



Time traveling and treasure hunting were the main topics of discussion when Kids at Hope founder Rick Miller came for a recent visit.

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



Vicarious trauma can be a problem for those who work in the system.

Read more pages 2-3



Detention officers do much more than just watch over kids.

Read more 5-8



Our kids' garden received a helping hand from some community partners.

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Court staff members need to be aware of vicarious trauma

When Kirsten Lewis arrived at Pima County's training center earlier this month, she handed out chain mail, iron breast plates, helmets and shields. Well, sort of.

Lewis is a Maricopa County adult probation officer, but she's also an expert on vicarious trauma or compassion fatigue.

She knows what it's like to deal with the ugliness of the world day in and day out. Equally important, she knows the impact on a person's physical and emotional well-being as a result.

That being the case, Lewis not only talked about what vicarious trauma is and

what it does, she provided the group with what she calls "psychological body armor."

If people are mentally prepared to handle the stress that comes with the job, if they can normalize their reaction to stress and if they can cope with it in a healthy way, they can mitigate the dangers of their job, Lewis said.

They can live in "an integrated state of mind, body, emotion and spirit" and maintain the highest quality of professionalism, Lewis said.

Lewis received her bachelor of art's degree with double majors in psychology and chemistry from Washburn University and a master's degree with an emphasis in counseling-human relations.

She has learned the human brain has not evolved for the past 100,000 to 200,000 years. As a result, humans still react to stress as though they were hunters or gatherers. (Contd. Page 3)



Maricopa County Adult Probation Officer Kirsten Lewis says its important for people in the criminal justice system to have psychological body armor.

We experience muscle tension, increased heart rates, and headaches. We might also feel shock, numbness and disbelief. We might question our world views; feel anger, anxiety, depression or guilt.

What we've also learned, Lewis said, is experiencing trauma second hand is no different than experiencing it first-hand. We still can exhibit the same symptoms.

Reading or listening to reports about horrible experiences can change people's beliefs about humanity, make them chronically suspicious or cynical or decrease their level of empathy.

People who are under chronic stress experience may suffer from high blood pressure and high blood pressure and even changes in their brain, Lewis said.

Luckily, such things are reversible, Lewis said.

People can build a resistance to stress by: exercising, eating healthy, getting massages, socializing, getting hobbies, meditating and journaling.

In addition, if people consciously pay attention to positive experiences, it will help balance the negative bias they have may developed, Lewis said.

After spending the last decade in battle, the U.S. Army has recognized the need to give their soldiers more than physical conditioning, Lewis said.

The most resilient people are the people who are: optimistic, good problem solvers, personally aware, emotional agile, have strong social support, know their work is meaningful, have strong self-efficacy, cognitively flexible, self-regulate, empathic and spiritual.

People always need to be hyper vigilant about their stress level, Lewis said. People who recognize their stress level is high and take the time to slow down to breathe mindfully, to feel their feet and their backs, to taste the food they eat are much better off than those who don't.

Lewis' lecture is just the latest in an ongoing effort for the PCJCC to become a trauma responsive court.

Pima County Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Karen would like the PCJCC to be among the first courts in the nation to recognize and address the impact trauma has had on the children and parents who come through the courthouse door. She also recognizes vicarious trauma is a real problem for staff members.

"Learning about our own history helps us understand our reactions and responses to people and situations. Becoming a trauma responsive court will allow us to strengthen ourselves, our children and families, and our community," Judge Adam said.

One dozen children honored for their hard work, resiliency

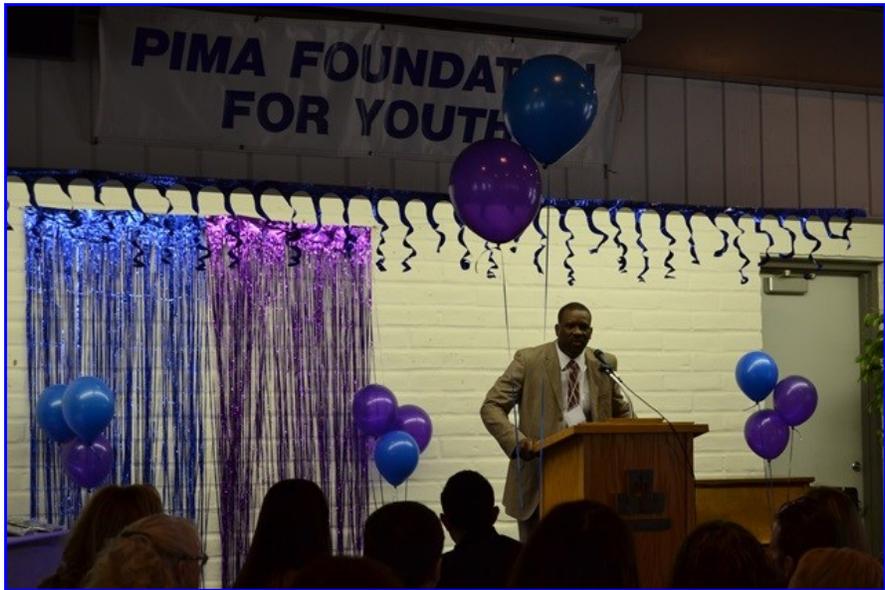
Every one of the 12 children at the Junior League of Tucson on a recent Wednesday has had difficulties in their lives. Some spent time on probation, some are foster children and a few of them fit both categories.

No one was frowning on May 7, though. It was a day of celebration.

Each of the children have done so well despite the odds that they were handpicked to receive special recognition by case managers, judges and probation officers.

May 7th was the Pima Foundation for Youth's 38th Annual Awareness Luncheon.

Foundation members, probation officers, judges and Division of Child Safety and Family Services case managers packed the Junior League as each child received a special plaque and goodies.



Ernest Rose

Keynote speaker Ernest Rose, regional superintendent of the Maricopa County School District, congratulated the children and urged them to continue pursuing their dreams.

Rose moved to Tucson from Houston at 15-years-old and dropped out of school shortly after getting a part-time job making pizzas.

Two years later, he was offered an opportunity to participate in a summer youth program. He obtained his general equivalency diploma, was accepted into college and never looked back.

Rose now holds a doctorate's degree. He's studied at Harvard and in China and he's vacationed in Italy.

He was the first one in his family to obtain a GED or a college degree and his mother was so inspired, she went and earned her GED, Rose said.

"As a child, I did a lot of day dreaming," Rose said. "I'd sit in class, but be in another place. I never had a plan, I just dreamed."

He now knows the importance of dreaming and planning, Rose said.

"It's been an amazing journey for me and every day it gets better," Rose said

"To all of you honourees, as opportunities are presented to you, take every one," Rose said. "Continue to dream, return to plan, and take the steps needed to make your plan a reality."

Detention officers often a big shoulder to cry on for kids

The boy's face lit up as soon as the Lab mix ran up to him, the chew toy hanging from his mouth. Again and again, the boy threw the plastic football as hard as he could, more than happy to oblige the energetic dog.

Every few months, juvenile detention officers bring their pets to work. Hopefully, for just a little while, the kids can forget about the stress of being confined or what is waiting for them upon their release.

If you thought the officers who work in the detention center were nothing more than guards, think again. The officers maintain order, but they also mentor and motivate the kids.

The officers range in age from the early 20s to the early 60s; they are a mix of men and women and they have varying educational backgrounds and life experiences.



Whenever the kids aren't in school, the officers work with the kids on building life skills, talk with them, play board games with them, play ball with them, etc.

Cat spent 14 years working in a Florida jail before she moved to Tucson and came to work at the PCJCC.

"I wanted to make a difference. I thought that if I could get them at a younger age, I could teach them. I thought if I shared my stories that hopefully they wouldn't want to see the adult side," Cat said.

Fifteen years later, Cat is still teaching kids what the real world is really like. Her favorite subjects are finding a job and maintaining a budget.

She remains committed, noting most of the kids she works with have "great personalities and a sense of humor."

Derek, who used to work in retail, was at his goodbye party when he met a PCJCC employee who told him how much he enjoyed his work. Derek is now six years into his second career. (Contd. Page 6)

The number one misconception about the kids is that they are “bad,” Derek said. Many are just immature. Others don’t have good role models.

“There’s good in every one of these youths. They may not make the best choices, but there’s good in every one,” Derek said. “They come in with a hard shell and when you see it break off, you see a kid emerge. You can see them laughing and having fun. They are totally different than when they walked in. That’s the real person and the general



Despite what people may think, the children in the PCJCC Detention Center are just regular kids, those who work with them every day say.

public doesn’t get to see that.”

During the limited time he is with the kids, Derek says he tries to be a role model. He and his colleagues are continually planting seeds in the hopes that one day, they will reach fruition.

Some

jurisdictions simply arrest kids and book them, Derek said.

“That’s easy, but we are focused on a loving and caring therapeutic approach,” Derek said.

Cindy, who spent 20 years working in adult corrections, has come to realize that most of these kids just need someone to listen to them. Many are confused and feel as though no one cares about them.

There’s nothing more gratifying then getting a phone call from a child who has grown up and is doing well now, Cindy said. In one instance, she was the first person to learn the gender of an unborn baby.

Kimberly, who has been a juvenile detention officer 17 years, said every one of her colleagues genuinely cares about the kids, even those who are especially challenging.

(Contd. Page 7)

“I’ve learned not to take things personally,” Kimberly said. “Most of the anger, aggression and sadness that comes out has nothing to do with us. We just happen to be the person there.”

Rich, a criminal justice major, figured working at the detention center for a short time would look good on his resume. He’s been an officer two years and now has no intention of leaving.

“I realized that, ‘Gosh, these guys need me,’” Rich said of the kids. “Their backgrounds are eerily similar to mine and I can relate to them on that level. I’ve experienced a lot of the same drama myself.”

Over the last couple of years, Rich has come to find that kids tend to open up to him because he lets them set the pace. If a child’s upset, he will try to use humor to draw the child out instead of immediately asking them what’s wrong.



Often times, the kids just need someone who is willing to sit and listen to them, the detention officers said. Some of them don't have anyone at home they can discuss things with.

“A lot of these kids don’t know themselves,” Rich said. “They’ve been putting up a persona for years to try to impress a variety of people and they can’t think when they are upset. They hate us, they hate being here and they hate the criminal justice system.”

When the kids finally open up to him, he tries to empower them, telling them he is there to help them, but ultimately the decisions they make are theirs alone.

Mike spent six years in adult corrections before joining the PCJCC seven years ago. The father of four is a personal trainer and former youth football coach. He often uses his background to get past the barriers the kids erect.

The kids tend to get antsy at night and many have difficulty sleeping, Mike said. So, every night Mike plays basketball with the kids and does some circuit training with them. (Contd. Page 8)

“A lot of them don’t want to go back to drugs once they see a difference in their bodies,” Mike said. “Sometimes I’ll get calls from them and that makes me feel really good, it makes me want to come back every day.”

Parents and community members should know that PCJCC staff members really do care about the kids, Mike said.

“They’ll be safe here, taken care of. They’ll be given what they need...We’ll help develop their social skills and other skills that will help them in the community.”

Like Rich, Yolonda believes her background gives her a unique insight into the kids. She grew up in housing projects in New Orleans and Los Angeles and knows what it’s like to dodge gunfire.

“They just need to be heard. They want to talk and be heard and not just barked at,” the former paraprofessional said.

So many of the kids don’t know how to act appropriately, because they’ve never been taught what appropriate behavior is, Yolanda said.

“They have no clue what’s outside their neighborhood or outside the 520 area code. They’re just kids and you have to teach kids,” Yolanda said. “They’re innocent children that society doesn’t want to give a second chance, but it really does take a village to raise a child.”

When she was a child, she was fortunate in that she had a caring, present mother. She and the other kids in the projects also had “Bernard” – a man who would take the kids on outings and teach them about things outside their realm of experience, like golf.

The biggest lesson she tries to instill in the children is to be themselves, Yolanda said. So many kids try to impress those around them.

“They’re taught street respect, but not world respect,” Yolanda said.

When these kids go into certain neighborhoods, they say “What’s up” and move along because hanging around would be a sign of disrespect, Yolanda said. As a result, they don’t know how to socialize or interact in other settings.

She and her colleagues try to teach them those skills, Yolanda said. She also wears mix matched socks and thrift store bargains just to make a point.

“I need them to know they don’t have to spend \$100 on clothes to feel good,” Yolanda said. “I tell them they need to take life one step at a time and not to try to be someone else. They’ve got to figure out who they want to be and start taking baby steps. They can’t be happy being someone else. I tell them they have to be happy with who they are and they’ve got to be their own cheerleader.”

All children will succeed once they become time travelers

Rick Miller spent more than 20 years with the Boys and Girls Club of Metropolitan Phoenix working with children “at risk.” He got to wondering what would happen if society began looking at these children a little differently.

What would happen if people started thinking about kids being “at hope” instead, he asked himself?



Chief Treasure Hunter Rick Miller believes every child can succeed when they are surrounded by adults who believe they can succeed, no exceptions!

He and others of like minds created Kids at Hope, a research and evidence-based protocol and strategic, cultural framework. For the past 14 years, Miller has been crisscrossing the U.S. talking to teachers and those in the criminal justice field, determined to change the

country’s entire mindset when it comes to children.

On May 19, Miller spoke with nearly 100 judges and staff members at Pima County Juvenile Court about his mission.

There are three Universal Truths, Miller told the crowd.

Truth No. 1 is that children succeed when they are surrounded by adults who believe they can succeed and every child can succeed no exceptions. Truth No. 2 is that programs alone don’t make the difference in a child’s life, adult relations do. The last Universal Truth is children can succeed when they can articulate their future in more than one of the following destinations: Home & Family, Education & Career, Community & Service and Hobbies & Recreation.

(Contd. Page 10)

We, as adults, have no control over a child's experiences, but we can control their hope.

"Hope is a science and it can be taught and learned," Miller said.

His definition of hope is the ability to visit your future, to return to the present and to prepare for the journey, Miller said.

Everyone should think of children as time travelers complete with backpacks and adults as treasure hunters, Miller said.

Treasure Hunter's Pledge —

As an adult and a Treasure Hunter, I am committed to search for all the talents, skills and intelligence that exist in all children and youth. I believe that all children are capable of success...no exceptions!

If we want to help children succeed in the future, we need to find the treasures each child has within, foster those treasures and fill each child's backpack with the tools they need to achieve success.

Miller gave the example of a little boy who was late to class when the bell rang because he was so busy imagining himself as a firefighter sliding down a fireman's pole. Instead of

chastising the child for being late, the teacher applauded the boy's imagination, told him she knew he would be an excellent firefighter one day and sent him on his way.

Throughout the course of the day, five things happen to children, many of them unintentionally, Miller told the group. Children are ignored, intimidated, informed or become invisible.

However, if people make a conscious decision to do so, they can inspire children, Miller said.

Ask children questions, Miller urged the group.

If you can get a child to imagine their future home, family, career, community and hobbies, you can get them to start planning those things, Miller said. They can become their agent of their own life.

"Every time you ask a question, you are fueling their time machine," Miller said. "Every question about the four areas fires up their neurons." (Contd. Page 11)

And since Miller believes in the concept of it taking a village to raise a child, he hopes everyone involved in a child's life – parents, teachers, and community members -- will fuel their time machine and fill their backpacks.

Sure, children are being forced to deal with homelessness, drugs, gangs and bullying, Miller said. But think of it this way, realists base their futures on the past; geniuses create futures that don't exist.

Without geniuses who refused to give up, we wouldn't have electricity, a small pox vaccination or space travel.

“Do you want to create a miracle in a child's life? Ask them questions!” Miller said. “Create neuro-pathways and hope.”



Rick Miller uses educational consultant Nandi Muhammad to illustrate the framework we need to use to give children hope — the ability to visit the future, return to the present and prepare for the journey.

John Schow, director of Juvenile Court Services, said Miller will be back in

a few months to talk to additional staff members, including all probation and detention staff.

Schow first heard Miller speak at a state-wide meeting of chief probation officers at the Administrative Office of the Courts.

The response was so positive AOC contracted with Kids at Hope to have Miller come to every county. The American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) has also invited Miller to present at their annual conference this August.

“Listening to Rick reminded me about why I work with kids and that every encounter is an opportunity to make a positive change!” Schow said.

For more information, visit: www.kidsathope.org

Children on probation to benefit from individualized case plans

Kids have been making mistakes since time began, but gone are the days when folks in the criminal justice systems had to guess at what might help them change their behaviors.

Nowadays, judges and probation officers across the country have begun to use “evidence-based practices” when determining what programs will help children the most. In other words, they now use programs scientifically proven to reduce the number of times a child will re-offend.

“For years the probation officer has been thought of as the enforcer of the rules, the eyes and ears of the judge, but we’ve always known that there was more to it than that,” said John Schow, Pima County Juvenile Court’s director of juvenile court services and chief probation officer.



“We’ve always thought that people need help and services. We always knew that if you just put a child on conditions of probation without guidance or proper services, we weren’t fixing anything,” Schow said. “In order to identify behaviors and give services you’ve got to have an accurate way of assessing what their needs are.”

In Arizona, probation officers have been making sentencing recommendations to judges based on the results of a test called the Arizona Youth Assessment System for the past couple of years. During the AZYAS, children are asked questions about their family, friends, substance abuse, values and beliefs and decision-making.

Pima County’s juvenile probation officers have been recommending evidence-based programs as much as possible for several years, but the Administrative Office of the Courts issued a mandate for the entire state to do the same last fall. (Contd. Page 13)

Schow said he is “thrilled” by the decision.

“We are a data-driven court, and we have taken on several initiatives in the past that have changed the way we conduct the business of probation. The principles and practices of EBP fit in perfectly with the system reform efforts we have taken on over the past ten years,” Schow said.

For example, the AOC wants probation officers to use a practice called Motivational Interviewing to motivate children into wanting to change their behavior. Pima County’s juvenile probation officers and detention officers have been practicing Motivational Interviewing for the past few years.

In addition, AOC wants probation officers to use sanctions *and* incentives to help

“We already have a great start. We have motivated officers who do this job everyday with the desire to bring about a positive change in the youth they work with,” — John Schow



children be successful; Pima County has been doing so for years as part of its Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative and Disproportionate

Minority Contact work.

The AOC is also pushing counties to work more closely with educators, behavioral health providers and other community partners. Again, thanks to our work on JDAI and DMC, Pima County Juvenile Court has already established excellent working relationships with those agencies, many of whom use evidence-based practices, Schow said.

There are some changes in store for Pima County, however.

Right now, probation officers sit down with children and their parents to go over their conditions of probation following a child’s disposition hearing. By the end of the summer, probation officers will actually explain the results of the AZYAS and work with the child and parents – using motivational interviewing techniques -- to develop an *individualized* case plan.

The case plan will focus on those areas that could cause a child to re-offend, Schow said.

There are seven areas probation officers tend to focus on – juvenile justice history, family and living arrangements, peers and social support network, education and (Contd. Page 14)

employment, pro-social skills, substance abuse, mental health and personality and values, beliefs and attitudes.

“Research has shown that by targeting criminogenic needs (those needs which if reduces or eliminated will greatly decrease the chance that the youth will recidivate) we can reduce risk to reoffend,” Schow said.

In addition, beginning in July 2015, children across the state will be given the same conditions of probation. Right now, every county has its own set of rules for children to follow which can cause confusion when children move within the state.

The AOC’s EBP mandate has been a long-time coming, Schow said.

“It will help us develop better relationships with the kids and the families we work with,” Schow said. “It will help us help the youth change their behaviors so they can be more successful in life.”

“I believe Pima County Juvenile Probation is ready to take on this challenge – that we already have a great start, and we have motivated officers who do this job everyday with the desire to bring about a positive change in the youth they work with – and that the EBP model will help us bring about the change we want to see in our youth.”



Year End Probation Statistics

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
# of referrals	13,532	11,431	10,286	9,638	8,592
# of kids referred	8,150	7,146	6,164	5,647	5,299
#of standard probation cases	768	692	528	448	335
# of intensive probation cases	147	139	137	105	103

Educational program looking for volunteers to champion kids

It goes without saying that being placed into foster care is tough. What you may not know however, is just how disruptive the situation can be on a young person's schooling.

Foster children lose ground because they are understandably distracted, have behavioral issues, their records aren't transferred in a timely manner and there are curriculum differences between schools.

Only 50 percent of foster kids graduate from high school. As a result, more than 50 percent experience unemployment, 33 percent receive public assistance, 25 percent spend time behind bars and more than 25 percent experience homelessness.

Pima County Juvenile Court is one of three courts in the nation that is taking part in the FosterEd program, one designed to turn those numbers around.

A select number of children in the foster care system in Pima County will be appointed an "educational champion" who will work with an educational liaison to help the child improve their study habits, complete their homework and improve their test scores using a variety of methods taught by education experts, said Peter Hershberger, FosterEd manager.

Each child's strengths and needs will be assessed at the beginning of the program, an individual plan will be created and their progress will be measured carefully, Hershberger, a licensed professional counselor and former lawmaker said.

The children initially selected to participate will have the highest need for a champion, but Hershberger said he hopes the program will expand as time goes on.

If the program has been deemed a success at the end of two years, it will be expanded statewide.

Right now, those involved in the program are in the process of recruiting educational champions.

It's an opportunity to serve foster children and help them achieve educational success, Hershberger said.

The champions will be able to meet with educational liaisons one-on-one, in group settings or on-line, they'll be taught how to talk to school officials and how to obtain services, Hershberger said.

If you are interested or want more information, please contact Julee Aros-Thornton, jaros.thornton@youthlaw.org.

Court administrator Steve Rubin retires, again

On May 16, Pima County Juvenile Court said goodbye to an icon.



Steve Rubin was appointed to the bench in 1987 and spent time at both Superior Court and Juvenile Court. While serving on the bench, Rubin taught judges and lawyers on both the local and the national level. In fact, he spent time as the president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and wrote the curriculum for the first class devoted exclusively to Child Abuse and Neglect Law and Practice at the University of Arizona. He was the co-creator of the Child Abuse and Neglect Institute offered annually at the National College of Juvenile Law in Reno, Nevada, and served as chair of the NCJFCJ Continuing Judicial Education Committee for many years.

He came out of retirement a few years ago shortly after Judge Karen Adam was appointed the presiding judge of Pima County Juvenile Court. He has continued and will continue to teach at national conferences and other venues.

Judge Adam had this to say about Rubin:

“Steve has been my friend and my mentor since 1987, when I began my career in juvenile court. I knew nothing—he knew everything. He is smart, creative, innovative and incredibly funny: over the years, it has been his ability to always make me laugh that has cemented our friendship.”

“I took advantage of that friendship when I was left without a court administrator or deputy, six months into my tenure as presiding judge. I knew that Steve would be a wonderful court administrator because he deeply loves the work, the court, and the people who comprise both. I convinced him to come out of retirement to help me move us forward. And he did, with skill, with grace, and with that famous sense of humor.”

“What will I miss about Steve? Everything.”

Numerous other people at the court, including Beverly Tobiason, clinical director, and Rebecca Manoleas, Assistant Division Director for Children and Family Services, also said they would miss Rubin’s sense of humor.

“His legal background and his experience as a judge was always helpful when working through issues; it was always nice to be able to go to him,” Manoleas said. “He came at things from a different angle than other administrators would.”

Chris Vogler, Assistant Division Director for Juvenile Probation, said he first grew to admire Rubin when Rubin was a judge.

“He looked thoughtfully at what I prepared as a probation officer and even when he didn’t agree with me, he always treated me with respect, which is important when you’re working with families,” Vogler said. “He put in a lot of years working with kids and families.”

Court interpreting supervisor Ramiro Alviar called Rubin a “visionary.” His decisions have had and will continue to have a lasting impact on those customers who have limited English proficiency, Alviar said.

“He gave us the tools we needed to be a model court regarding language access,” Alviar said.

Odds & Ends



The Bravo team awarded four U Roc awards this month along with one Gem. **Ramiro Alviar, Carlos Hidalgo, Delfina Kerdels and Ana Morales**, from Calendar Services, were given U Roc awards because they managed to translate four newly created court brochures from English to Spanish in just one week, despite all of their other duties.

Thanks to them, the brochures were ready for the 2014 March for Children. **Scarlett Garcia**, from Children and Family Services, was awarded a Gem because she stepped up on short notice to help with a conflict resolution training. She made arrangements with detention, printed off materials and assisted with the training.

Attention PCJCC employees!

Do you have a black graduation cap and gown that is sitting in your garage or closet not being used? As you are aware, detention celebrates children who receive their GED while they are detained. We also have a community based graduation once per year for loved ones and families to attend. This event is quickly approaching on June 19th and we may have more than 18 graduate attendees. Detention is looking for black gags and gowns to be used by the kids in our GED celebrations. If you have one that you no longer use and don't want returned, please contact Rachael in detention or it can be dropped off in Detention Administration. We can also pick it up from you if that would be helpful. If you have any questions, please let Rachael know.

Upcoming Events

June 16 – Courts Are Us visit

June 19 – GED Community Celebration

Milestones

Donna Youngblood, probation, 10 years

Detention Employee of the Month

Adesina comes to work with a positive attitude daily and jumps right into assisting others without being asked. Adesina is respectful, polite, and displays a friendly attitude 100% of the time. During the Step Up training in the Academy, a child was asked to describe the qualities a Detention Mentor should portray. The youth responded with the qualities that juvenile detention officer Adesina displays. Good job, Adesina, for all the hard work, commitment and dedication.

Voices

Since the PCJCC is here to help strengthen kids and families, it seems only appropriate 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 unedited answers here.

What does "Hope" mean to you?

Hope to me means when you have faith in yourself and doing something that you really want to accomplish. - Ervey

Hope to me means not to give up and believe that you can do something. Or something good will happen. If you believe in something or have faith. - Jonathan

Hope means that you have faith that things will happen. Whatever it is that you want to happen you hope that it will happen, you think that it will happen. Like today I was hoping that I got out. If you think it, hope will make it happen. - Dylan

What hope means to me is the strength in believing in myself and the courage to believe. What I have hope in is the courage to start believing in myself and that I can change my ways into becoming successful by having more strength in life. - Armando

What hope means to me is still believing and having faith. Hope is believing that you can do something. Like I have hope that I can finish probation. Not having hope would be I'm not going to be anything in life. That's me giving up and not having hope that I can do something with my life. - Eric

Month in Photos



Court administrator Steve Rubin congratulates three young men who earned their GEDs recently while staying in the detention center. They were the first to do so this year.



Every once in awhile, the Bravo committee shows its appreciation for everyone at the PCJCC by throwing a get-together featuring yummy snacks.



Maricopa County School District regional superintendent Ernest Rose presents a plaque to one of 12 court-involved youth recently honored by the Pima Foundation for Youth.



The University of Arizona's men's golf team dropped by for a visit on May 8. The young men talked about getting into college on academic and athletic scholarships and the joy of playing the game.



Many PCJCC staff members use their lunch hour to play basketball or volleyball. They also yoga and Zumba. Members of our probation, detention, school and facilities teams were in this pick-up game.



Detention administrators showed their appreciation to staff May 15 with an ice cream social, which included music, games, crafts and prizes.



The Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona was kind enough to donate lots of compost for our detention center garden recently. They also provided the kids with summer squash, melon and snap bean seeds. Our kids have been growing produce and flowers since 2011. Helping out staff were Claudio Rodriguez from the Food Bank, Sgt. Edward Cajas of the South Tucson Police Department and Brian Lawrence from CAPE School.



Many members of our Family Drug Court team are currently in Anaheim, Calif. for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals' 20th Annual Training Conference. Our Youth Recovery Court team is there as well. The three-day conference will address a large variety of topics, including trauma, data collection, seriously mentally ill clients, cultural competency and effective strategies in juvenile drug courts.

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