



On Sept. 11, Rick Miller, CEO of Kids At Hope came to talk to staff about a new way to think about children traditionally thought to be “at risk.” He wants everyone to think of them as being “at hope.” He believes all children are capable of success, no exceptions. We agree.

Inside This Month’s Issue

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Family Drug Court clients: Housing program a blessing

Sept. 5 was a big day in Angela's life, one she likely won't forget anytime soon. It was the first day she was able to spend time with her 3-year-old daughter Christina without being supervised by a Department of Child Safety case manager.

Angela has been in recovery and a member of Pima County Juvenile Court's Family Drug Court program since March.

She is convinced that without Family Drug Court she wouldn't be doing nearly as well as she is now. In fact, thanks to the program she has a nice, safe place for her visits with Christina.

Four years ago, Family Drug Court was one of 12 U.S. family drug courts to receive a grant that provides services to children whose parents or caregivers were addicted to methamphetamine or other substances. Part of the CAM (Children Affected by Methamphetamine) grant also provides supportive services to their families. In addition, The Center for Children and Family Futures also received funding to provide training, technical assistance and support to the CAM grantee sites.



Family Drug Court client Tamra in the bedroom she hopes her daughters will one day share.

Some of the grant funding is addressing a huge need among Family Drug Court clients.

"Lately we'd been seeing a lot of clients struggle with safe and stable housing," Swenson-Smith said. "It's really hard to fully engage in services when you feel you don't have a stable place to sleep or you're worried about making rent. More importantly, you can't reunite with your children if you don't have a safe and stable place to live."

Pasadera Behavioral Health Network was awarded the contract to help certain Family Drug Court clients with their housing needs.

Pasadera's director of housing, Megan Lee, agreed with Swenson-Smith about the need for stable housing for these clients.

"Housing is the foundation of recovery," Lee said.

Some of the clients were in danger of losing housing because they were behind on the rent. (Contd. Page 3)

Others were living in unsafe housing surrounded by addicts and alcoholics and others were living far from school, work and various support networks.

Pasadera has helped clients get caught up on their rent by negotiating with landlords, Swenson-Smith said. They've also found other housing throughout the city for clients.

As for Angela, she's one of the clients who was lucky enough to move into Vida Nueva, an apartment complex filled with other folks in recovery. In fact, housing case managers are routinely onsite. They not only help the clients with their case plans, but they also provide insight into budgeting, simple home repairs and maintenance and being a good tenant and neighbor, Swenson-Smith said.

Tamra, another Family Drug Court participant, is also a resident of Vida Nueva. Thanks to her changing living arrangements, she recently began having supervised visits with her daughters, ages 2 and 9.

She loves living around other women in recovery. Prior to moving she'd been surrounded by people still deep into their addictions.

"It's been a blessing. There's no triggers around here, it's drama-free," Tamra said. "All of the girls are awesome. We're all supportive of each other."

Over the next 18 months, Swenson-Smith believes roughly 30 families will benefit from the housing program.

Prior to moving into Vida Nueva, Angela was living in a halfway house with 12 other women.

"It totally wasn't working out," Angela said. "It's hard to focus on yourself and recovery with so much going on around you."

The halfway house residents had to leave the home at 8 a.m. and they weren't allowed to return until 4 p.m., Angela said.

While her days were filled by job hunting, parenting classes, children and family team meetings and various other case plan requirements, it would've been nice to have some quiet time, Angela said.

In the evenings, Angela said she also had to cope with other residents who sometimes came home under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

"Living on my own has helped me so much. I'm able to look in the mirror and see who I really am," Angela said. "I've gotten the chance to get to know myself, to reflect on my classes and to reflect on what my children need from me. I have my own space, but I have support as well."

Young adults' futures look brighter thanks to GoodFutures

Nineteen-year-old David started getting into trouble in middle school. It started out with a prank involving a smoke bomb and progressed from there. He spent a lot of time on probation, ended up dropping out of high school and bouncing from job to job.

“My dad is doing 22 years in prison and it would be fair to say I figured I’d end up the same way,” David said.



David went from spending all of his time on his couch to working in a nursing home and going to school.

Fortunately, David said, things started turning around for him when he learned about Goodwill’s GoodFutures program. He now has a GED, is working at a nursing home as a nursing assistant and getting ready to enter college.

“I went into the program unsure what I wanted to do with my life. Now I want to be a nurse anesthetist,” David said. “If not for the program I’d still be sitting on the couch.”

Jason Flores is a career coordinator for the GoodFutures program. Whenever he is recruiting someone to Goodwill’s GoodFutures program, his message is a simple one.

“I tell them ‘You’ll be given a job and the opportunity to earn a paycheck and your job description is to better yourself,’” Flores said.

He’s had much success. The federally funded Training and Service Learning program has been deemed a model program by the U.S. Department of Labor and is ranked within the top five programs nationally.

Over the last 20 months, 30 young people have completed the program successfully and another 30 are currently enrolled.

Two years ago, Goodwill of Southern Arizona was one of several organizations across the country that was awarded a grant to help young adults

(Contd. Page 5)

between the ages of 18 and 21 gain job skills, further their education and get a job. The only requirement is participants have to have come into contact with the juvenile justice system in some way.

The core of Phase 1 of the program is the service learning component. The participants – who are paid \$7.90 an hour -- spend their mornings working for various community partners. The organizations that partner with the program are Reid Park Zoo, Community Food Bank, Tucson Village Farm, BICAS, Gap Ministries, Pima Animal Care, Pio Decimo, St. Luke's Retirement Home and Watershed Management Group.

"It's so rewarding for us, too, because their children and their grandchildren could be impacted by this program," Jason Flores

Under the guidance of their supervisors, they spend their afternoons working on their resume and job interviewing skills, researching career options, gaining certifications in those specific careers and working on their high school diplomas or GEDs.

Those interested in the medical field can earn certifications in blood borne pathogens, CPR and first aid. Those with an interest in the culinary field can obtain their food handlers license. Participants who hope to work with their hands can obtain a general construction certificate from OSHA.

The participants also go out to various organizations as a group and work on projects, Flores said.

Recently, a group of students in Phase 1 were able to spend the day at Schletter, which designs, develops and produces solar mounting systems. They spoke with the sales director and human resources about the company and visited with engineers. Afterward, the students helped build a solar energy system for Citizens for Solar, a non-profit Tucson guild.

Phase 1 is an intense 12 weeks, but well worth the effort, Flores said.

"We're very up front. We tell them this is a job and it's a job they can lose," Flores said. "They have to come to work Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. They are expected to be there and they are expected to be on time. They have to co-habitate with their co-workers, be respectful to their supervisors and try things they're not used to."

(Contd. Page 6)

After they graduate from Phase 1, participants spend four to eight weeks working for one of the many departments within Goodwill itself. The departments include transportation, marketing, accounting or operations and maintenance.

After they graduate from Phase 2, the goal is to get the young adults a job with a partner agency or educational opportunities.

“We have relationships with a wide range of organizations in the community, including those in the health care field, the trades and also Pima Community College,” Flores said.

David and Athiana, 18, both spent time volunteering at St. Luke’s Retirement Home. While David decided to continue on in the health care field, Athiana has decided she wants to go into law enforcement.

Athiana was arrested last year for trespassing and was placed on diversion. She hated school and was anxious to get on with her life, although she concedes she had no idea what she planned to do with her life.

A high school counselor told her about GoodFutures. She earned her high school diploma within three weeks thanks to the program, is enrolled in college and working for GoodWill in their online sales department.

The program not only put her on a career path, but taught her life skills, such as budgeting, Athiana said.

“I can’t imagine my life without the program,” Athiana said. “Because of it I have my own place and my own car. I’ve been able to do so many things for myself.”

The Department of Labor’s two-year grant ends at the end of the year, but GoodWill likes the program so much it will be funding it in the future, Flores said. In fact, GoodWill may be able to open the program up to more participants.

“Many of the young people come to us have never had anything like this, but they are tremendously talented and just needed an opportunity,” Flores said. “It’s so rewarding for us, too, because their children and their grandchildren could be impacted by this program.”

For more information on the program, contact Flores at 561-0789 or via email at jflores@goodwilltucson.org.

**“If not for the program I’d still be sitting on the couch,”
David**

Love of families leads judge to career helping them

Once or twice a week, Judge Geoffrey Ferlan sets aside his lunch hour to meet with staff members across Pima County Juvenile Court. They don't do much talking though. Instead, they run up and down the court, dribble, shoot and block shots in the detention center's gym.

Basketball is one outlet for Ferlan to deal with the stress of making life-changing decisions in the lives of children and families every day. The fact he can play the game



Judge Geoffrey Ferlan

with others who are as invested as he is in the welfare of children is an added bonus.

“We do what we do because we care about the community and the families in it,” Judge Ferlan said. “We want everyone to prosper and for the court to be a catalyst in that forward progress.”

Judge Ferlan has deep ties to Tucson. He grew up here, the son of a stockbroker and former teacher. He graduated from Sahuaro High School and

obtained his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Arizona.

He received his juris doctor from the Detroit College of Law and his master's degree in international commercial law from the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education in Mexico.

There was a point when Judge Ferlan could have chosen a different path in life. He spent a few years working on matters of commerce and free trade. Being very family-oriented, however, he ultimately chose a career path with a family emphasis.

Before being appointed as commissioner by Judge Sally Simmons in 2011, Judge Ferlan spent time as a prosecutor, assistant attorney general and private attorney.

Nowadays, Judge Ferlan works to reunite parents with their children who have been removed by the Department of Child Safety and with kids who are accused of delinquent acts. (Contd. Page 8)

On a fundamental level, Judge Ferlan said he simply wanted to help families and children make improvements in their lives so they can become happy and well-adjusted.

“When I’m on the bench I hope, when it’s appropriate, to make a personal connection with the children and their families,” Judge Ferlan said. “I want them to see the bench as a whole, and the Pima County Juvenile Court, as a place where they can get support and grow in the most basic endeavors of their lives. I want them to understand we are there in that capacity, not to disrupt their lives, but to give them support.”

People sometimes have a “dim view” of the court system, but the fact is all of our judges strive to be fair and impartial. They also want to make sure everyone knows they have a voice in the courtroom, one that will be heard, Judge Ferlan said.

There is nothing more gratifying than seeing children and parents, who have made poor choices, develop the capacity and desire to make good ones, Judge Ferlan said.

The saddest cases are when parents either cannot or will not take the help being offered to them. In those cases, Judge Ferlan said he and his colleagues hope to find the most suitable alternative for their children to grow up healthy and safe.

“We strive for the most positive outcome possible under those circumstances,” Judge Ferlan said. “We hope to achieve a level of stability and permanency where the children feel loved and supported, as all kids need to be. It can be very satisfying to see children go from a tumultuous to a nurturing environment.”

That being the case, it’s no wonder Judge Ferlan is the judicial representative on the court’s Adoption Day committee. Every November during National Adoption Month, roughly 100 children are formally adopted at a special event held at a Tucson park. The event, which also features jumping castles, food and games, is co-sponsored by more than a dozen government, social service and adoption agencies.

“Adoption Day is a source of real satisfaction for me,” Judge Ferlan said. “It’s a wonderful celebration for the children who have been adopted and it’s a way for the agencies to get the word out there so they can recruit more families who want to adopt.”

When not on the bench, Judge Ferlan enjoys spending time with his wife, three children, extended family and friends.



Judge Ferlan during an Adoption Day interview in November 2013.

Girls' Circle provides girls a forum to express themselves

The first meeting of the Girls' Circle started out with laughter. Twenty minutes in it turned to tears.

Lisa, a senior juvenile detention officer, was not surprised. After all, she and Arlene, a fellow detention officer, resurrected Girls' Circle to give the girls in the Pima County Detention Center a place where they could talk about their hopes, dreams and issues in a safe environment.

Being a girl in today's society is no easy feat. Being involved in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems doesn't make it any easier.

It's hoped Girls' Circle will help ease the girls' stress levels. The new version of Girls' Circle debuted in mid-September. In this new version, girls between 14 and 17 who are

currently in the detention center meet every Friday afternoon.

Lisa and Arlene created an eight-week curriculum specifically for girls. Each week has a theme and an activity. They'll keep a journal, sculpt, role-play and meditate at various points throughout the program.



Senior Juvenile Detention Officer Lisa (top, right) watches as members of the Girls' Circle establish the rules for the program. Respect and confidentiality are among them.

“We want to make the girls appreciate the fact that they are girls and that girls aren't weak,” Lisa said. “We also want to help them relate better to each other and to staff. Sometimes they don't feel like they have anyone to talk to.”

Although the average stay for a child in detention was 23 days in 2013, the hope is the girls will be able to take a lesson or two away with them nonetheless. (Contd. Page 10)

“We’re here to be a support to our girls,” said Ed, a juvenile detention center supervisor. “We want to teach them some life skills, give them some insight and to maybe help them find an outlet. We also want to help them as they transition out, give them some resources as they leave.”

“Unfortunately, a lot of our girls have serious issues and what helps is for them to realize they are not alone and the other girls have experienced the same thing,” Ed, juvenile detention center supervisor

In the spirit of empowerment, Lisa started out the first meeting letting the girls create a ceremony to begin and end each session. They then created their own rules – respect, confidentiality, no judging, stay positive and be honest.

The girls burst into laughter when sharing which Super Hero they would

like to be and why and they were complimentary of each other when they shared their greatest accomplishments to date.

The laughter died unexpectedly when it came time for one of the girls to tell her most embarrassing moment story. It was painful to hear.

What she shared sparked over an hour’s worth of conversation.

The children in the detention center are looked after well, Ed said. The center has mental health professionals on hand every day and children who are already enrolled with a behavioral health network are visited by their outside therapists while detained. If the child isn’t enrolled, efforts are made to get them enrolled.

Every child in the detention center can participate in group and individual therapy sessions, Ed said.

“Our kids come in very damaged and we do our best during the little time we have them to help them and to make sure they feel safe,” Ed said.

Girls’ Circle is another opportunity for the girls to talk about their feelings and, hopefully, become stronger.

“Unfortunately, a lot of our girls have serious issues and what helps is for them to realize they are not alone and the other girls have experienced the same thing,” Ed said.

Public invited to free information sessions on the law

There's no denying it, having to go to court can be scary, especially if you don't have a lawyer. The people who work there use unfamiliar words. There are all sorts of confusing rules you have to follow and a stranger wearing a black robe has the ability to change your world.

The folks at Pima County Superior Court get it. They know understand why people might be intimidated and it's why they've created Court Night.

Court Night is a FREE annual event where people unfamiliar can spend a couple of hours listening to experts talk about every day issues that might impact their life such as child support, parenting time, divorce, paternity, landlord/tenant issues, dealing with an incapacitated loved one or probate.

On Wednesday, Oct. 22, attorneys from the Pima County will be chatting about these topics at the Pima County Courts' Training Center, 2225 E. Ajo Way.

During two, 90-minute sessions the attorneys will split up into three rooms to discuss:

- Divorce/Child Support/Paternity/Custody
- Probate/Guardianship/Conservatorship
- Debtor/Creditor & Landlord/Tenant.

By splitting the event into two sessions, the court hopes to get great attendance.

Participants can listen to one topic between 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. and a second topic between 5:45 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.

Last year the event was held at Superior Court. The court opted to hold it at the training center this year because of its large, free parking area and accessibility.

The court is making every effort to establish a good relationship with the community, going so far as to establish an external relations committee. Court Night is just one of that committee's endeavors.

"Court Night is a great opportunity to learn about what the court does, especially if you have a pending case," said Judge Danelle Liwski. "This gives people an opportunity to ask questions so they feel better prepared."

For more information about Court Night, call 724-4200 or visit the court's website at www.sc.pima.gov

Paint Pima Purple in October for DV Awareness Month



Every three days in Arizona, someone dies as a result of domestic abuse. The Centers for Disease Control estimates we spend more than \$4.1 billion every year treating domestic violence victims and U.S. workers lose nearly 8 million days of paid work each year because of the problem.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and the Pima County Attorney's Office, along with several community partners, has scheduled several events for what they are calling the Paint Pima Purple effort.

- ✓ Oct. 3 – Children's Community Art Exhibit, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., YWCA, 525 N. Bonita Ave. The YWCA gathered donated shoes and art supplies and invited children to tell their stories of abuse.
- ✓ Oct. 17 – Wear Purple Day – Everyone is invited to wear purple or a purple ribbon to help generate conversations about the issue of domestic abuse.
- ✓ Oct. 17 – Stuff the Bus – Help stuff a SunTran bus with contributions for families served by Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse. It will be parked at the Sam Levitz Furniture, 100 N. Pantano between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. While you are there, make a cash donation. All cash donations will be matched by the Arizona Lottery up to \$10,000.

Here are some important phone numbers to keep on hand if you or someone who know is the victim of domestic abuse:

- ✓ Emerge! 520-795-4266
- ✓ Help on Call Crisis Line: 520-323-9373
- ✓ Wingspan LGBT Crisis Line: 800-553-9387
- ✓ Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault Crisis Line: 800-400-1001
- ✓ Southern Arizona Child Advocacy: 520-243-6420
- ✓ Davis Monthan Air Force Base Family Advocacy: 520-228-2104

PaintPimaPurple.org
 End Domestic Abuse

For more information on Paint Pima Purple, visit: www.paintpimapurple.org

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.

If you could give one gift to every child in the world, what it be?

If I could give a gift to every child it would be food because a lot of children in this world today are starving. A lot of children are also dieing of starvation, and if I could give them food maybe less children will die - Mercedes

I would give them the honor of getting to meet me because I'm awesome - Isaiah

I would give them my drawings so that it would make them happy - Anonymous

If I could give one gift to every child in the world it would be the gift to have a normal and happy childhood. I believe this is important because in my opinion, a child's childhood should be normal because it can affect them in life - Alexis

If I could give one gift to every child in the world I would give them a high school deploma with their names on them - Louie

I would give them a good family. Why because I kinda know how it feels whens theres no one that cares about you or someone to tell you from right or wrong - Jonathan

If I could give every child in the world one thing it would be a happy, loving family with no problems, because I know there are alot of kids from broken homes, without a mother or a father, or one of the two - Austin

A gift card of 1,000 dollars for clothes only. There's alot of kids that don't have rich parents to give them all the clothes they need. I know before my mom became a teacher we were struggling. So I learned how to make money for myself illegally, but I know if I had more clothes so I wasn't wearing the same thing almost every other day. I wouldn't have went and done wrong. The way a kid looks affects themselves and makes them turn to hustle so they can feel better about themselves - Anthony

If I had to give a gift to every child in the world it would be a dog. I would give it to them because they would learn necessary life skills that you learn to take care of another living thing - Josh

If I where to give a gift to a chiled it would be food because that kide is probably por because if he wasent they wouldn't ask us this question - Jose

If I could give a gift to everyone in the world it would be 1 billion dollars because then there would be no poverty in the world. Everyone would live good - Abraham

Odds & Ends

Detention Employee of the Month

Senior Juvenile Detention Officer Anthony was recently recognized as officer of the month. His co-workers say he is always upbeat in an environment that can be challenging at times. He always focuses on how to improve and best utilize a teachable moment. Thanks to him, children's attitudes and behaviors have significantly changed and they are better able to process daily activities and crises.

Don't forget to check us out on these social media sites:



Milestones

Elizabeth Alegria, Probation, 10 years

Kevin Smith, Probation, 20 years



The Bravo team awarded one Team award this month. **Marisela Martinez, Ana Morales, Xavier Zimmer, Delfina Kerdels and Carlos Hidalgo** from the Language Interpreter and Translation Services Office were recognized for translating into Spanish all of the forms available on the court's website. The project involved 40 forms and a total of 28,000 translated words and was accomplished in just two weeks.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 3 — Children's
Community Art Exhibit

Oct. 10-12 Tucson Meet
Yourself

Oct. 17 — Paint Pima
Purple Day

Oct. 22— Court Night

Did You Know?

Only 50 percent of foster kids graduate from high school. Pima County Juvenile Court is taking part in the FosterEd program, one designed to turn those numbers around.

If you are interested in becoming an educational champion in order to help children improve their study habits, complete their homework and improve their test scores, please contact Julee Aros-Thornton, jaros.thornton@youthlaw.org.

Month in Photos



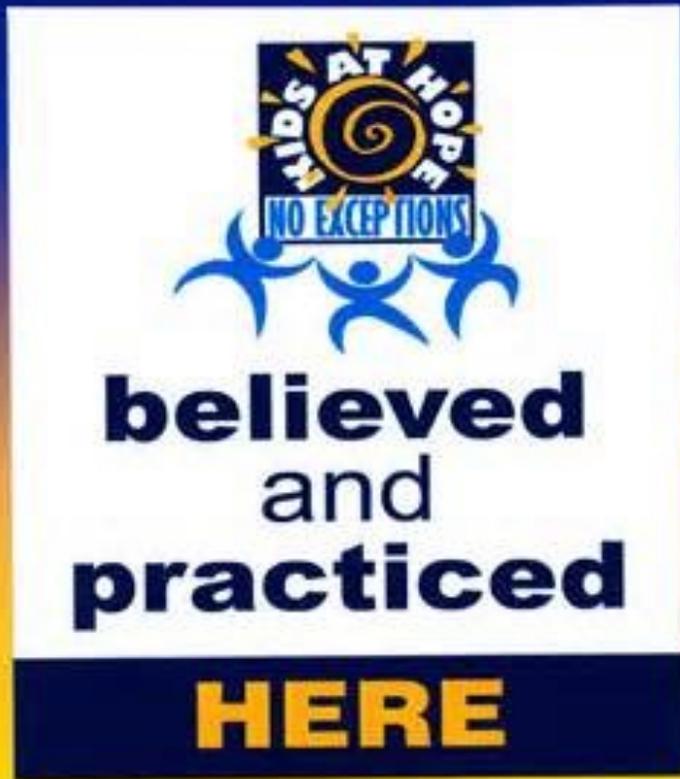
The Arizona Chief Probation Officers' Association's Statewide Annual Employee Recognition Day was held on Sept. 18. More than 300 people were on hand to honor those singled out by their co-workers for their excellent work. Arizona Supreme Court Justice Rebecca White Berch handed out awards to three of our own: Bill Semenowich, Phensy Lozoya and Steve Borozan. Among those attending were Pima County Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Kathleen Quigley, Deputy Court Administrator Ron Overholt and Chief Probation Officer/Director of Juvenile Court Services John Schow.



Director of Detention Jennifer Torchia congratulates our latest two GED graduates during a special ceremony Sept. 8



Surveillance Officer Mike Redondo says goodbye to all of the folks he's worked with over the past 28 years. He retired Sept. 12.



Universal Truth No. 1 –
Children succeed when they are surrounded by adults who believe they can succeed, NO EXCEPTIONS.

Universal Truth No. 2 –
Children succeed when they have meaningful and sustainable relationships with caring adults.

Universal Truth No. 3 –
Children succeed when they can articulate their future in more than one destination. (Home & Family, Community & Service, Hobbies & Recreation, Education & Career)

PCJCC Communications Bulletin

Published periodically

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