, the doctor's office or the mall, one thing in particular always gets Susana Samborsky's notice – bad customer service.

"It's really bad with the younger generation," Samborsky said. "They talk to their friends and co-workers and ignore their customers. I think it's an entitlement thing.

The younger generation is unwilling to work hard for anything. I grew up in a generation where you had to work hard for what you got."

Knowing how irritating bad customer service can be, Samborsky makes a conscious effort to be as pleasant and helpful as possible in her position at Pima County Juvenile Court.



Susana Samborsky

Samborsky is the first person people encounter at the Children and Family Services office in the courthouse. She is also division director Chris Swenson-Smith's administrative assistant.

She has many duties from the mundane to the complex. Her idle time is rare.

Between walk-in traffic and telephone calls, Samborsky deals with dozens of parents, CPS case managers and attorneys daily.

It's the parents who take up the majority of Samborsky's time.

On a typical day, Samborsky fields countless calls from parents asking when their next hearing date is, if they can cancel their hearing and who their attorney is.

Anyone sitting with Samborsky for a day realizes it sounds easier than it is. The parents on the other end of the phone or standing at Samborsky's desk are going through the most trying period of their lives.

They're living apart from their children and they are often struggling with substance abuse and mental health issues. They are juggling the demands of normal everyday life – school, work, buying groceries – with all of the urine drops, therapy sessions,

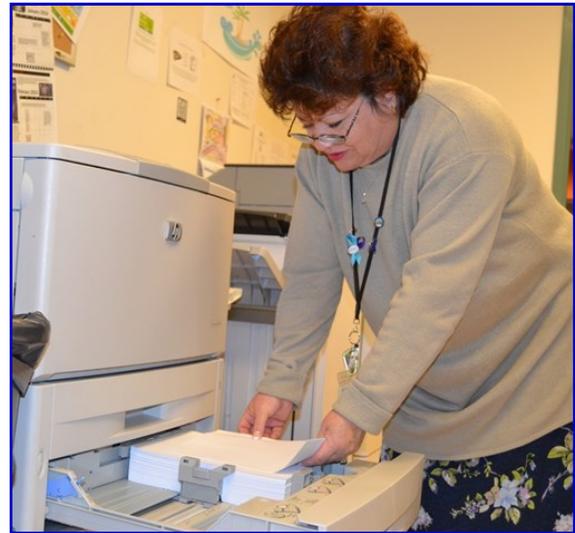
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hearings, Child and Family Team meetings and classes required of them by their judge and CPS.

The court world is bewildering and frustrating for them and Samborsky often finds herself having to explain to them the process.

Organizational skills are often foreign to them. They aren't used to keeping track of documents, hearings, appointments and the names of attorneys, case managers, therapists, etc. As a result, they often call Samborsky for help.

Unfortunately, many don't understand that because of privacy and safety concerns, she simply isn't allowed to give information unless they have a case number and are involved in the case. Nor do they understand that court hearings can't simply be cancelled with a phone call; a formal process must be filed by their attorney.



People also often confuse the county's Children and Family Services division with Child Protective Services, a state agency. The county has no authority to replace case managers, nor can the county arrange for state-funded services.

Samborsky also gets a lot of complaints about attorneys who aren't returning phone calls. Again, Children and Family Services has no authority over them.

She has learned to be tolerant, Samborsky said. She often must listen to a long litany of complaints and people's entire life story before she can direct them to the right agency.

"You've got to have lots of patience," Samborsky said. "When you're dealing with the public you've got to go beyond your job description if you want to lead them in the right direction."

That's where the customer service comes in.

When people get angry with her, Samborsky simply listens quietly and answers calmly and respectfully.

Samborsky also attends every training the court provides about the issues families are dealing with and reads child welfare literature voraciously.

"Not being a social worker, I try to inform myself so that I have a better understanding of what they are going through and so I am more compassionate," Samborsky said. "I don't want to add to their traumatized world."

County's Las Artes center provides hope for young adults

When Stephany kept getting thrown out of charter schools, she wasn't worried. She had a plan.

"I told myself I was going to get famous or marry a guy with money, that school was a waste of time," she said.

Getting involved with the court system and entering recovery opened up her eyes.

Stephany no longer drinks, uses heroin or other illicit substances. She also recently got her GED and is taking three classes at Pima Community College. She dreams of becoming either a forensic psychologist or a crime scene analyst.

Even though I messed up so much, they never gave up on me. — Stephany

The 17-year-old credits her transformation to Pima County Juvenile Court's Youth Recovery Court and to the county's Las Artes Arts and Education Center.

Youth Recovery Court taught her to recognize the things that prompted her to

use drugs and alcohol and gave her coping skills. Las Artes provided her with an education.

Las Artes prepares students between 17 and 21 years old for GED testing and provides them marketable job skills through community art projects. Students are provided a weekly stipend to offset transportation, clothing and school supply costs.

Shirley D'Souza, a Pima County juvenile probation officer, has been referring teens to Las Artes for seven years.

"I use it a lot because there are kids who are just done with school, they want things to happen faster than they can in regular school," D'Souza said.

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Stephany receives a hug from probation officer Shirley D'Souza following her graduation from the county's Las Artes Arts and Education Center.

Las Artes also provides the tutoring they may not have been able to get elsewhere, D'Souza said.

Roxana Matiella, Juvenile Justice Services Coordinator, said Las Artes is like Pima County Juvenile Court in that they believe at-risk children can make it.

"We partner with people in the community who share the passion that we do to change and improve lives," Matiella said. "Las Artes is a great example of such a partnership."

"I worked harder these past four months than I did in four years of high school," Stephany said. "I learned so much."

While school officials were strict about attendance, being on time and their dress code – things Stephany has struggled with in the past – she grew to love the school.

"They really helped me there," Stephany said. "The teachers actually cared. They made sure I got it. Even though I messed up so much, they never gave up on me. All of my other teachers didn't see anything in me. They just saw me as a drug addict."

The teachers and tutors at the school and her Youth Recovery Court team members have convinced her she has potential.

"Now I realize I can do whatever I want," Stephany said. "I can go to college. I can support myself. I don't have to rely on anybody else."



Aside from her family, Stephany (center) had a whole contingent of other folks at her graduation from Las Artes. They included, from left to right, probation support specialist Olivia Grijalva, probation officer Shirley D'Souza, attorney Michelle Robbins and clinical director Beverly Tobiason.

Community activist encourages kids to take charge

Believe it or not, you are in a good spot, Simón Sedillo told the kids in the Pima County Juvenile Detention Center last week.

“It’s not too late for you. You can hit re-set,” Sedillo said. “You ain’t dead and you ain’t shot up in the hospital.”

Sedillo, a community rights organizer, documentary film maker and lecturer, was invited to drop in by Cape School teacher Jim Byrne as part of Healthy Lifestyles week.



Filmmaker, community activist and lecturer Simón Sedillo visited the Pima County Juvenile Detention Center last week. He told the kids if their neighborhoods aren't good places to grow up, they need to be the ones to change them.

Sedillo told the kids there

is hope for their future and the futures of their younger siblings, but it is up to them to make the changes necessary in their lives.

A few years ago, the citizens of Cherán, Michoacán were tired of cartel members murdering, kidnapping, raping and extorting from them, Sedillo said.

They began to fight back and they kicked the politicians and state police out because they believed them to be corrupt, Sedillo said. The community of 20,000 people formed a rotating traditional general council that is in charge of the community’s safety and security. Since then, organized crime has dropped to almost nothing, he said.

While he doesn’t believe they should go out and confront gang members or drug dealers, Sedillo told the teens there is much they can do to improve the world around

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them. It could be as simple as walking their siblings to school so they don't get caught up in a gang or helping tutor someone, he said.

Sedillo asked the group to share ideas on what they could do. One after the other, the kids called out ideas -- build a group home for poor people, start a small business, take kids camping and to the movies.

Then Sedillo asked the kids what would happen if they helped an elderly neighbor clean his gutters or rake his yard?

Is it possible that neighbor could one day remember their acts of kindness and offer help with a business venture? Sedillo asked. Could that neighbor one day come to their defense if they were being unfairly harassed by the police?

**"It's not too late for you.
You can hit re-set," —
Simón Sedillo**

Police officers are not trained to be social workers, they are trained to police, Sedillo said. Perhaps if everyone began doing positive things and offering positive alternatives, police officers wouldn't be needed at all, he said.

"There's a saying -- 'Ain't nobody gonna save the hood, but the hood.' That's y'all," Sedillo said.

He lectures all over the country about community activism and geopolitics and yet he loves visiting teens just like them, Sedillo told them.

"Y'all are my favorite students because y'all have Ph.Ds., you have Ph.Ds. in your experiences," Sedillo said. "It's up to y'all to help your brothers and sisters to not end up in the same situation."

After the presentation Sedillo said that while he has an honorary degree from Harvard, he is not a formally educated man. He was once just like the kids in the detention center. He began his journey by videotaping police officers to ensure they weren't violating people's rights.

He goes out of his way to visit at-risk children because he knows what they feel like.

"This population is the most ignored in our society and the most forgotten," Sedillo said. "They are part of that sector that's treated as a disposable variable in the economic equation. They are not considered producers or consumers so they fall by the wayside."

By treating them like adults and talking to them "straight up," Sedillo said he hopes they truly will try to create something positive in their neighborhood.

PCJCC recognized for patriotism by U.S. Department of Defense

Four or five times a month, Sarah Espinoza makes a two-hour round-trip to Sierra Vista to attend events most people dread -- funerals.

The Court and Calendar Services clerk is a U.S. Navy reservist and honor guard member. She has the solemn duty of helping fold the American flag that is presented to U.S. Navy veterans' loved ones.

It's a duty she loves and she is grateful the Pima County Juvenile Court gives her the time she needs to carry it out.

In fact, Espinoza asked the U.S. Department of Defense to present her bosses Patriotic Employer Awards in recognition of their support. The DOD has an agency that educates employers about the importance of National Guardsmen and reservists and honors them as well.

Fred McCormick, a volunteer with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve agency, presented awards to Kelly Bentkowski, Tom Deneke and Bonnie White Feb. 20.

The award recognizes the three for "contributing to national security and protecting liberty and freedom by supporting employee participation in America's National Guard and Reserve Force."

Espinoza is an aviation warfare firefighter (AWF2). She spent four years on active duty and has been a reservist for the last nine years. As an AWF2, she helps take cargo and personnel to duty stations all over the world.

Espinoza's squadron, VR-57, is one of eight jet logistics squadrons in the Navy. The jets are capable of carrying 90 passengers or 27,000 pounds of cargo or a combination of both.

"It's an honor to serve my country and the soldiers who have fallen," Espinoza said. "I want to thank Pima County Juvenile Court and especially the calendar services team because they support me when I take time off to serve."

Bentkowski said everyone in their unit is proud of Espinoza.

"It is an honor to have Sarah as a part of our team," Bentkowski said. "We all feel it is our duty to support her as citizens of the country she so staunchly protects."



Sarah Espinoza, (top left,) with Fred McCormick of the U.S. Department of Defense and her supervisors, Bonnie White, Tom Deneke and Kelly Bentkowski, (left to right, bottom row)

Odds & Ends

FYI

Ramiro Alviar, Pima County Juvenile Court's language services supervisor, was recently recognized by Pima Community College Downtown Campus President Gwendolyn Joseph for his exemplary service.



In a letter to the court, Joseph thanked Alviar for his dedication to the Translation and Interpretation Studies Program External Advisory Committee. She said his input ensures PCC's courses and programs are relevant.

"You have made a difference..providing current information regarding employment prospects, current changes in business and industry, and foresight into technological developments that are important to education and training of students," Joseph wrote.

Milestones

Michael Schoephoerster , Probation, 5 years

Upcoming Events

Monday, March 17, St. Patrick's



The Bravo team awarded one GEM this month. **Kimberly Hubble** was recognized for her work in the Internal Control West area of the Detention Center. She was commended for always being professional and alert and for diligently watching the cameras while staying on top of the radio traffic, phones and touchscreens. Kimberly was also named Employee of the Month by her colleagues in Detention.

Reminder

The deadline for PCJCC staff to submit their nominations for the annual Arizona Chief Probation Officer's Association awards is Friday, **March 14**.

Every year, the association honors the Detention Officer of the Year, Supervisor/Manager of the Year, Employee of the Year and Line Officer of the Year.

The winners will be announced to all chief probation officers and directors April 18.

Time is running out...Every year, Aviva and other community resource agencies host the March for Children to promote child abuse prevention month and to recognize those on the front lines fighting to prevent abuse.

This year's march, the 10th Annual, is Sunday, April 13th and nominations are being sought for the Child Abuse Prevention Awards. The awards honor those who have made a difference in the continued fight against child abuse.

Please help by getting the word out! The deadline to submit awards is **March 14**.

Nominees are sought for the following categories:

- “ **Resilient Family of the Year:** Awarded to a family who has overcome a crisis, successfully navigated the Dependency system, and has put into practice the tools and skills they've acquired by demonstrating strong protective factors. In other words, they've turned a crisis into an opportunity, challenges into strengths, and obstacles into successes.
- “ **Keith Smith Foster Parent of the Year:** Awarded to an outstanding foster parent(s) who has made an impact in the lives of children and youth in foster care.
- “ **Agency/Program/Business:** Awarded to any group, program, agency, or business who has made a significant impact in promoting the prevention of child abuse.
- “ **Individual:** Awarded to any individual who has been involved in making a difference in the prevention of child abuse.

This year's event is being held at Reid Park in conjunction with Casa de los Niño's Family Fiesta and will feature plenty of family activities, entertainment and refreshments.

Visit www.marchforchildren.webs.com to fill out the nomination form and to find out more about the event, which begins at 9:30 a.m. at the band shell.

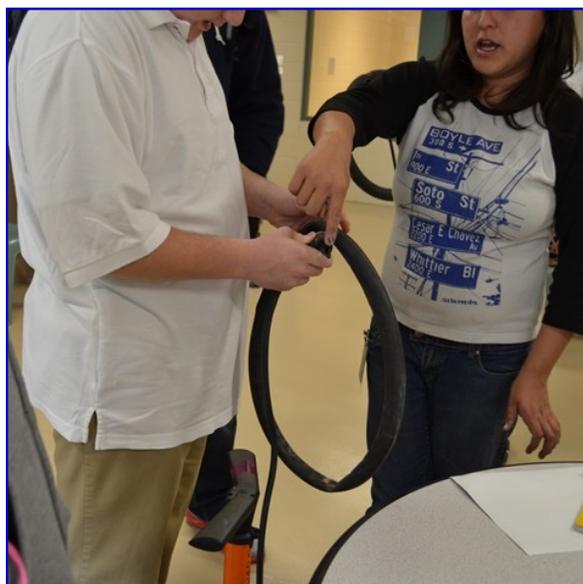
Month in Pictures



The PCJCC & Pima Community College held a Youth Career Day at the college's downtown campus Feb. 13. Children from both the juvenile justice and child welfare side received a tour of the campus and learned about what resources are available to them. We received some coverage from KOLD/KMSB. More than 50 children participated in the event.

Our kids were treated to a lesson on bicycle tire maintenance by Brie Anne Buttner of BICAS Feb. 3.

BICAS is a non-profit collectively-run community education and recycling center for bicycles.



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.

What is important to consider when choosing a career besides money?

Look for a career that you like to do and something that's not going to drain you out. It's important to look for a career that has good benefits for you and your family. When choosing a career it's important to work somewhere close to home next to your family, that way you can give them that family support — Israel

When choosing a career, some of the things that might be important is if someone likes working with kids, then they might work with kids. If someone doesn't like their job it will be a matter of time before they quit or get tired. — Andres

Having a career that you like and having a job that's always been a part of your dream. (You should have) a career that has good benefits like health insurance or a 401K. (You should have) something where you can have a flexible schedule and you can have fun and wake up in the morning excited to go to work and you can have a smile on your face. — Jason

It's important to consider your interest and things that you like to do because you don't want to be dreading going to work everyday. You want to have a job that you like and enjoy. It's also important to consider the effects that the job might have on you and your social life/family. — Michael

What is more important is that you like the career you have chosen. Also that you can support you and your family. I want to do underwater welding. I like to be in the water and see all the stuff that is under there than I can explore. Second reason is that I like to work on things and learn about whatever it is that I am working on.— Bryce



A CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer is needed for eight-year-old “Jacob”. Child Protective Services took custody of this boy after his elderly relative was no longer able to care for him. His birthmother is currently

incarcerated and his birthfather is deceased leaving him with no parent able to care for him. His mother will be incarcerated for a substantial amount of time and there are no other relatives in Arizona able to raise Jacob. *

Jacob is currently placed in a group home and as a result of his mother’s incarceration and father’s absence; there are no caring adults visiting him. The CASA volunteer appointed to this case will have the opportunity to support Jacob through the following ways: visiting with him on a routine basis to be a positive role model; contacting the professionals, such as therapists and teachers, who work with Jacob to monitor his progress in each area; working as a part of the Child and Family team to ensure Jacob has the services needed to help him understand his current situation and support him in developing positive coping skills. This CASA volunteer will provide information to the court at the dependency review hearings throughout the life of the case.



At the present time, there is a great need for CASA volunteers willing to work with children in care. If you are interested in serving our community as a CASA volunteer for this case or a similar one please contact the CASA office at 724-2060.

*Some of the details about Jacob have been slightly altered to protect his privacy.



Two new judges coming to PCJCC; Judge Adam leaving

Changes are in store over the next several months at Pima County Juvenile Court.

Every so often, judges rotate between Pima County Superior Court and Pima County Juvenile Court and they take on different roles.

On July 1, Presiding Pima County Juvenile Court Judge Karen Adam will move downtown to take on family law cases. Judge Kathleen Quigley will then become the Juvenile Court's presiding judge.

In addition, Judges Doug Metcalf and Brenden Griffin will come to Juvenile Court from Superior Court. One of them will be filling the spot left vacant by Judge Adam's departure. The other one will be taking a spot recently created by Presiding Superior Court Judge Sally Simmons, who saw a need for another position given the court's caseload.

In other news, the court is now looking to fill two administrative positions: Director of Juvenile Court Services and Deputy Court Administrator.

The director will oversee Probation, Detention, clinical services, education programs and juvenile justice programs. He or she will report to the juvenile court presiding judge and deputy court administrator.

The deputy court administrator will be responsible for Children and Family Services, court and calendar services, facilities and security services, contracts and grants, research and evaluation, public information services and other administrative services. The deputy court administrator will report to the presiding judge of juvenile court and the Pima County Superior Court administrator.

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