Volume 20, Issue 11

November 2010

PINAL COUNTY NEWSLETTER

Featuring items of special interest to organizations and individuals working to improve the lives of people in our County. Published and emailed by Community Action Human Resources Agency (CAHRA), with support provided by Arizona Department of Economic Security Division of Aging and Adult Services and Pinal Gila Council for Senior Citizens.

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CAHRA CELEBRATES WEATHERIZATION DAY!

Weatherization Works

Community Action Human Resources Agency celebrated Weatherization Day last Friday, October 29 with a breakfast and program at Pinal Gila Council for Senior Citizens. A demonstration by the agency crew was later performed at the home of program participant in Casa Grande.

David Snider, member of the Pinal County Board of Supervisors, welcomed those attending the event including partner agency representatives, contractors, funding partner representatives, city government representatives and Karen Lombardi, CAHRA Board member. Mr. Snider was introduced as an individual who "always been supportive of not only CAHRA, but all the social service agencies in Pinal County," by Mary Lou Rosales, CAHRA Executive Director.

Olivia Guerrero, President and CEO of Pinal Gila Council for Senior Citizens also welcomed the attendees to "our home, our facility." Ms. Guerrero was presented as a "valuable partner in the social services network who is also directly committed to the aging population not only in Pinal and Gila Counties but State-wide as well".

Arnold Zambrano, CAHRA, Lead Housing Technician lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CAHRA is doing its part to help Pinal County families deal with the burden of high energy and utility costs. In partnership with the Arizona Department of Commerce, Arizona Energy Office and several utility companies. CAHRA assists homeowners in permanently reducing their energy costs through education and with use of computerized energy audits and advanced diagnostics technologies, determine the most cost effective measure for each home about health and safety measures along with evaluation of air quality and heat loss inside existing low-income homes. The findings from the weatherization audits results in the installation of energy-efficient appliances, insulation, smoke detectors, and other measures that improve the health and safety of the homes.

The energy-efficiency measures are installed free-of-charge for qualifying low-income homeowners, and are designed to provide sustainable solutions to save money and conserve energy, year after year. "Pinal County homeowners who take advantage of this program will not only see smaller utility bills, but an improved quality of life. The work that we do helps to take away some of the burden of keeping the house warm in the winter and cool in summer so folks can put food on the table." According Ms. Rosales.

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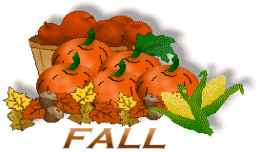

CAHRA'S NOVEMBER 2010 INTAKE SCHEDULE

Persons seeking an appointment should contact the CAHRA office on the "call-in date" indicated. Persons seeking an appointment must call promptly at 8:00 a.m. All appointments are made by telephone – no walk-in appointments are accepted. For more information call 520-466-1112.

Site:	Call in Date:	Intake Date:
Apache Junction	Wednesday, October 27	Wednesday, November 3
	Wednesday, November 3	Wednesday, November 10
	Wednesday, November 10	Wednesday, November 17
Casa Grande	Monday, October 25	Monday, November 1
	Monday, November 1	Monday, November 8
	Monday, November 8	Monday, November 15
Coolidge	Tuesday, October 26	Tuesday, November 2
	Tuesday, November 2	Tuesday, November 9
	Tuesday, November 9	Tuesday, November 16
Eloy	Tuesday, October 26	Tuesday, November 2
	Tuesday, November 2	Tuesday, November 9
	Tuesday, November 9	Tuesday, November 16
Florence	Wednesday, October 27	Thursday, November 4
Queen Creek	Wednesday, November 3	Wednesday, November 10
Florence/Queen Creek	Wednesday, November 10	Thursday, November 18
Kearny	Thursday, October 28	Wednesday, November 3
Maricopa/Stanfield	Monday, October 25	Monday, November 1
	Monday, November 1	Monday, November 8
	Monday, November 8	Monday, November 15
Oracle	Thursday, November 4	Wednesday, November 10
	Thursday, November 10	Wednesday, November 17
Superior	Thursday, November 4	Thursday, November 18

COMMUNITY CALENDAR—NOVEMBER 2010

IF YOU **WISH TO HAVE YOUR EVENT LISTED HERE, PLEASE EMAIL US YOUR INFORMATION**
e-mail: lrushing@cahrapinal.org Office: 520-466-1112 Fax: 520-466-0013

Meeting:	Date/Time:	Location:
Casa Grande Alliance - Drug Alliance Coalition	Monday, November 1 1 pm - 3 pm	Glad Tidings Church 275 W. Viola St. Contact: Cindy Schaider (520) 836-5022
Pinal County Network	Wednesday, November 3 9 am	Coolidge Police Department Council Chambers, 911 S. Arizona Blvd., Coolidge Contact: Reyna Villegas (520) 381-0319
Stanfield Medical Clinic (all ages)	October 13th & 20th 5:30pm to 8:30 pm	First Baptist Church, 615 S. Stanfield Road, Stanfield, Contact #: 520 836-6335
Battered Immigrant Women's Task Force	Thursday, November 4 11 am	Florence Senior Resource Center, 94 W. Butte, Florence, Contact: Tammy McCarville
Pinal County Domestic Violence Coalition Meeting	Thursday, November 4 12 am	Florence Senior Resource Center, 94 W. Butte, Florence, Contact: Jerry Smith & Felisha Celis
CARE Network	Wednesday November 10 9:00am	Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens 8969 W. McCartney Rd, Casa Grande Contact: Anne Geib 520- 466-1112
The Network Meeting	Thursday, November 18 1:30 pm - 3 pm	Empowerment Systems, 2066 W. Apache Trail, Suite 116, Apache Junction, Contact: Russ Smith

NEWS FROM THE NETWORKS

This section of the Pinal County Networks. Highlights information about network meetings. The agencies in our County have been collaborating and networking for so long and so effectively that these efforts are sometimes taken for granted. As Pinal County grows and new people come on board, it is important that the "networking" torch be passed on and newcomers be engaged in the process. If you are part of a Network and would like to see information about your Network's activities appear here, you may put together a paragraph or two and forward to ageib@cahrapinal.org by the 15th of each month.

PINAL COUNTY NETWORK MEETING

Regular Meeting Date/Time: First Wednesday of each month @ 9:00am

Location: Coolidge Police Dept./Council Chambers, 911 South Arizona Blvd., Coolidge.

For More Information Contact: Reyna Villegas at Sun Life Family Health Center at 520-381-0319.

Next Meeting—October 6, 2010:
Speaker: Socorro Luna, Arizona Coordinator, Mind Freedom International
Topic: Mental Health Advocacy

Speaker: Gerry Lugo, Director, Early Intervention Infant/Toddler Program
Topic: Early Intervention Infant/Toddler Program

Last Meeting:
Volunteer Center of Pinal County **-** Sharon Stinard, Community Coordinator CAC

Volunteer Center of Pinal County "one stop" website for recruiting volunteers - A new website www.vcopc.org has been created to assist Pinal County organizations and agencies in attracting volunteers. Marketing the new website will include three phases. Phase one has been to invite 5 organizations to register and provide feedback regarding the website's features and eases of use. Phase Two is currently in progress with an invitation being extended to all Pinal County organizations to register as Partners on the website. Phase Three will involve a mass-media press release that is intended to reach the attention of local and visiting volunteers looking for one or more opportunities to serve.

The website is a product of the Pinal County Strategic Crisis Management Committee in collaboration with the Volunteer Center of Pinal County (VCPC with funding from United Way. Working with web designer, Richard Rosales, the website has been created to maximize the opportunities in Pinal County to attract both "Organization Partners" and "Prospective Volunteers" through the use of modern technology.

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CARE NETWORK MEETING

Regular Meeting Date/Time: Second Wednesday of each month @ 9:00 am

Location: Pinal Gila Council for Senior Citizens, 8969 W. McCartney Road, Casa Grande.

For more information contact: Anne Geib at CAHRA at 520-466-1112 or by email at ageib@cahrapinal.org.

Next Meeting
At the November meeting of the CARE Network Marty Sonnenberg, founder and Executive Director of the Angel Acres, Inc. will discuss her innovative program that has worked with hundreds of children including children from the Dreamcatcher Transitional Housing Program.

Founded in 2003, Marty built the program based on her love of horses which began when she faced medical challenges with cancer. She experienced horse therapy first hand, which helped her physically, mentally, and emotionally. This led her to research horse therapy and training with horses, as she knew she wanted to share this someday. Being an active community volunteer for over 25 years, her two favorite loves in volunteering were working with special needs children and working with horses. Therefore, it was very natural for her to combine the two in creating Angel Acres.

The Angel Acres program uses well-trained, wonderful, older horses in the program. These horses are no longer able to handle heavy riding, but they benefit from the gentle exercise, which maintains their health, while also helping the children.

Additional presenters will be confirmed and announced in the November agenda.

Last Meeting
Marla Chamberlain, First Things First Regional Manager Central East Region presented on the programs in Pinal County that are funded by First Things First. The program benefit children and families and positively impact early childhood development.

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RESOURCE CORNER NEWSLETTERS, WEBSITES, ETC

From time to time we are fortunate to receive newsletters from other organizations that contain very useful information. Following is a list of those sites and newsletters you may be interested in:

- Pinal County Resource Directory ~ *www.pinalresources.org*
- Pinal Gila Council for Senior Citizens ~www.pgcsc.org
- Against Abuse Inc. ~ *www.against-abuse.org*
- Arizona Consumers Council ~ *http://http://www.azconsumer.org/*
- National Low Income Housing Coalition ~ *http://nlhic.org*
- Arizona Department of Housing ~ www.housingaz.com
- American Cancer Society ~ *www.cancer.org*
- Casa de los Ninos ~ *casadelosninos.org*
- Florence Immigration and Refugee Rights Project ~*www.firrp.org*
- Community Alliance Against Family Abuse ~ *www.caafaaz.org/newsletters.shtml*
- United Food Bank Newsletter ~ to subscribe email *newsletter@united food-bank.org* or *drogers@unitedfoodbank.org*
- CommunityConnect ENewsletter ~ to subscribe sign up at the website: *https://www.azdes.gov/nmanagerpro/subscribe.asp*
- Southwestern Fair Housing ~ *http://www.swfhc.com*
- Cenpatico Behavioral Health of Arizona free, anonymous mental health self-assessments online *http://www.mentalhealthscreening.org/screening/login.asp?keyword*=Cenpatico
- Arizona Housing Alliance ~ http://www.azhousingalliance.org/Requests can be sent to val@azhousingalliance.org.
- Housing Arizona ~ http://www.housingaz.com/
- Arizona Collaborative for Sustainable Communities ~ http://www.azcollaborative.net/
- Arizona Foreclosure Prevention Task Force ~ Http://www.azforeclosureprevention.org
- ArizonaSERVES ~ www.arizonaserves.com

November is National Diabetes Awareness Month!

Please join us for a

DIABETES & WELLNESS HEALTH FAIR

FREE

- Blood Glucose
- Cholesterol and Blood Pressure Checks
- Giveaways
- Food Demonstrations
- Health & Wellness Booths
- Grocery Shopping Tours

Saturday, November 6, 2010
9:00 a.m.—12:00 pm

Where: Food City Parking Lot
1162 E. Florence Blvd
Casa Grande

Sponsored by:
The Pinal County Public Health Services District
&
The Pinal County Diabetes Coalition

Fore more information,
contact Mary Gonzales
866-7687

VOLUNTEER CENTRAL
A NEW TOOL TO FIND VOLUNTEERS

The Volunteer Center of Pinal County (VCPC) has developed a new web site, www.VCOPC.org, to assist the service community. The object is to help organizations recruit volunteers and will help volunteers find projects that they can participate in.

Phase 1– 5 organizations were invited to register on the site and provide feedback regarding the features and ease of use.

Phase 2 - The invitation is out to all Pinal County organizations to register as PARTNERS on the site and take advantage of available volunteers.

Phases 3– Mass media presentations, designed to reach local and visiting volunteers who are looking for opportunities to serve

The website is a product of the Pinal County Strategic Crisis Management Committee in collaboration with the VCPC, with funding from United Way. Working with web designer, Richard Rosales, the website has been created to maximize the opportunities in Pinal County to attract both "Organization Partners and Prospective Volunteers through the use of modern technology. Richard has created audio tutorials to assist both participants in navigating the site.

Volunteers should find this one-stop website helpful in locating organizations and agencies in need of their particular talents. A simplified application completed by the volunteer creates a profile in the website database that includes the volunteers contact information, a list of their talents or hobbies, selection of one or more volunteer categories suited to their interest, and a geographical area where they are available to serve. Partner organizations are able to access this database when looking for volunteers.

Partners will appreciate the *Master Calendar* feature that includes a Mapquest link that can provide Prospective Volunteers with information about upcoming events and direction to the event location. Partner organizations also have the opportunity to use the database as a *Volunteer Management* tool and collect information for such purposes as grant proposals. Other "background" features are described in the Partner Tutorial. The opportunity to use the slide show window on the home page is another way for Partners to publicize an event or highlight other Volunteer information.

The website provides for the celebration of Volunteerism through County and Presidential awards and Volunteer Recognition Events. It also serves as a Crisis Management tool to mobilize Volunteers in the event of a catastrophic event by means of a broadcast message sent out by email or social networking. This feature can also be used as a marketing tool for partner organizations to publicize events or to call for volunteers.

To ensure that the website is affordable to all Pinal County organizations, both large and small, financial support for its operation is being sought through donations and sponsorships. Sponsor's names and logos will be prominently displayed on the website's home page.

Please take the time to visit the site at www.VCOPC.org. You are invited to register and send the organization your feedback using the social network (Facebook or Twitter) feature. Information as to what is working well and suggestions for enhancing its capabilities will enable the website to continue to meet Partner and Volunteer needs and expectations.

As a collaborative effort by the United Way Volunteer Crisis Management Committee and the Board of Directors of the Volunteer Center of Pinal County, the vision for the website is that it will be an innovative and technological pathway for connecting passionate and committed Volunteers with Partner Organizations in support of the important work they all do to enhance the quality of life in Pinal County.

Call 480-982-9353 if you have questions or contact through the site.

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The Pinal County Network News is a monthly publication. As a general rule, we email each issue about 1 week before the beginning of the month. We encourage you to submit articles, letters to the editor and calendar items for publication in the newsletter.

In an attempt to reach as many readers as possible and assure the information reported is given in a timely manner, an effort will be made to print the newsletter no later than the 25th of each month. If you wish to advertise meetings, events, items of interest, etc., please submit material by the 1st of the month to: Community Action Human Resources Agency, 311 North Main Street, Eloy AZ 85231, phone 520-466-1112, fax 520-466-0013, or by Email: lrushing@cahrapinal.org.

Continued from Page 2, News from the Pinal Network

Please take the opportunity to visit www.VCOPC.org or call (480) 982-9353. You are invited to register and send your feedback by email. Information as to what is working well and suggestions for enhancing its capabilities will enable the website to continue to meet Partners and Volunteer needs and expectations.

See related article on Page 5.

CPES Homestead Program - Cathy Grant, Support Specialist Homestead Program

For 32 years CPES has been providing real world solutions to real world problems for children, adults and families across the state of Arizona. The Homestead Assessment and Intervention Program is uniquely designed and situated to serve children and teens in need of short term, out of home placement while comprehensive resources are mobilized. The primary goal is to return the child back to his or her community with more effective resources in place to provide support and reduce the risk of future placement.

Homestead is a behavior health residential setting, licensed by the State of Arizona Department of Health Service to provide treatment to youth, male and female, ages 10-17. The eight bed facility is located in rural Pinal County, five miles west o the city of Casa Grande. The program is housed in a unique and inviting 6,500 square foot building on four and one-half acres of land. A behavioral consultation/counseling team works in tandem with our program managers to provide support and supervision to behavioral health staff in the development of structured programs activities, behavioral treatment plan and resource development to support successful return to community and family life.

Homestead and subsequent admissions are made through Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHA's), Provider Network Organizations (PNO's) or other agencies and entities with whom we contact. Homestead. Information can also be obtained by emailing us at Homestead@cpes.com or by calling (520) 876-5293.

HISTORY OF WEATHERIZATION

The Weatherization Assistance Program was created under Title IV of the Energy Conservation and Production Act of 1976. During a period of staggering increases in energy prices following the 1973 oil crisis, the program was designed to save imported oil and cut heating bills for low-income households, including senior citizens living on fixed incomes and Social Security, who were especially hard hit by rising energy bills.

Weatherization Works

At first, weatherization providers emphasized low-cost measures, such as covering windows with plastic sheets and caulking and weather-stripping windows and doors. Many of these were emergency and temporary measures. As the providers gained experience and understanding of the cost-effectiveness of different energy efficiency measures, they gradually included different types of weatherization measures.

By the early 1980s, the emphasis had turned to more permanent and more cost-effective measures, such as installing storm windows and doors and insulating attics. As time progressed, more measures were allowed including improvements existing space heating and water heating systems, then replaced of defective furnaces and boilers.

In the 1990s, the trend toward more cost-effective measures continued with the development and widespread adoption of advanced home energy audits. This proved to be a key advance for weatherization service providers since it required every home to be comprehensively analyzed before work began in order to select the most cost-effective measures and the best approach. This custom analysis of every home has become the hallmark of weatherization and ensures each client receives the most cost-effective treatment.

In 1994 providers were allowed to replace air conditioners, ventilation equipment, and provide screening and shading devices. This measure especially helped the Pinal County low-income households, where the cooling costs are generally higher than heating costs.

With increased flexibility, better methods for choosing weatherization measures, and advanced diagnostics—such as blower-door-directed air sealing—the Weatherization Assistance Program now installs more cost-effective improvements tailored to the needs of particular dwellings in their specific climates.

Continued from Page 1, CAHRA Celebrates Weatherization Day

The Weatherization Assistance Program is funded by the Federal Department of Energy (DOE) and is administered by the CAHRA. The national program budget has recently been increased under the current administration using stimulus dollars under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Locally, the program contributes to strengthening social, economic and environmental progress by creating jobs, stimulating retail purchases in the community, improving housing stock and stabilizing neighborhoods. To date, CAHRA has weatherized 106 with the stimulus funding and 1,583 since the program started at CAHRA in 1983. Hundreds of jobs have been created through the weatherization program in Arizona. CAHRA hired five individuals while contractors were able to save several jobs and hire additional employees.

We have a lot to celebrate," Ms. Lombardi said, adding that "the board is very proud of the program and its employees in that they are very dedicated individuals and are doing wonderful work."

Lucy Rangel, CAHRA, Housing Programs Manager, provided a summary of the program and how her staff has increased from two employees to seven employees and from weatherizing 40 units a year to over 100 a year with the stimulus funding. She also spoke about the benefits to the contractors who are working with the program. Ms. Rangel said that the funds have also allowed staff to work on multi-housing rental units allowing the benefits to also reach other low-income households that are not able to be homeowners.

Adeline Allen, Director, Pinal County Division of Housing and Mary Duarte, Associate Director, Against Abuse, Inc. spoke about the impact of the weatherization program on their housing and in turn their program participants. Ms. Allen described the work the agency staff had performed on the Housing Division units in Apache Junction. "The work that CAHRA has done helps us in that we do not have the funding to make the types of improvements they have done and we are very grateful for their work," Ms. Allen said.

Mary Duarte, Associate Director, Against Abuse, Inc. explained that the agency staff had not only weatherized the women's shelter and children's shelter but had installed solar panels for the electric water heaters they replaced. Over 500 women and children are sheltered by the agency each year. "I am proud to report that the savings to the electric usage is $300 per month (25% reduction) at the women's shelter

Ramon Medina of Medina Plumbing, sent a heart-warming letter and asked that it be read to the attendees. Ramon like many other contractors had been negatively affected by the economy and the construction industry. His business was on the verge of closing when he answered a weatherization Request for Quote. The outcome has been advantageous to the small company, not only allowing him to stay in business, but allowing him to hire additional staff.

Weatherization Works

Paul Ouellet, owner of Reddi Security and Electric had a similar story. After laying off staff, he was faced with closing his business and losing his home. The weatherization program made it possible for him to bid jobs, allowing him to stay in business and keep his home. Paul states that the "weatherization program threw him life line."

The programs funders were recognized including Arizona Energy Office with the Arizona Department of Commerce, Arizona Community Action Association, Arizona Public Service, Salt River Project and Southwest Gas Corporation.

Malissa Buzan, President, Arizona Community Action Association spoke about Community Action and Weatherization across the State. For many people ------ too many people--- Community Action is the safety net that helps meet basic needs. Ms. Buzan shared that while Community Action is the same in some respects, each individual is unique in that they rise to the challenges for the community they live in.

Agencies are filled with people impassioned and dedicated to helping the impoverished help themselves. Everyone has neighbors, community members that are worried about feeding their families, keeping a roof over their heads or keeping their utilities on. They line up at the agency doors; they jam up the phone banks and what does Community Action do? They help them, teach them, advocate for them and help them help themselves.

There is no other program that Community Action administers than Weatherization that does exactly that. Weatherization is the premier prevention program. The average family saves 300 to 400 dollars a year. Their homes are healthier, safer and more energy efficient. What does this mean?

- For the low-income senior, it means more time in their home and perhaps less time in a nursing home being subsidized by tax payer money.

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Save the Date

Thursday, December 2, 2010
Apache Gold Casino & Resort
San Carlos, AZ
8:30am to 3:00pm
Registration is limited to 100 seniors
And /or caregivers

Senior Connections
A Conference for Seniors and
Those Who Care for Them

Answers to your most frequently asked questions about:

Caregiver Support
How to Talk to Your Doctor
Managing Your Stress
Alzheimer's Disease
and
Medicare Advantage Plans
Medigap and Drug Plans
ALTCS & AHCCCS
Legal Assistance

More details will follow

Call: 520-836-2758 or 800-293-9393 or
email: carolw@pgcsc.org

For exhibitor opportunities contact:
Holly Crump @ 928-474-3472 or
email:coppercutup@msn.com

EAHEC Eastern Arizona Area HealthEducation Center

PINAL • COUNTY *Wide open opportunity*

aaa PGCSC Region V

CAHRA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Community Action Human Resources Agency is seeking donations to purchase Thanksgiving Day Dinners. For $30.00 you can purchase a Thanksgiving dinner for a family in the community.

To Donate a Thanksgiving Dinner: Drop off your donation at CAHRA OR Send your donation via mail by Friday November 19, 2010.

Checks should be made payable to:
CAHRA
311 North Main Street
Eloy, AZ 85131 (520) 466-1112
(Donations are tax deductible)
Please write Thanksgiving

EAGER ELVES FAMILY SPONSOR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Community Action Human Resources Agency will once again be working with local agencies to collect donations for Christmas. This year's program entitle the Eager Elves was created to address the need for sponsors.

What is an EAGER ELF?
· Eager Elves choose a family to sponsor.
· Eager Elves will be given a "wish list" and clothing sizes for each family member.
· Eager Elves purchase at least one item for each family member.
You can be as creative as you would like for the family!

If you, or someone/group you know, would like to sponsor a family for Christmas, please call CAHRA 520-466-1112.

PINAL GILA LONG TERM CARE CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

County staff, member representatives, service providers and Pinal County leadership gathered on October 27 to celebrate Pinal/Gila Long Term Care's (P/GLTC) two decades of service to the communities of Pinal and Gila Counties.

Lisa Garcia, Assistant County Manager for Health and Human Services, addressed the crowd by welcoming celebrants and recognizing past and present staff. Garcia said, "I applaud your hard work and dedication to a precious resource – our seniors."

Chairman of the Pinal County Board of Supervisors, Pete Rios, provided a look back to the year 1990 when the program began. Rios said, "Two case managers served less than 400 members. The primary focus was contract administration and nursing home placements. Gila County services were later included in 2001." In 2001, the Pinal County Board of Supervisors was made up of William (Bill) Mathieson, Roy Hudson, and Dean Weatherly. Rios also spoke about P/GLTC's current achievement of assisting more than 80 percent of the 1,485 members who remain in home and community based settings.

President and Chief Executive Officer for Pinal/Gila Council for Senior Citizens, Olivia Guerrero, spoke of the importance of partnership. Together the organizations have created a remarkable partnership which directly benefits senior citizens.

P/GLTC is actively planning for the next 20 years by:

1. Creating educational forums throughout Pinal and Gila Counties to promote awareness of opportunities for residents to become licensed Adult Foster Care Homes.
2. In February, an application to Medicare will be submitted so that P/GLTC can offer Medicare services directly to P/GLTC members.

In April, a competitive bid will be submitted to the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) for P/GLTC to continue to serve as the program contractor in Pinal and Gila Counties for the next five years.

For more information about Pinal/Gila Long Term Care and the services provided, visit www.pinalcountyaz.gov/Departments/LongTermCare/Pages/Home.aspx or phone (520)866-6775.

Continued from Page 7, Weatherization Day

- For the disabled it can mean living independently and with dignity.
- For the low-income family it can mean staying in their home or feeding their families.

Arizona received 57 million ARRA dollars with a goal of 6,000 homes to weatherize.

To date 2,800 homes were completed and saved AZ families approx. 5.5 million KW of electricity. Next year these figures will more than double. An added benefit is that most of this money has hit the streets and has kept small business owners afloat during these hard economic times. Ms. Buzan shared how that this money has helped neighbors and communities and added how proud she is of the good work done by CAHRA and all of the Community Action agencies in the State.

Miquelle Scheier is the Weatherization Outreach Program Manager for Arizona Community Action Association. She is responsible for telling the weatherization story and how it benefits low income homeowners across Arizona. She said the funds, especially the stimulus funds, are helping in so many ways – creating jobs, keeping contractors, businesses and vendors in business and above all helping homeowners and renters in decreasing their energy usage realizing savings on their utility bills. She has heard so many wonderful stories statewide. "This is a wonderful program, the stories should be told and the program celebrated," Ms. Scheier said.

She is responsible for telling the weatherization story and how it benefits low income homeowners across Arizona. She said the funds, especially the weatherization stimulus funds, are helping Arizonans in so many ways – these funds not only help homeowners and low-income renters to realize energy savings each month and put money back in their pockets for other necessities, but these funds create jobs - for contractors, and local businesses, allowing many to keep their doors open during this time of economic challenge. From the single mom going to school in Bullhead City to the Domestic Violence Shelter in Casa Grande whose monthly utility costs have been cut in half, to the elderly couple in Tucson who can now remain in their home because of newly installed air-conditioning, Weatherization is making a difference in people's lives every day.. "This is a wonderful program, these stories should be told and the program celebrated," Ms. Scheier said.

LOOKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR HARD WORKING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN PINAL COUNTY

English and Spanish speaking volunteer tax preparers are needed to assist in United Way of Pinal County's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Volunteers are also needed to greet clients or administrate a site. VITA is an annual effort to assist income qualified families with claiming federal tax credits like the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit. Opportunities are available in Apache Junction, Casa Grande, Coolidge, Eloy, Maricopa and Mammoth. Volunteers complete a free basic tax law course. One hour of your time can be worth $1,200 to a struggling family. For more information on volunteering and to request an application call Ricardo at (520) 836-0736. Or visit www.unitedwayofpc.org/vita.

Continued from the CARE Network, Page 3

First Things First is a voter-approved initiative to ensure the quality and accessibility of early childhood development and health programs at the community level. Proposition 203 created a new, state-level board, the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board (AZECDH), which provides oversight and guidance on the implementation of the Proposition. First Things First is also the name of the state agency created to carry out the work of the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board.

The monies are currently being collected from the $.80 tax on tobacco products and are deposited into a state account and invested by the State Treasurer. All funds generated by the tax on tobacco products for the AZECDH Board will be spent on programs for early childhood development and health. Each region has a council that makes decisions for their area.

In Pinal County the programs funded for 2010 are:

Quality First	Expand the number of centers/homes
Consultation	Fund two Child Care Health Consultants to provide services to 60 additional early care and education programs not enrolled in Quality First Fund two Mental Health Consultants to improve children's health, safety and quality of interactions with prodders and increase early identification of health or development issues.
Recruit and Support Home Providers	Funding to address lawful unregulated child care homes. Twelve monthly trainings to include health and safety, nutrition, developmentally appropriate practices, and best business practices.
Home Visitation	Support the promotion of effective parenting skills which also prevents child abuse and neglect through home visitation.
Professional Career Pathway Project	Increase the number of tuition-based college course scholarships and National Child Development Associate (CDA) certification through the Professional Career Pathway Project (PCPP).
Recruitment Scholarship	Coordinate and implement a regional scholarship system to recruit new professionals to the early child care workforce.
FTF Emergency Response Plan	Food Boxes
FTF Emergency Response Plan	Emergency Child Care Scholarships

ARIZONA'S COUNTIES, CHILDREN SEE HIGHER POVERTY LEVELS IN 2009

The U.S. Census Bureau released a second wave of new data on 2009 poverty levels, income and health insurance, which collectively show the ill effects of the recession on poverty and hunger compared to 2008 data. In general, Arizona's rural areas were hit the hardest, but no part of the state was immune to the devastating effects of poverty and median household income decreases.

Median household income in Arizona dropped 3.5% from 2008 to 2009 ($50,489 to $48,745). Nationwide, median household income dropped 2.9% ($51,726 to $50,221). Michigan had the largest median household income decline at 6.2%.

Census data released on September 16 showed a striking one in five (19.6%) of Arizonans lived in poverty over 2008-09, a staggering 37% increase over the compared to 14.3% in 2007-08. This new poverty level resulted in Arizona being second only to Mississippi for the number of individuals living poverty. Federal poverty guidelines are set at an annual gross income of $22,050 for a family of four.

Today's new data shows almost one in four Arizona children aged 18 and under lived in poverty in 2009. Specifically, child poverty increased 12.5% to 23.4% in 2009, up from 20.8% in 2008. Nationwide, child poverty in 2009 was exactly 20%. By county, Apache County had the highest child poverty rate at 45.2%, followed by Navajo County at 38.2%. For comparison, 21.9% of children in Maricopa County and 26.0% of children in Pima County lived in poverty in 2009.

"This devastating increase in child poverty shows exactly how much Arizona is struggling," said Ginny Hildebrand, president and CEO of the Association of Arizona Food Banks (AAFB). "Children living in poverty typically do not get the nutrition they need to grow up healthy and strong, setting them up for a lifetime of struggles in school and in their career."

For the general population, by county, Apache (36.4%), Navajo (27.3%) and Pima Counties (19.3%) had the highest levels of poverty in 2009, with increases of 6.4%, 28.8% and 23.7% respectively from 2008. Pinal (13.7%), Yavapai (13.8%), and Cochise Counties (15.0%) had the lowest levels, with Pinal County actually decreasing 5.5%. For comparison, 15.2% of those in Maricopa County lived in poverty in 2009, a 13.4% increase from 2008.

By metropolitan area, Tucson (23.4%), Phoenix (21.1%) and Tempe (19.2%) had the highest levels of poverty in 2009, while Surprise (6.5%), Gilbert (7.0%) and Peoria (7.4%) had the lowest levels. Child poverty rates mirrored these general population rates closely, but were typically higher. Phoenix (30.8%), Tucson (30.7%) and Avondale (26.0%) led Arizona cities in child poverty rates, while Peoria (7.2%), Surprise (8.6%) and Gilbert (10.2%) had the lowest child poverty rates.

One bright spot reflected in the new figures was a slight decrease in the number of Arizona seniors living in poverty: 8.4% of those aged 65 or older lived in poverty in 2009, down from 8.6% in 2008.

Rising poverty is also evident in the surge of participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps). A record 1,047,779 Arizonans received SNAP benefits in August, 2010, a 13.9% increase over one year ago. In addition, AAFB member food banks distributed over one million Emergency Food Boxes (a 3-5 day supply of food) in 2009, another Arizona record, and are on pace to do so again in 2010.

The jump in poverty comes amidst a recession that caused a dramatic decline in state revenues, which resulted in cuts to public services that Arizona's vulnerable populations rely on. As Arizona continues to struggle to balance its budget, state policymakers are already indicating that more cuts to key services likely lie ahead.

"Continuing to reduce or eliminate state services will not improve our situation," Hildebrand said. "We must find new revenues to help balance the budget and protect the collective well-being of our communities."

Complete poverty breakdowns by county and ethnicity can be found under our **Hunger Data & Reports** section and the **American Community Survey section of the Census website**.

Association of Arizona Food Banks Provides Comprehensive Data on Hunger in Arizona. Visit the AAFB website at ww.azfoodbanks.org

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405 E. 2nd Street
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

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Wednesday, November 17th
Wednesday, December 1st
3 pm—6 pm
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