



### *Well-known filmmaker discusses creative process with teens in detention*

Sixteen-year-old CF couldn't keep the grin off his face. He not only met well-known documentary filmmaker Tony Buba, but Buba encouraged him to rap in front of a large crowd – twice.

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



A few months ago, plenty of people would have written DM off. But not only did he pass his General Equivalency Diploma tests, he “aced” them.

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Eleven special teens were honored at Pima Foundation for Youth's Annual Awareness Luncheon May 8.

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Presiding Pima County Juvenile Court Judge Karen Adam is pleased we are among the most successful courts in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative.

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## Pima County ranks high in JDAI results

Reduced admissions by 80 percent; sending fewer kids to ADJC

It's been 20 years since the Annie E. Casey Foundation started the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative and foundation President Patrick McCarthy is pleased with the results, but says it's not yet time to celebrate.

As of 2012, JDAI sites have:

- In the aggregate, reduced the number of kids detained on an average day by 43 %.
- Reduced annual admissions by 59,000 kids.
- Reduced number of kids sent to juvenile prisons by 40 %.
- Experienced reduction in juvenile crime by an average of 36 percent.

Last month, McCarthy met with more than 800 officials from all over the U.S. for an Inter-site Conference in Atlanta.

Judge Karen Adam, Court administrator Stephen Rubin, Detention Director Jennifer Torchia, Juvenile Services Coordinator Roxana Matiella and Tucson Police Lt. Paul Sayre were among those in attendance.

By the end of the year, 200 counties in 39 states and Washington, D.C. will be actively participating in the initiative, the purpose of which is to safely reduce the number of children locked up.

Studies have shown detaining kids is not a deterrent and is quite harmful.

Kids who are detained are 13.5 times

more likely to be re-arrested, 3.3 times more likely to begin carrying a weapon and twice as likely to become gang members.

In addition, placing kids in detention increases substance abuse issues, school problems, violence, adjustment problems in adulthood and antisocial attitudes.

Statistics released at the conference shows Pima County has a lot to be proud of.

Although each site joined the initiative at different times, in the aggregate, sites have reduced the daily detention population by 43 percent. Pima County, which began working on the problem in 2004, reduced its detention population by 70 percent.

Pima County is tied for second with Clayton County, Ga. among 38 grantees in terms of detention reduction. Multnomah, Ore. reduced its population by more than 80 percent.

(Contd. Page 3)

Pima County ranks third among the 38 grantees in the reduction of detention admissions. In the aggregate, all of the sites reduced the number of admissions by 39 percent; Pima County reduced it's by 70 percent.

Pima County received top scores in yet another category. In the aggregate, the sites reduced by 43 percent the number of kids sent to state-run juvenile

prisons. We reduced that number by nearly 80 percent, ranking fourth out of the 38 grantees.

Judge Adam spoke at the conference on "Judicial Reflections on Detention Reform" and "The Trauma-informed Perspective and its Implication for Detention Reform." Mr. Rubin spoke on "Innovations in Responding to Domestic Violence" and Lt. Sayre spoke about "Engaging Law Enforcement in Juvenile Detention Reforms."

In his introductory remarks, McCarthy reminded the attendees that when the initiative began, it seemed as though there was an ongoing attack on the "very concept of a juvenile justice system." People were being told a wave of "super predators" was coming and it was politically and socially acceptable to be tough on kids.

The super predators never came. Juvenile crime overall has decreased and people have come to accept that kids are not "mini-adults," McCarthy said.

Brain science has proven teenagers' brains are not yet fully developed and the frontal lobe – the part that controls impuls-

es and helps make judgment calls – develops last, McCarthy said.

As a result, most kids "age-out" of delinquency, McCarthy said.

"We have a lot to be proud of and thankful for, but it's not time to celebrate yet," McCarthy said.

Efforts continue to be made to reduce disproportionate minority contact and to increase the number of children and families willing to

provide input into reforms, McCarthy said.

African American children are five times as likely to be confined as their White peers and Hispanic and American Indian children are two to three times as likely to be confined.

*The "super predators" never came and juvenile crime has steadily decreased.*

*For more information:*

<http://www.jdaihelpdesk.org>

<http://www.aecf.org/>

## Eleven teens honored for overcoming many obstacles



The Junior League of Tucson was packed May 8 as people from all over the community came together to honor 11 special teens at Pima Foundation for Youth's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Awareness Luncheon.

Probation officers, CPS case managers and Judge Peter Hochuli nominated each foster child and probationer because they have overcome many challenges and are on the road to success.

"These are the moments that drive and inspire us to do this work," CPS program manager Pauline Machiche said in her keynote address. "We work with some amazing children."

Although the media tends to dwell on the negative, Machiche said it's important people "recognize and celebrate the positives."

Machiche told the group exactly six years ago to the day she adopted a boy whose drug addicted mom abandoned him and his brother for days at a time.

By the time he was in the eighth grade he'd been in 13 schools. He spent more than three years in a group home before she adopted him, Machiche said.

Although there were some rocky times, Machiche said her son is now a 20-year-old Marine who lives by the motto "Live in the Past, Die in the Future."

While some might think her son benefitted the most from their relationship, Machiche said he gave her a future and she is stronger because of him.

Machiche praised the teens for teaching everyone in the room how to be resilient, how to trust despite being betrayed and what it means to be a teenager in today's world.

Each of them is the "author and creator" of their own story and it is they who will decide what their next chapter will be about and how their stories will end, Machiche said.

Use what you've learned to build a stronger future and to help other children, Machiche urged the teens.

Become mentors, youth board members and foundation members, Machiche said. They should also keep in touch with their case managers and probation officers.

It struck her deeply when her son told her he believes he stayed in a foster home for years because his case managers kept quitting.

"Your call may keep (your case managers and probation officers) doing the job they do," Machiche said.

The Pima Foundation for Youth put together the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Awareness Lunch with help from the Community Partnership of Southern Arizona. Uptown Optimists, the Mayor's Office, the Junior League of Tucson and Café 54 also supported the event.

# Record number of kids getting GED



A few months ago, plenty of people would have written DM off. The 17-year-old had been in and out the Pima County Detention Center multiple times on domestic violence and drug crimes. He was a high school drop-out who stole from his own mother to feed his heroin and methamphetamine addictions and he'd even been kicked out of an on-line school.

Probation officer Brett Ames, education programs coordinator Cathleen Fitzgerald and Judge Peter Hochuli aren't in the business of writing kids off, though.

Working together with a multitude of others in the juvenile justice center, the three helped DM get back on track.

He donned a cap and gown on April 23 and Pima County Juvenile Court Administrator Stephen Rubin handed him a diploma.

Not only did DM pass his General Equivalency Diploma tests, he "aced" them.

In fact, he scored in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile nationally on the math portion of the test, in the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile on the reading portion and 93 percentile on the science portion.

The next day, DM was released from the detention center and is now attending Pima Community College. He hopes to graduate with a degree in design or mechanical engineering.

DM is not unique among those in the detention center, Fitzgerald said. (contd. Page 6)



“Most of our youths do have goals and getting their GED is the first step toward realizing those goals,” Fitzgerald said.

DM is one of 19 who have obtained a GED so far this fiscal year. In Fiscal Year 11-12, nine students received their diplomas.

Many detained children are bright individuals, but because of family, substance abuse or mental health issues, just don’t do well in school, Fitzgerald said. They get the help they need within the detention center.

Getting their GED helps kids get jobs or continue their educations, Fitzgerald said.

DM was a regular marijuana user when his dog died. Depressed, he readily agreed to try heroin when a friend offered it to him.

Eventually, he started using methamphetamine, too.

It wasn’t until he was arrested and clean for a while that he realized he’d been putting the drugs ahead of his own welfare and that of his family’s. He stole from his mom to support his habit.

DM was participating in a diversion program when Ames, his probation officer, found methamphetamine paraphernalia in his room.

Ames had DM terminated from the program, but asked that DM be placed into the juvenile drug court program, which was being overseen at the time by Judge Hochuli. He also kept DM on his caseload.

“He’s never lost faith in me,” DM said about Ames. “He always stuck there with me and he put 110 percent into keeping me clean. He sticks by what he says. If he says he’s going to do something, he’ll do it.”

DM described the juvenile drug court program as “amazing.”

“They don’t give you enough time to use and that’s what I need to be afraid of, free time,” DM said.

Although DM is going to Pima Community College, he knows he will continue to struggle with his addictions. He still has people he considers friends offering him drugs.

Still, he knows the cost of doing drugs, though. Two friends have fatally over-dosed recently.

“I might still be addicted or I might be dead,” without the help of Ames and others at the Pima County Juvenile Court Center, DM said.



## Six honored at annual CASA Support Council Luncheon

Being a child in the foster care system is traumatic from the get-go. First, something scary happens to you. Then you have to say goodbye to your mommy and daddy. As if that's not enough, you then have to go live with people you may never have met before.

A Court Appointed Special Advocate can make all of the difference in the world to such a child, said Ramona Panas, Pima County CASA Program Manager.

A CASA volunteers to become the eyes and ears of the judge assigned to the case.

Such advocates remain in the child's life as long as he or she is in the foster-care system. They regularly meet with the child and those involved in the child's life - their therapists, teachers, doctors, foster parents, case managers, etc.

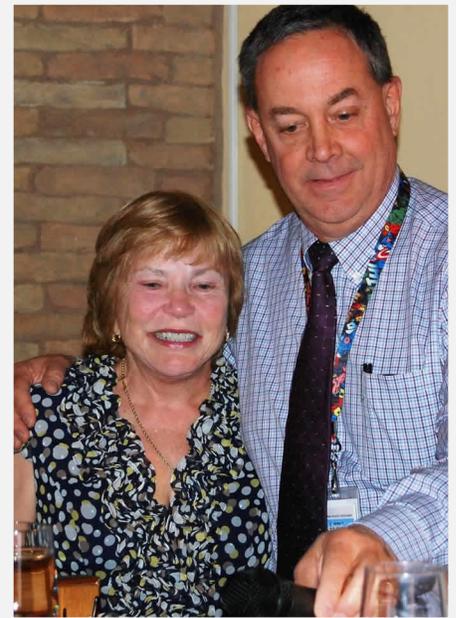
They prepare reports for the judges and tell them what is in the child's best interests.

Four CASA volunteers were recently honored by the CASA Support Council for Pima County. Also honored were the CPS Worker of the Year and Attorney of the Year.

- Judge's Choice – Mary Ann Martin invested more than 400 hours and drove

nearly 2,100 in less than nine months to advocate for the children assigned to her.

- Attorney's Choice – Ceci Rivera is known for her ability to develop trusting relationships with children, family members and placements.
- CASA of the Year – Sharon Inorio has advocated for 22 children over the last 15-plus years and is currently advocating for several children from one family.
- Special Award – Barbara Himebaugh was singled out for her 25 years as a CASA. Chris Swenson-Smith, Division Director for Pima County's Children and Family Services, said Himebaugh has the perfect combination of "heart, brains and personality."
- CPS Worker of the Year – Donna Stewart is known for her perseverance, quiet determination, creativity, professionalism and patience.
- Attorney of the Year – Jilian Aja was selected for her communication skills and willingness to go the extra mile for the children she represents.



Judge Peter Hochuli and CASA Mary Ann Martin

"A CASA is consistent, strong and compassionate. They don't take things personally because they know it's not about them, it's all about the children," Panas said.

Today in Pima County, there are approximately 4,000 children in foster care and fewer than 200 of them have a CASA.

To learn more on becoming a CASA, call 740-2060 or visit [www.azcourts.gov/casa](http://www.azcourts.gov/casa).

## *PCJCC officials honor volunteers*

Some are retired educators, others recovering drug addicts, fitness buffs or students.

Whatever their background is, they share a love of children and a need to give back to the community.

They act as the eyes and ears of our judges, they teach kids how to read and they tutor them in math.

They talk about domestic violence and drugs and sexually transmitted diseases.

They provide yoga lessons, teach religion and give advice on how to get a job. They share their life experiences and they cheer kids on. Sometimes, they just sit and listen.

They are volunteers and they are devoted to the many children who come through the doors of the Pima County Juvenile Court Center in need of help.

On Friday, April 26, presiding Pima County Juvenile Court Judge Karen Adam, Court Administrator Stephen Rubin and volunteer Coordinator David Jimenez recog-

nized the 246 people who have volunteered over the last year.

Those in attendance included: Peter Lund, Felice Jarrold, Joan Kelly, Veaney Enriquez, Joan Gardner, Art Prichard, George Soltero, Lydia Valdez, Evelyn Maish, Mary Francis, Kathryn Bablove, Mary Derrick, Vanessa Lopez, Chantal Tatum, Santa Gonzalez, Esteban Parra, Michael Dow, Sabrina Lopez, Leah Hamilton, Maritza Jauregui, Andrew West, Martin Mares, Jesus Ruiz, Vanessa Sainz, Karen Lopez, Rick Stevenson, Ricardo Talavera, James Collier, Sandy Stein, Danielle Tarry, Clarence Boykins and Richard Davis.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact Jimenez at 740-2024.

You can become a Court Appointed Special Advocate, a mentor or an education consultant. You can volunteer in detention or become a community presenter. You, too, can “create positive change in our community through service and volunteerism.”



Presiding Pima County Juvenile Court Judge Karen Adam, Court Administrator Stephen Rubin and volunteer coordinator David Jimenez with some of our many, many volunteers.

## Film maker visits Detention Center youth



Sixteen-year-old CF couldn't keep the grin off his face. He not only met well-known documentary filmmaker Tony Buba, but Buba encouraged him to rap in front of a large crowd – twice.

"I thought it was awesome," CF said. "The fact he let me stand-up and share my music. I mean it was like a dream come true. The fact he talked directly to everyone and he called me 'Kid Irish' was really cool, too."

Buba recently spent 90 minutes visiting the kids in the detention center as part of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival in the Schools program, an off-shoot of the

Arizona International Film Festival. Buba showed snippets of the many documentaries he's made while sharing some of his background with the kids.

The 70-year-old filmmaker graduated 90<sup>th</sup> in a class of 100 and was forced to take remedial classes before going to college at the age of 25. The former assembly-line worker instantly developed a rapport with the kids after telling them he once played a zombie in George Romero's cult classic "Night of the Living Dead," has become friends with actor Steve Buscemi and met Al Pacino.

He has spent his life documenting his family and his tiny hometown because if he didn't, no one else would, Buba said.

In explaining his work, Buba quoted Helen Keller, who once said: "The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of tiny pushes of each honest worker."

Buba urged the kids to let other people know about their life experiences, to stop being passive.

Festival director Giulio Scalingo and Buba agreed all filmmaking starts with writing and urged the kids to write down what they think and feel, no matter the form. (Contd. Page 10)

Buba then drifted among the kids, asking if any of them were writers and what they hope to become. It was then CF's gift of rap was revealed.

"His verbal skills were just incredible," Buba and Scalinger agreed.

It was Buba's first time to visit a detention center and he was impressed with how engaged and intelligent the kids were.

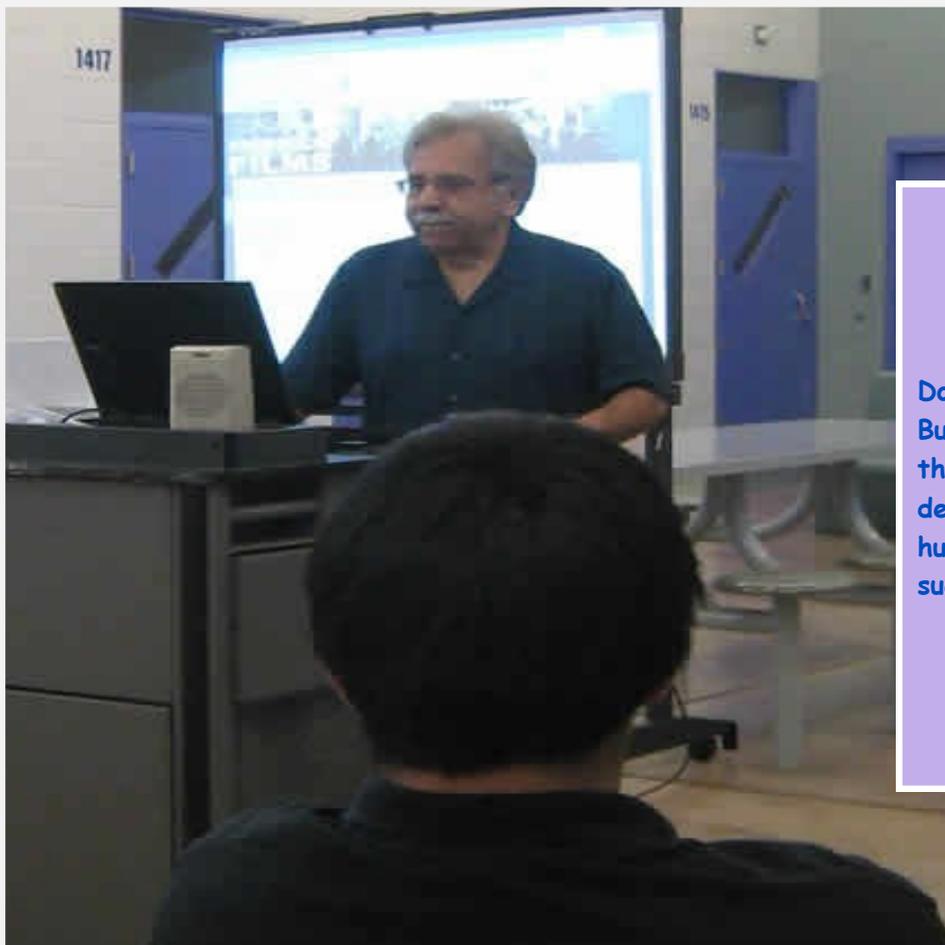
"Your whole life you keep learning and I thought it was a great idea for me to come out and listen to these kids," Buba said. "It keeps me younger. I loved it."

Scalinger promised to come back soon with a variety of short movies for the kids.

"I think it was a great experience for the kids, especially hearing someone from such humble beginnings going on to become such a successful person," said Guy McLee, juvenile detention alternative specialist.

As for CF, he's hoping to meet up with Buba in the future.

"None of our other visitors talked to us like this," CF said.



Documentary filmmaker Tony Buba recently spent more than an hour with the kids in detention talking about his humble beginnings and his success in the film industry.

## Numbers show Family Drug Court a cut above

Pima County Juvenile Court Judge Susan Kettlewell and company already knew they were doing some great work through Family Drug Court, but all of their hard work was validated during a recent visit from The Center for Children and Family Futures.



In 2010, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration chose Pima County's Family Drug Court as one of 12 drug courts to receive a grant that would provide services to children whose parents or caregivers were addicted to methamphetamine or other substances. Part of the Children Affected by Methamphetamine Project grant also provides supportive services to their families.

The Center for Children and Family Futures received funding to support the grant program.

Erin Hall and Chad Rodi from Children and Family Futures spent April 24 and April 25 in Tucson to attend Family Drug Court and to discuss how Pima County is faring.

During a stakeholders meeting, Hall said the 12 grant-receiving drug courts have helped 2,700 kids and 1,600 adults since 2010.

Overall, just under 39 percent of the participants completed treatment. In Pima County, that number was a whopping 63 percent!

It was also pointed out that Pima County is way ahead of the curve for having already established trauma-informed practices. Many other family drug courts have purposely screened out participants who have mental health or domestic violence issues.

In addition, it was noted Pima County is far more successful in linking kids to services than the other 11 grant sites.

Family Drug Courts are critical, Hall said. Those who participate in them are more likely to complete their CPS case plan and reunify with their children. Children whose parents participate spend less time in foster care, too. In addition, parents who complete family drug courts are less likely to have additional dependency petitions filed against them.

The Children's Bureau and the Center for Children and Family Futures also recently highlighted Pima County's Family Drug Court on the Bureau's website:

<https://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/>

# Odds & Ends

## Book donations always appreciated

Library associate William Bevill tells me our boys are always in need of some good books to read.

“Our audience of teens is particular in what they enjoy and the age level. We’re seeking books that teenagers will enjoy. Teens who are reluctant readers tend to relate best to stories they can understand- “urban” street life, adversity situations, overcoming or battling addictions to drugs/alcohol/abuse. We mainly need books geared toward boys.”

If you’re not sure if the detention center would be interested in what you have, email William at [William.bevill@pima.gov](mailto:William.bevill@pima.gov).

“Depending on the amount of books received, I would also be happy to donate some books to the Friends book sale,” Bevill said. “Proceeds from sales benefit the library and programs that we bring to detention.”

## Milestones

- \* Minerva Martinez, Detention, – 5 years
- \* Brigitta Harper, Calendar Services, – 10 years
- \* Marisela Martinez, Calendar Services, – 10 years
- \* Susan Parnell, Children and Family Services, – 15 years

## Just a reminder...

One man’s junk is another man’s treasure and the PCJCC Intranet is the perfect place to sell your unwanted items. Visit: <http://intranet/bulletinboard/bulletinboard.cfm>



Is the person in the cubicle next to you a tireless ball of energy, ready to take on any new project? Did your colleague down the hall deal with a delicate situation in an exceedingly brilliant way? Did someone help you out a jam last month? Nominate them for a Bravo Award! Oh, and don’t forget supervisors, you must affirm nominations before the Bravo Team can vote on them. You also have the option of asking for an award to be upgraded.



As you've probably noticed, the Pima County Juvenile Court's Community Bulletin looks a little different. That's because a new person is responsible for its publication – me!

My name is Kim Smith and I became the new public information officer for the PCJCC on April 8. As such, I will be acting as a liaison between the court and the media, while also keeping members of the general public up-to-date on the many positive programs aimed at helping kids involved in the courts whether they are going through the dependency or delinquency system.

I'm a former Arizona Daily Star reporter with more than 20 years of journalism experience and I will be using my knowledge to produce this communication bulletin. I will also be working to update the court's website and using social media to help get the court's message out.

It's my hope the bulletin will be filled with a mix of news and feature stories about our mission, the kids we serve and the great people who deserve to be recognized for their hard work and commitment to that mission.

### Upcoming events:

**June 5 - Community GED  
Celebration**

**June 24 – Maricopa County  
JDAI Site Visit**

#### **PCJCC Communications Bulletin**

Published periodically

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For more information about the court, visit our website: <http://www.pcjcc.pima.gov/>

# The Month in Pictures



Pima County Juvenile Court Deputy Administrator Dodie Ledbetter, Director of Detention Jennifer Torchia, her fiancé, Kyle Walker, and Juvenile Court Administrator Stephen Rubin joined this year's March for Children.



We think this picture from the March for Children exemplifies what we're all about — Families!



Pima County Deputy Juvenile Court Administrator Dodie Ledbetter points out one of the children being looked after by PCJCC folks.



May 9th marked the 7th Annual Ice Cream Celebration, which showed our appreciation for all of the folks who work in the Pima County Juvenile Detention Center. Everyone got the chance to chat, eat, play games and even dance.

